



Dear Brothers & Sisters

From the Minister

Greetings my Franciscan Family. A line from the song “Gather Us In” keeps running through my brain. It goes “Give us the strength to enter the song.” And, so, I pray that as we bring our gifts each and every day, no matter how humble or lowly, that we offer them up with joy and thanksgiving as we Enter the Song of the life we have in Christ.

I would like to quote a JPIC (Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation) letter written by our own Sue R. OFS, who now resides in Florida:

“Blessed be the person who supports the neighbor in his weakness as he would want to be supported in a similar situation.” (St. Francis, Admonitions XI) She goes on to say: “As Franciscans, we believe in the power of love, service and community. Yet, the most profound gift we can offer isn’t always tangible.

“It’s easy to underestimate the impact of simply being present. In moments of grief or uncertainty, words often fall short, unable to convey the depth of care we wish to express. Yet, a shared silence, a steady companionship, or even the quiet act of listening can speak volumes, offering solace where language falters.

“When the forty-year-old man across the street died of a stroke, his children, Mark and Michelle, were playing with ours in the family room. Our whole block was in shock. What do you say to a young widow who must now raise two children alone? To children who have lost their father so suddenly?

“Days later, on the way home from the cemetery, my eight-year-old daughter announced that she was going across the street to play with Michelle. I worried that it was too soon. “What are you going to say to her?” I asked. (Really a dumb question.)

“Mom, I’m not going to say anything. I’m going to be with her like always,” she said. She understood what I did not.

“Years later when I was diagnosed with stage 3 breast cancer, a friend called and said, ‘I just heard about your diagnosis and I don’t know what to say, Sue.’ Those words, simple as they are, carried an immeasurable weight and comfort. It also meant that she did not shy away from painful situations; she faced them. And that was exactly what I had to do now if I wanted to survive. In the following months, she brought over magazines and read short articles aloud, told me news of our book club. When I was almost bald, she went with me to pick out a wig, an afternoon that had us both howling in laughter. It felt so good to laugh. Pain and joy got tangled that afternoon. This quiet companionship reminded me that the most meaningful kindness often comes not from solving another’s pain but from sharing it. As Franciscans, this is our calling to be present to someone’s suffering, not to fix or change their reality but to walk alongside them in it. Presence, it seems, has the power to heal wounds that words cannot reach.

“This sacred act of presence, touches lives in ways we may never fully understand. It reminds us that love isn’t always about what we say or do—it’s about the intentionality of simply being there. When we allow ourselves to embrace another’s story without judgment, fear, or the compulsion to

fix, we create a space where healing begins, not through solutions, but through empathy and connection.”

Thank you, Sue R. for your sharing. Let us all remember these words as we ENTER THE SONG.
Peace and Love to you all,
Sue G, OFS

Our Monthly Gathering – September 2025

We will gather on **Monday, September 8, 2025 at 4:30 p.m. in the Chapel at Holy Family Parish in Inverness** for the Liturgy of the Hours. Afterward, we will adjourn to Room 183 on the lower level for business meeting, formation and social time. Our Sister Bonnie M. will give a report on St. Pope John XXIII. Our hospitality will be provided by Sue G and Stephanie H. There will be a sign-up sheet at the gathering for our donations to **Welcome the Stranger** which will be collected at the October gathering. With Sue R’s message echoing in my mind, this is also another silent way of Entering the Song by supporting others who have had the courage to sacrifice everything they knew by fleeing their homeland for the total unknown of a land foreign to them. We may look at them as foreigners; we must remember that we are foreign to them.

Schedule of Saints Presentations for 2025-2026

“Blessed are the flexible for they will not be bent out of shape.” During the past few months, our schedule of presentations of the lives of Saints who were secular Franciscans did get bent out of shape. Those presentations that were not given earlier this year have been moved to 2026. Below is the current schedule:

September 2025	St. Pope John XXIII	Bonnie M.
October 2025	St. Francis de Sales	Sue G.
November 2025	St. Frances Cabrini	Rose Ann Y.
December	none	
January 2026	St. Rose Viterbo	Marion T.
February 2026	Blessed Solanus Casey	Carrie C.
March 2026	St. Pope Pius X	Anne F.
April 2026	Blessed Angela Salawa	Mary S.
May 2026	Blessed Franz Jagstetter	Lou R.
June 2026	St. John Bosco	Kay C.

We Pray ...

PAPAL INTENTIONS FOR SEPTEMBER

For our relationship with all of creation

Let us pray that, inspired by St. Francis, we might experience our interdependence on all creatures who are loved by God and worthy of love and respect.

Franciscan Outreach Schedule for 2025

The schedule for Franciscan Outreach for 2025 is as follows:

January	FMSC	(Feed My Starving Children) – packing bags of grain.
February	Journeys/The Road Home	– collection of food and necessities for the homeless
March	FMSC	March 26, 2025 from 2:30 - 4:00 p.m.
April	Welcome the Stranger	– collection of items needed by a refuge family who are moving into an apartment in their new country
May	FMSC	May 28, 2025 from 2:30 – 4:00 p.m.
June	Blessing Bags	– creation of plastic bags of necessities for the homeless
July	FMSC	July 30, 2025 from 2:30 – 4:00 p.m.
August	Journeys/The Road Home	– collection of food and necessities for the homeless
September	FMSC	September 24, 2025 from 2:30 – 4:00 p.m.
October	Welcome the Stranger	– collection of items needed by a refuge family who are moving into an apartment in their new country
November	Thanksgiving food baskets	for the needy
December	FMSC	December 17, 2025 from 2:30 – 4:00 p.m.

WELCOME THE STRANGER

This is a new ministry that was selected for Outreach in 2025. Welcome the Stranger works in tandem with Exodus to provide the necessities that a family would need when moving into an apartment for the first time. We will be helping to provide these necessities in the months of **April** and **October**.

Welcome the Stranger conducts gatherings of these items through specific collection times at Holy Family Parish. The complete collection includes items for the kitchen, bathroom, bedrooms and cleaning supplies. The Council has signed up our fraternity to provide the items needed for the Bath. The necessary items are listed below. A sign-up sheet will be available at the March and September gatherings. Items selected will be brought to the fraternity gatherings in April and October.

Bath items to be provided:

Bath towel – hand towel – washcloth (8 sets in neutral colors)	4 boxes of Kleenex deodorant
Bath mat – neutral color	feminine protection pads
Shower curtain with hooks – neutral color	10 disposable men’s razors
Shower curtain liner (if shower curtain is cloth)	shaving cream
2 small trashcans	8 toothbrushes
8 bars of soap	2 tubes toothpaste
8 rolls toilet paper	deodorant
2 bottles of shampoo	2 bottles of hand lotion
8 rolls of toilet paper	

RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE

Sister Sue accepts all tabs from pop top cans which are then donated to Ronald McDonald House. The tabs are sold to aluminum recyclers and the proceeds benefit Ronald McDonald House.

JOURNEYS/THE ROAD HOME

We will again collect items for Journeys/the Road Home at our **February** and **August** gatherings. Print out the list below and keep it in a handy place. When these items are on sale or you are at the Dollar Tree, pick up a few items and keep them for the February and August gatherings.

Most needed items:

Razors and shaving cream	Body wash - MOST NEEDED
Baby wipes	Shampoo & conditioner - MOST NEEDED
Large backpacks	Pullups - ALL SIZES

Food items:

Bottled water	Pasta (dried and canned)	Canned soups*
Rice	Pasta sauce	Canned fruit*
Peanut butter	Cereal - large boxes	Canned vegetables*
Jelly	Canned stew, fish and chicken*	Canned beans*
	* pop top cans preferred	No bulk items

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN

Pack bags of nutritious grain for those living in the most destitute areas on our planet. Members of our fraternity will participate in this work of service every other month from **2:30 to 4:00 p.m.** Sign-up sheets are available at the fraternity gatherings for the next opportunity. Contact **Sister Sue** for more information.

Loose change wanted - at each monthly fraternity gathering, fraternity members have an opportunity to donate their loose change so that we can provide the funds to feed a child for a year. Whenever a total of \$53 in change is collected, it will be matched by \$53 from our Common Fund for a total of \$106, the cost of feeding a starving child in another country for one year.

THANKSGIVING BASKETS

As we have done the past few years, in **November** we will be putting together baskets of food for Thanksgiving to be given to families who live in Palatine Township and are desperately in need of food. There will be a sign-up sheet at the October gathering. It will include items for each basket. The items will be gathered into baskets at our November meeting. Last year, we contributed Three Baskets of food to the Township needy.

Live Simply so That Others May Simply Live.

Calendar of Fraternity Gatherings 2025

Monday, Sept. 8	Monthly gathering will be at 4:30 p.m. at Holy Family Parish, Inverness. The liturgy will be Liturgy of the Hours (LOTH).
Sunday, Sept. 28	Council meeting, minister's home at 1:30 p.m.
Monday, Oct. 6	Monthly gathering will be at 4:30 p.m. at Holy Family Parish for Transitus of St. Francis. <i>Note: this is 1st Monday of the month.</i> There will be a collection of items for Welcome the Stranger.
Sunday, Oct. 26	Council meeting, minister's home at 1:30 p.m.
Monday, Nov. 10	Monthly gathering will be at 4:30 p.m. at Holy Family Parish, Inverness. The liturgy will be a Commemoration of the Deceased. We will pack Thanksgiving baskets for the Township.
Sunday, Nov. 23	Council meeting, minister's home at 1:30 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 8	Monthly gathering will be at 4:30 p.m. at Holy Family Parish, Inverness. Communion Service followed by Christmas Potluck.
Sunday, Dec. 28	Council meeting, minister's home at 1:30 p.m.

Regional Calendar of Events

Saturday, September 6	REC Meeting (Mayslake)
Saturday, September 20	Fall Formation Day (Cluster Four)
Saturday, October 18	All Souls Day Prayer Service, OFS section, Queen of Heaven Cemetery, Hillside, IL 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Sunday, November 9	Mother Cabrini Celebration location TBD

Council Members

Minister	Susan Gribbon, OFS	<i>sgribbon1949@gmail.com</i>
Vice Minister	Stephanie Heavey, OFS	
Formation Director	Kay Crnich, OFS	
Secretary	Marion Tuttle, OFS	
Treasurer	Kathy Fischer, OFS	
Spiritual Assistant	open	

For privacy, all personal addresses, phone numbers, email addresses, prayer intentions, and (for non-council members) last names are removed from this web version.

Preach the Gospel always; if necessary, use words.