



**St. Mary's Fraternity
Secular Franciscans**

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Minister's Message

July 2022

Brothers and Sisters,

My heart is full. What a wonderful Profession Celebration! May the blessings of that day bring all the fruits of the Holy Spirit.

I believe each of us, with the exception of 2, have been featured in our newsletter. If any of you happen to be in the presence of Therese or Josephine, would you take a minute to snap their photo (with your phone and text it me at 319-230-6316) and capture any details about them that they would like to share with our community. It would be wonderful to hear their story and to have a face to go with a name...especially since we have so many new members.

A LONG while back, we had challenged each other to create an "elevator pitch" titled: **Why are you a Secular Franciscan**. I would like to revisit that challenge and share one or two a month in our newsletter. I will include them in the order that I receive them. I gave each of you a small stack of business card-sized "invites" for you to carry and share as you cross paths with **someone that may have a Franciscan calling**. As you hand someone the card, that would be the time to share your elevator speech.

The average speaker can say about 75 words in 30 seconds, without interruption. This 30-second timeframe is what's typically allotted for the ever-so-popular elevator pitch... any longer and whomever you're talking to may walk away.

On that same line...I would like to plan some fall Come & Sees. Please remember...we don't have to wait for a Come and See to invite. After September, we will have only one person in Initial Formation. Let's put some thought into it.

Create a possible invitation list...Does it contain:

- men & women?
- Someone in their 20's, 30's, 40's, and 50+?
- someone from Catholic organizations...like CEW's, CCW's, Knights, etc.
- someone you see at Mass? Holy Days? Daily Mass? In the choir, reading, leading bible studies, etc.

Begin advanced planning and coordinate with Brenda. There is much to do...

- Find a location
- Set a date
- Announce in the bulletin
- Create/Send invitations
- Plan refreshments

Katie has created a **GOOGLE ACCOUNT** for St. Mary's Fraternity. This will be a place where **Meeting Minutes, Photos, Electronic Copies of Bulletin Notices, Prayers, and much**

more can be accessed...including **Come and see Invites** you can download, add YOUR contact information, print and share. She has also created some HISTORICAL / TIMELINE documents that will help us tell our story in the NEXT 100 years. This is a work-in-progress so check back and see what has been added AND offer suggestions of what you would like to see in the file.

- [Documents for the faithful](#)
- [Regular Meeting Notes](#)

2022 Calendar - Typically the first Sunday

- exceptions made for holidays and regional meetings.

Gather at noon at St. Mary's, Greene

Changes because of weather will be broadcasted through text messages.

Jan. 9	July 10
Feb. 6	Aug. 7
March 6	Sept. 11
April 3	Oct. 2
May 1	Nov. 6
June 12	Dec. 4

There has been interest in alternating meeting locations between Greene and Waterloo. If those of you in the Waterloo/Cedar Falls area worked together, your combined knowledge of area will find the perfect location. Please come to the July meeting with possible locations in Waterloo/Cedar Falls for the August 17th meeting (check that the space

is available...and the fee...so we can vote) .

See you in **Greene, July 10th** at noon.

Pax ~ Brenda Schmitt, OFS

Remember:

- Pray for your secret-prayer-partner and plan on revealing your identity at the meeting.
- Join us for the Crown Rosary on Wed. evenings at 8:00 PM on ZOOM... <https://tinyurl.com/CFFranciscan>...Password: 1234

St. Mary's Fraternity is going online!

We're taking our second step in utilizing the internet for the convenience of our members. Our Zoom meetings have greatly benefited us when we couldn't meet face-to-face and now we have documents available online for you to peruse at your leisure. Please note that you may be getting emails and calendar invitations from stmarysfranciscans@gmail.com. Some of these calendar invitations are automated to remind you of upcoming events so be sure to pull them out of the Spam Filter!

Katie Williams, OFS

Secretary

St. Mary's Fraternity
Sunday, July 10, 2022
St. Mary's Church, 105 N Main St, Greene IA

Agenda

- 12:00 **Gather / Pot Luck / Welcome Visitors**
Intentions, Share Prayer Partners
- 12:30 **Opening Prayer**
Gospel to Life
Prayer to the Holy Spirit - Charles
First Reading - Craig
Gospel Reading - Denise
Lead Discussion - Hazel
- 1:15 **Necessary Business**
Treasurer's Report
Common Fund Prayer
August Meeting Location
Fall Regional Meeting update (September in Bloomington)
- 1:20 **BREAK**
- 1:20 **Ongoing Formation**
Looking to St. Francis - Chapter 11 - Jim
- 1:50 **Prayer for the Sick**
Memorare
Closing Prayer
Final Blessing
-



Meet Our Brother Craig Reindl

Hi, I'm Craig Reindl and live in Mason City with my wife, Sarah and sons, John and Charlie. Our children attend Newman Catholic in Mason City. My wife is self employed and I work for an airline. We are members of Epiphany Parish and look forward to becoming a professed Franciscan in the near future.

Calendar of Events

- July 12 - Birthday - Katie Williams, OFS
July 26 - Profession Anniversary - Barb Brown, OFS

Check out the Franciscan Feast Days for July at <https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/july-franciscan-calendar.html>

St. Mary's Fraternity had a busy spring as we...

- welcomed Craig Reindl into Initial Formation...
- and collected and donated 115 pairs of socks to the Shelters in Waterloo, Cedar Rapids and Mason City.
- and we were joined by the San Damiano Fraternity for our June retreat in preparation for the Profession of Barb Sanders, Jim Roche, Tom Schoellen and Julie Jung.
- and on July 12th, Fr. Davis celebrated a beautiful Mass as four of St. Mary's members became Profession members of the Secular Franciscans.
- Thank you San Damiano Fraternity for joining us in the celebration!



A Message from Melody Taninies, OFS

Spiritual Assistant

Being a Cheerleader for Secular Franciscans

Give me an "O"! Give me an "F"! Give me an "S"! What does it spell?? OFS. What does it stand for??? Uhhhhhh Super Fantastic Seculars??? No, but it could. In my way of thinking that description is quite valid. Our Order is both super and fantastic! Let me tell you a few reasons why after having spent the first few weekends of June with them.

This surge of pride and the sense of wanting to be a cheerleader for our Order began with the Annual Minister's Meeting & 30th Anniversary Celebration of the establishment of our Queen of Peace Region in Buffalo, MN, the first weekend of June. Every fraternity in our very large region was represented there by their Minister or a delegate. Add to those numbers the Regional Executive Council, Spiritual Assistants, Formation Directors, council members from all over the region, spouses and many visitors.

The weekend was truly a great celebration and we were blessed in many ways, one of which was by the presence of two individuals from NAFRA which for those new to Franciscan acronyms is the *National Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order*. It's the ruling body above our Queen of Peace Region. Although they came for an official visit to the Regional Council, all of us benefited once their business was complete.

(1) Flown in from his home base in Australia, Fr. Chris Shorrocks, OFM Conv., Conference of National Spiritual Assistants (C.N.S.A.) shared his wisdom, humor and a really fun accent.

(2) By way of Guam (but resident of Frisco, TX) Josh Molitor, OFS, National Web Administrator further inspired us by the way the Holy Spirit has been working in his life. Both of them encouraged us to keep inviting people to take a look, come and see, and check out the Order.

Together we visited, laughed, prayed, worshipped and learned from / with those we don't get to see very often. We shared the joy of our vocation and, as we parted at the end of the weekend, we were already looking forward to next year's meeting. Besides Brenda and I, our soon-to-be-professed Jim was also there. Ask him about his experience. We encourage you all to join this annual meeting at least once in your life to feed and nourish your Franciscan spirit!

Then seven days later the long-awaited day arrived for our four Candidates. Such joy and happiness for us as they were officially received into the Franciscan family. The mass at St. Mary's couldn't have been more beautiful. The music was provided by our fraternity: Sue May provided the accompaniment for our cantors Tony May and Jim Roche (Jim got some extra exercise jogging back and forth from the balcony and the front pew where his classmates were seated).

Fr. Ralph Davis, pastor of St. Mary's was the celebrant and he'd been looking forward to this day as much as we were. He wrote a special homily just for us, bringing Francis and our spirituality into the theme of the day, the Solemnity of the Holy Trinity. We are grateful his transfer had been scheduled AFTER this Profession day. He has been so kind and generous to us since opening up his parish for our monthly gatherings. We shall miss him.

Congratulations to our newest members: Julie Jung, OFS; Jim Roche, OFS; Barb Sanders, OFS and Tom Schoellen, OFS. You are now part of the greatest Order in the Catholic Church!!! Yeah!!!

Formation Director

Katherine Osterman, OFS

What a beautiful, spirit-filled day Sunday, June 12th was, with the profession of four beautiful people into our Secular Franciscan Order. The Mass was so meaningful and Father Davis's Homily was so appropriate. We are truly Blessed.

For ongoing formation please read the final chapter of ***Looking to St. Francis***...chapter 11.

May God Bless each of you abundantly and please keep our sick Fraternity Brother and Sisters in your Prayers.

Katherine

THE RULE OF THE SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER

CHAPTER ONE: THE SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER

1. The Franciscan family, as one among many spiritual families raised up by the Holy Spirit in the Church, unites all members of the people of God -- laity, religious, and priests - who recognize that they are called to follow Christ in the footsteps of Saint Francis of Assisi.

In various ways and forms but in life-giving union with each other, they intend to make present the charism of their common Seraphic Father in the life and mission of the Church.

Article 1 How did you recognize that you were called to follow Francis to Christ? Did a person or event awake you to the call? What one charism (there are many!!) of Francis speaks the loudest to your spirit?

Have you subscribed yet? This is a sample message I received from the Tau-Daily group. ~Brenda

SUBSCRIBE TO THE TAU DAILY EMAIL LIST

Receive a daily email featuring, in rotation, the Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order, the Admonitions of St. Francis, an article from the OFS General Constitutions, / OFS USA National Statutes, Franciscan quote, and a Franciscan saint of the day. This is not a discussion list.

To subscribe, send a blank email to:
TAU-Daily-subscribe@yahoogroups.com



IS THIS YOUR JACKET? Text me and I will bring it to the next meetings.

Otherwise, I will check with San Damiano to see if it is theirs.

Franciscan Supplies and Resources

St. Mary's Documents

- [Documents for the faithful](#)
- [Regular Meeting Notes](#)

[Queen of Peace Region Secular Franciscan Order](#)
[Secular Franciscan Order USA](#)
[National Fraternity of Secular Franciscans](#)

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