

## SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER

St. Charles Fraternity  
P.O. Box 12644 M.P.O., Fort Wayne, IN 46864  
Website: [stcharlesfrat.com](http://stcharlesfrat.com)  
Late August 2022



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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: 7/15/2018

### ***FROM OUR VICE MINISTER...***

Are you afraid of the Bible? Or more accurately, are you afraid to read the Bible? Believe it or not, there are quite a few people who are.

Occasionally, when people find out that I'm a convert, their response is: "I think converts make better Catholics because you know the Bible so well." For the first few years after I joined the Church, I let this go. I no longer do. Now, I will respond by saying that anyone can know the Bible as well – or even better – than I do. It starts by getting it off the shelf, dusting it off, and opening it.

Then the excuses start. "Oh, no. I might misinterpret it." This is the most common excuse I get. The solution? Get a good study Bible and follow the marks and explanations. The one that makes me want to do a face-palm is: "What I hear at Mass is enough." Egads!

Our Rule makes it very clear: we are people of the Gospels – and of the entirety of Scripture by extension. Article 4 of our Rule tells us that we are to "devote" ourselves to "careful reading" of the Gospels. This is where I go to St. Clare.

In her second letter to St. Agnes of Prague, Clare tells Agnes to "gaze, consider, contemplate, desiring to imitate your Spouse." We see Jesus in the Gospels. When we gaze on Him, we look deeply at what He does; we think deeply about what He says and does; we let go of ourselves and let Him transform us in contemplation; then we imitate Him from what we have seen and considered and contemplated.

More succinctly, St. Jerome tells us: "Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ." How can we encounter Christ in the Scriptures?

I like to use my imagination.

Take the Parable of the Lost Son. Identify all the characters – all of them. Picture in your mind what they do and say. Put yourself in the story. Who are you? What is your role? In a way, this becomes a kind of self-guided mediation.

**FROM OUR MINISTER...** (continued from page 1)

son? One of the servants? The older brother? Someone else?

An encounter with the Christ of the Gospels leads us to encounter Christ in the Sacraments, especially the Eucharist. This more deeply we encounter Christ in the Gospels and in the Sacraments, the more we also encounter ourselves because we are not separate from Christ. As the word “communion” tells us, we “at one” with Christ.

So please, if you haven’t gotten your Bible down off the shelf for a while, get it down, dust it off, and open it up to an encounter with Christ.

As the Carmelites like to say: “Jesus is waiting for you.”

Peace and all good!  
Barb

**NEWSLETTER SCHEDULE CHANGE**

The September newsletter will be mailed out the last week of August. This will institute a change where the newsletters will be in everyone’s hands by the first of the month and be for the whole month. Hence, the October newsletter will be sent out the last week of September. Hopefully, this will be more convenient and more reader-friendly than going mid-month to mid-month as we have been doing.

***St. Charles Council update:***

Teri Queitsch has announced that she is transferring to Holy Family Fraternity in Fort Wayne and has resigned as our Secretary. Therefore, we need a fraternity Secretary. We wish Teri blessings in her new fraternity home.

Deb Davis has enthusiastically volunteered to step in as our new Secretary. We welcome her to the Council!

**LOOKING AHEAD TO OUR SEPTEMBER FRATERNITY GATHERING**

We will be starting our new ongoing formation book, *Francis of Assisi: Writer and Spiritual Master*, at our September gathering. There are questions for reflection at the end of each chapter, but there will be supplemental questions for reflection in the next newsletter that will be more specific to us as Secular Franciscans. (See the note above about the change in the newsletter schedule.)

Also in September, we will be hosting a “Come & See” event. Those who are interested will spend the first hour with us and then go with Rich, our Formation Director, to learn more about the Order and the initial formation process. If you know of anyone who is interested, please have them contact Rich. (See page 1 for contact info.)

## AUGUST FRATERNITY GATHERING

**Date:** Aug. 13, 2022      **Time:** 9:30 a.m.

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

**Celebrant/Speaker:** Fr Christopher Panagoplos

**Food:** Bring your own lunch

**Evening Prayer & Memorial Service**

**Homebound:** Luke 10:25-37

## Love Your Commitment in 2022

- Love my fraternity
- Love the Rule
- Love Scripture
- Love conversion



## PROFESSION ANNIVERSARIES

Joyce Wesner 7/27/2003

Joyce's Profession Anniversary was inadvertently omitted last month. Mea culpa! - Barb

## BIRTHDAYS

Karen Amstutz	8/17
Vicki Marcellus Smith	8/19
Deb Davis	8/26
Rich Cain	9/3
Nancy Steinhofner	9/12

### Please pray for:

Jan Scher – health  
Joyce Wesner – health  
Arlene Lewis - health

*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 on page 1 of this newsletter.*

**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 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**.

**Thought for this month:** "The story of salvation is none other than the story of successive humble acts by God.

This is, in fact, how Saint Francis sees it:

Every day He humbles Himself just as He did when He came from His heavenly throne (Wis 18:15) into the Virgin's womb; every day...He descends from the bosom of the Father into the hands of the priest at the altar."

\*From *Sober Intoxication of the Spirit, Filled with the Fullness of God*, Raniero Cantalamessa, P. 29