

SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER

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

Website: stcharlesfrat.com



October 2026

Minister: Barb Braley	260.242.3256	bbraley345@gmail.com
Vice Minister: Joyce Wesner	260.715.8999	epsilonumuphi@hotmail.com
Secretary: Deb Davis	260.668.2440	debdavishih@gmail.com
Treasurer: Rich Cain	260.667.0940	richcain82@gmail.com
Formation Director: Katie Herendeen	260.582.9773	mcherendeen@gmail.com
Prayer Tree: Joyce Wesner	260.715.8999	epsilonumuphi@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: 9/20/2026
		Last pastoral visit: 11/16/2025

Calendar

10/3 9:00am Council meeting Zoom
10/15 7:00pm Kathy's initial formation (chapter 20) Zoom
10/18 1:30pm Fraternity gathering St. Mary's school

Prayer Requests

Within the fraternity: Sandy Kiraly; Mary Lou Sohn; Joyce Wesner; Barb Braley – knee surgery recovery.

Beyond the fraternity: Sr. Anita; growing vocations.

NO OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS



HAPPY PROFESSION
Anniversary!

10/18/2015 Carole Beiswanger
Sandy Kiraly
Joy Olry
10/23/2005 Barb Braley

PERPETUAL PROFESSION OF BARBARA BALBO

Barbara Balbo, OFS, will make her Permanent Profession on Sunday, October 4, at the 9:00 am Mass. This will take place at St. Paul's Chapel, 8780 E 700 N, Clear Lake. Fr. Osman will celebrate the Mass. The ladies at St. Paul's will provide a brunch afterwards.

This is a special day, not only because of Barbara's Profession, but because it is also during the commemoration of the 800th anniversary St. Francis' Transitus.

Congratulations, Barbara!!

8th Centenary Transitus Events at the University of Saint Francis

- 1. Transitus:** October 3rd, 5:30 pm, Oratory of St. Francis - Please join us for a prayer service to commemorate the 800th anniversary of St. Francis' passing.
- 2. Feast Day Mass:** October 4th, 11 am, Oratory of St. Francis - All are welcome to our liturgy for the Solemnity of St. Francis, being celebrated by Fr. Patrick Mary Briscoe, OP. (It is a tradition among Franciscans for a Dominican to preach on the Feast of St. Francis.)
- 3. Year of St. Francis Lectures:** October 4-7, 7 pm, Mimi and Ian Rolland Art and Visual Communication Center (on the southeast side of campus off St. Francis Drive) - We invite you to explore the legacy of St. Francis through the following lectures:
 - a. Oct. 4, Fr. Patrick Mary Briscoe, OP: The Dangerous Freedom of St. Francis
 - b. Oct. 5, Sr. Maria Gemma Salyer, OSF: Roses and Skulls: St. Francis' Journey from Death to Life
 - c. Oct. 6, Sr. Damien Marie Savino, FSE: St. Francis and Integral Ecology: Spiritual Renewal in a Technocratic World
- 4. The Light of Francis:** October 1 - November 20, Weatherhead Gallery - View a major exhibition of art devoted to St. Francis. The Year of St. Francis Lectures will take place adjacent to this exhibit.



OFS-USA

Peace and All Good!

The TAU-USA Summer 2026
issue is now online!

secularfranciscansusa.org



October Gathering

Date: October 18, 2026

Time: 1:30 pm

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

Formation: *Franciscan Prayer* – Chapter 1 (pages 17-29)

Food: Everyone

Franciscan Crown Rosary in lieu of the Liturgy of the Hours. Please bring your Crown rosaries with you.

Franciscan Prayer, by Sr. Ilia Delio Chapter 1, pages 17-29

In September, we began (or for some of us re-began) the book *Franciscan Prayer*, by Sr. Ilia Delio, OSF, for ongoing formation. We used this book for ongoing formation about 14 years ago. At that time, we used the questions at the ends of the chapters. This time, we will use the questions below. The questions will change just slightly with each chapter; what will remain the same from the last resource is that the questions will be oriented toward deepening our understanding of who we are as Secular Franciscans in the context of our prayer lives and how we can begin to live out that understanding.

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. There will be no supplemental readings with this book.

1. What ideas struck you or stood out to you? What did you learn about the divine-human relationship?
2. From what you read in the Chapter 1 (pages 17-29), how does the divine-human relationship make prayer Christian? Franciscan?
3. How does your answer in Q2 mean to you as a Secular Franciscan?
4. What might need to change in your prayer life after reading the Chapter 1?

FRATERNITY SURVEY

For the past several years, the Council has kept track of the consistent down-trend in the attendance at fraternity gatherings. Therefore, the Council would like to survey the Active and Lapsed members as to what might improve attendance at the monthly gatherings.

Please answer the questions below by doing a **Reply** (not a Reply All) to this newsletter.

A few have responded since last month. Have you?

1. What brought you into the OFS and this fraternity?
2. Why do you attend/not attend?
3. Would a different time/date be a better option? For example, change the date to the 3rd Saturday, or keep the 3rd Sunday but move the time up to noon (with lunch).
4. If a different date/time would be better, what date/time would work better for you?