

SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER

St. Charles Fraternity
P.O. Box 12644 M.P.O., Fort Wayne, IN 46864

Website: stcharlesfrat.com

See the website for updated event/calendar info. Current updates: meeting dates/locations, Stigmata pilgrimage to St. John, IN, and newsletters.



September/October 2024

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Established on or before 2/9/1936	Last elections: 10/17/2021	Last fraternal visit: 11/19/2023	Last pastoral visit: 11/20/2022

IMPORTANT! IMPORTANT! IMPORTANT!

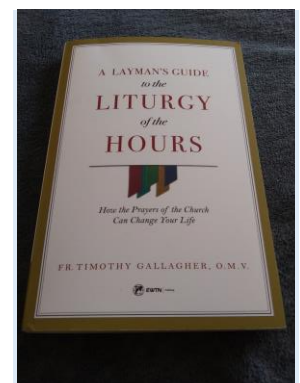
September 15 is triennial **Chapter of Elections**. We need a **quorum of 6 people** for a valid election. Chris Bercaw, a Regional Councilor, will preside in the absence of Cyndi Pilot, and Sr. Anita Holzmer, OSF, will serve as the ecclesial witness.

The current slate of nominees is as follows: Joy Olry, Minister (2nd term); Barb Braley, Vice Minister (2nd term); Deb Davis, Secretary (2nd term); Rich Cain, Treasurer (1st term); Katie Herendeen, Formation Director (1st term). Additional nominations will be taken from the floor during the chapter per our governing documents.

Please plan to attend.

Announcement

In October, we will begin our new book for ongoing formation: *A Layman's Guide to the Liturgy of the Hours*, by Fr. Timothy Gallagher, O.M.V. This book will give us the opportunity to at the history, theology, and practice of the LOH. It will also include a tutorial on how to use the annual guide. Katie Herendeen will lead us time. The suggested donation for this book is \$15. The questions for reflection are on page 4.



May the Lord give you peace!

Have you ever heard someone, even in the fraternity, say: I don't read the Bible because...I might misinterpret it, I was never encouraged to, I'm too busy, or what I hear at Mass is enough?

Article 4 of our Rule says, "*The rule and life of the Secular Franciscans is this: to observe the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ*" and "*Secular Franciscans should devote themselves especially to careful reading of the gospel, going from gospel to life and life to gospel.*"

There is also the oft-quoted St. Jerome: "*Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ.*"

Questions: Do we read the Gospels regularly? Do we encourage others to read the Gospels, especially our brother and sister Secular Franciscans? How much time do we spend with the Gospels in ongoing formation?

How do we read the Gospels? Let's begin with St. Clare (based on Clare's 2nd letter to Agnes of Prague).

Quiet your mind

Gaze: Take some time to look deeply at the passage

Consider: Take some time to think deeply about the passage. Put yourself there: observer/participant. Who are you in the story? What do you see, hear, feel?

Contemplate: How are you transformed, made different, by this experience?

Imitate: What do you resolve to do in response to this transformation, especially as a Secular Franciscan?

Now let's apply this to the *Parable of the Lost Son* (Luke 15:11-32): Read it twice - slowly, then use your imagination to see the story as a play, a movie, or a TV show.

Gaze: What/where are the scenes? Who are all the characters in each scene? Be sure to name them ALL, even the ones who aren't obvious, like the pig farmer who hired the younger son.

Consider: What happens in each scene? What is each scene's importance?

Contemplate: Who has most changed in this story and why? Overall, which character are you in this story? Why? How does the encounter of St. Francis with the leper when what was "bitter became sweet," apply to this parable? How are you transformed/changed?

Imitate: How are you going to apply this story to your daily life? What change(s) might be necessary for you?

I am taking this opportunity to encourage everyone to become familiar with the Scriptures. Not only is it included in our Rule, but it is an indispensable part of our formation as Secular Franciscan Catholic Christians. If you're already doing this, good job! If not, I'm personally inviting you to start.

Peace and all good!

Please pray for: Jackie Didier, Sandy Kiraly, Marcyle Voigt, Joyce Wesner, and Barb Kluz.

SEPT. FRATERNITY GATHERING

Date: Sept. 15, 2024 **Time:** 1:30 pm

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

Chapter of Elections, Chris Bercaw, Regional Councilor, presiding

Food: Everyone

Liturgy of the Hours:

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Pages 629-630 & 931; Hymn: #184

Homebound: Acts 1:15-26

OCT. FRATERNITY GATHERING

Date: Oct. 20, 2024 **Time:** 1:30 pm

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

Formation: *Guide to the LOH* book Intro and Chapters 1 & 2

Food: Everyone

Liturgy of the Hours:

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Pages 635-636 & 712; Hymn: #33

Homebound: Daniel 10:1-21

PROFESSION ANNIVERSARIES

9/19/1999	Jackie Didier 25th Jubilee
9/23/2012	Rich Cain
10/18/2015	Carole Beiswanger Sandy Kiraly & Joy Olry
10/23/2005	Barb Braley

BIRTHDAYS

Rich Cain	9/3
Nancy Steinhofer	9/12
Barb Cain	9/20
<i>None in October</i>	

OCTOBER FORMATION QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

1. What is Liturgy (meaning and action)? What is the meaning and importance of the Liturgy of the Hours?
2. What does the Liturgy of the Hours (LOTH) mean to me and my prayer life and the prayer life of the Fraternity and the Church? (This form of prayer is also called the Divine Office and often used inter-changeably.)
3. As a lay person how does the LOTH add to the life of the Church, our fraternity, and our personal prayer lives?
4. Think about the traditions of praying with the Psalms in Chapter 2. Please reflect on your knowledge of the Psalms and praying with the Psalms. How else are the Psalms used?
5. Please reflect on your experience of praying with Scriptures and the Psalms and how the Liturgy of the Hours can both be similar and different than other forms of praying with the Scriptures like Lectio Divina, meditation and contemplation.
6. Please read and reflect on Vatican II document about Liturgy of the Hours in Sacrosanctum Concilium (*The Constitution On Sacred Liturgy*) sections 93-101. (You can access this document on the Vatican website/archives/Vatican II, Sacrosanctum Concilium, sections 93-101, if you do not have a copy of Vatican II documents.) Please read and reflect on our Rule, article 8, after reading about the LOTH.