

SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER

St. Charles Fraternity
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September/October 2022



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Established on or before 2/9/1936	Last elections: 10/17/2021	Last fraternal visit: 11/17/2017	Last pastoral visit: 7/15/2018

NEWSLETTER SCHEDULE CHANGE

The September/October newsletter is being mailed out the last week of August. This will institute a change where the newsletters will be in everyone's hands by the first of the month. We are also returning to bi-monthly newsletters. Hopefully, this will be more convenient and more reader-friendly than going mid-month to mid-month as we have been doing.

FROM OUR MINISTER...

While visiting my son this week, we were discussing our favorite things. He chimed in that he knew my 3 favorite things...and this is what he said, in this order: 1) Your grandchildren (which they replaced us your children...we were at one time your first favorite things) 2) Kirby Sweeper and 3) Bicycling. Okay, that's what my son thinks; but to me prayer came to mind as my no. 1 favorite, but in all honesty, when I read about my favorite saints and listen to close friends, my prayer life could significantly be improved. This morning I heard in Mass: Be vigilant at all times and pray, that you may have the strength to stand before the Son of Man. "What is Prayer to you?" By definition, prayer is talking to God, it's our way of communicating. When you pray, go to your inner room, close the door, and pray to your Father in secret. Matthew 6,6. I honor and love some of the following saints, that I would like to share with you a tidbit of their prayerful practices and thoughts:

St. Francis had a love for the scriptures. We have seen that this love came out of his own personal prayer life, which not only helped him to love the Scriptures, but also to understand them better (from the Gospels according to St. Francis.) Praying the Cracks: Francis and the brothers often ascended Mount Subasio to absorb themselves in prayer in the caves. Their destination was the Carceri. Its name means prisons or cells, and it was the perfect place for solitude to become a "prisoner of Christ." From his prayer cells in the caves, he admired the spectacular vistas in the valley below and breathed in God's

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FROM OUR MINISTER... (continued from page 1)

goodness. He felt most at home with God in the cracks of nature. For spiritual renewal, Francis and the brothers often retreated to the hermitage for prayer and fasting between missionary activities. Prayer was a source of energy to allow him to rededicate himself to the active life. Francis thought of their way of life as the total Gospel life – alternating between the contemplative and the active (from the *Road to Peace in Assisi*).

St. Clare is also recognized as a woman who was devoted to prayer; let us reflect on the words she gave to her Sisters in a Blessing: “I’ll give you my blessing now while living, and after my death, in as far as I may: nay, even more than I may, I call down on you all the blessings that the Father of mercies has bestowed and continues to bestow on his spiritual sons and daughters both in Heaven and on earth, and with which a spiritual father and mother have blessed and will bless their spiritual sons and daughters. Amen.” (from Butler’s, *Lives of the Saints*)

Mother Theresa said, “Many think that converting means changing overnight, but it is not that. If we go into God’s presence face-to-face and let Him into our life, then we are being converted.” Prayer will give us a clean heart, and a clean heart will allow us to see God in each other. And if we see God in each other, we will be able to live in peace, and if we live in peace, we will be able to share the joy of loving with each other, and God will be with us. I am not sure what heaven will be like. I believe that when we die and the time comes for us to be judged, God will not ask us how many good things we did in our life, but only with how much love we did them (from Mother Teresa of Calcutta).

Solanus Casey was born into a life of prayer. Family prayer was a daily custom. His father would gather them together in the evening by calling out, “Prayer, boys, prayer!” Then his mother would begin the rosary, and all took turns leading the decades. From his youth he developed a love for the rosary and resolved to say it every day (from Meet Solanus Casey).

Mother Angelica, aside from communal prayer, spent several hours in private meditation each day. She said, Prayer is to take your failings, your evil tendencies and struggle with them. Prayer prepares you to get rid of all those things inside yourself that are not life Jesus. Prayer creates a disposition of assurance - not that you’re going to get every answer that you want - but assurance of God’s presence and His love. When you start to think of prayer as Someone, you are finally about to speak to God. A lot of people today pray, but they never talk to God. Why don’t you speak up and really talk to God, heart to heart, like a friend? You say a lot of things to friends. I’ll bet His ears will really open up when He hears that strange voice coming from below. Don’t wait for something to happen. Talk to Him about everyday things right now (from Mother Angelica’s *Little Book of Life Lessons and Everyday Spirituality*.)

I took a walk today with my 94-year-old neighbor, named Alex. He will be 95 on Nov. 8. He talked about his adventures in life and how many years he lived in our neighborhood, his stint in the army, and many trips to different countries. Alex mentioned in conversation that the years go by way too quickly and it helped me reflect on today’s gospel: “Amen, I say to you, I do not know you.” Therefore, stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour.” (Mt 25:1-13)

As one special Franciscan recently shared, “I make time for daily prayer, it is my no. 1 priority.”

FRANCIS OF ASSISI: WRITER AND SPIRITUAL MASTER SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONS

September 18

Chapter 1: What attracted you to St. Francis? To the OFS? How many of St. Francis' own writings have you read? (This does **not** include writings **about** St. Francis, like biographies.) Which is your favorite and why?

Chapter 2: Define: anthropology. How does chapter 2 relate to articles 2, 5, and 22 of our Rule? Read John 1:1-18. How does it relate to this chapter and these articles of our Rule?

October 16

Chapter 3: There are four components to the Christian path when viewed through a Franciscan lens: 1) love and adoration of God; 2) communion with the Church; 3) love and humble service to all as brothers and sisters; and, 4) radical poverty of being and its material expression. Why? This is how we walk in Christ's footsteps to fulfillment in happiness. How does this relate to article 24 of our Rule? What might be "appropriate means for growth in Franciscan and ecclesial life" look like? These "means" could include both formation and activities. How do these relate to the elected Council as animators and guides of this fraternity? (See Rule, article 21)

For the Feast of St. Francis

- Oct. 2 @ 4pm, Blessing of Pets in front of Brookside Mansion
- Oct. 3 @ 7pm, Transitus in St. Francis Chapel. Fellowship will follow – please bring a snack or beverage to share.
- Oct. 4 @ 11am, Holy Sacrifice of the Mass for the Solemnity of St. Francis in St. Francis Chapel

All events will take place at the University of Saint Francis, 2701 Spring St., Fort Wayne

Upcoming opportunities for fraternity involvement: 1) Friends of the Poor Walk/Run on Oct. 2 at 2:00 to benefit the St. Vincent de Paul Society. Contact lara@svdpsfw.org or **260-456-3561 x120** for more information. 2) Volunteer for Redeemer Radio Sharathon. Call/email Joy for information as to dates, times, and what is needed.

PROFESSION ANNIVERSARIES

<i>Jackie Didier</i>	9/19/1999
<i>Rich Cain</i> 10 years	9/23/2012
<i>Carole Beiswanger</i>	10/18/2015
<i>Sandy Kiraly</i>	10/18/2015
<i>Joy Olry</i>	10/18/2015
<i>Barb Braley</i>	10/23/2005

BIRTHDAYS

<i>Rich Cain</i>	9/3
<i>Nancy Steinhofer</i>	9/12
<i>Barb Cain</i>	9/20
<i>Teri Queitsch</i>	10/28

Please pray for: Sr. Mary – health

SEPT. FRATERNITY GATHERING

Date: Sept. 18, 2022 **Time:** 1:30 p.m.

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

Sr. Mary's talk

Food: Bring snacks to share

Book: Matura, pages 3-15
(supplemental questions on pg 2)

Liturgy of the Hours: Evening Prayer II
25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Pages 631 & 712; Hymn: #33

Homebound: Colossians 1

OCT. FRATERNITY GATHERING

Date: Oct. 16, 2022 **Time:** 1:30 p.m.

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

Sr. Mary's talk

Food: Bring snacks to share

Book: Matura, pages 19-25
(supplemental questions on pg 2)

Liturgy of the Hours: Evening Prayer II
29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Pages 631 & 635; Hymn: #182

Homebound: John 6:22-71

Love Your Commitment in 2022

- Love my fraternity
- Love the Rule
- Love Scripture
- Love conversion



September Abolition of the Death Penalty

We pray that the death penalty, which attacks the dignity of the human person, may be legally abolished in every country

October A Church Open to Everyone

We pray for the Church; ever faithful to, and courageous in preaching the Gospel, may the Church be a community of solidarity, fraternity and welcome, always living in an atmosphere of synodality.

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 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**.

Thought for September & October: There once was a woman who woke up one morning, looked in the mirror, and saw that she had only three hairs left on her head. "Great," she said, "I think I'll braid my hair today." So she did, and had a wonderful day.

The next day she woke up, looked in the mirror and saw that she had only two hairs on her head. "Hmm," she said, "I guess I'll part my hair down the middle today." So she did, and had a wonderful day.

The next day she woke up, looked in the mirror and saw that she had only one hair left on her head. "Wow," she said, "today I get to wear my hair in a ponytail." So she did, and had a wonderful day.

The next day she woke up, looked in the mirror and saw that there wasn't a single hair on her head. "Thank God!" she exclaimed. "I was running out of things to do with my hair!"

ATTITUDE is everything! Let's be grateful for the things God has given us and have a wonderful day!