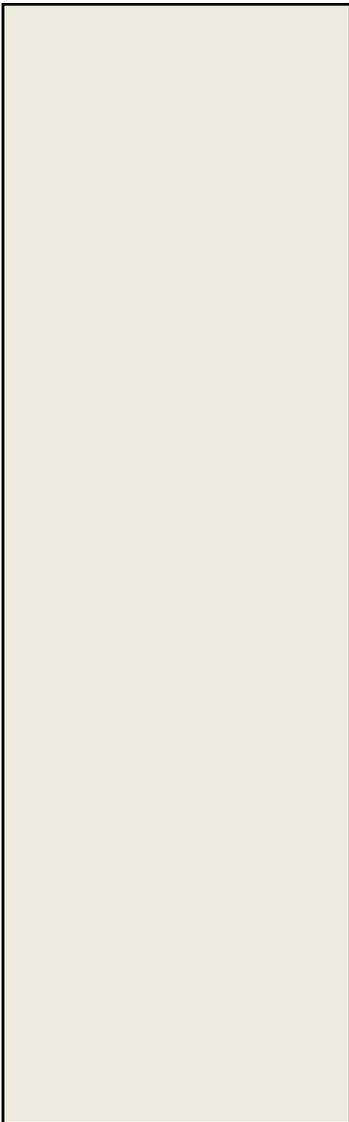




"See Christ,  
Be Christ,  
Share the Vision"



## Immaculate Conception Fraternity

Mishawka, IN

[Francis'] highest aim, foremost desire . . . to follow the teaching of our Lord Jesus Christ and to retrace His footsteps completely . . . (FA:ED, Vol. 1, p. 254)"



September 4, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

*"Trusting the Father, Christ chose for Himself and His mother a poor and humble life, even though He valued created things attentively and lovingly. Let the Secular Franciscans seek a proper spirit of detachment from temporal goods by simplifying their own material needs. Let them be mindful that according to the gospel they are stewards of the goods received for the benefit of God's children. Thus, in the spirit of the Beatitudes, and as pilgrims and strangers on their way to the home of the Father, they should strive to purify their hearts from every tendency and yearning for possession and power (RULE, Chapter 2: 3 11)."*

**WEBSITE:** If you haven't already done so, please treat yourself to our emerging web site — the fruits of labor and love by Cynthia Nikolai, OFS, one of our Candi dates. Little by little, Cindy is adding the information needed and that we would like to have available to us. The first page and the picture gallery is very much in progress and you may check it out at this web-address:

<https://www.immaculateconceptionsfousa.org/>

Cindy is working from the East Coast where she is caring for her parents, teaching, and working on our lovely website. She has been helped by a dear friend of hers, Jane Lockhart.

If you have any photos that we can add — especially of fraternity Gatherings, outings, retreats, etc. please send them my way as we need pictures with *real, live Franciscans!* During the past week, Cindy and I have been working on adding pictures to the Photo Gallery and would like having more pictures with members of the fraternity in them.



**SEPTEMBER GATHERING:** As announced by Linda O'Neal, an August gathering will take place on August 15 at St. Thomas Church in Elkhart. Please refer to Linda's letter for details. The rules for wearing a mask, social distancing, and bringing your own food apply, as well as non-attendance if you are not feeling well or are at risk health wise.

**FORMATION CLASSES:** are not allowing the pandemic to keep them from growing and deepening in the formation of the Franciscan life. They have mastered the art of ZOOM and are continuing their journey. Thanks to their Formators for the extra work involved with setting up the classes and I'm sure the blessings of St. Francis are with you for your generous gift to the Franciscan Order.

**COMMON FUND:** The pandemic has not lessened each person's responsibility to contribute to the Common Fund — the fraternity will still need to send its FAIR SHARE to Our Lady of Indiana Region and the region will still need to send its share to the National Fraternity, and they to the General Fraternity for expenses around the world. Also, from time to time our Immaculate Conception Fraternity needs to assist its own members with crises that arise. So please consider sending your FAIR SHARE to:



Sue Daly, OFS, 60760 Beech Road, Osceola, IN 46561

***"The family that prays together and plays together stays together".***

#### 4. PRAYER INTENTIONS:

- ◆ Tim Short's complete recovery from throat cancer as he is treated by radiation.
- ◆ Carolyn Ramirez, OFS, for complete recovery from Covid 19.
- ◆ Sandy and Charlie Maichen for ongoing health problems.
- ◆ For those who have lost loved ones recently: Julie Scalise, OFS, son Greg; Tina Popiela, OFS, husband, Bob; Art Singleton, OFS, sister, Teri; all our departed brothers and sisters and family members. May the rest in the peace of the Lord!
- ◆ Teachers, students and parents facing "back to school" difficulties and painful decisions due to the pandemic: may their decisions protect the health of each and every young person and faculty member.
- ◆ For those searching for an effective and safe vaccine, that their efforts may bear fruit for the health of the entire world.
- ◆ For doctors, nurses, and front line workers and their safety and protection.
- ◆ For the police officers and fire personnel protecting our cities: may they be protected from harm.
- ◆ That those causing unrest, violence, and mayhem in our cities may be brought to both interior and exterior peace as well as to justice.
- ◆ As peacemakers, may we Franciscans be on the front lines of offering to others what St. Francis asks us to do. Namely, "Wherever you are, greet each other with 'The Lord give you peace'."
- ◆ For all those persons in leadership positions in the Church, in the world, in our country: may the Wisdom of the Holy Spirit guide them for the good, the health, and the safety of all those in their care.
- ◆ For all the members of our families who may be suffering in any way.
- ◆ That we may recall that "all lives matter" from conception until natural death and that the "culture of death" may be eradicated in all its forms.



"To see beyond an image, to hear beyond a sound, to smell beyond an odor, to taste without tongue, and to touch without contact; those actions open the doors of contemplation. To know questions, not answers, to reach in and reach out, contemplation seeks to encounter the deepest part of the Other – and the Self – where boundaries blur and the heart opens completely to Love. "

*(Today's One Word is a reflection in homage to St. Clare of Assisi, and an attempt to share my deepest respect, admiration, and love for all of my Poor Clare Sisters, who spend their lives in contemplation. Fr. Jack Clark Robinson, OFM)."*



**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**  
*ALL EVENTS SUBJECT TO CHANGE*

**OCTOBER:**

- October 2: Solemnity of St. Mary of the Angels
- October 3: Transitus of St. Francis
- October 4: Solemnity of St. Francis of Assisi.b
- October 10: Regional Executive Council by ZOOM
- October 17: Fraternity Gathering: St. Thomas, Elkhart
- October 20: Council Meeting by ZOOM
- October 24: Gathering of Donations for Our Lady of the Road: Convent at 1:00, Auditorium Parking Lot
- October 25: Our Lady of the Road

**NOVEMBER:**

- November 14: Profession of David Schlunt, OFS, and Marie Alvarez: More Information to Follow
- November 17: Feast of St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Patroness of the Third Order
- November 24: Commemoration of all Deceased Members of the Franciscan Order
- November 21: Gathering of Donations for Our Lady of the Road: Convent at 1:00, Auditorium Parking Lot
- November 22: Our Lady of the Road
- November 24: Council Meeting by ZOOM
- November 29: Feast of All Saints of the Franciscan Order

**DECEMBER:**

- December 8: Patronal Feast of Immaculate Conception Fraternity
- December 15: Council Meeting by ZOOM
- December 17: Birthday of our Holy Father Pope Francis
- December 19: Monthly Gathering at St. Thomas Parish in Elkhart
- December 19: Gathering of Donations for Our Lady of the Road
- December 20: Our Lady of the Road