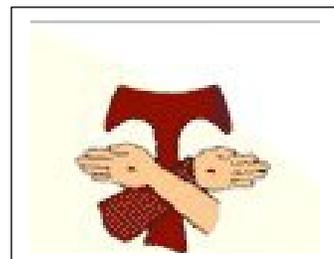


SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER

St. Charles Fraternity
P.O. Box 12644 M.P.O., Fort Wayne, IN 46864
Website: stcharlesfrat.com
January/February 2023



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|--|----------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Minister: Joy O. | 260.452.7357 | jjolry@gmail.com | |
| Vice Minister: Barb B. | 260.242.3256 | bbraley345@gmail.com | |
| Secretary: Deb D. | 260.452.7357 | debdavishih@gmail.com | |
| Treasurer: Nancy S. | 260.417.1791 | nancy.steinhofer@gmail.com | |
| Formation Director: Rich C. | 517.815.4154 | richcain82@gmail.com | |
| Spiritual Asst.: Sr. Mary | 260.399.7783 | mgovert@sf.edu | |
| Prayer Tree & Card Ministry: Vicki S. | 260.242.9342 | sfo3vic4marcell@embarqmail.com | |
| Established on or before 2/9/1936 | Last elections: 10/17/2021 | Last fraternal visit: 11/20/2022 | Last pastoral visit: 11/20/2022 |

January Gathering with Eucharistic Adoration

The January fraternity gathering will be held on January 15, 2023, at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church. The church is located at 1502 E. Wallen Rd., Fort Wayne. We will begin at 1:30 in Room B of the Spiritual Center, which is located in the southeast corner of the parking lot and behind the school.

At 3:30, following Evening Prayer, we will carpool over to St. Mary Magdalene for an hour of Eucharistic Adoration. (Carpooling is necessary because the parking lot there is very limited.) We should be finished by 4:30. For those who have a longer drive home, please feel free to stay as long as you can and then leave when you need to be home by dark. (If several of you need to leave early, you may want to carpool to the chapel together.)

PLEASE NOTE that Sr. Mary will give a presentation during our gathering, but we will not have ongoing formation time from our book. (See pages 3 & 4)

Friendly reminder: If you are sick, think you may be getting sick, or have been exposed to something, please stay home. If you think it's not safe to drive, or walk in a parking lot or on a sidewalk, please stay home. Your health and safety is a top priority.

National Theme 2022-2023: Listen, Discern, and Go Forth

The focus for the next three years will be on Secular Franciscan vocations. How do we attract people to the OFS, especially younger people? What priority do we give to our Secular Franciscan professions? How do we nurture our own vocations after we profess?

FROM OUR VICE MINISTER...What is formation?

May the Lord give you peace!

Normally, a column like this would come from our Formation Director. However, I'm addressing this issue as the one who currently leads the discussions for our ongoing formation.

One of the issues that has risen on the national level is the concern about the basics of formation. In my humble opinion, it doesn't get any more basic than understanding what formation is – and is not.

Formation for Secular Franciscans really comes down to two basic questions: who do I understand myself to be as a Secular Franciscan, and how do I begin to live that out? The two most basic documents where we can begin to answer these questions are the Rule and the Constitutions. The books we use supplement and facilitate these documents. Therefore, we must never think of ourselves as a "Franciscan book club." Ugh!!

As a member of the Council and as a formator, when it's time to choose ongoing formation material, one of the things I look at is: what aspect of the Rule have we not considered for a while.

For example, when I thought back, I realized that we hadn't done anything with a biography of St. Francis during my entire time in the fraternity. The question I asked was: How can we "follow Christ in the footsteps of Saint Francis of Assisi" and "make present the charism of [our] Seraphic Father in the life and mission of the Church" (*Rule, article 1*) if we don't know (well) who he was? Hence, Bonaventure's *Major Life*. And since there were no questions for reflection, I took the opportunity to tailor a series of questions specifically for us as Secular Franciscans and frequently ask how something might be applied to our lives regarding worship, service, etc.

A similar sequence happened with our look at the Beatitudes. I know some of you expressed how difficult some of the reading was, but remember, that's how we grow. It's like using a muscle. If you don't use it, it becomes useless. If you barely use it, it is perpetually weak and may not be useful enough. But if you use it with an increasing amount of resistance, it gets stronger and more useful. It is no different with our formation. The more we work at it, the more we come to understand who we are and how we can more efficiently and effectively begin to live it out. Yes, BEGIN to live it out. That's what Francis told his brothers, and it is an earmark of what a life of penance is all about.

Peace and all good!

Barb

**FRANCIS OF ASSISI: WRITER AND SPIRITUAL MASTER
SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONS**

February 19, 2023

Chapter 4

- ~ How would you describe your relationship/description of God in 1-3 words?
- ~ On page 31, what is the ultimate reason for Jesus' Passion and death? How does this differ from the common expression that "Jesus came to die"? What is the significance of this difference?
- ~ How do you see the Eucharist as being Trinitarian?
- ~ How might the Holy Spirit relate to article 21 of our Rule?

NOTE: Since we did not get to our formation time in November, chapter 4 is now for our February gathering.

NEW ADDRESSES!

Arlene Lewis: 4730 E. State Blvd. #19, Fort Wayne, IN 46845

Doris Bermes: Kingston Care Center, 1010 W. Washington Center Rd., Room 418, Fort Wayne, IN 46825

2023 St. Charles Fraternity Budget

| | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|------------|
| Fair Share | 21 members x \$32 | \$672.00 |
| Word | For Secretary's laptop | 120.00 |
| Website | \$24.85 (domain) + \$155 (website) | 179.85 |
| Women's Care Center | | 300.00 |
| Franciscan Center | | 500.00 |
| Amazon Relief | | 300.00 |
| Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration | Philippine missions | 300.00 |
| Post Office box | Rent | 156.00 |
| Total | | \$2,527.85 |

**PROFESSION
ANNIVERSARIES**

Karen Amstutz 1/22/2012

None in February

BIRTHDAYS

Carole Beiswanger 1/20

Andrea Martin 2/9

Mary Lou Sohn 2/14

JAN. FRATERNITY GATHERING

Date: Jan. 15, 2023 **Time:** 1:30 p.m.

Place: St. Vincent Catholic Church,
Spiritual Center, Room B,
1502 E. Wallen Rd., Fort Wayne
(see more info on page 1)

Sr. Mary's talk

Food: Bring snacks to share

Liturgy of the Hours:

Evening Prayer II

(2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time)

Pages 786 & 246; Hymn: #40

Eucharistic Adoration

Homebound: Luke 3:1-22

FEB. FRATERNITY GATHERING

Date: Feb. 19, 2023 **Time:** 1:30 p.m.

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

Food: Bring snacks to share

Book: Matura, pages 27-40

(supplemental questions on pg 3)

Liturgy of the Hours:

Evening Prayer II

(7th Sunday in Ordinary Time)

Pages 861 & 251; Hymn: #33

Homebound: Matthew 4

Thought for January: I, N.N., by the grace of God renew my baptismal promises and consecrate myself to the service of his Kingdom. Therefore, in my secular state, I promise to live all the days of my life the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Secular Franciscan Order by observing its rule of life. May the grace of the Holy Spirit, the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary and our holy father St. Francis, and the fraternal bonds of community always be my help, so that I may reach the goal of perfect Christian love. (*Ritual, 23-24*)

Thought for February: You have been made a living member of the Church in Baptism; you have been united more intimately with the Church by profession, Through this special covenant of union, may you be a faithful witness and instrument of her mission among all people. (*Ritual, 25*)

Do you know of someone in our fraternity who is sick, homebound, has gone into a nursing home, or is in the hospital?
Please contact Vicki and she will send a card. Her contact information is on page 1 of this newsletter.

Opportunities for fraternity apostolates: 1) Knit, crochet, sew, or even quilt 30"x30" lap robes for the residents of Sacred Heart Home in Avilla. They must be in these dimensions so they cover the residents' laps adequately, but don't get caught in wheelchair wheels. 2) Carve **wooden crosses** that people could hold (approximately 5" tall x 2.5" wide). 3) Make **cord rosaries**.