

**SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER**

**St. Charles Fraternity  
P.O. Box 134, Avilla, IN 46710**

*Website: stcharlesfrat.com*



**April 2026**

<b>Minister:</b> Barb Braley	260.242.3256	bbraley345@gmail.com	
<b>Vice Minister:</b> Joyce Wesner	260.715.8999	epsilon-muphi@hotmail.com	
<b>Secretary:</b> Deb Davis	260.668.2440	deb-davishih@gmail.com	
<b>Treasurer:</b> Rich Cain	260.667.0940	richcain82@gmail.com	
<b>Formation Director:</b> Katie Herendeen	260.582.9773	mcherendeen@gmail.com	
<b>Prayer Tree:</b> Joyce Wesner	260.715.8999	epsilon-muphi@hotmail.com	
<b>Card Ministry:</b> Barbara Balbo	517.398.4968	bbalbo@frontiernet.net	
Established on or before 2/9/1936	Last elections: 9/15/2024	Last fraternal visit: 11/19/2023	Last pastoral visit: 11/16/2025

**Calendar**

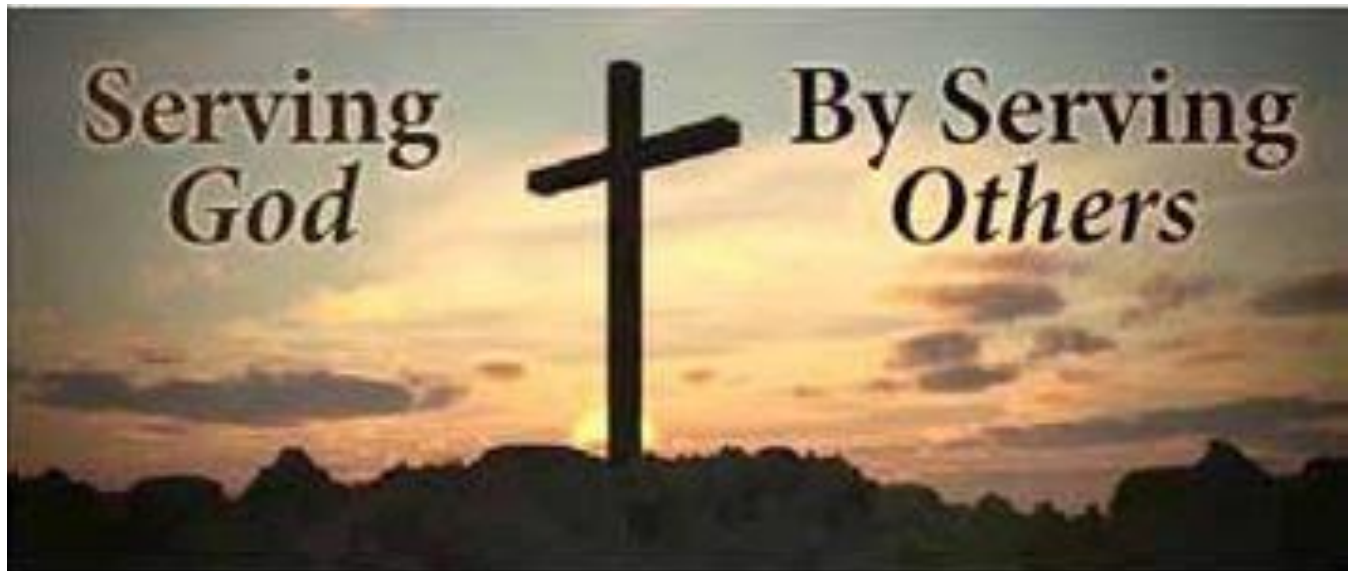
- 4/9 6:00pm Council meeting Zoom
- 4/19 1:30pm Fraternity gathering, St. Mary's school
- 4/16 7:00pm Kathy's initial formation (ch 14) Zoom
- 5/14 6:00pm Council meeting Zoom
- 5/17 1:30pm Fraternity gathering, St. Mary's school
- 5/21 7:00pm Kathy's initial formation (ch 15) Zoom

**BIRTHDAYS**

4/19 Sandy Kiraly

**PROFESSION  
ANNIVERSARIES**

4/15/2018 Dave Frank  
4/18/2021 Andrea Martin  
Patti Webster



***GOD IS LOVE* Articles 19-25**  
**SUPPLEMENTAL READINGS**  
**AND QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION**

**Supplemental Readings**

**From the Rule**

**Article 4:** The rule and life of the Secular Franciscans is this: to observe the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ by following the example of Saint Francis of Assisi, who made Christ the inspiration and the center of his life with God and people.

Christ the gift of the Father's love, is the way to him, the truth into which the Holy Spirit leads us, and the life which he has come to give abundantly.

Secular Franciscans should devote themselves especially to careful reading of the gospel, going from gospel to life and life to the gospel.

**Article 6:** They have been made living members of the Church by being buried and raised with Christ in baptism; they have been united more intimately with the Church by profession.

Therefore, they should go forth as witnesses and instruments of her mission among all people, proclaiming Christ by their life and words.

Called like Saint Francis to rebuild the Church and inspired by his example, let them devote themselves energetically to living in full communion with the pope, bishops, and priests, fostering an open and trusting dialogue of apostolic effectiveness and creativity.

**Article 7a:** United by their vocation as "brothers and sisters of penance," and motivated by the dynamic power of the gospel, let them conform their thoughts and deeds to those of Christ by means of that radical interior change which the gospel itself calls "conversion." Human frailty makes it necessary that this conversion be carried out daily.

**Article 10:** Uniting themselves to the redemptive obedience of Jesus, who placed his will into the Father's hands, let them faithfully fulfill the duties proper to their various circumstances of life. Let them also follow the poor and crucified Christ, witness to him even in difficulties and persecutions.

**Article 12:** Witnessing to the good yet to come and obliged to acquire purity of heart because of the vocation they have embraced, they should set themselves free to love God and their brothers and sisters.

**Article 14:** Secular Franciscans, together with all people of good will, are called to build a more fraternal and evangelical world so that the kingdom of God may be brought about more effectively. Mindful that anyone "who follows Christ, the perfect man, becomes more of a man himself," let them exercise their responsibilities competently in the Christian spirit of service.

**Article 15:** Let them individually and collectively be in the forefront in promoting justice by the testimony of their human lives and their courageous initiatives. Especially in the field of public life, they should make definite choices in harmony with their faith.

**Article 16:** Let them esteem work both as a gift and as a sharing in the creation, redemption, and service of the human community.

## From Scripture

### Luke 4:32-37

<sup>32</sup> The community of believers was of one heart and mind, and no one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they had everything in common. <sup>33</sup> With great power the apostles bore witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great favor was accorded them all. <sup>34</sup> There was no needy person among them, for those who owned property or houses would sell them, bring the proceeds of the sale, <sup>35</sup> and put them at the feet of the apostles, and they were distributed to each according to need.

<sup>36</sup> Thus Joseph, also named by the apostles Barnabas (which is translated “son of encouragement”), a Levite, a Cypriot by birth, <sup>37</sup> sold a piece of property that he owned, then brought the money and put it at the feet of the apostles.

### Acts 6:1-6

**The Need for Assistants.** <sup>1</sup>At that time, as the number of disciples continued to grow, the Hellenists complained against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. <sup>2</sup>So the Twelve called together the community of the disciples and said, “It is not right for us to neglect the word of God to serve at table <sup>3</sup> Brothers, select from among you seven reputable men, filled with the Spirit and wisdom, whom we shall appoint to this task, <sup>4</sup> whereas we shall devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.” <sup>5</sup> The proposal was acceptable to the whole community, so they chose Stephen, a man filled with faith and the holy Spirit, also Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicholas of Antioch, a convert to Judaism. <sup>6</sup> They presented these men to the apostles who prayed and laid hands on them. <sup>7</sup> The word of God continued to spread, and the number of the disciples in Jerusalem increased greatly; even a large group of priests were becoming obedient to the faith.

### Luke 10:25-37

**The Greatest Commandment.** <sup>25</sup> ¶ There was a scholar of the law<sup>[k]</sup> who stood up to test him and said, “Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” <sup>26</sup> Jesus said to him, “What is written in the law? How do you read it?” <sup>27</sup> He said in reply, “You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.” <sup>28</sup> He replied to him, “You have answered correctly; do this and you will live.”

**The Parable of the Good Samaritan.** <sup>29</sup> But because he wished to justify himself, he said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” <sup>30</sup> Jesus replied, “A man fell victim to robbers as he went down from Jerusalem to Jericho. They stripped and beat him and went off leaving him half-dead. <sup>31</sup> ¶ A priest happened to be going down that road, but when he saw him, he passed by on the opposite side. <sup>32</sup> Likewise a Levite came to the place, and when he saw him, he passed by on the opposite side. <sup>33</sup> But a Samaritan traveler who came upon him was moved with

compassion at the sight. <sup>34</sup> He approached the victim, poured oil and wine over his wounds and bandaged them. Then he lifted him up on his own animal, took him to an inn and cared for him. <sup>35</sup> The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper with the instruction, 'Take care of him. If you spend more than what I have given you, I shall repay you on my way back.' <sup>36</sup> Which of these three, in your opinion, was neighbor to the robbers' victim?" <sup>37</sup> He answered, "The one who treated him with mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

## From the Franciscan Sources

### From *The Testament*

The Lord gave me, Brother Francis, this to begin doing penance in this way: for when I was in sin, it seemed too bitter for me to see lepers. And the Lord Himself led me among them and I showed mercy to them. And when I left them, what had seemed bitter to me was turned into sweetness of soul and body. And afterwards I delayed a little and left the world. - *FA:ED, page 249*

### From *The Life of Saint Francis: The First Book, by Thomas of Celano*

Then then holy lover of profound humility moved to the lepers and stayed with them. For God's sake her served all of them with great love. He washed all the filth from them, and even cleaned out the pus of their sores, just as he said in his *Testament*: "When I was in sin, it seemed too bitter for me to see lepers, and the Lord led me among them and I showed mercy to them." For he used to say that the sight of lepers was so bitter to him that in the days of his vanity when he saw their houses even two miles away, he would cover his nose with his hands.

When he started thinking of holy and useful matters with the grace and strength of the Most High, while still in the clothes of the world, he met a leper one day. Made stronger than himself, he came up and kissed him. He then began to consider himself less and less, until by the mercy of the Redeemer, he came to complete victory over himself. - *FA:ED, page 195*

**Basic 4 questions for each reading.** These are based on St. Clare's admonitions to Agnes of Prague to "gaze," "consider," "contemplate" and "imitate." They also borrow the "layers of formation" from Fr. Lester Bach, OFM Cap, which are information (what we need to know), formation (how we make sense of what we know and make it our own), and transformation (how this changes us so that we begin to live it out).

**These 4 questions will be applied to each section of our formation each month.** This will help us on that continuous formation as Secular Franciscan Catholic Christians.

- 1. What ideas struck you or stood out to you as you read? What did you learn?**
- 2. What connections did you make between the encyclical and the supplemental readings?**
- 3. How does what you read deepen your understanding of your Franciscan vocation?**
- 4. What new ideas and desires do you have to change or integrate into your life as a Franciscan and a Catholic?**

## April Gathering

**Date:** April 19, 2026

**Time:** 1:30 pm

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

**Formation:** *God Is Love* – Articles 19-25

**Snacks:** Everyone

**Evening Prayer for the Liturgy of the Hours: 3rd Sunday of Easter**

Christian Prayer: pages 478 & 861 Hymn: #112 on page 1554

Vol II: pages 699 & 1374 Hymn: page 536

*The Strife Is O'er*

## 21st Quinquennial Congress General Information

29 July – 02 August, 2026 in Lexington, Kentucky

Registration is now open!

### Easter of St. Francis: Rekindle the Flame

#### Q Registration Cost:

Regular \* \$650 1/1 - 5/31/2026 "Late Owl" \* \$725 6/1 – 6/15/2026

\* Includes 4 dinners, 3 breakfasts & 3 lunches, beginning with 7/29 dinner. Meals on your own Sunday, 8/2. Please note: *Penitential meals will be offered on Friday.*

**Registration closes June 15, 2026. If you would like assistance with the registration, please contact Jim Konopa: [jekonopa@gmail.com](mailto:jekonopa@gmail.com) or (765) 432-3453 prior to June 1.**

#### Q: How do I register?

- Registration link is: <https://ofs-usa.regfox.com/21st-congress-secular-franciscan-order-usa>
- The registration link will take you to RegFox, an online registration service.
- Please fill out the registration form provided.
- You may register two (2) persons on one registration form.
- You will receive your Registration Confirmation by email.

#### Q: Do I pay when I register?

- A non-refundable \$100 per-person deposit is due at time of registration.
- You can pay in full OR you can return to the registration form and make payments.
- You will be able to return to your account at your convenience to make payments until May 30, 2026 or update information any time. To do that, you will need to create a RegFox account, save and retain login and password information to access your account.
- Remaining balance will be automatically charged to your credit card on May 30, 2026.
- If you register after May 30, 2026, and until registration closes, you will need to pay in full.

## Prayer Requests

**Within the fraternity:** Jackie Didier; Sandy Kiraly; Mary Lou Sohn, Joyce Wesner.

**Beyond the fraternity:** Sr. Anita; Katie's mother, Pat; all who came into the Church on Easter; repose of the soul of Don (Rich's friend); military personnel deployed/to be deployed to the Middle East; world peace; immigrants, especially detainees.