

**SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER**  
**St. Charles Fraternity**  
**P.O. Box 12644 M.P.O., Fort Wayne, IN 46864**

**Website: [stcharlesfrat.com](http://stcharlesfrat.com)**

**March 2025**



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Established on or before 2/9/1936	Last elections: 9/15/2024	Last fraternal visit: 11/19/2023
		Last pastoral visit: 11/20/2022

**Birthdays**

3/4 Jackie Didier  
3/21 Patti Webster

**NO MARCH  
PROFESSION  
ANNIVERSARIES**

**March Calendar**

3/1-15 REC nominations open  
3/13 6:00pm Zoom SC Council meeting  
3/16 1:30pm St. Mary's teachers lounge  
SC fraternity gathering  
3/27 6:00pm Zoom  
Initial formation for Barbara

**Prayer requests:**

**Within the fraternity:** Jackie Didier, Sandy Kiraly, Marcyle Voigt, Mary Lou Sohn and Barb Kluz - all for health; gratitude for blessings, especially for our vocations to the OFS.

**Beyond the fraternity:** Sr. Anita – continued recovery; immigrants/refugees, St. Rose of Viterbo fraternity (upcoming deactivation); Pope Francis – health; student mom at Hillsdale College – cancer.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1) **Elections for the Regional Executive Council** will be in June 2025. Nominations are now open until March 15. Email your nominations to Kathleen White at [kdwofs@comcast.net](mailto:kdwofs@comcast.net).

2) **Triennial Pastoral Visitation:** November 16 at our regular gathering.

*May the Lord give you peace!* This month I have departed from my usual column to put before you some of the pastoral words of our Holy Father, dated February 10, regarding recent policies and statements that are, or should be, very disturbing to us as Secular Franciscans. I am not going to comment on what the Holy Father has said nor am I going to take a political position. I am asking you to read his words prayerfully alongside our Rule, especially articles 6, 10, 11b, 12-15, and 19a.

4. I have followed closely the major crisis that is taking place in the United States with the initiation of a program of mass deportations. The rightly formed conscience cannot fail to make a critical judgment and express its disagreement with any measure that tacitly or explicitly identifies the illegal status of some migrants with criminality. At the same time, one must recognize the right of a nation to defend itself and keep communities safe from those who have committed violent or serious crimes while in the country or prior to arrival. That said, the act of deporting people who in many cases have left their own land for reasons of extreme poverty, insecurity, exploitation, persecution or serious deterioration of the environment, damages the dignity of many men and women, and of entire families, and places them in a state of particular vulnerability and defenselessness.

5. This is not a minor issue: an authentic rule of law is verified precisely in the dignified treatment that all people deserve, especially the poorest and most marginalized. The true common good is promoted when society and government, with creativity and strict respect for the rights of all — as I have affirmed on numerous occasions — welcomes, protects, promotes and integrates the most fragile, unprotected and vulnerable. This does not impede the development of a policy that regulates orderly and legal migration. However, this development cannot come about through the privilege of some and the sacrifice of others. What is built on the basis of force, and not on the truth about the equal dignity of every human being, begins badly and will end badly.

6. Christians know very well that it is only by affirming the infinite dignity of all that our own identity as persons and as communities reaches its maturity. Christian love is not a concentric expansion of interests that little by little extend to other persons and groups. In other words: the human person is not a mere individual, relatively expansive, with some philanthropic feelings! The human person is a subject with dignity who, through the constitutive relationship with all, especially with the poorest, can gradually mature in his identity and vocation. The true *ordo amoris* that must be promoted is that which we discover by meditating constantly on the parable of the “Good Samaritan” (*cf. Lk 10:25-37*), that is, by meditating on the love that builds a fraternity open to all, without exception.

7. But worrying about personal, community or national identity, apart from these considerations, easily introduces an ideological criterion that distorts social life and imposes the will of the strongest as the criterion of truth.

*Peace and all good!*

# BUDGET 2024-2025

OUR LADY OF INDIANA REGIONAL FRATERNITY						
ST CHARLES FRATERNITY						
	2024				2025	
	Budget	Actual			Budget	Actual
<b>Income</b>						
Donations	0	2043			3029	0
Interest					4	
Special Collections	0	0			0	0
Other	0				0	
<b>Total Income</b>	0	2043			3033	0
<b>Expenses</b>						
NAFRA-Fair Share \$17	630	630	18x35	16x38	608	608
Women's Care Center	300	300			300	
Franciscan Center	500	500			500	0
Amazon Relief	300	300			300	0
Franciscan Sisters	300	300			300	0
Website Domain Fee	25	25			25	0
Website Wix Platform	155	336	2yr		0	0
Books	0	0			500	0
Postage	0	81			100	0
Visitation Stipends	0	100			100	0
Bank Fees	0	0			0	0
PO Box annual fee	0	170			170	
Zoom license fee	0				52	
Masses/memorials	0	50			50	0
<b>Total Expenses</b>	2210	2792			3005	608

## MARCH FRATERNITY GATHERING

**Date:** March 16, 2025

**Time:** 1:30 pm

**Place:** St. Mary's school teachers lounge 232 N. Main St., Avilla

**Formation:** Handouts provided

**Snacks:** Carry-in.

**Liturgy of the Hours: 2nd Sunday of Lent**

**1 volume:** Pages 294 & 786;

Hymn: #97 (page 1548) *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*

**4 vol. (Vol. II):** Pages 155 & 1229

Hymn: page 35 *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*

### ONGOING FORMATION: *Layman's Guide to the Liturgy of the Hours*

We will go through the praying of the prayer itself as a starting point.

1. Please reflect on The Rule, art. 4 and 6. How has praying Morning Prayer assisted you with living the Rule?

2. Morning Prayer has the OT Canticle. We focus on the glory of God. Please read the Franciscan prayer "Praises of God" (below). Has Morning Prayer in the LOTH brought you to know God more closely?

3. The Morning Prayer focuses on dawn and starting the day, and creation in each part. In what way can the discipline of this prayer help us be better followers of Christ in our everyday lives?

As Franciscan brothers and sisters, prayer and praise should be our way of life.

#### ***The Praises of God***

You are the holy Lord Who does wonderful things.

You are strong. You are great. You are the most high. You are the almighty king. You holy Father, King of heaven and earth.

You are the three and one, the Lord God of gods; You are the good, all good, the highest good, Lord God living and true.

You are love, charity; You are wisdom, You are humility, You are patience, You are beauty, You are meekness, You are security, You are rest, You are love, charity; You are wisdom, You are humility, You are patience, You are beauty, You are meekness, You are security, You are rest, You are gladness and joy, You are our hope, You are justice, You are moderation, You are all our riches to sufficiency.

You are beauty, You are meekness, You are the protector, You are our custodian and defender, You are strength, You are refreshment. You are our hope, You are our faith, You are our charity, You are all our sweetness, **You are our eternal life:**

**Great and wonderful Lord, Almighty God, Merciful Savior.** (FA:ED, Vol. I, page 109)