

SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER

St. Charles Fraternity
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 May/June 2023



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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: 11/20/2022

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 in 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.

Calendar
 also on our website
stcharlesfrat.com
5/21 Gathering in Avilla
6/11 Gathering in Avilla
7/16 Gathering in Avilla
8/12 Unity Day in Kokomo
9/17 Gathering in Avilla
10/15 Gathering in Avilla
11/19 Gathering in Avilla;
 Fraternal Visitation
12/3 Greccio/Incarnation
 at USF beginning at 1pm
12/10 Christmas Party at
 St. Vincent

Ongoing Formation for May, June & July

As you know, we have just concluded our book on St. Francis as a writer and spiritual master. You may be wondering what we are doing next as a new book has not been announced. For the next three months, we will not be using a book. The Council has decided to engage in ongoing formation that will tie into the 3-year Eucharistic Revival. There will be a series of coordinated presentations by Sr. Mary, Barb Braley, and Rich Cain. See page 3 for more information.

The Formation Corner

May the Lord give you peace!

The theme selected at the last National Chapter was “Listen, Discern, and Go Forth!”

Last month we discussed that listening isn’t a passive thing. It is active. It requires our full attention. When we prepare for ongoing formation, we need to ask ourselves: How does this deepen my understanding of WHO I AM as a Secular Franciscan Catholic Christian? How then do I begin to LIVE OUT that understanding?

Now let’s look at the second one: discern.

Being the word geek that I am, I like to look at word origins. For discern, we find from Latin: dis- (“apart”) + cernere (“to separate”). To discern something is to separate it from other things. The result of this separation frequently means that we create priorities. Which is more important: this or that?

In initial formation, we are asked a number of times to discern things. Have we discerned a calling/vocation as a Secular Franciscan? How do we discern changes that this vocation will require? The Council is asked to discern whether or not someone should move on to Candidacy or to Profession.

Following Profession, we still need to discern things: attendance at fraternity gatherings, to serve on the Council, to engage in an activity because of being a Secular Franciscan, etc. How do we choose?

I like to think of discernment as a crucible. A crucible is usually a block of wood carved on the inside to the shape of an object that is being made of a precious metal. As the metal cools, it is proven by the crucible. If the metal is pure, everything is good. If it is not, it breaks the crucible. As we deeply consider things in the crucible of discernment, we begin to see what is pure/right and what is impure/wrong. Some good crucibles to aid our discernment are the Bible, the Catechism, encyclicals, Vatican II documents, Franciscan writings, our Rule, and our Constitution. How effectively do we use them? Ask yourself how they answer the two questions in the third paragraph.

After we discern the right path, we need to go forth. Where is it we need to go? To whom? To do what? This will be the topic in our next newsletter.

Peace and all good!

EUCCHARISTIC REVIVAL AND SECULAR FRANCISCANS

GOALS: 1) To deepen our understanding of who we are as Secular Franciscan Catholic Christians in relation to the Eucharist; and, 2) to begin to live out that understanding

OBJECTIVES: 1) To deepen our understanding of the Eucharist in relation to the Mass as a whole (May); 2) to deepen our understanding of the Scripture and theology of the Eucharist, especially transubstantiation (June); 3) to renew and deepen our understanding of the Eucharistic writings of St. Francis; and, 4) to discuss how we can more fully participate in the celebration of the Eucharist as Secular Franciscan Catholic Christians and to live more Eucharistically beyond the context of the Mass (July)

MAY

Part I Overview of the historical development of the Mass/Eucharist

Part II Compare/contrast the Mass to family Thanksgiving Day dinner

JUNE

Part I Passover & Incarnation

Part II Paschal Mystery & Transubstantiation

Thought for May: 11. ...Incorporated in the Church through baptism, the faithful are destined by the baptismal character for the worship of the Christian religion; reborn as sons of God they must confess before men the faith which they have received from God through the Church (4*)...Taking part in the Eucharistic sacrifice, which is the fount and apex of the whole Christian life, they offer the Divine Victim to God, and offer themselves along with It.(6*) Thus both by reason of the offering and through Holy Communion all take part in this liturgical service, not indeed, all in the same way but each in that way which is proper to himself. Strengthened in Holy Communion by the Body of Christ, they then manifest in a concrete way that unity of the people of God which is suitably signified and wondrously brought about by this most august sacrament. - From *Lumen Gentium*, ch. 1.11

Thought for June: 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. - *Rule*, article 5

MAY FRATERNITY GATHERING

Date: May 21, 2023 **Time:** 1:30 p.m.

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

Formation 1: Development of the Mass

Food: Bring snacks to share

Formation 2: Thanksgiving

Liturgy of the Hours:

Evening Prayer II (Ascension)

Pages 565; Hymn: #124 (p. 1560)

Homebound: Psalm 118

JUNE FRATERNITY GATHERING

Date: June 11, 2023 **Time:** 1:30 p.m.

2nd Sunday of June

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

Formation 1: Passover & Incarnation

Food: Bring snacks to share

Formation 2: Paschal Mystery & Transubstantiation

Liturgy of the Hours:

Evening Prayer II (Corpus Christi)

Pages 658; Hymn: #116

Homebound: Exodus 12:1-20

BIRTHDAYS

<i>Marcyle Voigt</i>	5/1
<i>Dave Frank</i>	5/10
<i>Barb Balbo (Inquirer)</i>	5/23
<i>Barb Kluz</i>	5/31
<i>Laura Hoffman</i>	6/9
<i>Doris Bermes</i>	6/30

PROFESSION ANNIVERSARIES

5/19/1974 *Mary Lou Sohn*

5/19/2019 *Barb Cain*

Deb Davis

Su Hohman

None in June

Please pray for these brothers and sisters

Barb Balbo's husband: back surgery; Rich Cain: new job; Sandy Kiraly: health; Joyce Wesner: health; all our mothers and fathers (including our priests)

Centenarios

Beginning this year, the entire Franciscan family will celebrate a group of centenarios. At Unity Day (8/12), we will celebrate the 8th centenary of the Rule of 1223. In December at the University of Saint Francis, we will celebrate the 8th centenary of St. Francis' Christmas at Greccio. A 1pm Mass will begin the event. Next year in St. John, IN, we will celebrate the 8th centenary of St. Francis receiving the Stigmata. In 2025, somewhere around Indy, we will celebrate the 8th centenary of the Canticle of the Creatures. At Unity Day in 2026, we will celebrate the Easter of St. Francis. Fr. Jerome Schroeder, OFM Cap, is the keynote speaker. Fr. Jerome is the Provincial Spiritual Assistant for the St. Joseph Province to which we are bonded.