

Newsletter: Divine Mercy Region Secular Franciscan Order



Lower Michigan and Toledo, Ohio

July, 2014

From Our Regional Minister

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"In the developed countries, there is a poverty of intimacy, a poverty of spirit, of loneliness, of lack of love. There is no greater sickness in the world than that one."
Mother Teresa

In Luke 10:25, Jesus is asked by a scholar of the law, "What must I do to inherit eternal life? Jesus asks him how he reads the scriptures and the scribe answers "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength, with all your mind and your neighbor as yourself." Jesus tells him he is correct and adds "do this and you will live." First and foremost what I take from this is that there is eternal life and when Jesus makes references "to live or life", he is referring to eternal life and therefore references to death in scripture mean eternal damnation.

How am I to love God? ... totally, holding nothing back. I am to give him my will and accept with gratitude whatever happens to me daily, whether good or bad, as coming from the will of the Father. What a blessing when Jesus says you are correct: there is eternal life. I am grateful that Jesus is merciful and loves me unconditionally.

Although the above quotes suggest that going to heaven is all about being good, I think it is more than that, it is about orientation. It is about love. Total, unconditional love of God and our unconditional love of neighbor. If we live our life and love in that way, we cannot help but be kind and caring to those we meet daily. Even those who are the most disguised image of Jesus. Even those who are unkind to us. We cannot say we love God, whom we do not see, if we cannot love the neighbor that we do see.

May the Lord give you peace.
Jim Howard, OFS
Minister





Dear Ministers,

I want to remind everyone that this year's chapter meeting will be held on the weekend of August 8, 2014. We will be having a Pastoral and Fraternal visitation from the National fraternity. We will be meeting at the St. Francis Retreat Center in DeWitt, Michigan. The visitors will be Fr. Steve Gross and the National minister, Tom Bello.

Registration will commence at 4:30 Friday evening. The cost for each fraternity minister or the minister's delegate is paid for by the Region. All fraternity ministers **are required** to attend the chapter meeting or send a delegate. Other Secular Franciscans are welcome to attend at their own cost.

The Regional Council and myself look forward to seeing you all again. May the Lord continue to bless all of you and your fraternities.

Jim Howard, OFS
Minister - Divine Mercy Region

Nickels & Dimes

By Ray Boisvenue OFS, Regional Treasurer

How old is the position of Treasurer? What is a Treasurer? Now don't go running to our Statutes and Constitution! The Treasurer is someone elected or appointed to be responsible to the best of their abilities to record receipts and to disburse funds and report. This is a talent. A gift from God. Something special.

Treasurers go back as far as the time of King George of England and accounting, and even further back in time to 1494. We can read that a Franciscan Friar named Luca Pacioli is called The Father of Accounting. He didn't invent accounting but wrote the first book on accounting. But in fact, treasurers go back even farther than that! We can read about treasurers in Jesus' time.

There is the anointing at Bethany. Then Judas said, "Why was this oil not sold for three hundred days' wages and given to the poor?" Spoken like a good conservative treasurer. He said this not because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief and held the money bag. (*John 12:5-7*) Judas was not a good example of a fine treasurer.

We can even go back to the very beginning of accountability: the eating of the forbidden fruit. God asks Adam, "You had eaten, then of the tree of which I had forbidden you to eat?" The man answered, "The woman whom you put here with me, she gave from the tree, so I ate it." The Lord asked the woman, "Why did you do such a thing?" She answered, "The serpent tricked me into it, and so I ate it." (*Genesis 3:12-13*) So there you have it. The very first accounting. The woman gave the first accounting of herself and her actions. The existence of the position of Treasurer has been in place since the beginning of time and by a woman.

A suggestion for treasurers at the fraternity gathering. All monies received should be recorded at the gathering and counted by a second person (preferably someone on the Council) and both should sign the written record.



Please note that this year's Annual Day of Formation for inquirers, candidates, and newly professed will be held in Saginaw at the Center for Ministry on Saturday, November 1st, 2014. Registrations will be available online and at the August Annual Meeting for Ministers.

Please also note that the Formation Team and I have heard your requests and would like some feedback on the following ways to help you with your needs: Would your Fraternities consider hosting an annual day of reflection? We would love to come and offer this reflection time together if the East side and the West side of Michigan would gather together. One day of

reflection for East side of the state and one day of reflection for the West side of the state, possibly in the early fall and in the late spring. (The fraternities in Northern part of the state have already been offering days of reflection, usually in June.)

Hosting a day would include the group of fraternities from that side of the state to: for instance, be in charge of finding the facility, one or two fraternities be in charge of hospitality, one in charge of registration, one in charge of possibly inviting a priest for Mass, etc. Thank you for your consideration and emailing me to let me know what you think. (pattir.ofs@gmail.com)

Does Your Fraternity Need a Spiritual Assistant?

Another class of Spiritual Assistant Training will begin soon. We are looking for individuals who feel a call to serve as Spiritual Assistants to Fraternities in our Region.

The National Council is encouraging MINISTERS OF ALL FRATERNITIES to take the course in order to become familiar with the responsibilities and duties of a SA. Taking this course as a Minister does not require you to become a SA. You will gain much knowledge to make you an informed Minister and an informed member of your Fraternity.

The class size is limited to 10 members. Please submit your name or the name of a person from your Fraternity who you feel may have a call and may be interested in being part of this class. Send the information to Linda Solis. . . .

Graduation Mission Project 

In a dual attempt to evangelize young adults and familiarize them with the Secular Franciscan Order, St. David Fraternity has been gifting graduates in their respective parishes with a

“Catholic Packet” since 2008. The gifts were given at the receptions after the Graduation Baccalaureate Masses. The packet contained a congratulatory letter from St. David Fraternity, brief information on the OFS, a scapular, a rosary, and three pamphlets. The Pamphlets were: *How to Pray the Rosary with Meditations*, *Keeping the Faith: A Guide for Catholic College Students*, and *The Infinite Value of the Holy Mass*. Our hopes are that young people will embrace the prayer of the rosary, wear the scapular and continue the practice of attending Holy Mass while away or at home during their college years. One of our permanently excused members graciously used her scrap-booking skills to enhance the packaging while others put the materials together. We hope we have made a difference in our ministry to our youth.

Respectfully submitted,

Leigh Lentine, SFO
St. David Fraternity
Washington, MI



Catholic Packet from St. David's Fraternity



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Prayer Methods

Anonymous

The disciple asks his master, “What can I do to attain God?”

The master answers by asking, “What can you do to make the sun rise?”

The disciple says indignantly, “Then why are you giving us all these methods of prayer?”

And the master replies, “To make sure you’re awake when the sun rises.”

The Sower’s Seeds, Brian Cavanaugh, T.O.R., pg40

You can find us on the Internet at: www.divinemercuryregion.org

Please send stories and pictures of your fraternity’s events to Jan or Linda:

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