

SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER
St. Charles Fraternity
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November 2024



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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

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Joyce Wesner	11/16
Joy Olry	11/20
Joann Arendt	11/26



Calendar

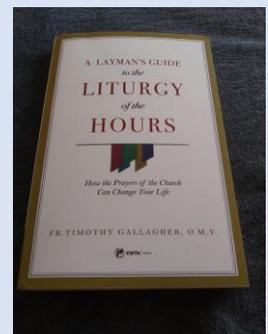
11/14	6:00 pm	on Zoom	Fraternity Council meeting
11/17	1:30 pm	St. Mary's, Avilla	Fraternity gathering
11/21	6:00 pm	on Zoom	Initial formation for Barbara
12/8	1:30 pm	St. Mary's, Avilla	Fraternity gathering
12/19	6:00 pm	on Zoom	Fraternity Council meeting
1/5	1:00 pm	St. Vincent's, Ft. Wayne	Fraternity Christmas party with Holy Family Fraternity

NOVEMBER PROFESSION ANNIVERSARIES

11/11/2007	Katie Herendeen	
	Vicki Marcellus-Smith	
11/16/1997	Marcyle Voigt	
11/21/1976	Laura Hoffman	
11/22/2009	Arlene Lewis	15 years

Ongoing Formation

In October, we began our new book for ongoing formation: *A Layman's Guide to the Liturgy of the Hours*, by Fr. Timothy Gallagher, O.M.V. This book gives us the opportunity to look at the history, theology, and practice of the LOH; it will also include a tutorial on how to use the annual guide. Katie Herendeen is leading the discussions. The suggested donation for this book is \$15. The questions for reflection are on page 4.



May the Lord give you peace!

What is prayer? If you ask 10 people what prayer is, you'll most likely get 10 different answers: a conversation with God, praise, a chance to unburden myself, etc. But what is it really?

In the book we are currently using for formation, Fr. Gallagher refers to the Vatican II document on the divine liturgy. This document calls prayer a "canticle of divine **praise**." (page 24) This canticle is present among the Persons of the Holy Trinity and, we are joined to this song through the Incarnation of the Son. Further, prayer is also **intercession** for the ongoing work of salvation of souls. Is it any wonder, then, that our Rule tells us that "prayer and contemplation [are] the soul of all [we] are and do"? (article 8)

In our dialogue at the October gathering, we mentioned the difference between "saying prayers" and "praying." Saying prayers tends to be more focused on the words or doing it correctly; praying is focused on God.

In her book *Christian Prayer for Today*, Martha Moore-Keish offers several misunderstandings of what prayer is. The first misunderstanding is that a person's prayer really focuses on oneself. This could include being "long-winded" or asking for lots of things as though telling God something that God doesn't already know (pages 23-24). If you remember your religious education from a "few" years ago, you might remember the concept of God being "omniscient," that is, "all-knowing." It's still true.

The second misunderstanding is that prayer is a "form of stress reduction or spiritual hygiene." (page 24) I see these mentioned quite frequently in the Prayer & Worship class I teach. Prayer journaling becomes a popular way to do this. Prayer becomes more of an exercise in personal psychology than in prayer.

Finally, Moore-Keish adds that there are those who say that "all of life should be prayer." Even our Franciscan writings describe Francis as a man who didn't just pray but became prayer. Now, while the focus is on God, regarding our daily tasks at least has the potential to be true. However, when it becomes a justification for not spending dedicated time in prayer, the arrow misses the mark. In other words, if all of life is prayer, is any of it? (page 25) We read in the Scriptures that Jesus regularly prayed and we read in the Franciscan sources that Francis also regularly prayed. In fact, he instructed the friars to use the breviary if they could read to pray the at the prescribed times.

To continue from earlier, prayer is an encounter with God; it is a participation in the song of divine praise that originates within Godself. It's an encounter of love. Even though we are finite, fallible beings, we are still invited into this eternal song.

Do you regard the Liturgy of the Hours (at least Morning and Evening Prayer) as a participation in the eternal prayer of heaven? How often do you pray in deliberate times? Is a busy schedule an obstacle? How might that be changed to encounter the God who loves us infinitely?

Peace and all good!

Prayer requests:

Within the fraternity: Jackie Didier, Sandy Kiraly, Marcyle Voigt, Joyce Wesner, Mary Lou Sohn and Barb Kluz - all for health.

Beyond the fraternity: for peaceful elections & transfer of power; peace in the Middle East; Joy's Aunt Diane; Scott – in a nursing home & about to lose his home; Fr. Bartholomew – Nigerian pastor at St. Peter's in Fort Wayne who is still trying to learn English; safety for all school students, especially to be free from gun violence.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1) **Heads up:** The **annual Christmas party** will be on **January 5** with Holy Family Fraternity at St. Vincent's Catholic Church on Wallen Road beginning at 1:00 pm. We will have a **regular fraternity gathering** on **December 8** at 1:30 p.m. in the St. Mary's teachers lounge.

2) Effective immediately, the **newsletter** will be returning to a monthly schedule. It has been determined that every two months is too long between them as too much news is getting lost in the "gap."

3) The **Kokomo Poor Clares** had their Chapter of Elections on October 16 with Bishop Timothy Doherty. The results are: Rev. Mother Maria Chiara, Abbess; Mother Mary Agnes, Vicaress; and Sr. Miriam, Councilor. Let us pray for our Poor Clare sisters and their new Council.

4) **Elections for the Regional Executive Council** will be in June 2025. Nominations will open in January. Be thinking about someone you would like to nominate, maybe even yourself!

5) Save the date. The **next Quinquennial** (The Q) will be in Lexington, KY, from July 29-August 2, 2026. Even though it's nearly 2 years away, it's time to start saving your "pennies." More info will follow in future newsletters.

Upcoming change in the newsletter mailing policy

With the cost of postage now \$.73/stamp, the Council has decided to cut down the number of snail mails (currently 12). Any member who has an email address will be receiving their newsletters via email starting in January 2025 unless otherwise requested.

These members will still receive newsletters via snail mail: Jackie Didier, Doris Bermes, Arlene Lewis, Barbara Guevera, and Barb Kluz.

Contact Barb Braley (see page 1) no later than **December 15, 2024**, to continue to receive the newsletter via snail mail.

NOV. FRATERNITY GATHERING

Date: November 17, 2024 **Time:** 1:30 pm

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

Ongoing Formation: *A Layman's Guide to the Liturgy of the Hours*, chapter 3

Food: Everyone

Liturgy of the Hours: 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

1 volume: Pages 640 & 712; Hymn: #32 Now Thank We All Our God

4 volume: Pages 537 661; Hymn: page 641 Now Thank We All Our God

FORMATION QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

Liturgy of the Hours, Part 2

Read chapter 3 and 4 in *A Layman's Guide to the Liturgy of the Hours* (Gallagher) and "The General instructions for the Liturgy of the Hours (Abridged)" in your *Christian Prayer* book pages 8-19 (in my copy of *Christian Prayer*) If you use the 4 volume *Liturgy of the Hours* the entire instructions are about 70 pages.

1. After reading the instructions, did you learn anything new? Was it informative to your understanding of the mechanics of the liturgy? Do you think reading the instructions helps your confidence, increases your understanding, or deepens your participation in the prayer? **Note:** In many areas of life, it is good to revisit instructions on anything we do, such as the yearly safety training at your work (CPR, fire and disaster drills). Think about making an effort to read the *LOTH* instructions yearly, maybe at the beginning of Advent, the start of the new liturgical year, or Lent, when our desire is to walk more closely with our Lord through actions and prayer.

The instructions in *Christian Prayer* are abridged to about 11 pages long, in *LOTH* it is 78 pages, being the complete document.

2. Please reflect on the last 2 paragraphs on page 26. We are praising with others at all times and even those singing praises in heaven. Do you think Francis had this kind of awareness of this prayer? Please reread these 2 paragraphs and compare to the Prologue to our rule.

3. Please think about and share your ideas about praying the liturgy alone, with your family, the fraternity, or with fellow parishioners. (Example: when I have been at Catholic gatherings, I have seen people gather in the hall or the chapel to pray the Liturgy of the Hours.) We cradle Catholics may have grown up in the faith thinking this kind of prayer was for the priest and religious orders. Our prayers as lay persons were the meal prayers, rosary, and the morning offering, for example. My experience with this prayer has mostly been by myself and with fraternity only.

4. By virtue of our calling to belong to the OFS, we are encouraged to choose a liturgy to pray Morning and Evening prayer. What has helped you to pray this prayer in your life? What have been stumbling blocks? How has the rule helped you or encouraged you or held you accountable to this liturgy?