

**SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER**  
**St. Charles Fraternity**  
**P.O. Box 12644 M.P.O., Fort Wayne, IN 46864**  
**Website: [stcharlesfrat.com](http://stcharlesfrat.com)**  
**May/June 2024**



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Established on or before 2/9/1936	Last elections: 10/17/2021	Last fraternal visit: 11/19/2023	Last pastoral visit: 11/20/2022

**Ongoing Formation**  
*Fratelli Tutti.*  
 The questions for reflection are on page 3 of this newsletter.

**NOTICE**  
 The June gathering is on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in June to avoid Father's Day on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday. **Happy Father's Day to the men in our fraternity!**

**Pope Francis' new prayer for the intercession of St. Francis of Assisi:**

Saint Francis, man wounded by love, Crucified in body and in spirit, we look to you, decorated with the holy stigmata, to learn how to love the Lord Jesus and our brothers and sisters with your love, with your passion. With you, it is easier to contemplate and follow Christ, poor and Crucified.

Give us, Francis, the freshness of your faith, the certainty of your hope, the gentleness of your charity. Intercede for us, so that it may be sweet for us to bear the burdens of life, and in trials, we may experience the tenderness of the Father and the balm of the Spirit. May our wounds be healed by the Heart of Christ, to become, like you, witnesses of His mercy, which continues to heal and renew the life of those who seek Him with a sincere heart.

O Francis, made to resemble the Crucified One, let your stigmata be for us and for the world resplendent signs of life and resurrection, to show new ways of peace and reconciliation. Amen.

**Please pray for:** Jackie Didier, Sandy Kiraly, and Joyce Wesner; also for the repose of the soul of Noah Delagrange who died on April 12.

May the Lord give you peace!

Pope Francis raises a tough but important question in chapter 8 of *Fratelli Tutti* regarding our identity as Christians. This question can also be applied to us as Secular Franciscans. The question is: how do we retain our identity in the face of differences/contradictions? This is where good formation comes in.

Good formation begins with the question: who do I understand myself to be as a Secular Franciscan Catholic Christian? This differs from what we do as Christians/Secular Franciscans because who we are determines what we do, not the other way around.

Formation is in 3 basic steps: information (what we learn); actual formation (what the information means to me); and transformation (how this leads to a difference in what I do). This is why formation is so integral in our fraternity gatherings. It is so much more than a Franciscan religious ed class or worse, a Franciscan book club. It is why everyone's presence is so important.

*Peace and all good!*

**From the Catechism** (*for Fratelli Tutti, chapter 7, question 3*)

**2309** The strict conditions for legitimate defense by military force require rigorous consideration. the gravity of such a decision makes it subject to rigorous conditions of moral legitimacy. At one and the same time:

- the damage inflicted by the aggressor on the nation or community of nations must be lasting, grave, and certain;
- all other means of putting an end to it must have been shown to be impractical or ineffective;
- there must be serious prospects of success;
- the use of arms must not produce evils and disorders graver than the evil to be eliminated. the power of modern means of destruction weighs very heavily in evaluating this condition.

These are the traditional elements enumerated in what is called the "just war" doctrine. The evaluation of these conditions for moral legitimacy belongs to the prudential judgment of those who have responsibility for the common good.

**From the Cantic of the Creatures** (*for Fratelli Tutti, chapter 8, question 3*)

<sup>10</sup>Praise be you, my Lord, through those who give pardon for Your love, and bear infirmity and tribulation.

<sup>11</sup>Blessed are those who endure in peace for by You, Most High shall they be crowned.

## ***Fratelli Tutti* Questions for Reflection**

### **Chapter 7: Paths of Renewed Encounter**

#### **Questions**

1. Pope Francis describes the need for both peace and healing. How are these two things related to each other? Pope Francis also addresses the need for a “penitential memory.” What does he mean by this?
2. Define/describe *forgiveness*. Does forgiveness mean that past offenses, even horrific ones, should be forgotten? Why/why not? Apply your answers to both in individual and societal contexts. What do you see as the process of going from offense to reconciliation? Which article(s) of our Rule would you apply in this process?
3. Read article 2309 of the *Catechism* (see page 2 above). Do you believe that war can ever be justified? Based on article 2309, can you give an example of a “just war”? Can you give an example of a “unjust war”? Pope Francis asserts that “every war leaves our world worse than it was before” (FT, 261). Do you agree with this? Why/why not? After reading this section of the encyclical and the article from the *Catechism*, has your understanding of war changed? How so/how not?
4. In 1995, Pope St. John Paul II stated unequivocally that the death penalty should be universally banished. What might be the difference between judicial punishment and judicial revenge? Reread the quote from St. Augustine (FT, 265). What connections can we make between this quote and our earlier discussions on penitential memory and forgiveness? Have you ever considered a life sentence to be a “secret death penalty”? How might it be so or not be so? How does our response to the death penalty, and even prison conditions, relate to article 15 of our Rule?

### **Chapter 8: Religions at the Service of Fraternity in Our World**

#### **Questions**

1. Describe the difference between *ideals* and *ideologies*. How does Pope Francis view God and hope/idolatry and hopelessness in the context of ideals and ideologies? How might articles 10 & 14 of our Rule apply?
2. How might you describe the role of politics in the good of society and the progress of peoples? In what ways can we engage in the political realities of life and remain true to our identity as Secular Franciscan Catholic Christians? How might article 15 of our Rule help us so that the reality becomes Church and State rather than Church vs. State? Explain Mary’s role in both our Christian identity and in our political lives.
3. Pope Francis declares that terrorism is “deplorable” (FT, 283). While there is overt terrorism, there is also covert terrorism. What might be considered covert terrorism? What could we as Secular Franciscan Catholic Christians do to overcome this covert terrorism? How might Pope Francis’ descriptions of intermediaries or mediators help us (FT, 284)? How might we use verses 10-11 of the *Canticum* of the *Creatures* serve as our inspiration? (see page 2 above)

### MAY FRATERNITY GATHERING

**Date:** May 19, 2024 **Time:** 1:30 p.m.

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

**Formation:** *Fratelli Tutti*, chapter 7

**Since we didn't get to chapter 7 in April, we will do it in May.**

**Food:** snacks to share

**Liturgy of the Hours:**

**Pentecost**

Page 605; Hymn: see below

**Homebound:** Acts 2

### JUNE FRATERNITY GATHERING

**Date:** June 9, 2024 **Time:** 1:30 p.m.

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

**Formation:** *Fratelli Tutti*, chapter 8

**Food:** snacks to share

**Liturgy of the Hours:**

**10<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Pages 614 & 786; Hymn: #40

**Homebound:** Mark 15

### Hymn for Liturgy of the Hours Evening Prayer II for Pentecost Come, Holy Ghost

Come, Holy Ghost, Creator blest,  
and in our hearts take up thy rest;  
Come with Thy grace and heav'nly aid,  
to fill the heart which Thou hast made,  
to fill the heart which Thou hast made.

O Comforter, to Thee we cry,  
Thou heav'nly gift of God most high,  
Thou fount of life, and fire of love,  
And sweet anointing from above,  
And sweet anointing from above.

### PROFESSION ANNIVERSARIES

5/19/1974 *Mary Lou Sohn*

*50<sup>th</sup> anniversary*

5/19/2019 *Barb Cain*

*Deb Davis*

*5<sup>th</sup> anniversary*

*None in June*

### BIRTHDAYS

5/1 *Marcylye Voigt*

5/10 *David Frank*

5/23 *Barbara Balbo*

5/31 *Barb Kluz*

6/9 *Laura Hoffman*

6/30 *Doris Bermes*

### IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENTS

**August 10** 9:30 am-3 pm Unity Day St. Joan of Arc, Kokomo.

**September 14** 10:30 am-? Stigmata Centenario St. John, IN. More info to come in the July/August newsletter. Carpools will be available.

**September 15** St. Charles triennial **Chapter of Elections**. We need a **quorum of 10 people** for a valid election. Please make plans to attend.