

## SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER

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

Website: [stcharlesfrat.com](http://stcharlesfrat.com)

See the website for updated event/calendar info. Current updates:  
Unity Day, meeting dates/locations, Stigmata pilgrimage to St.  
John, IN, and newsletters.



### July/August 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

### REMINDER

Unity Day is on August 10 at St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church, 3155 S. CR 200 W, Kokomo. The day will begin with Mass at 9:30 a.m. This year's formation topic is the Stigmata and there will be two presenters: Sr. Anita Holzmer, OSF, and Barb Braley, OFS. Regional Resources will be open for book and gift purchases. We will collect needed items for the Kokomo Poor Clares again this year. The list is on page 3 of this newsletter. We will also mark the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of becoming a regional fraternity and observe the annual memorial for our brothers and sisters who have died since August 2023. **Please contact Joy Olry (see above) if you need a ride.** Come and enjoy the day as well as see other brothers and sisters we have not seen since last year!

### Announcements

After many years of loyal and devoted service, Sr. Agnes Marie Regan, OSF, has retired as a Regional Spiritual Assistant and as the Spiritual Assistant for Immaculate Conception fraternity. Effective July 1, Sr. Anita Holzmer, OSF, has been appointed by Fr. Jerome Wolbert, OFM, to succeed Sr. Agnes Marie in both capacities. Sr. Anita will continue in a more limited way as the Spiritual Assistant to St. Michael the Archangel fraternity in Hicksville, OH. Please pray for God's blessings on Sr. Agnes Marie's well-earned retirement and Sr. Anita in her new roles.

*May the Lord give you peace!*

What are you looking for? Seriously, what are you looking for?

St. Francis had constantly asked this question, although he asked it in a slightly different way: what is God's will for me? In today's psychology, we might even say that it was an anxiety issue for him – or maybe even an obsession.

Where did he go for answers?

In the time just before he went to Mount LaVerna in 1224, he went to the Gospels. On LaVerna, he turned to prayer. How often do we do this? When do we do this? Are the Gospels and prayer our first priorities or our last resorts?

When article 4 of our Rule instructs us to go from “gospel to life and life to gospel,” it is really instructing us to make the Gospel and our lives into a creative dialogue.

What life experiences do you bring with you when you read the Gospels? How do those experiences affect how you read the Gospels? How do the Gospels affect how you then live? How do you allow them to transform you?

When I think about these questions, I go to St. Clare's 2<sup>nd</sup> Letter to St. Agnes of Prague. Clare instructs Agnes to gaze, consider, contemplate, and imitate. Now granted, Clare was instructing Agnes in the way of contemplation, but they apply here as well. Creativity means that we can apply a principle from one application into another. So how do we apply it in reading the Gospels?

To gaze is to look deeply and see all that is there. In a parable, for example, do you picture the events as they unfold? Try it with the Parable of the Lost Son. Then, consider it. To consider it means to think deeply about something. This is really the idea behind meditation. To contemplate is to “let go and let God.” The literal definition of this word is *within the temple*. The temple is, of course, our own souls where we most deeply encounter God. This is God's time, God's agenda, not ours. Then we imitate what we have encountered. How is each of us meant to live out the Gospels? Or the Rule? Fraternity life? Servant leadership?

Personally, I find this approach to be both refreshing and life-giving. It's very difficult for things to get stagnant or boring when I invest this much into it. A creative dialogue between the Gospels/the Rule/Mass/the fraternity and my own life means that the will of God for me has a place to grow and flourish.

How about you?

*Peace and all good!*

## Our Lady of Indiana Regional Fraternity Poor Clare Wish List for Unity Day 2024

We will be collecting items for the Poor Clares at Unity Day this year, Saturday August 10<sup>th</sup>.

Items will be left on tables as you enter the facility. *Do not bring items downstairs to the Terrace Room.* Thank you.

**Only bring items as specified on this list.** Please do not burden the Sisters with items they do not use as they have to then distribute those items elsewhere.

- Canned goods (if possible, some larger cans – family size)
  - Peas
  - Carrots
  - Tomatoes
  - Green beans
  - Peaches – lite or no sugar added
  - Pears – lite or no sugar added
  - Apricots- lite or no sugar added
  - Soups – **NO MEAT**
  - Clam chowder
  - Salmon
- Peanut butter
- Vitamin C – regular and chewable
- Shampoo
- Unscented hand lotion
- Q-tips
- Deodorant – unscented
- Sensitive toothpaste
- 2 shower squeegees
- Scotch tape
- Reams of copy paper
- Postage stamps – always appreciated (especially nature commemoratives or any pretty ones)
- Miracle Gro
- Baby wipes (please be generous)
- Packing tape
- Masking tape, both wide and narrow
  
- Cash donations from individuals and/or fraternities, put in collection basket in the Terrace Room, as usual

## JULY FRATERNITY GATHERING

**Date:** July 21, 2024 **Time:** 1:30 pm

**Place:** St. Vincent de Paul CC

Spiritual Center, Room C, door 3  
1502 E. Wallen Rd., Fort Wayne

**Formation:** *Living with Change*  
(read Luke 24:13-35)

**Food:** Ice cream social  
Bring toppings/other goodies

**Liturgy of the Hours:**  
**16<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
Pages 621 & 931; Hymn: #184  
**Homebound:** Luke 15:11-32

## UNITY DAY

**Date:** August 10, 2024 **Time:** 9:30 am

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

**Formation:** *Stigmata*  
*Presented by Sr. Anita & Barb Braley*

**Food:** bring your own lunch/snacks

**Donations for the Poor Clares**

See list & instructions on page 3

**Memorial Service**

**Homebound:** Isaiah 53

## PROFESSION ANNIVERSARIES

7/27/2003 Nancy Steinhofer  
Joyce Wesner

**August - None**

**Please pray for:** Jackie  
Didier, Sandy Kiraly, Marcyle  
Voigt, Joyce Wesner, and  
Cyndi Pilot, our Regional  
Minister, who was knocked  
down at an airport recently  
resulting in a broken arm.

## BIRTHDAYS

*None in July*

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

## Relationships

- Humility
- Respect
- Trust and be trustworthy
- Confidence – persist in our love
- Community – collaboration



## 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.