

SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER
St. Charles Fraternity
P.O. Box 12644 M.P.O., Fort Wayne, IN 46864
Website: stcharlesfrat.com
September/October 2023



Minister: Joy O.	260.452.7357	jjolry@gmail.com	
Vice Minister: Barb B.	260.242.3256	bbraley345@gmail.com	
Secretary: Deb D.	260.668.2440	debdavishih@gmail.com	
Treasurer: Nancy S.	260.417.1791	nancy.steinhofer@gmail.com	
Formation Director: Rich C.	260.667.4631	richcain82@gmail.com	
Established on or before 2/9/1936	Last elections: 10/17/2021	Last fraternal visit: 11/17/2017	Last pastoral visit: 11/20/2022

Ongoing Formation
 New book: *Fratelli Tutti*. The questions for reflection are on page 3.

Please pray for: Barb Balbo's husband, Jackie Didier, Sandy Kiraly, Joyce Wesner, and Vicki Marcellus-Smith.

I never had a chance to thank all of you properly before I left Fort Wayne. I hope this addition to the newsletter reaches those all who have been important in my life in the last 13 year. And that is all of you. Thanks for the sendoff; I'll never refuse an offer of ice cream. And all the good wishes. Thanks also for the cash gift. It went to a special place for me. It was added to the Govert Family Endowed Scholarship at St. Francis. It was started from some funds from bequests of my family and produces scholarships for student in need. My parents sent four of their daughters through St. Francis and it was less expensive then. Hopefully this scholarship will help others who have need.

Thanks for allowing me to be a part of your fraternity for the last 13 years. When I first accepted the role of spiritual assistant I didn't know for sure what I was getting into and whether or not I would continue. But you taught me a lot about your commitment to the Franciscan life. And my commitment to you became increasingly a more important part of my life. I never had any regrets about my decision to continue.

What am I doing now? Not much. I am being given time to get settled. I'll be working at the switchboard part time and other tasks as needed. I'm still getting settled in my room and reconnecting in new ways with folks here I have known most of my life. It's a whole new way of living for me.

Some of you asked for contact information. My address is St. Francis Convent, P O Box 766, Mishawaka, IN 46846 and my email is m_govert@hotmail.com.

As we Franciscan say, "Peace and all good" to you, your families and to your life in fraternity.

In Christ and Sts. Francis and Clare
 Sr. Mary

May the Lord give you peace!

When I was received into the Catholic Church at Easter Vigil 1995, I was a broken person. Not long after, I was invited to join the Lay Associates with the Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart. I began to experience the healing I so desperately needed, and I also began to understand the beauty of fraternity. By the end of October 2005, I was a fully professed Secular Franciscan – living the “journey and the dream,” as it were.

One of the things I have come to appreciate, especially in multiple servant leadership roles, is that the fraternity is a place where we can bring ourselves as we are. It is awesome that we can do that; it is also an awesome and even terrifying thing to be responsible for holding others – whether as a servant leader or not – in our hands with utmost care.

Cup your hands together in front of you. Imagine each member of our fraternity in your hands and ask yourself how well you care for them.

When we place ourselves in the hands of another, it is like entrusting a fragile piece of crystal to that person. That person can choose to handle that crystal in one of three ways. S/he can hurl the crystal to the ground, smashing it into dust. S/he can be less than careful and allow it to fall to the ground. It may not shatter into dust, but it is broken, nonetheless. S/he can hold it carefully and cherish it, ensuring that it remains intact and beautiful.

Frequently, individual persons/crystals are broken through words rather than deeds. Careless words hurt us, but insensitive, demeaning, or judgmental words can shatter us and our relationships. This is why dialogue is needed.

What are the characteristics of a dialogue?

The first person voices an opinion/belief and then asks the second person their opinion/belief. One of them may ask the other why they believe as they do and then gives the other the same opportunity. The questions regarding differing opinions/beliefs are: How are they similar and how are they different? How can we remain in a good relationship when they are different?

Those who engage in authentic dialogue are respectful, courteous, and allow others the freedom to decide what beliefs/opinions to retain or change. They listen and consider carefully what has been entrusted to them (crystal) and respond appropriately, keeping in mind the effect words can have on another person. Remember, the Holy Spirit is the agent of change; we are not.

For a couple of good examples of authentic dialogue, please read Mark 10:17-22 and the story of Francis and the Sultan (see *FA:ED*, page 231).

Peace and all good!

***Fratelli Tutti* questions for reflection**

Without Borders & Chapter 1

1. St. Francis instructed his brothers to go out into the world, but without renouncing their own identity. What do you think he meant? How might this relate to Matthew 4:1-11? How might it relate to article 6 of our Rule?
2. Extremism, domination, fear, alienation, low self-esteem, and isolation are some of the issues that Pope Francis raises in chapter 1. On the other hand, he also states that God is still at work in spite of these circumstances. How/where do you see some of these problems around you? How/through whom do you see God working in the midst of these circumstances? How do these issues relate to the Franciscan Values of respecting the dignity of each person and fostering peace and justice? (Be sure to define dignity, peace, and justice.) How might the OFS work to counter some of these negative issues? What article(s) in our Rule might guide us?
3. What is your relationship with technology, especially with personal technology? How do you see outside attempts to influence/manipulate you? What sources do you trust for news and opinions? (***Important note: this is not intended as an opportunity to publicly endorse or condemn any specific news venue.***) How do you deal with those who try to manipulate your conscience? How are you a person of encounter, either through or in spite of technology?
4. "Hope is bold." (FT, 55). How do you see this statement relating to articles 14 & 15 of our Rule. Are there any circumstances in St. Francis' life where he had to be bold in hope? Explain.

Chapter 2

1. In the passage from Job in paragraph 58, what connections do you make with the Franciscan Values (*see page 4*)? To articles 12-15 of our Rule?
2. Which characters in the parable do you relate to the most? Where do you see a need for personal conversion? Where do you see a need for conversion by our fraternity? How might our fraternity life be different as a result? How does this parable relate to the way St. Francis treated the lepers before he kissed the one leper?
3. Read articles 1 & 2 of our Rule and article 30 of the General Constitutions. How do you define "co-responsibility"? What is the scope of our co-responsibility within our fraternity? Within each level of the OFS? Within the Franciscan Family as a whole? Within the Catholic Church? Beyond the Catholic Church?
4. In paragraph 86 of the encyclical, Pope Francis is critical of how the Church responded to various forms of indignities practiced both now and in the past. What was your response to this? How/where do we see some of the examples of societal issues even now? How do we love those who are causing the suffering: those responsible for dealing drugs, human trafficking, or terrorism? What might be our responsibility to them? What inspiration might we draw from St. Francis' visit to the Sultan?

SEPT. FRATERNITY GATHERING

Date: Sept. 17, 2023 **Time:** 1:30 p.m.

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

Formation: *Fratelli Tutti*, Without Borders & chapter 1

Food: snacks to share

Liturgy of the Hours:

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Pages 634 & 931; Hymn: #40

Homebound: John 15:1-15

OCT. FRATERNITY GATHERING

Date: Oct. 15, 2023 **Time:** 1:30 p.m.

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

Formation: *Fratelli Tutti*, chapter 2

Food: snacks to share

Liturgy of the Hours:

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Pages 629 & 931; Hymn: #184

Homebound: I John 4:7-21

Franciscan Values

(As referenced on page 3)

Reverence the unique dignity of each person

Encourage a trustful, prayerful community

Serve one another, society, and the Church

Foster peace and justice

Respect creation

BIRTHDAYS

Rich Cain 9/3

Nancy Steinhofner 9/12

Barb Cain 9/20

None in October

Friends of the Poor Walk to support the St. Vincent de Paul Society on Friday, October 1. For more info, contact Joy Olry or Deb Davis (see page 1).

PROFESSION ANNIVERSARIES

9/19/1999 *Jackie Didier*

9/23/2012 *Rich Cain*

10/18/2015 *Carole Beiswanger*

Sandy Kiraly

Joy Olry

10/23/2005 *Barb Braley*

Morning of Reflection

also on our website stcharlesfrat.com

When: Saturday, October 21, 2023

Presenter: Fr. Patrick Hake

Where: St. Peter's Catholic Church, 518 E. Dewald St., Fort Wayne

Schedule: 9 AM Mass 9:45 AM Reflection 10:15 AM Adoration

Lunch: 11 AM (in the Pavilion across Dewald from the church) – provided by the St. Charles Council

RSVP: by **October 14** to Joy Olry (ph: 260.452.7357 / email jjolry@gmail.com)