

SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER

St. Charles Fraternity
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Website: stcharlesfrat.com
Mid-May – mid-June 2022



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Established on or before 2/9/1036	Last elections: 10/17/2021	Last fraternal visit: 11/17/2017	Last pastoral visit: 7/15/2018

From our Minister

Making Rosaries. Karen informed us Henrietta will be at our May 15th meeting to get us started with making rosaries. Rich C. will not be at our May meeting as planned.

Starting the May 15th meeting we will be praying the **Franciscan Crown Rosary** at our Fraternity meeting **every May and October**. The instructions and 7 Mysteries were handed out to all at the April Fraternity meeting. You can also get this on our Fraternity website: stcharlesfrat.com

Since we are to live by the Gospels, we will be starting a **Bible Study of the Gospels**. If you are interested in this study of the Gospels, send an e-mail to Joyce at joyceswerner@hotmail.com to let us know what days and times are best for you. The meeting place and time will be determined by the availability of everyone interested.

You should have received an e-mail from Joy about updating your information on **the Database**. Please make sure your address, e-mail, and phone number are current. The **TAU** magazine will be sent to active members according to this database information.

The **National Prayer for Vocations to the Secular Franciscan Order** was handed out at the March meeting. I will have more with me at the next meeting if you did not receive this prayer card. We will be praying this at every meeting. We will also pray at every meeting: one Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory Be for the intentions of our members who are unable to attend meetings because of health and physical disabilities.

The **next Formation Book** will be available at meetings. \$8.25 to Nancy, Treasurer.

There will be a **“Come and See”** meeting on **September 18th** during our Fraternity meeting for prospective new members who have expressed an interest in becoming Secular Franciscans.

We will be having **Prayer Partners** again within our Fraternity. The names of members will be in a container for each one of us to draw a name. You will be prayer partners for one year. Then we will draw for the next year.

FROM OUR FORMATION DIRECTOR

This summer, we will start our next study book: *Francis of Assisi: Writer and Spiritual Master*, by Thadee Matura. This is a smaller book than the ones we have done more recently. It is divided into two main parts, and has a total of six chapters.

Part I is about St. Francis himself as a writer and spiritual master, and contains two chapters. Chapter 1 is an overview of St. Francis. Chapter 2 reveals something of the saint's theology and his view of humanity.

Part II is about the main ideas of St. Francis' spirituality in his writings, and this part contains four chapters. Chapter 3 discusses what spirituality is in general and according to St. Francis; chapter 4 discusses St. Francis' vision of the Trinitarian God; chapter 5 discusses who we are, especially in relation to God and each other; and chapter 6 discusses life according to the Gospel.

Most of the chapters have questions for reflection at the end. These will be supplemented by questions designed specifically for us as Secular Franciscans.

Thadee Matura was a friar with the OFM in Canada, although he spent much time living and teaching in France. He was a prominent Franciscan scholar, and taught Scripture, liturgy, and Franciscan spirituality, and was the author of numerous books. He died on January 5, 2020, at the age of 97. He had been a friar for 79 years and a priest for 71 years.

This is one of my favorite books, and I am excited to introduce it to you. It is a great book to read before reading Volume 1 of the 3-volume set that contains the writings of and about St. Francis.

FOCUS ON THE RULE: Chapter 1, article 2

"...the brothers and sisters, led by the Spirit, strive for perfect charity..."

What does this mean: strive for perfect charity?

To "strive" means that we are to work toward something, in this case perfect charity. How are we to work? With all our hearts and souls and minds and strength. (See Mark 12:29-30)

What does "perfect" mean? In virtually all of our usage of this word, it means ideal, or flawless. Let's face it; that's not achievable by us. We're less than ideal, and we're flawed by choices we've made and will continue to make. Then why put it in our Rule if it's hopeless for us to accomplish? Let's try another definition. What if "perfect" means "complete" or "the fullness of"? We'll come back to this.

My favorite definition of "charity" came from a former pastor. He said that charity was "love with feet on it." It's active; it accomplishes something.

So now let's put this phrase together: we are to work with all our hearts and souls and minds and strength toward the fullness of love with feet on it. Now we can come back to the "perfect" part. If we do our best striving, won't our charity be complete at the end of our earthly lives? And that, my dear brothers and sisters, is the promise of our own resurrections.

**Minutes of the St. Charles Fraternity meeting
4-10-2022 at 1:30 p.m. at St Mary's of Avilla School**

Opening prayer lead by Joyce Wesner.

Attendance: Joyce Wesner, Joy Olry, Barb Braley, Sr. Mary Govert, Teri Queitsch, JoAnn Arndt, Patti Webster, Vicki Marcellus-Smith, Karen Amstutz, Nancy Steinhofer, Mary C Herendeen, and special guest speaker, Sr. Nancy Roberta Schramon.

Minutes: No old minutes were brought up.

New minutes were about the Friars in Angola are leaving. On June 27th and 28th, Bishop Rhoades will be in Angola for them and the Parish. Also, for May and October, the Franciscan Rosary will be prayed. Bring the guide for May 15 and October 16th.

Special speaker, Sr. Nancy shared about her 32 years mission with the Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart in Northern Brazil. From the lives of the poor, their culture, Portuguese language, food, we learned a lot from Sr. Nancy.

Sr. Mary then shared with us about the early Church history of Eucharistic Adoration and their house churches.

Break for snacks and fellowship was enjoyed.

Evening prayer and song was recited. Then, closing prayer by Joyce before adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Teri Queitsch, OFS, Secretary

In Memoriam

Please pray for the soul of Marilyn Huhn, who died on May 4, 2022. She was 88 years old and was professed on Sunday, March 16, 1997. A graveside service was held on Monday, May 9, 2022.

Please pray for:

Joyce Wesner – health	Jan Scher – health
Rich Cain – knee replacement recovery	John Queitsch – peace
Sr. Anne Marie of the Hearts of Jesus and Mary (Lis Braley) – 1 st vows on 6/5	

