

SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER

St. Charles Fraternity
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March/April 2023



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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: 11/20/2022

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**.

**Have you visited
Jesus in the Blessed
Sacrament lately?**

*Eucharistic
Adoration*

**He is waiting
for you!**

We are invited to take the H2O Project Challenge:

- Give up all beverages except water for 2 weeks and donate the money you would have spent on other beverages to help provide water for the victims of the earthquakes in Turkey and Syrias
 - If you have to have coffee in the morning to function, limit yourself to one cup.
- Bring your donation (cash or check) to Sr. Mary at the April fraternity meeting
 - **Make checks payable to University of Saint Francis.**

Our donations will be combined with the donations raised at the University of Saint Francis.

The Formation Corner

May the Lord give you peace!

The theme selected at the last National Chapter was “Listen, Discern, and Go Forth!” Let’s look at the first of these.

In Clare’s second letter to Agnes of Prague, she instructs Agnes to “gaze.” This means to look deeply and see all there is to see. Of course, Clare was gazing at the San Damiano crucifix, which a few years earlier and told Francis to rebuild the Church because it was falling down. Look at each image on the crucifix: Mary, John, the Centurion, each angel, Christ’s eyes, the rooster.

We can borrow this idea and apply it to “Listen.”

Listening isn’t a passive thing. It is active. **It requires our full attention.**

When you read each chapter for our ongoing formation time at gatherings, do you skim through it? Do you consider various words and their meanings and implications for you? Do you do some reflection on the questions? Do you take what you read into prayer and listen to what the Holy Spirit has to say to YOU? WHAT does the Holy Spirit say? What does it MEAN? How does it deepen my understanding of WHO I AM as a Secular Franciscan Catholic Christian? How then do I begin to LIVE OUT that understanding?

This is all part of active listening, but it also goes beyond this. Do we actively listen when we come together in fraternity and engage in dialogue about what we have encountered in our prayerful reading? Or do we tune out when someone talks “too long” or says something that doesn’t agree with our opinions?

For those who attended Unity Day last year, do you recall that Fr. Christopher said some things that were controversial to a number of people? Did you listen to what he said? Did you respect what he said? How did you react to what he said? Did what he said inspire you to look more deeply into the issues he raised?

These are a lot of questions, but good listening should raise questions for us. It should challenge us. It should help us, ultimately, to grow closer to God and to each other.

The questions we encounter along the way should be put in the crucible of discernment. What might the crucible of discernment mean? This will be the topic of our next newsletter.

Peace and all good!

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

March 19, 2023

Chapter 5

On page 44, Matura speaks of God's "desire and dream" that all people become his partners. How does this relate to Genesis 2? What does this say about human dignity? What did the Fall do to our human dignity? What are the two most serious tendencies to evil, according to St. Francis? What is his remedy for them? How do articles 5-7 apply here?

Chapter 6

Read Exodus 19:1-6 and I Peter 2:1-10 in the context of St. Francis' comments regarding priests. How are the royal priesthood and the hierarchical priesthood related? How do articles 1 and 6 fit into this relationship? How does this affect how we respond to those who say something negative about Catholic priests? As a Secular Franciscan, how do you exercise your role as a "royal" priest?

Thought for March: "I know now, Lord, why You utter no answer. You are Yourself the answer."

From C.S. Lewis book, Till We All Have Faces

Thought for April: "I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about [Jesus]: 'I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept His claim to be God.' That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would be either a lunatic – on the level with the man who says he is a poached egg - or else He would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God: or else madman or something worse. You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him and kill Him as a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.

From Mere Christianity, chapter 3, by C.S. Lewis

MARCH FRATERNITY GATHERING

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

Place: St. Vincent Catholic Church,
Spiritual Center, Room C (door #3)
1502 E. Wallen Rd., Fort Wayne

Sr. Mary's talk

Food: Bring snacks to share

Book: Matura, pages 43-53
(supplemental questions on pg 3)

Liturgy of the Hours:
Evening Prayer II
(4th Sunday of Lent)
Pages 342 & 931; Hymn: #40

Eucharistic Adoration

Homebound: Genesis 3

APRIL FRATERNITY GATHERING

Date: April 16, 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 55-73
(supplemental questions on pg 3)

Liturgy of the Hours:
Evening Prayer II
(2nd Sunday of Easter)
Pages 429 & 455; Hymn: #116

Homebound: Romans 8

BIRTHDAYS

<i>Jackie Didier</i>	3/4
<i>Patti Webster</i>	3/21
<i>Sr. Mary</i>	4/14
<i>Sandy Kiraly</i>	4/19

PROFESSION ANNIVERSARIES *None in March*

<i>David Frank</i>	4/15/2018
<i>Andrea Martin</i>	4/18/2021
<i>Patti Webster</i>	4/15/2018

Please pray for:
Sandy Kiraly Joyce Wesner



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 are very important to us.

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?