

# SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER

## St. Charles Fraternity

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

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Mid-April – mid-May 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

### Love Your Commitment in 2022

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



### From our Minister

The following is from the book, *The Imitation of Christ* written by Thomas `a Kempis.

“Christ: My child, *I am the Lord Who gives strength on the day of distress* (Nah 1:7). Come to Me when all is not well with you. What hinders you most of all from receiving heavenly consolation is your slowness in turning to Me in prayer. Before you pray earnestly to Me, you first seek other comforts, trying to find distraction in outward things. Hence, it is that all these things are of little benefit to you until you realize that I alone am the One Who delivers those who trust in Me.

Therefore, *do not be distressed or fearful* (Jn 14:27). Have confidence in Me and trust in My mercy. When you think I am far away, I am often closest to you. When you think that almost all is lost, often a greater reward follows.”

### Please pray for:

*The repose of the soul of Teri Queitsch's father-in-law*

*Stewart Lewis, Arlene's husband, who is recovering from hip replacement surgery*  
*Upcoming elections for the Regional Executive Council on June 11th*

**Note:** our next study book, *Francis of Assisi: Writer and Spiritual Master*, can be picked up at our fraternity meetings. Cost is \$8.25. The study will begin in June. If you need one brought to you, please contact Joyce W. (See contact info above left.)

## FROM OUR FORMATION DIRECTOR

What are we worth?

According to various sources, the material worth of a human body is about \$160 and the chemical elements in the human body are approximately \$600. A human is valued at around \$129,000 per year and \$45,000,000 over the course of a lifetime.

Is this how we determine our worth?

When each of us began initial formation, we were asked what our jobs were and what we did for volunteer/charity work. We were also asked what gifts and talents we were bringing to the fraternity.

Are these how we determine our worth?

If we go to Mass every Sunday and day of obligation, or even daily, pray the rosary and/or the Liturgy of the Hours, contribute a tithe (10%) of our income to our parishes, join the Rosary Society or the Knights of Columbus, teach religious ed, or any number of good “Catholic” things, is our worth really determined by any of these?

In Genesis 1, we are told that we are created in the image and likeness of God. Does this begin to give us an idea of your worth? It should.

The Gospels tell us that Jesus became human like us, and the liturgy of the Mass adds, “in everything but sin.” He even died FOR LOVE OF EACH OF US! This should really begin to give us a sense of our worth.

Our worth does not come from any created thing, but from God alone. What is our worth in God’s eyes?

St. Teresa of Kolkata wrote a letter to her sisters in which she talks about Jesus’ love for us, his longing, his thirst, for each of us. She wanted to know if her sisters knew this, not only with their minds, but with their HEARTS. She says, “Only believe – you are precious to Him.”

Precious means that each of us has an exceedingly high value. In fact, there is only one thing that is more precious: the love Jesus has for each of us, regardless of our weaknesses, our sins, or the messes we have may have made of our lives. The Eleven all ran away from Jesus in the Garden. Peter denied even knowing Jesus three times. Did Jesus stop loving them? Absolutely not!! Nor will he stop loving us.

What does Jesus want from us? Our love! He calls each of us by name in the silence of our hearts. How will we answer him? Will we protest that we are not worthy? That our sins can’t be forgiven?

Jesus’ love for us is infinitely greater than any of these!

In imitation of Fr. Patrick Hake, pastor of St. Peter’s in Fort Wayne, I have two tips.

First, read the Parable of the Prodigal Son. Note the extravagant love of the father when the younger son returns. This is really God the Father waiting, even running out to meet us, to welcome us back home because he loves us so much and misses us when we are not with him in our hearts.

Second, when you first get out of bed in the morning, look at yourself in a mirror before you’ve showered, combed your hair, etc., and say out loud, “You are precious to Jesus.” For a greater challenge, stand in front of the mirror and say, “I am precious to Jesus.” Because you are!

Peace and all good! ~ Barb

### Prayer for the People of Ukraine

Almighty God, you guide all nations with your wisdom and strength. We pray that, as once you turned back the armies of Pharaoh when they pursued the Israelites, you would now turn back those who wage war against the people of Ukraine so that peace and justice may return to their land. We ask this through Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, and in the unity of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**St. Charles Fraternity meeting minutes – 3/20/2022 at 1:30 p.m. at St Mary’s School, Avilla**

There were 10 members present: Karen Amstutz, Arlene Lewis, Vicki Marcellus Smith, Ralph Stark, Joyce Wesner, Nancy Loftus (Joy’s sister-in-law) – visitor, Sr. Mary, Barb Braley, Joy Olry, and Jackie Didier.

Minister Joyce opened with prayer from the Ritual, page 35.

**Old business.** 1) Minutes from the February meeting were approved. 2) No Treasurer’s report in Nancy’s absence. 3) A reminder of the Lenten Reflection which will be held on Saturday, March 26, from 9:00-noon; Mass with celebrant Fr. Patrick Hake, who is also the speaker. 4) Rich Cain will be giving a presentation about Justice, Peace & the Integrity of Creation (JPIC) on May 15, 2022.

**New business.** 1) Sr. Nancy Roberta Schramm, OFS, will give a short presentation on the South American mission work of the Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart.

Sr. Mary talked about Francis’ attitude toward war and our reaction to the present Ukrainian crisis.

Snacks and fellowship followed.

Chapter 8 discussion from *Beatitudes: Eight Steps to Happiness* was led by Barb B.

Joyce closed with prayer from the Ritual, page 36.

Meeting was then ended with Liturgy of the Hours Evening Prayer II for Week 3 of Lent.

Respectfully submitted,  
Barb Braley, OFS, Formation Director (Acting Secretary in Teri’s absence)

**“Survey Says…”**

A survey was emailed out to fraternity members earlier this year asking what members would like to see kept the same and what we might change. Here are the comments received.

I would like to see the Franciscan rosary prayed during May & October meetings. In my opinion, it has been omitted or done as an after-thought.

I think our Fraternity should send some of the \$ in our treasury for People of Ukraine, since we are people for JUSTICE! (Yes, I have sent \$ on my own.)

Reminder in each newsletter what our “projects” are eg lap afghans, carved crosses. I do not think any newsletter so far has mentioned them.

St. Anthony in Angola had the funeral today for Friar Wilfrid Logsdon, OFM Conv. Since we have several members of St. Anthony, I think would be nice to offer a mass at their church OR give a donation to the memorial gift listed: Province Of Our Lady Of Consolation, Office Of Mission Advancement, 103 St Francis Blvd, Mount St Francis, IN 47146. As you probably know, the (Conventual) Franciscans are leaving Angola & Steuben County after 90+ years. May do this in conjunction with their departure as Thank You.

Please look at Cross Catholic website Lent 2022 Wells Of Salvation. Think this is an excellent Lenten project for our fraternity. Water is life.

Social/eating time goes too long.

I like the different books we read and have questions for like book study club.

I enjoy Sister Mary’s talks.

I have never attended another fraternity meeting, so I do not really have any other experience to compare our fraternity meetings with.

## APRIL FRATERNITY GATHERING

**Date:** April 10, 2022      **Time:** 1:30 p.m.

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

**Sr. Nancy Roberta's Schramm's talk:**  
Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart's  
South American mission work

**Liturgy of the Hours: Evening Prayer II**  
**Passion Sunday**

Pages 391 & 786  
Hymn: #104, page 1550

**Homebound:** Luke 22:39-23:56

## PROFESSION ANNIVERSARIES

*Andrea Martin*      4/18/2021  
*Patti Webster*      4/18/2021

## BIRTHDAYS

*Marilyn Huhn*      4/21  
*Marcyle Voigt*      5/1

## Lenten Reflection follow-up

16 people attended the Lenten Reflection at St. Peter's in Fort Wayne: Su H., Nancy S., Carole B., Joy O., Jackie D., Vicki S., Joyce W., Barb B., Deb D., Arlene L., Katie H., Sr. Mary, and Karen A. There were 3 guests.

Fr. Patrick Hake, pastor of St. Peter's, celebrated Mass and led the reflection. During Mass, we renewed our Professions.

Father's reflection was based on the post-Easter story of Jesus after he had breakfast on the beach with the Apostles (John 21:15-19). Jesus asks Peter, "Do you love me more than these?" "Yes, Lord," Peter answers. What are "these" for us? Money? Comfort? What do we answer? Can we be happy being poor/humbled like Peter was? This poverty is what we are counter-culturally to witness to the world. What was the perfect act of poverty? Jesus' death on the cross for love of souls.

Father then led us on 2 guided meditations in front of the Blessed Sacrament. The first was based on the Parable of the Prodigal Son. The second was based on a letter of St. Teresa of Kolkata to her sisters.

Many thanks to Fr. Patrick!!

*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 for the Prayer Tree.*

The Fort Wayne cell is now meeting for prayer following the Thursday 11:00 a.m. Mass in the chapel at the University of St. Francis. Anyone is welcome to come.

**As a fraternity apostolate,** please consider making a 30"x30" lap robe for the residents of Sacred Heart Home in Avilla. They may be knitted, crocheted, sewn, or even quilted. They must be these dimensions so they cover the residents' laps adequately, but don't get caught in wheelchair wheels. **An alternative** is to carve wooden crosses that people could hold.

**Thought for this month:** "If my people, who are called by my name, shall humble themselves and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways: then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." - 2 Chronicles 7:14