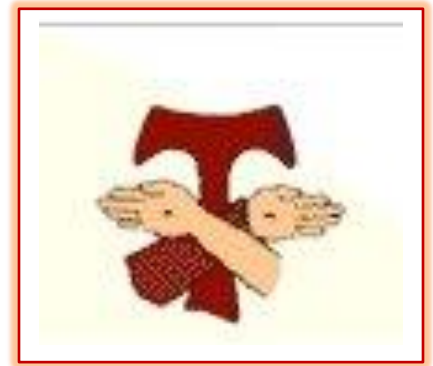


**SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER**  
**St. Charles Fraternity**  
**P.O. Box 12644 M.P.O., Fort Wayne, IN 46864**

*Website: stcharlesfrat.com*



**December 2024**

<b>Minister:</b> Barb Braley	260.242.3256	bbraley345@gmail.com	
<b>Vice Minister:</b> Joyce Wesner	910.215.7432	epsilon-muphi@hotmail.com	
<b>Secretary:</b> Deb Davis	260.668.2440	deb-davishih@gmail.com	
<b>Treasurer:</b> Rich C. Cain	260.667.4631	richcain82@gmail.com	
<b>Formation Director:</b> Katie Herendeen	260.582.9773	mcherendeen@gmail.com	
<b>Prayer Tree:</b> Barb Braley	260.242.3256	bbraley345@gmail.com	
<b>Card Ministry:</b> Barbara Balbo	517.398.4968	bbalbo@frontiernet.net	
Established on or before 2/9/1936	Last elections: 9/15/2024	Last fraternal visit: 11/19/2023	Last pastoral visit: 11/20/2022

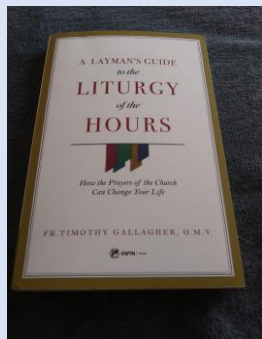
**NO DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

DECEMBER PROFESSION ANNIVERSARIES  
 12/18/1994 Joann Arendt **30 years**

*A Very Blessed Christmas to All of You!*

**Calendar**  
 12/8 **(2nd Sunday)** 1:30 pm  
 St. Mary's, Avilla  
 Fraternity gathering  
 12/12 6:00 pm on Zoom  
 Fraternity Council meeting  
 12/19 6:00 pm on Zoom  
 Barbara's initial formation  
 1/5 **(1st Sunday)** 1:30pm  
 St. Vincent's, Ft. Wayne  
 Fraternity Christmas party with Holy Family Fraternity

**Ongoing Formation**  
 Our current book for ongoing formation: *A Layman's Guide to the Liturgy of the Hours*, by Fr. Timothy Gallagher, O.M.V. 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. The questions for reflection, which we are continuing from November, are on page 4.



*May the Lord give you peace!*

One of the trends I see in the papers submitted by the students in the Prayer & Worship classes I teach is that many of them fall into the “God and me” trap. Now while individual prayer is perfectly acceptable, it is most definitely not the only way. This is one of the emphases in our ongoing formation book currently.

Chapters 3 & 4 focus on praying the Liturgy of the Hours as the Church. While the Mass is the Church’s highest form of prayer, the Liturgy of the Hours is next. In fact, each informs and complements the other.

Let’s look at the Liturgy of the Hours in the context of our Profession. (See *Ritual*, pages 23-24)

First, in our Profession, we renew our baptismal promises. One of the things our baptism does for us is to make us members of the royal priesthood according to Exodus 19 and I Peter 2. We need to keep in mind, however, that the royal priesthood differs from the ministerial priesthood. While all ministerial priests are members of the royal priesthood, not all members of the royal priesthood are ministerial priests. As royal priests, we are meant to participate fully in the liturgy of the Church, especially the Mass and the Liturgy of the Hours. In other words, this isn’t a spectator sport. We have an obligation to learn how to participate and then to participate well.

Second, we promise to live the Rule of the OFS. Articles 5, 6, and 8 particularly emphasize the importance of our participation in the “liturgical activity” of the Church (article 5). To go even further, article 8 refers to prayer and contemplation as “the soul of all [we] are and do.”

Third, each Secular Franciscan subsists in a fraternity, each fraternity subsists in the Order, and the Order subsists in the Church. We bind ourselves to this. It is our chosen way of life, and its goal is “perfect Christian love.” We specifically seek the help of the “fraternal bonds of community” (*Ritual*, page 24). To paraphrase, “the fraternity that prays together, stays together.”

When I was in high school, I attended a church camp and the theme for the week was “Reach In, Reach Out.” In essence, we “reach in” when we pray, but then what we encounter in prayer leads us to “reach out” to the needs of others: in our families, our neighborhoods, our fraternity, our schools, our workplaces, our parishes, etc.

As Secular Franciscans, with prayer as our “soul,” and within the “fraternal bonds of community, we can confidently work toward that goal of “perfect Christian love.”

*Peace and all good!*

### **Prayer requests:**

**Within the fraternity:** Jackie Didier, Sandy Kiraly, Marcyle Voigt, Joyce Wesner, Mary Lou Sohn and Barb Kluz - all for health; Rich Cain – hip injury; Deb Davis – discernment; increased vocations in the fraternity & Order; that we are good examples to others by our lives. For the repose of the souls of Arlene Lewis, OFS, and her husband Stewart, who died a day apart.

**Beyond the fraternity:** Joy's aunt Diane – health & conversion; Barbara's nephew – mental issues; our country – a peaceful transition of power.

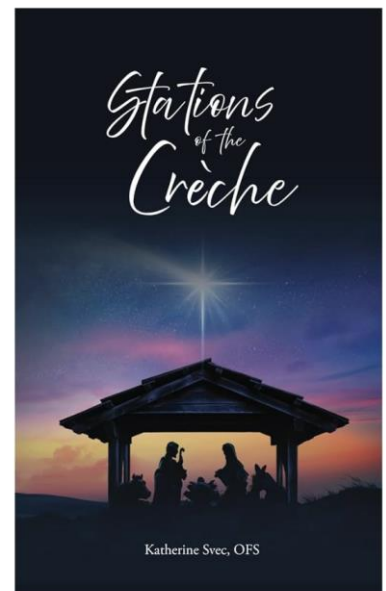
### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1) The **annual Christmas party** will be on **January 5** with Holy Family Fraternity at St. Vincent's CC, Spiritual Center, Rm. B on Wallen Road at 1:30 pm. Our Council will provide meat, and everyone should bring a dish to share.

2) **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!

4) 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.

5) Here is a small **book** (pictured at right) written by Katie Svec, a member of Lady Clare fraternity. It is highly recommended by Kathleen White, one of our Regional Spiritual Assistants. Ordering information: [info@bethyname.com](mailto:info@bethyname.com)



### **Change in the newsletter mailing policy in January 2025**

With the cost of postage now \$.73/stamp, the Council has decided to cut down the number of snail mails (now down to 4). Any member who has an email address will be receiving their newsletters via email starting in January 2025 unless otherwise requested.

These members will still receive newsletters via snail mail: Jackie Didier, Doris Bermes, Barbara Guevera, and Barb Kluz.

Contact Barb Braley (see page 1) no later than **December 15, 2024**, to continue to receive the newsletter via snail mail.

## DECEMBER FRATERNITY GATHERING

**Date:** December 8, 2024 (**2nd Sunday**) **Time:** 1:30 pm

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

**Ongoing Formation:** *A Layman's Guide to the Liturgy of the Hours*, chapter 3 & 4

**Food:** Everyone

**Liturgy of the Hours: 2nd Sunday of Advent**

**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*

## FORMATION QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

### Liturgy of the Hours, Part 2

Read chapter 3 and 4 in *A Layman's Guide to the Liturgy of the Hours* (Gallagher) and "The General instructions for the Liturgy of the Hours (Abridged)" in your Christian Prayer book pages 8-19 (in my copy of Christian Prayer) If you use the 4 volume Liturgy of the Hours the entire instructions are about 70 pages.

1. After reading the instructions, did you learn anything new? Was it informative to your understanding of the mechanics of the liturgy? Do you think reading the instructions helps your confidence, increases your understanding, or deepens your participation in the prayer? Note: In many areas of life, it is good to revisit instructions on anything we do, such as the yearly safety training at your work (CPR, fire and disaster drills). Think about making an effort to read the LOTH instructions yearly, maybe at the beginning of Advent, the start of the new liturgical year, or Lent, when our desire is to walk more closely with our Lord through actions and prayer.

**The instructions in Christian Prayer are abridged to about 11 pages long, in LOTH it is 78 pages, being the complete document.**

2. Please reflect on the last 2 paragraphs on page 26. We are praising with others at all times and even those singing praises in heaven. Do you think Francis had this kind of awareness of this prayer? Please reread these 2 paragraphs and compare to the Prologue to our rule.

3. Please think about and share your ideas about praying the liturgy alone, with your family, the fraternity, or with fellow parishioners. (Example: when I have been at Catholic gatherings, I have seen people gather in the hall or the chapel to pray the Liturgy of the Hours.) We cradle Catholics may have grown up in the faith thinking this kind of prayer was for the priest and religious orders. Our prayers as lay persons were the meal prayers, rosary, and the morning offering, for example. My experience with this prayer has mostly been by myself and with fraternity only.

4. By virtue of our calling to belong to the OFS, we are encouraged to choose a liturgy to pray Morning and Evening prayer. What has helped you to pray this prayer in your life? What have been stumbling blocks? How has the rule helped you or encouraged you or held you accountable to this liturgy?