



SPIRITUS SANCTUS

Meeting Information:
St. Francis Catholic Church
Fourth Thursday of every month
5pm Eve Prayer; 5:30pm Mass
Time: 6:00 to 8:00 pm

*When the Spirit of truth comes He will guide
 you into all truth He will speak, He will
 declare and He will glorify.*

Newsletter deadline: Within 15 days before the meeting! Please submit articles/photos to: Annie Knakmuhs, ofs, maz1741@gmail.com

THE FRANCISCAN ORDERS

<https://queenofpeaceregion.org/the-franciscan-orders>

The First Order. For men whom God calls to walk exactly in St. Francis' footsteps, there is the First Order... The Capuchins, Conventuals and Friars Minor. In these, thousands of Priests and Brothers are cheerfully wearing the rough habit and sandals, and the poor and the forgotten, & in speaking joyfully to all men of the peace that comes from Christ.

The Second Order. For women there is St. Francis' Second Order, the Poor Clares. The spiritual daughters of Clare Scifi leave the world not because they hate it, but because they love the people in it. They spend their lives behind cloister walls so that they can give all their time and strength to begging God's mercy and His blessing on men and women everywhere. They are the strictest of the cloistered Orders, and the happiest.

The Third Order Regular. For men and women who wish to follow the spirit of St. Francis as religious in community life, but not in the First or Second Order, there is the Third Order Regular known as the "Secular Franciscan Order" or "Ordo Franciscanus Saecularis (OFS)"

The Third Order Secular gives the religious life to men and women, who feel called by the Holy Spirit to follow Christ in the "Spirit of Francis," but cannot leave their home and family for Monastery or convent. It offers to people of all occupations and conditions a rule that makes their life rich and peaceful by centering it around God. It fills them with the charity of St. Francis, which flows out into help and comfort for all their neighbors.

From the days of its founding, over 800 years ago, the Third Order of St. Francis (Secular Franciscan Order) has been the inspiration to many and at present there are over 4 million members worldwide.

FEBRUARY / MARCH / APRIL

If we've missed your important date, our apologies; please let Annie know.

BIRTHDAY:

Feb 13 - Michelle Johnson	Apr 14 - Fr. Tony Wroblewski
Feb 25 - Annie Knakmuhs	Apr 19 - Yvette Dullinger
Feb 26 - Pat Walsh	Apr 27 - Paula Brunt, Richard Hansen
Mar 30 - Colleen Seevers	

RITE OF ADMISSION:

Feb 26 - Annie Knakmuhs, Margaret Schrader & Colleen Seevers (2011)

PROFESSION:

WEDDINGS / ORDINATIONS / VOWS:

Feb 11 - John ♥ Kathy Kowalke Feb 14 - Judy ♥ Tom Muehlbauer
 Margaret ♥ Tom Schrader

OUR FRANCISCAN SPIRITUALITY AS EXPERIENCED BY LIVING THE GOSPEL

~Margaret Schrader, O.F.S.

The national priority on Fraternity for 2020 is Journey Together in Love and Compassion This theme echoes Christ's call to "Love one another as I have loved you." Franciscans are called to be instruments of unity, to be the bridge, and in the words of St. Francis, "To heal wounds to unite what has fallen apart, and to bring home those who have lost their way." May God's grace, and the bonds of fraternity, be our help when we are faced with situations that challenge our commitment to unity. Who is God calling us to reach out to with love and compassion? *~Excerpt Tau-USA Winter 2019.*

"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me." (Matt 25:35-36)

Living the Gospel has been more impressed upon my heart as I continue to journey with St. Francis in the Secular Franciscan Order. One way I have personally found is by working on retreats called REC (residents encountering Christ). This is a two-day retreat held in county or state correctional facilities. "So then, my beloved, obedient as you have always been, not only when I am present but all the more now when I am absent, work out your salvation with fear and trembling." (Phil 2:15). I am so thankful to God for prompting me, through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, to say "yes". Inside the walls were many men and women filled with God's hope and love.

From the first day to the ending on Sunday evening, many have experienced God's love through talks, personal testimonies, & sharing. I will always remember one man's words at the closing, "I wasn't arrested, I was rescued. All glory to God". It has been a privilege to be given the grace to serve these men and women in such a beautiful way. This is just one way I have found to live out the Gospel. Who is God calling you to reach out to with love and compassion?

Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect hospitality, for through it some have unknowingly entertained angels. (Heb 13:1-3).

I HUMILITY IN THE FACE OF GOD'S SPECIAL GIFTS.

When you are visited by God in prayer, you should say, "Lord, you have sent me this comfort from heaven, even though I am a sinner and unworthy, and I entrust it to your keeping because I feel like a thief of your treasures. And when you leave your prayer, you should seem to be only a poor little sinner, and not someone especially graced by God.

Saint Francis always tried to keep as holy secrets the special graces he received from God, including the sacred stigmata. He here admonishes his brothers to do the same in order to preserve holy humility and to reverence the intimate touches of God, who is their divine lover.

Do I remember to give thanks for the special touches of God in my life? How do I hold sacred the special experiences I have had of God's presence to me? **Today I will _____**

Pg 102, The Simple Way, Meditations on the Words of Saint Francis by Murray Bodo, O.F.M.



"Yes, my heart's dear one, Jesus, is here with His cross. Since you are one of His favorites, he wants to make you into His likeness; why be afraid that you will not have the strength to carry this cross without a struggle? On the way to Calvary, Jesus did indeed fall three times and you, poor little child, would like to be different from your spouse, would rather not fall a hundred times if necessary to prove your love to Him by getting back up with even more strength than before your fall!"

PLEASE CONTINUE TO GIVE THE DAILY GIFT OF PRAYER to those on our fraternity Prayer Calendar. If you have misplaced yours, talk to Annie for another copy. Also keep those on the Franciscan prayer line in your prayers. May God bless you all for the generosity of your time.

SPIRITUS SANCTUS COUNCIL MEMBERS

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In our February, 2020 initial formation session, discussion regarding the Prologue of our Rule brought some good discussion forward as well as much food for thought (Scripture quotes, love of God and others, self-centeredness, faith-stance daily, on-going conversion, etc.) . Check out this message from our Regional Minister, Hazel Martin — an excerpt from the Winter 2018 Tracings. This is pertinent for each and every year and not just for 2018! Thank you, Hazel.

MINISTERS MESSAGE - A NEW KIND OF FOOL

By Hazel Martin, OFS Regional Minister

In the Prologue of our Rule, Francis tells us that "all who love the Lord with their whole heart, with their whole soul and mind, and with all their strength....and persevere in doing [this] will be happy and blessed because the spirit of the Lord will rest upon them and make his home and dwelling [place] among them....and [these] men and women are the spouses, brothers [and sisters] and mothers of our Lord Jesus Christ." Further, "we are spouses when by the Holy Spirit [our] faithful soul is united with our Lord Jesus Christ. We are mothers when we carry [Jesus] in our heart and body through divine love, and we give birth to him through a holy life which must give light to others by example." Also, I think we can give birth to Jesus through our words and our attitudes. It is my understanding that Francis was passionate about following the life and teachings of Jesus. In the book Mirror of Perfection (68), Francis said, "God has called me by the way of simplicity and humility, and has in truth revealed this way for me and for all who are willing to trust and follow me. So I do not want you to quote any other Rule to me, whether that of St. Benedict, St. Augustine, or St. Bernard, or to recommend any other way or form of life except this way which God in His mercy has revealed and given to me. The Lord told me that He wished me to be a new kind of simpleton in this world, and He does not wish us to live by any other wisdom but this" (Omnibus of Sources, 1197). In journeying through 2018 ..., we will have opportunities to 'be an occasion for others to encounter the 'Risen Christ'. As Secular Franciscans, may we be mindful of being a new kind of fool as we live the Spirit of St. Francis in the world.

~Excerpt from Tracings, Winter 2018

**Rite of Profession
Feb 27, 2020**

Congratulations to our new candidates:
Yvette Dullinger,
Richard Hansen,
Suzanne Gramer
and Paula Brunt
with Fr. Tony Wroblewski, ofs

