

SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER

St. Charles Fraternity

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

Website: stcharlesfrat.com



January/February 2022

Minister: Joyce W.

Phone: 1-910-215-7432

Email: joyce.wesner@hotmail.com

Vice Minister: Joy O.

Phone: 260.452.7357

Email: jjolry@gmail.com

Secretary (temporary): Joyce W.

Phone: 1-910-215-7432

Email: joyce.wesner@hotmail.com

Treasurer: Nancy S.

Phone: 260.417.1791

Email:

nancy.steinhofer@gmail.com

Formation Director: Barb B.

Phone: 260.242.3256

Email: bbraley345@gmail.com

Spiritual Assistant

Sr. Mary

Phone: 260.399.7783

Email: mgovert@sf.edu

Prayer Tree: Vicki S.

Phone: 260.242.9342

Email:

sfo3vic4marcell@embarqmail.com

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 THE RULE

Rule, art 6 They have been made living members of the Church by being buried and raised with Christ in baptism; they have been united more intimately with the Church by profession. Therefore, they should go forth as witnesses and instruments of her mission among all people, proclaiming Christ by their life and words.

Called like Saint Francis to rebuild the Church and inspired by his example, let them devote themselves energetically to living in full communion with the pope, bishops, and priests, fostering an open and trusting dialog of apostolic effectiveness and creativity.

Words of Profession I, N.N., by the grace of God, renew my baptismal promises and consecrate myself to the service of His kingdom. Therefore, in my secular state, I promise to live all the days of my life the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Secular Franciscan order by observing its rule of life.

May the grace of the Holy Spirit, the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary and our holy father St. Francis, and the fraternal bonds of community always be my help, so that I may reach the goal of perfect Christian love.

Rule, art 12 Witnessing to the good yet to come and obligated to acquire purity of heart because of the vocation they have embraced, they should set themselves free to love God and their brothers and sisters.

Rule, art 7 United by their vocation as “brothers and sisters of penance” and motivated by the dynamic power of the gospel, let them conform their thoughts and deeds to those of Christ by means of that radical interior change which the gospel calls “conversion.” Human frailty makes it necessary that this conversion be carried out daily.

FROM OUR FORMATION DIRECTOR:

May the Lord give you peace!

Who am I? This is one of the “big box” questions that we ask ourselves at least once in our lives. How we answer it depends on what we believe. A person of faith will have a different perspective on who he/she is than one who does not.

In 1962, Pope St. John XXIII convened the Second Vatican Council. This Council produced 16 documents. There are two central documents, and 14 documents that are related to the two central documents. Someone told me once that all of the documents can be boiled down to two questions: who do we understand ourselves to be as Catholics and how do we live out that understanding. The two central documents begin to answer those two questions. The first document, the *Dogmatic Constitution on the Church (Lumen Gentium)*, is divided into eight chapters. Chapter 2 looks at who we are as the People of God, chapter 4 looks at the apostolate of the laity, and chapter 5 looks at the universal call to holiness. These are important chapters for us as Secular Franciscans. If you haven't read this document, I strongly encourage you to do so, especially these three chapters. (The other central document is the *Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World, or Gaudium et Spes*.)

As Secular Franciscans, we also have two central documents which parallel the two central documents of Vatican II. They are, as you might have guessed, the Rule and the Constitutions. Our Rule begins to answer the question as to who we understand ourselves to be as Secular Franciscans, and the Constitutions begin to answer the question as to how we live out this understanding.

Article 1 puts us in the context of the Church and how we are in union with each other as we “make present the charism of [our] common Seraphic Father in the life and mission of the Church.” Article 2 then puts us in the context of the Franciscan Family as a whole, while article 3 makes our Order relevant in the Church and in society. It is kind of easy just to skim over these three articles, but they are really important to our sense of identity within a larger context.

One of the emphases of the National Formation Commission and the National Council regarding formation, both initial and ongoing, is on *becoming*. Before we can do what we are called to do, we must *become* the people who can do.

Some of you know that I teach theology at the University of St. Francis. I understood back in the third grade that I wanted to be a teacher. In all honesty, I have never wanted to be anything else. From the third grade all the way through college, I formed myself as a teacher. I studied what other teachers did: what worked and what didn't and why; how they presented themselves in the classroom and how they related to their students. What qualities could I take and make them my own? And this last question, my dear brothers and sisters, is at the heart of formation. What qualities of Jesus, Francis, Clare, and others do I take and make my own?

When each of us takes this and enters in to relationships with others who are doing the same thing, we find ourselves in fraternity. Pretty cool, huh?

Aren't sure about how to make your contribution to the fraternity?

Just send it to:

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

Thank you for your generosity!

Chapter 6

1. *Before you start reading this chapter*, how do you define purity of heart? Read the chapter, then refer to pages 79 through the top of 83. Does your definition agree with Cantalamessa's? How did it differ? How does purity of heart relate to/contrast with Baptism and Confirmation? Why do we so strongly emphasize these Sacraments? Do we do it more from purity of heart or ritual purity (see page 81). How does all this relate to article 6 of our Rule? To our profession (see Ritual, pgs 23-24)? For further reflection, see the Catechism of the Catholic Church, articles 405,1253-1255, 1262 and 1265-1266.

2. Of the three traditional interpretations of purity of heart (moral, mystical, and ascetical), which do you most associate with St. Francis? With St. Clare? With yourself? (See pages 83-86) How do these interpretations relate to article 12 of our Rule?

3. Hypocrisy is originally from Greek: *hypo* = under *krinein* = to sift or decide; it also means *jealous, play-acting, acting out, coward, or dissembling*; from Greek theater, it literally means *an interpreter from underneath (the masks)*. This last definition reminded me of my mother who always referred to putting on her make up as "putting my face on." Further, in the world of autism there is a life within oneself and the life outside of oneself – a disconnect. Depending on the level of severity, bridges may be built to cross between the two. Hypocrisy is like autism in one sense in that there are two realities: interior and exterior that don't always connect. The chief difference between hypocrisy and autism is that hypocrisy is *chosen*, and autism is not. How does the union between the authentic person and the character/the interior and the exterior life relate to article 7 of our Rule? [(The following questions will not be asked during our fraternity gathering.) In what ways might you be "less" of a person and "more" of a character (a hypocrite)? How might this Beatitude help you? How might article 7 of our Rule help you?]

4. Can you give other examples of collective hypocrisy – even from within the Church? (See pages 89-95) How might individual, collective, and religious hypocrisy relate to the Prologue of our Rule?

From the Council:

There is a breakaway group of former Secular Franciscans who are specifically recruiting from the OFS. They are calling themselves the Third Order Secular Franciscans, a name which was abolished in 1978. They have adopted the Leonine Rule, which was abolished in 1978 when our current Rule was put into effect, and they reject the teachings of Vatican II. Their manner is exclusionary and secretive. They have told those they have lured away from the OFS not to tell anyone of their decision. This is cult-like behavior. We are not a cult, and we cannot be anachronistic – stuck in another time. We must be faithful to the profession we made! If anyone becomes aware of this going on, please inform the Council immediately.

Also, there is a Secular Franciscan who is disgruntled with our National Fraternity leadership. He is actively seeking the email addresses of other Secular Franciscans. One of his complaints is related to Fr. Jerome Wolbert's article on the breakaway group on pages 6 & 7 in the Fall 2021 issue of the Tau. He claims to be seeking a dialogue with the NEC, but on the other hand is inviting other like-minded Secular Franciscans to join his blog which condemns the National leadership. If you receive any contact from someone like this, **please do not give out anyone's email address.**

JANUARY FRATERNITY GATHERING

Date: Jan. 16, 2022 **Time:** 1:30 p.m.

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

Sr. Mary's talk: TBD

Beatitudes book: Chapter 6

See questions on page 3

Liturgy of the Hours: Evening Prayer II

2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time

Pages 246 & 786

Hymn: #40, page 1522

Homebound: Philippians 4:4-9



PROFESSION ANNIVERSARIES

Karen Amstutz & Ralph Stark

1/22/2012

10th anniversary

Many blessings to you both!

BIRTHDAYS

Sandy Kiraly 1/19

Carole Beiswanger 1/20

Henry Schmitt, Jr. 2/3

Ralph Stark 2/12

Mary Lou Sohn 2/14

JANUARY PAPAL PRAYER INTENTION

For true human fraternity

We pray for all those suffering from religious discrimination and persecution; may their own rights and dignity be recognized, which originate from being brothers and sisters in the human family.

Thought for this month: *Expect nothing, be Grateful for everything.*

Help! Arlene is no longer able to be our secretary.

Thank you, Arlene, for your service you have given us!

If someone is interested in being our secretary, please let Joyce know. ASAP Please!

We also need two people to send out cards to those who are unable to come to meetings for health or physical reasons. Cards need to be sent to these people on the following occasions: Christmas, Easter, Anniversary of date of Profession, Birthday, Death of a family member. Give your receipts for cards, stamps, etc. to our Treasurer, Nancy S.

We will provide you with the address, date of profession, and month & day of their birthday, for each of these members.