

SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER
St. Charles Fraternity
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January 2025

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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

**JANUARY
PROFESSION
ANNIVERSARIES**
 1/22/2012 Karen
 Amstutz

**JANUARY
BIRTHDAYS**
 1/20 Carole
 Beiswanger

REGIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ELECTIONS

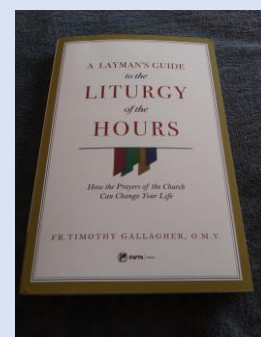
Nominations for the Regional Executive Council are open from January 1 – March 31. Please see a very important column from Kathleen White on page 3.

January Calendar

1/1-1/31 REC nominations open
 1/5 **(1st Sunday)** 1:30pm
 St. Vincent's, Ft. Wayne
 Fraternity Christmas party with Holy Family Fraternity (see page 3)
 1/9 6:00pm Zoom
 SC Council meeting
 1/23 6:00pm Zoom
 Initial formation for Barbara

Ongoing Formation

Our current book for ongoing formation: *A Layman's Guide to the Liturgy of the Hours*, by Fr. Timothy Gallagher, OMV. 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.



May the Lord give you peace!

January always seems to be so dark, even though we are now past the shortest day of the season and the days are slowly getting longer. The coldest days of the winter are also usually in January. Let's admit it; we'd just rather sleep through January. However, January is a bright spot in the liturgical calendar.

If you read through the two verses of the hymn above, you might notice a common thread. That common thread is the manifestation of the Son of God.

1 Songs of thankfulness and praise,
Jesus, Lord, to you we raise,
manifested by the star
to the Magi from afar,
branch of royal David's stem,
in your birth at Bethlehem.
Anthems be to you addressed,
God in man made manifest.

2 Manifest at Jordan's stream,
Prophet, Priest, and King supreme,
and at Cana, wedding guest,
in your Godhead manifest;
manifest in pow'r divine,
changing water into wine.
Anthems be to you addressed,
God in man made manifest.

[Source:](#) Christian Worship: Hymnal #386

This hymn goes back to a time when three manifestations were celebrated together. Let's look at them.

The first manifestation is Epiphany, when we recall the visit of the Magi (wise men from the East). Historically, Epiphany preceded the observance of the Nativity. According to Luke 2, the shepherds in the fields near Bethlehem (Jews) received the first invitation to see the newborn Messiah. In Matthew 1, the Magi (Gentiles) also received one. The Savior is for all people, not just a few.

The second manifestation is the Baptism of the Lord. The manifestation isn't the baptism itself but the voice that reveals who Jesus is: God's Son. (See Matthew 3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-22). Did you notice the Trinitarian manifestation? The Holy Spirit descended like a dove and the voice of the Father proclaimed Jesus as His beloved Son with whom He is well pleased. We received our Christian vocation in Baptism and deepened it with our Profession to participate in the life of the Trinity more fully.

The third manifestation is the Wedding at Cana (John 2:1-12). This is the first manifestation of Jesus' divine power, and it comes at the request of his mother when Jesus is apparently not ready to do that. What might this say about Mary as an intercessor? Is it any wonder that St. Francis chose her as the Patroness of the Franciscan Orders?

I hope that January may seem a little brighter now.

Peace and all good!

UPCOMING REGIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ELECTIONS

by Kathleen White OFS, Regional Lay Spiritual Assistant

The Regional Fraternity will be celebrating triennial elections and visitations at Chapter: June 13, 14, and 15 at St Francis University in Ft. Wayne. National representation will preside. This is an exciting time for us. Members of the Regional Executive Council and our local fraternity ministers (or their delegate) have voting privileges at the elections.

We will be electing Minister, Vice Minister, Secretary, Treasurer, Formation Director, and three Councilors. Nominations will be called for beginning in January. Are you a servant leader? Do you feel called to work closely with others to guide the Regional Fraternity for the next three years? You can nominate yourself, or any professed member of your fraternity. **Please send your nomination (include their email address) to Kathleen White (kdwofs@comcast.net).** They will be contacted in the early Spring to accept or decline the nomination.

What are the duties of the Regional Executive Council?

Please reference the General Constitutions, Articles 30-32 and 62-63 and the National Statutes, Articles 23-24. Feel free to contact any member of the REC to ask about their responsibilities and the blessings received in service to the Regional Fraternity. The current REC has found it beneficial to meet via Zoom, saving travel since members of the REC reside the full width of the state. The new REC may decide to meet in person or regularly via Zoom.

Please join me in prayer:

PRAYER FOR OFS LEADERSHIP

Give us, O God, leaders whose hearts are large enough to match the breadth of our own souls and give us souls strong enough to follow leaders of vision and wisdom. In seeking a leader, let us seek

- more than our own enhancement – though enhancement we hope for
- more than security for our own plans and vision -- though security we need
- more than satisfaction for our own selfish wants -- though many things we desire.

Give us the hearts to choose and follow the leader who will work with other leaders to bring Your will to the agenda and help us to fulfill it. Give us leaders who lead us to virtue without seeking to impose their own version of virtue on others. Help us also to see the seed of the Divine in each one so that we don't reject our brothers or sisters for thinking differently from us. May we always follow leaders who lead us to love all our brothers and sisters regardless of differences of race, ethnicity, or political persuasion. Give us leaders who will provide for the advancement of our Order without dictating to others to achieve it. Give us insight enough ourselves to choose as leaders those who can tell strength from power, growth from greed, leadership from dominance, and real greatness from the trappings of grandiosity. We trust you, Great God, to open our hearts to learn from those to whom you speak in different tongues and to respect the life and words of those to whom you entrusted the good of other parts of this globe. We beg you, Great God, give us the vision as Secular Franciscans to know where holy leadership truly lies, to pursue it diligently, to ask it to respect the integrity of every person in the entire Order. We ask these things, Great God, with minds open to your word and hearts that trust in your eternal care. Amen

Adapted and Updated September 1, 2012
by: Kevin Queally, TOR and Anne Mulqueen, OFS

Note: the nominations will open on Wednesday, January 1, 2025, and close on Saturday, March 15, 2025.

JANUARY FRATERNITY GATHERING

Date: January 5, 2025 (**1st Sunday**) **Time:** 1:30 pm

Place: St. Vincent de Paul CC, Spiritual Center, Room B, entrance 1
1502 E. Wallen Rd., Fort Wayne

Food: Carry-in. The St. Charles Council will provide the meat.

Games: Come prepared to have fun!

Liturgy of the Hours: Epiphany

1 volume: Pages 68 & 786; Hymn: #61 *Creator of the Stars of Night*

4 vol. (Vol. 1): Pages 207 & 811; Hymn: page 126 *Creator of the Stars of Night*

In unity with a tradition of the Holy Family fraternity, we will be collecting items for the Kokomo Poor Clares. These items include unscented soaps, shampoos, and lotions; toilet paper; paper towels; copy paper; envelopes; stamps. Cash donations will also be accepted.

Prayer requests:

Within the fraternity: Jackie Didier, Sandy Kiraly, Marcyle Voigt, Mary Lou Sohn and Barb Kluz - all for health; Joyce Wesner – hand surgery on Jan. 2.

Beyond the fraternity: Sr. Anita – continued recovery.

Daily Intercessions for the Poor Souls in Purgatory

Almighty God, we pray for the souls in Purgatory, especially...

(Sun.) *the most neglected.*

(Mon.) *those who stand the closest to heaven's entrance.*

(Tues.) *those in most need of our intercession.*

(Wed.) *those who in your eyes have the greatest merits.*

(Thurs.) *those who honored the mystery of your Son's infinite love the most.*

(Fri.) *the one for whom I must pray the most.*

(Sat.) *those who honored the highest Mother of Heaven the most intimately.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1) **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! (See page 3)

2) 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.