

SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER

St. Charles Fraternity

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

Website: stcharlesfrat.com



November/December 2021

Minister: Joyce W.

Phone: 1-910-215-7432

Email: joyce.wesner@hotmail.com

Vice Minister: Joy O.

Phone: 260.452.7357

Email: jjolry@gmail.com

Secretary: Arlene L.

Phone: 260.710.6774

Email: awowis@yahoo.com

Treasurer: Nancy S.

Phone: 260.417.1791

Email:

nancy.steinhofer@gmail.com

Formation Director: Barb B.

Phone: 260.242.3256

Email: bbraley345@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: 10/17/2021

Last Fraternal Visit: 11/17/2017

Last Pastoral Visit: 7/15/2018

DATE CHANGE

*Please note that the date of
our fraternity Christmas
Party has changed to
Sunday, December 19.
See page 4 for more details.*

FROM THE RULE

Rule, art 13 As the Father sees in every person the features of his Son, the firstborn of many brothers and sisters, so the Secular Franciscans with a gentle and courteous spirit accept all people as a gift of the Lord and an image of Christ.

A sense of community will make them joyful and ready to place themselves on an equal basis with all people, especially with the lowly for whom they shall strive to create conditions of life worthy of people redeemed by Christ.

Rule, art. 7 United by their vocation as “brothers and sisters of penance” and motivated by the dynamic power of the gospel, let them conform their thoughts and deeds to those of Christ by means of that radical interior change which the gospel calls “conversion.” Human frailty makes it necessary that this conversion be carried out daily.

On this road to renewal the sacrament of reconciliation is the privileged sign of the Father’s mercy and the source of grace.

Rule, art. 19.2 Messengers of perfect joy in every circumstance, they should strive to bring joy and hope to others. Since they are immersed in the resurrection of Christ, which gives true meaning to Sister Death, let them serenely tend toward the ultimate encounter with the Father.

Rule, art 4 The rule and life of the Secular Franciscans is this: to observe the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ by following the example of St. Francis of Assisi who made Christ the inspiration and the center of his life with God and people.

Christ, the gift of the Father’s love, is the way to him, the truth into which the Holy Spirit leads us, and the life which he has come to give abundantly.

Secular Franciscans should devote themselves especially to careful reading of the gospel, going from gospel to life and life to gospel.

Rule, art 5 Secular Franciscans, therefore, should seek to encounter the living and active person of Christ in their brothers and sisters, in Sacred Scripture, in the Church, and in liturgical activity. The faith of St. Francis, who often said, “I see nothing bodily of the Most High Son of God in this world except His most holy body and blood,” should be the inspiration and pattern of their Eucharistic life.

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FROM OUR MINISTER:

God has chosen each of us to be Secular Franciscans. The Holy Spirit has chosen each of us so that He can live within us. He has chosen us to be His person through whom He can live and work upon earth. The Holy Spirit wants to use us and our life to show how a person is to live upon earth. He wants to conform us to the image of Christ to make us an example of how God wants people to live the Gospel life.

The book of Exodus tells us how God chose Moses to lead His people. In the book of Jeremiah, we are told how God chose Jeremiah to be a prophet. Both Moses and Jeremiah said they were not qualified for what God wanted them to do.

At times we do not feel qualified for what God has chosen us to do. As we learn from those two examples: "God does not always choose the qualified. He always qualifies those He chooses."

In the Gospel of Luke, we read about the feeding of the five thousand. The disciples gathered five loaves and two fish. That was the best they could do. They gave all they had to Jesus who blessed the loaves and fish, broke them, then fed the 5000 thousand. This gives us the example of: "Do your best and let God do the rest."



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW COUNCIL!

Please pray for our new Council members as they animate and guide our fraternity for the next three years. *From left:* Joyce Wesner, Minister; Joy Olry, Vice Minister; Sr. Mary Govert, Spiritual Assistant; Arlene Lewis, Secretary; Barb Braley, Formation Director; Nancy Steinhof, Treasurer; Susan Solloway, Regional Treasurer, who presided at the Chapter of Elections.

Rest in Peace!

Miriam Symonds was embraced by Sister Death on October 25. May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace. A Mass will be offered for Miriam at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne.

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!

Questions for *BEATITUDES*, by Raniero Cantalamessa, OFM Cap

Chapter 5

1. The Hebrew word *hesed* (page 65) has two meanings: a) the attitude of the stronger toward the weaker, and b) the attitude toward need and suffering. Give a specific example of Jesus' mercy toward the and another example of Jesus' mercy toward someone who was in need or suffering. Do the same for Francis. How does *hesed* relate to article 13 of our Rule?

2. Based on the first two paragraphs on page 69, how would you define *sin*? What is the relationship of sin and hope? Why did God the Son become incarnate? [Note: there are two main theological perspectives regarding this question.] How does this relate to articles 7 and 19.2 of our Rule?

3. Define: *grace*. How does this relate to articles 4, 5, 6, and 17.2?

4. Cantalamessa speaks of God who is "rich in mercy," *dives in misericordia...*" (page 74). *Misericordia* is literally defined as the suffering (*misereo*) of the heart (*cor*). In his opening address to the Second Vatican Council in 1962, Pope St. John XXIII said, "Nowadays, however, the spouse of Christ [the Church] prefers to make use of the medicine of mercy rather than of severity." Both God and the Church are seen as dispensers of mercy. Compassion (def: *to suffer with*) and forgiveness are necessary in the practice of mercy. How does this relate to article 7 of our Rule? Or to the Parable of the Lost Son (Luke 15:11-32)?

***See pages 1 & 4 for the articles of the Rule.*



NOVEMBER FRATERNITY GATHERING

Date: Nov. 21, 2021 **Time:** 1:30 p.m.

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

Sr. Mary's talk: TBD

Beatitudes book: Chapter 5

See questions on page 3

Liturgy of the Hours: Evening Prayer II

Christ the King

Page 679

Hymn on page 1549, #102

Homebound: Revelation 12:1-22:5

DECEMBER FRATERNITY GATHERING

Date: Dec. 19, 2021 **Time:** 1:30 p.m.

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

Annual Christmas Party

Meat and drinks will be provided by the Council. Please bring a dish to share.

There will also be a Christmas carol sing-along.

Liturgy of the Hours: Evening Prayer II

4th Sunday of Advent

Pages 114 & 931

Hymn on page 1533, #63

Homebound: Luke 2

BIRTHDAYS

Joy Olry 11/20

Gina Settimi 11/25

Joann Arendt 11/26

Rita Carboni 1/3

PROFESSION ANNIVERSARIES

Mary Smith 11/16/1997

Marcylye Voigt 11/16/1997

Laura Hoffman 11/21/1976

Arlene Lewis 11/22/2009

Joann Arendt 12/18/1994

Papal Prayer Intentions

NOVEMBER *Universal intention - People who suffer from depression.* We pray that people who suffer from depression or burn-out will find support and a light that opens them up to life.

DECEMBER *Intention for evangelization – Catechists.* Let us pray for the catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God: may they be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Continued from page 1

Rule, art 6 They have been made living members of the Church by being buried and raised with Christ in baptism; they have been united more intimately with the Church by profession. Therefore, they should go forth as witnesses and instruments of her mission among all people, proclaiming Christ by their life and words.

Called like Saint Francis to rebuild the Church and inspired by his example, let them devote themselves to living in full communion with the pope, bishops, and priests, fostering an open and trusting dialog of apostolic effectiveness and creativity.

Rule, art 17.2 By living the grace of matrimony, husbands and wives in particular should bear witness in the world to the love of Christ for His Church. They should joyfully accompany their children on their human and spiritual journey by providing a simple and open Christian education and being attentive to the vocation of each child.