

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

Website: stcharlesfrat.com

April 2025



Minister: Barb Braley	260.242.3256	bbraley345@gmail.com
Vice Minister: Joyce Wesner	910.215.7432	epsilon@muphi@hotmail.com
Secretary: Deb Davis	260.668.2440	deb@davishih@gmail.com
Treasurer: Rich C. Cain	260.667.4631	richcain82@gmail.com
Formation Director: Katie Herendeen	260.582.9773	mcherendeen@gmail.com
Prayer Tree: Joyce Wesner	910.215.7432	epsilon@muphi@hotmail.com
Card Ministry: 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: 11/20/2022

BIRTHDAYS

4/19 Sandy Kiraly

**PROFESSION
ANNIVERSARIES**

4/15/2018 David Frank

4/18/2021 Andrea Martin

Patti Webster

April Calendar

4/15 7:00pm Zoom

Initial formation for Kathy

4/10 6:00pm Zoom SC Council meeting

4/13 1:30pm St. Mary's teachers lounge
 SC fraternity gathering (date pushed up due to Easter being on the 3rd Sunday)

4/24 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; thank you from Joyce for the prayers during & after her hand surgery; repose of the soul of Bill Nichter.

Beyond the fraternity: Sr. Anita – continued recovery; immigrants/refugees, Pope Francis – health; Beck (Deb's nephew in military reserve); Barbara's son-in-law following the death of his son; for truth regarding the current government situation; those in war-torn countries & for peace; those who had their public assistance taken away; Katie's niece Erin & the Carrier Group Truman.

May the Lord give you peace!

On March 16, the 2nd Sunday of Lent, Fr. Bartholomew Okorie preached a homily largely based on the reading from Genesis 15. This is when God told Abram to “count the stars if you can.” I offer my reflections on the homily.

Fr. Bartholomew talked about Hollywood stars. They are people who tend to want the light to shine only on themselves. This contrasts to a cosmic star where the light is radiated away from itself. If the star’s light would be turned inward, it would become a black hole and would suck everything close to it into itself, that is, into oblivion.

The question is: what kind of stars are we? Are we positive, hopeful people who radiate that “light” outward? Or are we “black holes” whose light implodes into a black hole and tries to draw others into the oblivion of our own misery?

This got me to thinking about St. Francis when he returned home after his year-long captivity and illness in Perugia. His light was imploding inward, and no one seemed to understand. His friends tried to lure him back into the party boy he had been before he left Assisi. They more or less gave up on him at some point by saying that he was “in love.” He wandered around rural Assisi knowing that things weren’t right, that he wasn’t right, but the answers just wouldn’t come. Then four things happened.

First, he thought that maybe he could resurrect his dream of knighthood by joining Walter of Brienne on a crusade, but a vision in the night asked him whether the master of the servant could do more for him. He answered that the master could, of course. The voice in the vision told him to go back home, so he did.

Second, when Francis was praying in the decrepit church of San Damiano, a voice instructed him to “rebuild my church.” He obeyed by begging stones from others to rebuild the tumbledown church – taking the command literally.

Third, Francis, who was known to go far out of his way to avoid a leper, got down off his high horse, as it were, gave the leper he encountered a few coins, and kissed his hand.

Finally, Francis faced his angry father Pietro in the town square. Pietro demanded that the bishop make Francis return all of the goods he had taken or at least repay him. At this point, Francis returned everything that belonged to his father, including the clothes he was wearing. Francis then declared that Pietro was no longer his father, but that he could truly say that God was his father. That must have been quite the spectacle!

Do you see the progression from turning the light inward like a Hollywood star to radiating outward like a cosmic star?

Lent is the time for us to evaluate what kind of “stars” we are. Does our light radiate outward to give others peace, love, and joy? Or does it turn inward and drag others into our darkness? This is the time to practice turning our love outward for the good of others so that it becomes a kind of resurrection for us and for others.

Peace and all good!



Dear brothers and sisters may the Lord give you peace!

Attached is the announcement for the National Chapter of Elections on September 13, 2025. **The deadline for nominations is April 30, 2025.** We need nominations! If God is calling you, please listen! The National Executive Council positions are challenging but filled with the joy of meeting so many more of our brothers and sisters and helping to lead them to a closer union with God and a deeper friendship with our Seraphic Father, Francis. Revisit those promises you made on the day of your Profession and then ask God again if He is calling you! If you have any questions or concerns, please be in touch.

Blessings,

Theresa and Deb
National Election Nominations Co-Chairs

[National Elective Chapter Announcement - 2025](#)

Editor's notes:

If you hover over the announcement, a small window will come up instructing you to type Control + Click to follow the link.

If it does not, go to the National website at **secularfranciscansusa.org**. Go to the News tab, click on the tab and a dropdown box will appear, scroll down to the National Elections link & click on it, once on the National Elections page, scroll down to the form on the right side, click on it and it will open so you can read it and make your nomination(s).

Remember that the deadline for nominations is April 30.

APRIL FRATERNITY GATHERING

Date: April 13, 2025

Time: 1:30 pm

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

Formation: Chapters 13 & 14; a handout will be provided at the gathering

Snacks: Carry-in

Liturgy of the Hours: Passion Sunday (Palm Sunday)

1 volume: Pages 390 & 786

Hymn: #104 (page 1550) *O Sacred Head, Surrounded*

4 vol. (Vol. II): Pages 426 & 1229

Hymn: page 399 *O Sacred Head, Surrounded*

Remember to bring the new Franciscan Vocation Petitions sheet.

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

Read chapters 13 & 14

Chapter 13 *"Public and Common Prayer by the People of God"*

1. Read the last sentence on page 95. St. Francis recognized the relationship of our worship, prayer, and God's creation. Please reflect on how the Franciscan prayer tradition brings us to value love of God in His creation by praying with the Scriptures in the LOTH.

2. Praying the Liturgy of the Hours calls us to go and take the Gospel to the world just as the Mass tells us to, "Go and proclaim the Glory of God." How did Francis teach us Secular Franciscans to show the Love of creation, the gift of God, to our neighbors, friends, and family?

Chapter 14 *"How to Pray a Psalm"*

3. We will take a Psalm from the Sunday we meet to work through this chapter. In our sharing, we may help our brothers and sisters with insights.

Please bring any questions you have about how to pray the LOTH. We, as Secular Franciscans, promise to pray the Morning and Evening Offices.

