

Divine Mercy Regional Fraternity
NEWSletter

Divine Mercy Regional Fraternity of
Lower Michigan and Toledo Ohio

Messengers of peace moving forward with Francis

November, 2006



Executive Council

Minister

Mary Bittner, SFO

Vice Minister

Roger Ensign, SFO

Secretary

Jean Martin, SFO

Treasurer

Rosemary Hannaford, SFO

Councilors

Robert Brundage, SFO

Pat Carsley, SFO

Marie Criste, SFO

Lois Flickinger, SFO

Formation Minister

Marie Amore, SFO,



The Cross in the Woods, one of Michigan's best known and most visited shrines, is home to St. Anthony Fraternity in Indian River.

We're back !

With this issue the Executive Council will resume producing this publication on a bi-monthly basis. The NEWSletter will be smaller, but we are hoping that by keeping it small we will be able to get information to you in a more timely manner.

Formation Minister Marie Amore has mentioned that she would like to see more news and less preaching. Other members of the Executive Council believe that the NEWSletter should contain news from local fraternities, a list of upcoming elections and the results of recent elections and articles about what will and has happened in the Region.

Now we are hoping that you will help us make the NEWSletter a vehicle for sharing news from your local fraternity with the rest of our brothers and sisters. Just email us your news. If you don't have email, the Post Office still delivers the US mail in Alpena. See the accompanying box for details.

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Divine Mercy NEWSletter is a bi-monthly publication of Divine Mercy Regional Fraternity of Lower Michigan and Toledo, Ohio.

Local fraternities are encouraged to send their news and upcoming events to the editor.

The deadline for the January issue is December 15.

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Editor
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Alpena, MI 49707

Meet the Executive Council

Marie Amore, SFO
Formation Minister and
so much more

At our annual meeting of Divine Mercy Regional Fraternity, held August 26 and 28, 2005 at St. John's Center for Youth and Family in Plymouth, the members of the Regional Fraternity elected a new Executive Council to serve them for the next three years. Starting with this issue we will be profiling members of the Executive Council so that we can all get to know one another better.

Marie Amore, SFO



Upcoming Elections

November 5, 2006
St Phillip Neri, Battle
Creek

November 8, 2006
St Maximillian Kolbe
Alpena

November 9, 2006
St Bonaventure
Lansing

Immediately after the August 26 election, the members of the new Executive Council met. The first order of business for them was to name a new Formation Minister. With very little need for discussion and with no opposition whatsoever the Council agreed that they should invite Marie Amore, SFO to serve the Regional Fraternity once again. Fortunately for all of us Marie readily agreed. Once you meet her we think that you will all agree that we are fortunate indeed to have Marie continuing that work on our behalf.

A glance at Marie's formidable resume will assure anyone that Marie is, and has been, active in Secular Franciscan life since November, 1950. (We didn't know that they even professed people that young back then.) The depth of her experience ranges from the local fraternity where she has served as both Minister and Formation Minister to a place on the International Council. Marie was already experienced in working on

the National Council when she began working with us as we formed our Region. Her resume tells us much about all of the things that Marie has done in and for the Secular Franciscan Order, but it cannot tell us much about who Marie really is as a Franciscan. Marie herself says that her primary vocation is as a mother and grandmother. Marie and her late husband parented 9 children, and she is now grandmother to 20 grandchildren and one great-grandchild. In her spare time – and we all know how much spare time mothers and grandmothers have – Marie was a successful businesswoman. Marie says that her first love in the Order is, and always has been, Formation. Even now she

is serving on the International Formation Commission, and she is the National Vocations Director. If you call the National Vocation number 1-800-Francis, you will be speaking with Marie. On the local level she is serving as Vice Minister of Troubadours of St. Clare Fraternity, and she is a member of their formation team. With all of this on her plate we should be both grateful and humbled that Marie would agree to accept the Executive Council's invitation to continue her dedicated service to the brothers and sisters of our Regional Fraternity.

Marie says that her first love in the Order is, and always has been, Formation.



Passings

Father Gregory Andrew Kurutz, OFM

Father Gregory Andrew Kurutz, OFM was called to his eternal reward on Monday, October 2, 2006 at the age of 79. His most recent assignment had been as Spiritual Assistant to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Fraternity, Lewiston. He was also Administrator and then Pastor at St. Francis of

Assisi Parish in Lewiston, where he has served since 1993. He celebrated his 50th Jubilee on June 13, 2004 at the Parish in Lewiston.

Father Gregory was born October 1, 1927 in Chicago, Illinois.

He was ordained on June 14, 1954 at Holy Name Parish in Cedar Lake,

Indiana. He was a member of the Franciscan Order of the Province of the Assumption B.V.M. in Pulaski, Wisconsin.

Father Gregory began his priesthood at Our Lady of the Angels Parish in Green Bay, Wisconsin and came to the Diocese of Gaylord in 1978.



Vernon C. Dean, SFO

Vernon C. Dean, SFO, aged 86, of Kentwood, passed away Wednesday, October 4, 2006.

Surviving are his beloved wife of 60 years, Marjorie; children, Reverend Joseph R. Dean, SCJ, Robert and Kristi Dean, Molly A. Dean and Raymond Thibeault, Margo T. Dean, SFO, Catherine M. and Kenneth Haarstad, Monica R. Dean, Judith M. Dean and Anthony Colucci III; 11 grandchildren, Katie, Kevin, Ben, Seth, Michelle, Amy, Allen, Monica, Sara, Bryan, Christopher and Thomas; five great grandchildren, Lazlo, Liska, Adam, Daniel and Susan, and a sister-in-law, Mary Dean. Mr. Dean was preceded in death by his brother, James Dean and sister, Rita Stephens.

Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Monday, October 9 at 11 a.m. in St. Mary Magdalen Church, 1213 52nd Street SE with Reverend Joseph R. Dean, SCJ, celebrant. Entombment Resurrection Cemetery.

A Secular Franciscan Scripture Service was held Sunday at 7:00 p.m. and the family met with friends and relatives Sunday and Monday one hour before the Mass at Church. Memorial contributions may be made to Food for the Poor or Catholic Relief Services.

John D'Anna, SFO

John D'Anna, SFO, aged 81, passed away October 11, 2006. He was a member of St. David Fraternity in Washington, MI and a former member of St. Bonaventure Fraternity in Detroit.

He is survived by his wife, Josephine; children Bernadette (Gerald) Caruso, John Paul (Karen), Ann Marie (Paul) D'Anna-Kashat, Michael, Frances Rose (William) Orchard, Mary Beth (Michael) Hennigan, Christina (Kurt) Davies; 10 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren; one brother, Sam (Mary) D'Anna and one sister, Rosemary (Buster) Saputo. He was preceded in death by a son, Philip.

The funeral Mass was celebrated on Monday, October 16, 2006 at San Francesco Church in Clinton Township. Burial was made in Resurrection Cemetery.

*May the Angels lead you
into paradise.
May the Martyrs come to
welcome you and take
you to the holy city,
the new and eternal
Jerusalem.*

Mark your calendar now

November 17, 2006 - November 17, 2008

The Secular Franciscan Order will celebrate the 800th anniversary of the birth of our patron, St. Elizabeth of Hungary.

November 18

On November 18, 2006, the Saturday before Thanksgiving, a Day of Reflection will be held at St. Francis Cabrini Church in Allen Park. Two Benedictine Sisters will speak. The Day will begin at 9 a.m. and will close with a 4 p.m. Mass celebrated by Fr. Tod Laverty, OFM.

The Executive Council will meet on Saturday November 18, 2006 at St. Francis Church in Ann Arbor. The meeting will be held 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., and Councilors are reminded to bring a bag lunch.

April 21, 2007

The date and place for the Spring Ministers' Meeting has been set for April 21, 2007 at the Lansing Holiday Inn. The meeting will begin at 9 a.m. and include a buffet and a snack. You will be receiving more information later.

July 3 - 8, 2007

The SFO family will meet for the 17th Quinquennial Congress at Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio. It is open to all Secular Franciscans from across the nation. A Franciscan Youth Congress will be meeting at the same time. The registration fee is \$490 with a \$40 discount for early registration. Please pray about attending this special gathering.

August 3 - 5, 2007

The Annual meeting of the Regional Fraternity will be held at St. John's Center for Youth and Family, 44011 5 Mile Rd., Plymouth, MI.

Since there will be no Visitation or Chapter of Elections, the Regional Fraternity is inviting members of local fraternities as well as their Ministers to attend. Come and get to know your brothers and sisters from around lower Michigan and Toledo, OH.

New Liturgy of the Hours

The Franciscan Federation, Third Order Regular Of The Sisters And Brothers Of The United States is publishing a new Liturgy of the Hours. The Franciscan Morning and Evening Praise Prayer Book is composed of six segments and will include psalms, four week psalter, new art, hymns and Franciscan saints.

Franciscan documents, and texts chosen for the various themes of the prayer book.

The Prayer Book consists of 1600 pages in easy reading style. It measures 5 1/2 " by 8 1/2 ", has a dark brown cover with gold imprint, and a smooth leather-like latex cover. It has a sewn round-backed binding and six colored ribbon markers.

For more information please contact
Fr. Tod Laverty
St. Aloysius Friary
1234 Washington Blvd.
Detroit, MI 48226-1825

ROGEROTODI@aol.com

or visit

http://www.franfed.org/the_store.htm

Recent Elections

Troubadours of St. Clare

Minister: Pat Carsley
Vice Minister: Marie Amore
Secretary: Mary Anne Novak
Treasurer: Harry Wimble
Formation: Cynthia Wahl
Councilor: Marie Krzesowski

St. Bonaventure, Detroit

Minister: Janet Bodell
Vice-minister: Ona Harris
Secretary: Patricia Meldrum
Treasurer: Eugene Snyders
Formation: John Bodell
Councilor: MaryAnn Kummer
Gary Johnson
Maxine Piaseczny
Frank Kraimer
Clara Falzone
Caroline Florescu

St. Anthony, Indian River

Minister: Marsha DePauw
Vice-Minister: Chet Collins
Secretary: Cora Brodeur
Treasurer: Joan Rybinski
Formation Minister: Muriel Pekrul
Councilor: Laura Kielszewski
Councilor: Patsy Jewell
Councilor: Mary Beth Fisher

