

SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER

St. Charles Fraternity

P.O. Box 12644 M.P.O., Fort Wayne, IN 46864

Website: stcharlesfrat.com



July/August 2021s

Minister: Katie H.
Phone: 260.582.9773
Email: mcherendeen@gmail.com
Vice Minister: Joy O.
Phone: 260.452.7357
Email: jjolry@gmail.com
Secretary: Barb B.
Phone: 260.242.3256
Email: bbraley345@gmail.com
Treasurer: Nancy S.
Phone: 260.417.1791
Email:
nancy.steinhofer@gmail.com
Formation Director: Rich C.
Phone: 517.815.4154
Email: richcain82@gmail.com
Spiritual Assistant
Sr. Mary
Phone: 260.399.7783
Email: mgovert@sf.edu
Prayer Tree: Vicki S.
Phone: 260.242.9342
Email:
sfo3vic4marcell@embarqmail.com

Established on or before 2/9/1936
Last Elections: 11/18/2018
Last Fraternal Visit: 11/17/2017
Last Pastoral Visit: 7/15/2018

NOTICE OF CHAPTER OF ELECTIONS
We will be holding our triennial Chapter of Elections on **October 17, 2021**. Susan Solloway, Regional Treasurer, will be presiding. Starting immediately, please email nominations to Katie Herendeen at mcherendeen@gmail.com. You may nominate someone else or even yourself for one or more of these offices: Minister, Vice Minister, Secretary, Treasurer, or Formation Director. A quorum = 14

Teri Queitsch will make her permanent profession on Sunday, July 18, during the 10:30 a.m. Mass at St. John Bosco Catholic Church, 220 N. Main Street (US 33), Churubusco.

Unity Day will be held in person this year on August 14 from 9:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. at St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church, Kokomo. Regional Resources will be open during breaks and lunch. This year's keynote speaker will be Dave Seitz, OFS. Due to ongoing concerns regarding Covid, there will be no carry-in lunch. **Please bring your own lunch.** Coffee, tea, and lemonade will be provided. *Please see page 3 for more information.*

PROFESSION ANNIVERSARIES
Nancy Steinhofer 7/27/2003
Joann Tompkins 7/27/2003
Joyce Wesner 7/27/2003

BIRTHDAYS
Joann Tompkins 7/25
Katie Herendeen 8/2
Arlene Lewis 8/3
Barb Braley 8/15
Karen Amstutz 8/17
Vicki Marcellus Smith 8/19
Deb Davis 8/26
Rich Cain 9/3
Nancy Steinhofer 9/12

FROM OUR SPIRITUAL ASSISTANT:

We're breathing more easily these days and giving thanks that the pandemic has lessened its grip on us. Now we can come back together with family, friends, other Secular Franciscans and the rest of the world. But maybe you rather enjoyed the isolation, like my friends and I, the Introverts of the World, who didn't suffer as much as others. But the reality is that we are now drawn back to the world we knew, having learned to navigate Zoom (maybe?) and living with fewer distractions than we had before. Perhaps some don't want to return to the previous normal; some are thrilled that that time is over and things can once again become "normal." We are all different.

What was prayer like during that time? It was hard to be away from Eucharist for so long, longer for some than for others. It is the heart of our Christian prayer and our lives. And we had all that quiet time at home for meditative prayer. How was that? From afar it might have seemed like a dream to have the luxury of that time; the reality was probably more that prayer was as hard as it usually is. We were concerned more about our families, our neighbors and other loved ones. During that time there was all the national turmoil of racial unrest, a contested election with an assault on our capital, wildfires – all of this in addition to the pain of the pandemic. We had lots to pray about but also an abundance of anxiety that sometimes made it hard to pray. As Thomas Merton said: "Prayer and love are learned in the hour when prayer becomes impossible and the heart has turned to stone."

We learned a lot during the past year and a half. Some of it is good: new ways to approach life and our relationships. But we need to return to prayer with our parishes and renewed life with our families. And the Franciscan Fraternity needs you to be together with us; we have all missed each other. From Zoom, I know what your home looks like - a bit – but that is not the same as being with each other in person. That is a large part of "fraternity." Thomas of Celano speaks of the brothers coming together in language we might find a bit flowery today. "When they all gathered somewhere or met each other on the road (which frequently happened), in that place a shoot of spiritual love sprang up, scattering over all love the seeds of real delight." (1C 38.) The Secular Franciscan way of life is certainly about our personal living of Franciscan spirituality; it is not primarily a private spirituality, but a communal fraternity which we need to experience "in the flesh" to bolster our relationship with Jesus. We will know more about the struggles of others, their goodness, their commitments, their loved ones and all manner of things about them when we meet them face-to-face. There is no substitute.

Aren't sure about how to make your contribution to the fraternity?

Just send it to:

St. Charles Fraternity, Attn: Treasurer, P.O. Box 12644 M.P.O., Fort Wayne, IN 46864

Thank you for your generosity!

JULY FRATERNITY GATHERING

Date: July 18, 2021 **Time:** 10:30 a.m.

Place: St. John Bosco Catholic Church
200 N. Main St. (US 33), Churubusco

Ice Cream Social: In the church basement after Mass. Ice cream will be provided. A main dish and drinks will be provided by the Council. Please bring a side dish and toppings to share.

Liturgy of the Hours: pages 931 & 620
Hymn on page 1522, #40

Homebound: Mark 2:13-17 & 8:34-38

AUGUST FRATERNITY GATHERING

Date: August 14, 2021 **Time:** 9:30 a.m.

Place: St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church,
Kokomo

Keynote Speaker: Dave Seitz, OFS

Evening Prayer I for Assumption with intentions for the deceased members of our Regional fraternity since last August

Homebound: Revelation 12

From the encyclical *Fratelli tutti* by Pope Francis

3. There is an episode in the life of Saint Francis that shows his openness of heart, which knew no bounds and transcended differences of origin, nationality, colour or religion. It was his visit to Sultan Malik-el-Kamil, in Egypt, which entailed considerable hardship, given Francis' poverty, his scarce resources, the great distances to be traveled and their differences of language, culture and religion. That journey, undertaken at the time of the Crusades, further demonstrated the breadth and grandeur of his love, which sought to embrace everyone. Francis' fidelity to his Lord was commensurate with his love for his brothers and sisters. Unconcerned for the hardships and dangers involved, Francis went to meet the Sultan with the same attitude that he instilled in his disciples: if they found themselves "among the Saracens and other nonbelievers", without renouncing their own identity they were not to "engage in arguments or disputes, but to be subject to every human creature for God's sake". In the context of the times, this was an extraordinary recommendation. We are impressed that some eight hundred years ago Saint Francis urged that all forms of hostility or conflict be avoided and that a humble and fraternal "subjection" be shown to those who did not share his faith.

4. Francis did not wage a war of words aimed at imposing doctrines; he simply spread the love of God. He understood that "God is love and those who abide in love abide in God" (1 Jn 4:16). In this way, he became a father to all and inspired the vision of a fraternal society. Indeed, "only the man who approaches others, not to draw them into his own life, but to help them become ever more fully themselves, can truly be called a father". In the world of that time, bristling with watchtowers and defensive walls, cities were a theatre of brutal wars between powerful families, even as poverty was spreading through the countryside. Yet there Francis was able to welcome true peace into his heart and free himself of the desire to wield power over others. He became one of the poor and sought to live in harmony with all. Francis has inspired these pages.

How might these words of the Holy Father inspire us to be "servant leaders" in the Church and in the world as our Rule requires of us? Should these words be reflected in our upcoming Council elections? How might we, both individually and as a fraternity, be "creatively prophetic" as our National Minister has asked us to be?