

SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER
St. Charles Fraternity
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Website: stcharlesfrat.com
July/August 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 listed above.

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**.

Calendar
 also on our website
stcharlesfrat.com
7/16 Gathering in Avilla
8/12 Unity Day in Kokomo

IMPORTANT NEWS!!!
 We will be saying good-bye to Sr. Mary who has served us faithfully for 15 years. She is retiring and moving to the motherhouse.
Thank you, Sr. Mary!
We will miss you!

Ongoing Formation for July and Beyond

In July, we will conclude our 3-part ongoing formation series on the Eucharist which ties into the 3-year Eucharistic Revival. In May, we considered the history of the Mass as a whole and compared it to a family Thanksgiving dinner. In June, we looked at the Passover, the Incarnation, the Paschal Mystery, and Transubstantiation. We will tie it all together in July by reflecting on Franciscan perspective regarding the Eucharist, including some of Francis' own writings. **At our July gathering**, please be sure to pick up a copy of Pope Francis' encyclical, *Fratelli Tutti*, which we will begin in September.

The Formation Corner

May the Lord give you peace!

The theme selected at the last National Chapter was “Listen, Discern, and Go Forth!”

In the March/April newsletter, we discussed that listening is active. It requires our full attention. When we prepare for ongoing formation, we need to ask ourselves: How does this deepen my understanding of WHO I AM as a Secular Franciscan Catholic Christian? How then do I begin to LIVE OUT that understanding?

In the May/June newsletter, we looked at the second one: discern. To discern something is to separate it from other things. The result of this separation frequently means that we create priorities.

In initial formation, we are asked a number of times to discern things. Have we discerned a calling/vocation as a Secular Franciscan? How do we discern changes that this vocation will require? The Council is asked to discern whether or not someone should move on to Candidacy or to Profession.

After we discern the right path, we need to go forth.

Where is it we need to go? We go to work, to school, to church, to the local soup kitchen, to nursing homes: wherever our brothers and sisters need us. Do we regard our jobs as fields of ministry? Or our parish churches? Our fraternity? As well as places that serve the poor?

To whom do we go? We go to those who hurt, who grieve, who are hungry (spiritually and emotionally as well as physically). Our Rule tells us that all people are our brothers and sisters (article 12).

What do we need to do? In short, meet their needs! For some of us, this means we go out to do something. For others of us who are more limited, it means we become active in prayer for those in need.

I would also suggest at this point that you read James 1:19-2:26. Then read Matthew 25:31-45. These two passages are complementary and work with chapter 2 of our Rule in every respect.

Listen, discern, go forth! This is the challenge we have all received from the National Council. How well do we discern? How willing are we to go forth to accomplish what we have been called to do? It's not a “one and done” thing. It is the process that is intimately tied to our lives of conversion. It is a pilgrim journey. Bon voyage!

Peace and all good!

EUCCHARISTIC REVIVAL AND SECULAR FRANCISCANS

GOALS: 1) To deepen our understanding of who we are as Secular Franciscan Catholic Christians in relation to the Eucharist; and, 2) to begin to live out that understanding

OBJECTIVES: 1) To deepen our understanding of the Eucharist in relation to the Mass as a whole (May); 2) to deepen our understanding of the Scripture and theology of the Eucharist, especially transubstantiation (June); 3) to renew and deepen our understanding of the Eucharistic writings of St. Francis; and, 4) to discuss how we can more fully participate in the celebration of the Eucharist as Secular Franciscan Catholic Christians and to live more Eucharistically beyond the context of the Mass (July)

COLLECTIBLE ITEMS FOR THE KOKOMO POOR CLARES

This year, we are collecting needed items for the Kokomo Poor Clares. Below is the list that Mother Miriam sent us:

Pledge; Murphy Oil; lemon oil; Spic & Span; anti-bacterial tacky finger; white out; stamps (roll); A-2 envelopes; toothbrushes; toilet paper; Ivory soap bars; unscented hand/body lotion; Band-Aids (all sizes); decaf tea bags; regular instant coffee; canning jar lids: wide & small mouth (no rings or lids); Sensodyne Rapid Relief toothpaste; toilet brushes; Liquid Barkeeper's Friend; Vaseline.

Thought for July: ⁹Let everyone be struck with fear, let the whole world tremble, and let the heavens exult when Christ, the Son of the living God, is present on the altar in the hands of a priest! O wonderful loftiness and stupendous dignity! O sublime humility! O humble sublimity! The Lord of the universe, God and the Son of God, so humbles Himself that for our salvation He hides Himself under an ordinary piece of bread! Brothers, look at the humility of God, and *pour out your hearts before Him (Ps 62:9)*! Humble yourselves that you may be exalted by Him (I Pe5:6; Jas 4:10)! Hold back nothing of yourselves for yourselves, that He Who gives Himself totally to you may receive you totally! - from *A Letter to the Entire Order, FA:ED, 118*.

Thought for June: The form of life of the Order of the Poor Sisters that Blessed Francis established is this: to observe the Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, by living in obedience, without anything of one's own, and in chastity. (Compare this to article 4 of our Rule.) – from *The Form of Life of St. Clare, article 1, CA:ED 109*

JULY FRATERNITY GATHERING

Date: July 16, 2023 **Time:** 1:30 p.m.

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

Formation: Franciscan Eucharistic living

Food: Ice cream social. Council will provide the ice cream. Bring extra goodies to share.

Liturgy of the Hours:

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Pages 619 & 861; Hymn: #33

Looking ahead to August 12: set up carpools for Unity Day in Kokomo

Homebound: I Corinthians 11:17-34

AUGUST FRATERNITY GATHERING

Date: Aug. 12, 2023 **Time:** 9:30 a.m.

2nd Saturday of August

Place: St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church
3155 S. CR 200 W, Kokomo

Food: Bring your own lunch & snacks

Collections: *freewill offering and other needs for the Kokomo Poor Clares (see list on page 3); non-perishable food items for local food pantries*

Homebound: John 13:1-20

BIRTHDAYS

None in July

<i>Katie Herendeen</i>	8/2
<i>Arlene Lewis</i>	8/3
<i>Barb Braley</i>	8/15
<i>Karen Amstutz</i>	8/17
<i>Vicki Marcellus-Smith</i>	8/19
<i>Deb Davis</i>	8/26

PROFESSION ANNIVERSARIES

7/27/2003 *Nancy Steinhofer*

Joyce Wesner

20th Anniversary

None in August

Please pray for these brothers and sisters: Barb Balbo's husband: back; Sandy Kiraly: health; Joyce Wesner: her health & the death of her brother.

Centenarios

Beginning this year, the entire Franciscan family will celebrate a group of centenarios. At Unity Day (8/12), we will celebrate the 8th centenary of the Rule of 1223. In December at the University of Saint Francis, we will celebrate the 8th centenary of St. Francis' Christmas at Greccio. A 1pm Mass will begin the event. Next year in St. John, IN, we will celebrate the 8th centenary of St. Francis receiving the Stigmata. In 2025, somewhere around Indy, we will celebrate the 8th centenary of the Canticle of the Creatures. At Unity Day in 2026, we will celebrate the Easter of St. Francis. Fr. Jerome Schroeder, OFM Cap, is the keynote speaker. Fr. Jerome is the Provincial Spiritual Assistant for the St. Joseph Province to which we are bonded.