

SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER

St. Charles Fraternity

P.O. Box 12644 M.P.O., Fort Wayne, IN 46864

Website: stcharlesfrat.com



September/October 2021

Minister: Katie H.

Phone: 260.582.9773

Email: mcherendeen@gmail.com

Vice Minister: Joy O.

Phone: 260.452.7357

Email: jjolry@gmail.com

Secretary: Barb B.

Phone: 260.242.3256

Email: bbraley345@gmail.com

Treasurer: Nancy S.

Phone: 260.417.1791

Email:

nancy.steinhofer@gmail.com

Formation Director: Rich C.

Phone: 517.815.4154

Email: richcain82@gmail.com

Spiritual Assistant

Sr. Mary

Phone: 260.399.7783

Email: mgovert@sf.edu

Prayer Tree: Vicki S.

Phone: 260.242.9342

Email:

sfo3vic4marcell@embarqmail.com

Established on or before 2/9/1936

Last Elections: 11/18/2018

Last Fraternal Visit: 11/17/2017

Last Pastoral Visit: 7/15/2018

NOTICE OF CHAPTER OF ELECTIONS

We will be holding our triennial Chapter of Elections on **October 17, 2021**. Susan Solloway, Regional Treasurer, will be presiding. There is still time to email nominations to Katie Herendeen at mcherendeen@gmail.com. You may nominate someone else or even yourself for one or more of these offices: Minister, Vice Minister, Secretary, Treasurer, or Formation Director. A quorum = 14

FROM THE RULE

10. United themselves to the redemptive obedience of Jesus, who placed His will into the Father's hands, let them faithfully fulfill the duties proper to their various circumstances of life. Let them also follow the poor and crucified Christ, witness to Him even in difficulties and persecutions.

11. Trusting the Father, Christ chose for Himself and His mother a poor and humble life, even though He valued created things attentively and lovingly. Let the Secular Franciscans seek a proper spirit of detachment from temporal goods by simplifying their own material needs. Let them be mindful that according to the gospel they are stewards of the goods received for the benefit of God's children.

Thus, in the spirit of the Beatitudes, and as pilgrims and strangers on their way to the home of the Father, they should strive to purify their hearts from every tendency and yearning for possession and power.

12. Witnessing to the good yet to come and obligated to acquire purity of heart because of the vocation they have embraced, they should set themselves free to love God and their brothers and sisters.

13. As the Father sees in every person the features of his Son, the firstborn of many brothers and sisters, so the Secular Franciscans with a gentle and courteous spirit accept all people as a gift of the Lord and an image of Christ.

A sense of community will make them joyful and ready to place themselves on an equal basis with all people, especially with the lowly for whom they shall strive to create conditions of life worthy of people redeemed by Christ.

14. Secular Franciscans, together with all people of good will, are called to build a more fraternal and evangelical world so that the kingdom of God may be brought about more effectively. Mindful that anyone "who follows Christ, the perfect man, becomes more of a man himself," let them exercise their responsibilities competently in the Christian spirit of service.

15. Let them individually and collectively be in the forefront in promoting justice by the testimony of their human lives and their courageous initiatives. Especially in the field of public life, they should make definite choices in harmony with their faith.

16. Let them esteem work both as a gift and as a sharing in the creation, redemption, and service of the human community.

17.2. By living the grace of matrimony, husbands and wives in particular should bear witness in the world to the love of Christ for His Church. They should joyfully accompany their children on their human and spiritual journey by providing a simple and open Christian education and being attentive to the vocation of each child.

19.2. Messengers of perfect joy in every circumstance, they should strive to bring joy and hope to others. Since they are immersed in the resurrection of Christ, which gives true meaning to Sister Death, let them serenely tend toward the ultimate encounter with the Father.

FROM OUR MINISTER: Growth and Change

Our fraternity has been growing, thanks be to God! Growth means change and we have had to learn to live with change, especially with the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic. The fraternity has continued to live fraternity with Zoom meetings and just recently started to meet in person the last three months. Several years ago, the Council decided to start meeting in both Fort Wayne and Avilla to accommodate those driving from the north of Fort Wayne. When I first professed, we were meeting at the University of St. Francis in the Campus Ministry building. I really loved meeting there. It felt homey. We were able to be in a room that sometimes was crowded with our sisters and brothers. Then the University decided to re-purpose that building to their needs. We started to meet in Doermer Building. It was more handicapped accessible, but still had issues with the configuration. We were meeting in a classroom and we could not have storage there, so all our supplies were taken home and brought back. More than half of the things the fraternity are still in the basement of the Campus Ministry building and have not been seen for over three years by anyone. As I write this, we are removing our things from that building and will be looking at them so we can use them for our benefit.

The other growth we have is that we have so many new vocations from the north of Fort Wayne. There are seven brothers and sisters from the Angola/Fremont/Coldwater area, four from the Avilla/Kendallville area, and one from Churubusco. There is one from the Huntington area. Most of our Fort Wayne/Allen County brothers and sisters are from the north side of Fort Wayne. We have been meeting half the year in Fort Wayne, mostly the winter months, and the other half of the year in Avilla for several years. More recently, we have been struggling to find a place to meet where we could socially distance and have as many brothers and sisters as we could in attendance. We started meeting at St. Mary of the Assumption in Avilla this Spring as we would have since we split the meeting sites. St. Jude's meeting room would limit our attendance to about 10 for social distancing.

The local Council has felt called to be more responsible and creative to get to a place where we can all meet in a place that is reasonable to travel for all. We weighed all the benefits and problems. The Council has prayerfully talked about this and knew that whatever decision was made, it was going to impact all our fraternity. We could not store our supplies/books at St. Jude's as this was a busy and already full building. We were told at the University or St. Francis that we could not store our supplies/books in the classroom. We tried to find other spaces to meet, but were not able to find a place to welcome us. St. Mary of the Assumption was willing to let us meet and to keep our supplies at the school in a storage room. This discussion has been ongoing since the beginning of 2021.

At the last Council meeting, we discussed the impact on our fraternity members. We examined the burden on the elderly who do not drive or limit their driving. We examined the burden of the 1-1/2- to 2-hour drive of some of the members who are north or west. We want to see every brother and sister in our fraternity. We came to a vote and decided to make St. Mary of the Assumption in Avilla our home base. We want to see all of our brothers and sisters at fraternity meetings and felt this would be a good central place.

We realize this may be upsetting to some. Remember that St. Francis went out and his band of Brothers grew very large in a short period of time. They went over a large part of Europe and into the Holy Land. It was difficult. Growth is difficult, change is difficult, and the Franciscan charism is to be docile to where the Lord is leading us to grow. We also have those who are willing to drive anyone from Fort Wayne to Avilla: Sr. Mary, Joy, and Nancy (see page 1 for contact information). The Council wants to you to know we prayed, struggled, and worked for a best solution.

Peace and All Good!

Aren't sure about how to make your contribution to the fraternity?

Just send it to:

St. Charles Fraternity, Attn: Treasurer, P.O. Box 12644 M.P.O., Fort Wayne, IN 46864

Thank you for your generosity!

Questions for *BEATITUDES*, by Raniero Cantalamessa, OFM Cap

Chapter 4

1. What is the difference between scientific/historical truth and theological truth? If “historical” means fact and significance, what is the significance of Jesus? What was the significance of Jesus to John in the Prologue to his Gospel (John 1:1-18)? Or Matthew (Matthew 1)? Or to Francis (see Prologue to Rule, Chapter 1) [*For page 51, exegesis = critical interpretation/explanation of a (Scripture) text.*]

2. Is wealth a bad thing? What is the purpose of wealth/possessions? What does article 11 of the Rule tell us? Look at articles 10-16 together. Do you see a pattern/progression? How do these articles relate to what Cantalamessa says about “hungry” and “satisfied”? (pages 51-56)

3. Justice holds a central position in the ongoing “dialogue” between hunger and satisfaction (pages 56-58). Make no mistake! This is a pro-life issue that involves an equitable distribution of goods, access to adequate food, clean and safe water, and affordable medical care. Those who are excluded are today’s “lepers.” How can we, as Franciscans, creatively, effectively, and courageously be in the “forefront in promoting justice? How is this related to the Two Great Commandments (love of God and love of neighbor.)?

4. Define: *righteousness*. Cantalamessa says the Jesus challenges the strong in regard to the weak (page 60). This echoes the French expression, “Noblesse oblige” (literally, *nobility is obligated*). It means that the “haves” have a responsibility to the “have nots.” How does this relate to article 13, paragraph 2, of our Rule? How does article 13 relate to the Eucharist?

Chapter 5

1. The Hebrew word *hesed* (page 65) has two meanings: a) the attitude of the stronger toward the weaker, and b) the attitude toward need and suffering. Give a specific example of Jesus’ mercy toward the and another example of Jesus’ mercy toward someone who was in need or suffering. Do the same for Francis. How does *hesed* relate to article 13 of our Rule?

2. Based on the first two paragraphs on page 69, how would you define *sin*? What is the relationship of sin and hope? Why did God the Son become incarnate? [Note: there are two main theological perspectives regarding this question.] How does this relate to articles 7 and 19.2 of our Rule?

3. Define: *grace*. How does this relate to articles 4, 5, 6, and 17.2?

4. Cantalamessa speaks of God who is “rich in mercy, *dives in misericordia...*” (page 74). *Misericordia* is literally defined as the suffering (*misereo*) of the heart (*cor*). In his opening address to the Second Vatican Council in 1962, Pope St. John XXIII said, “Nowadays, however, the spouse of Christ [the Church] prefers to make use of the medicine of mercy rather than of severity.” Both God and the Church are seen as dispensers of mercy. Compassion (def: *to suffer with*) and forgiveness are necessary in the practice of mercy. How does this relate to article 7 of our Rule? Or to the Parable of the Lost Son (Luke 15:11-32)?

**See page 1 for the articles of the Rule.

SEPTEMBER *Universal intention - An environmentally sustainable lifestyle.* We pray that we all will make courageous choices for a simple and environmentally sustainable lifestyle, rejoicing in our young people who are resolutely committed to this.

OCTOBER *Intention for evangelization - Missionary disciples.* We pray that every baptized person may be engaged in evangelization, available to the mission, by being witnesses of a life that has the flavour of the Gospel.

SEPTEMBER FRATERNITY GATHERING

Date: Sept. 19, 2021 **Time:** 1:30 p.m.

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

Sr. Mary's talk: TBD

Beatitudes book: Chapter 4

See questions on page 3

Liturgy of the Hours: Evening Prayer II

25th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Pages 712 & 631

Hymn on page 1519, #33

Snacks: pre-packaged only to share or bring your own

Homebound: John 6:1-15 & 22-71

OCTOBER FRATERNITY GATHERING

Date: Oct. 17, 2021 **Time:** 1:30 p.m.

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

Triennial Chapter of Elections:

President: Susan Solloway. A quorum of 14 needed to elect a Council.

Liturgy of the Hours: Evening Prayer II

29th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Pages 712 & 635-636

Hymn on page 1586, #182

Snacks: pre-packaged only to share or bring your own

Homebound: Acts 6:1-7

BIRTHDAYS

| | |
|------------------------|------|
| <i>Bill Nichter</i> | 9/16 |
| <i>Barb Cain</i> | 9/20 |
| <i>Barbara Guevara</i> | 9/28 |
| <i>Teri Queitsch</i> | 10/1 |

Prayer Intentions

Bill Nichter – surgery
Repose of the soul of *Kenneth Amstutz* (husband of Karen), who died on August 29.
Laura Hoffman – recovering from pneumonia

PROFESSION ANNIVERSARIES

| | |
|------------------------------|------------|
| <i>Jackie Didier</i> | 9/19/1999 |
| <i>Barb Kluz</i> | 9/19/1999 |
| <i>Jan Scher</i> | 9/19/1999 |
| <i>Rich Cain</i> | 9/23/2012 |
| <i>Carole Beiswanger</i> | 10/11/2015 |
| <i>Joy Olry</i> | 10/11/2015 |
| <i>Sandy Kiraly</i> | 10/11/2015 |
| <i>Barb Braley</i> | 10/23/2005 |
| <i>Katie Herendeen</i> | 11/11/2007 |
| <i>Vicki Marcellus Smith</i> | 11/11/2007 |

If your schedule permits and the below volunteer opportunities interest you, I have scheduled time slots for Franciscan volunteers below:

REDEEMER RADIO SHAR-A-THON: On Thursday, Sept. 16, from 8-10 AM, two GREETER time slots have been reserved and two time slots for ANSWERING PHONES also reserved during the Shar-A-Thon. If you have never volunteered to work a Redeemer Radio Shar-A-Thon, you are missing out! It's fun, a great opportunity to gather and get to know other Catholics help spread the Good News via radio ministries about Jesus Christ. Also, Adoration Chapel is always open for those who wish to pray for the success of the Shar-a-thon.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE: On Tuesday, Oct 12, three time slots are reserved: 4 PM, 5 PM and 6 PM to pray for the unborn outside of Planned Parenthood, 2930 Lake Ave. You can pray from home, too. The time slots will be manned, but prayers from home or church are most appreciated.

No pressure at all to sign up. I just saw these events as opportunities to gather together as Franciscans. Please email Joy at jjolry@gmail.com if you can commit to any of the above time slots. If you can't physically be with us, email a time slot you can join us in prayer. Also, if the above times don't work for you and you want to volunteer, contact Becky at 260.452.7357 for Redeemer Radio; contact 40daysforlife.com to sign up online.

God bless you all,
Joy