

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

Website: stcharlesfrat.com

February 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 (new)	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

2/9 Andrea Martin
2/14 Mary Lou Sohn

**NO FEBRUARY
PROFESSION
ANNIVERSARIES**

February Calendar

1/1-3/15 REC nominations open
2/13 6:00pm Zoom SC Council meeting
2/16 1:30pm St. Mary's teachers lounge
SC fraternity gathering
2/27 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; Joyce Wesner – hand surgery recovery.
Beyond the fraternity: Sr. Anita – continued recovery.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1) **Elections for the Regional Executive Council** will be in June 2025. Nominations are now open until March 15. Email your nominations to Kathleen White at kdwofs@comcast.net.
- 2) **Triennial Pastoral Visitation:** November 16 at our regular gathering.
- 3) Save the date. The next **Quinquennial** (The Q) will be in Lexington, KY, from July 29-August 2, 2026. Even though it's nearly 1-1/2 years away, it's time to start saving your "pennies." More info will follow in future newsletters.

May the Lord give you peace!

February is typically associated with love since Valentine's Day falls during this month. What do we mean by love?

We only have one word for it that has universal applications, from "I love you" to a special person, to "I love chocolate." Each of these examples, hardly has the same weight attached to them, even though we use the same word.

Did you know that the Greeks have four different words for love? 1) Eros is the love between a man and a woman, i.e., marital love. 2) Familial love is the love of one's family, clan, and tribe. 3) Filial love is what we call brotherly love. This is where we get the name of the city of Philadelphia, PA. The Latin equivalent is fraternal love. 4) Agape is the word for universal love.

Did you notice there's no word for the love of a pet or love of chocolate? That's because the words for love all apply to other people. Pets and chocolate are not people; therefore, we like our pets and chocolate.

Love has become a cheap word in our society, mostly, I believe, because we don't define it well. If we understand love as *a decision to seek the true good of another*, then love takes on a much more significant import.

With this definition, we have taken love out of the realm of mere sentimentality or emotion/feelings; it becomes an act of the will. It has strength to it. This definition also begs us to know the difference between needs and wants. True good concerns itself with the needs of another.

Notice also that this definition can be as specific as one person or as general as everyone in the world. "How can we love everyone in the world?" you might ask. "We don't know everyone." You don't have to! If you, out of an act of the will, pray for the true good of others, even if you don't know them, you love them. It's that simple. I might add that it's Franciscan as well.

In the story of the Wolf of Gubbio, St. Francis went to Gubbio because a wolf was attacking, killing, and eating the local farm animals and the people as well. He struck a bargain between the wolf and the townspeople. Did St. Francis know every person in Gubbio? He did not, but he showed them love by settling the dispute between them and the wolf.

My dad used to make the comment about my granddad (maternal) that he didn't know a stranger, just a friend he hadn't met yet. Do we have that same attitude toward others? If we were to paraphrase my dad's comment, could it be said of us that we don't know a stranger, just a possible Secular Franciscan that we haven't met yet? Will we love that much?

Peace and all good!

FEBRUARY FRATERNITY GATHERING

Date: February 16, 2025

Time: 1:30 pm

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

Renewal of Profession

Formation: *Layman's Guide to the Liturgy of the Hours*, chapters 5 & 6

Snacks: Carry-in.

State of the Fraternity report

Liturgy of the Hours: 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1 volume: Pages 250-251 & 786; Hymn: #40 *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

4 vol. (Vol. 3): Pages 201 & 841; Hymn: page 841 *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

ONGOING FORMATION: *Layman's Guide to the Liturgy of the Hours* **Chapter 5**

Because of his conversion, Francis shared his love of the Gospel. Many were attracted to him and wanted what he had, that is joy. Our Franciscan charism is a fruit of his joy. His writings and prayers are reflections of many of the psalms and canticles in the Liturgy and his complete joy in prayer.

Please reflect on articles 8 and 17 of the Rule. How does Christian Prayer/LOTH lead us to share in that joy? Please share how you might have started praying with your spouse, family, or other small groups.

Chapter 6

Since Vatican II, the LOTH, has been promoted for lay people to pray by Popes Paul IV, John Paul II, and Benedict XVI. Our rule of life asks us to participate in one of the forms of prayer of the church.

Reflect on Article 8. How have you grown in prayer, become closer to the Church? Has the LOTH helped you participate in the Mass more fully? Does this prayer help you to share the Gospel? Strengthen your service to others?

In Acts Chapter 1. The apostles devoted themselves to prayer, they sang Psalms and lived by the Scriptures and teachings meaning the Old Testament. Francis lived by the scriptures, and the Gospel. How can we?

FROM THE CHRISTMAS PARTY

On January 5, St. Charles fraternity and Holy Family fraternity combined for the annual Christmas party. The St. Charles Council furnished the turkey and ham and everyone contributed a side dish and/or a dessert. The food was delicious! Games followed the meal. There were six people from Holy Family, nine from St. Charles, and three guests.

