

Divine Mercy Regional Fraternity
NEWSletter

Divine Mercy Regional Fraternity of
lower Michigan and Toledo Ohio

March, 2007



Executive Council

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Formation Minister

Marie Amore, SFO,

***Peace Prayer
of St. Francis***

*Lord make me an
instrument of your
peace.*

*Where there is ha-
tred, let me sow love;
where there is injury,
pardon;*

Messengers of peace moving forward with Francis



Holy Cross Friary in Lansing is home to St. Bonaventure Fraternity.

Local Fraternities asked to pray for peace in Middle East

The National Apostolic Commissions invite all Secular Franciscans to participate in a prayer for peace action for peace in the Middle East. The Holy Father has said repeatedly that among actions for peace the most important is prayer that should be unceasing.

We invite you to ask your fraternities to pray together the Peace Prayer of St. Francis at some time during the monthly meeting each month with the special intention of peace in the Middle East.

Even though this loved prayer was not composed by St. Francis, it expresses his understanding of a life completely dedicated to non-violence.

There are over 800 Secular Franciscan fraternities in the United States. The National Peace and Justice Commission would like to keep an account of how many Secular Franciscan fraternities are participating in this completely voluntary prayer action.

If your fraternity decides to participate, please notify Carolyn Colburn at colburn@sonic.net, or contact our Regional Secretary at dmercy@charter.net. The Commissions want to know the name of your fraternity and region.

Looking for a Lenten project?

The problem:

In some parts of the world women and children walk 2 hours each way to fetch water, often hauling dirty water back to their families. They have no time or energy left for education or small business, and many of them die.

Preventable water-related diseases kill one child every 15 seconds. That's 8,000 every day, and that's just the children.

The Solution:

Take the H2O Challenge and encourage other members of your fraternity to do the same.

For 2 weeks make water your only beverage. Contribute the money you would have spent at the soda machine and coffee shop toward the drilling of clean water wells.

Will you be changing someone else's life forever? Absolutely.

Send The Money Collected:

Make all checks payable to: NAFRA. You must note on the check memo the name of your *Fraternity* and *Divine Mercy Region*.

Mail all checks by **May 1, 2007** to:

Kathy Taormina, SFO
920 Whitney Drive
Apple Valley, MN 55124

where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where

The 'Q' Beckons SFOs

Many Cultures – Through Francis – In Christ

Held every five years, the Quinquennial Congress will convene July 3 at the Radisson Hotel Pittsburgh Green Tree, 101 Radisson Drive, Pittsburgh, and run through July 8.

The first function is dinner at 6 p.m., and the opening Mass at 7:15. This will include a procession of cultures with attendees encouraged to wear native costume or attire.

Wednesday begins with morning prayer and announcements at 9 a.m., followed by keynote speaker Fr. Eric Law at 10. Fr. Law is an Episcopal priest and Missioner for Congregation Development in the Diocese of Los Angeles who has been featured at conferences sponsored by Catholic dioceses and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

After lunch and free time, there will be three concurrent sessions at 2 p.m. General attendees will join Congress Fraternities, while spiritual assistants gather for their first session.

Then at 4 p.m. Mass will be celebrated in the Korean language by Fr. Francis Kim, OFM. The day will culminate with a 4th of July Dinner celebration at 6 p.m.

The rest of the Congress will follow a similar format, beginning with morning prayer and announcements at 9 each day. On some days morning prayer will feature songs in different languages.

On Thursday Fr. Law will deliver another keynote speech at 10. At 2 the Congress Fraternities and spiritual assistant sessions run concurrently. Then at 4 Fr. Peter Vettickanakudy, OFM Cap, will celebrate Mass in the Indian, Syro Malabar Rite. That evening at 7:30 there will be Part 1 of a Festival of Cultures with the Multicultural Commission and Fr. Law facilitating.

Fr. Eric Law



Patti Normile, SFO



Javier Orozco, SFO



Ed Shirley, SFO



Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania will host the 17th Quinquennial Congress.

Friday features off-theme workshops at 10, which repeat in the afternoon at 2. The workshops are:

- Patti Normile, SFO, on “Caregiving and the Elderly.”
- Ed Shirley, SFO, “Spirituality in Today’s Secular World.”
- Ron Pihokker, SFO, “Secular Franciscans and the Catechetical Ministry.”
- Javier Orozco, SFO, “Francis, Divine Providence and Our Secular Life.”

At the same time, spiritual assistants will have their own workshop. An Eastern Rite Divine Liturgy at 4 will be celebrated by Bishop John Kudrick of Parma, OH, and then at 8, there will be a social.

Saturday returns to the themed format with a keynote presentation by Fr. Law at 10. At 2 the Congress Fraternities and spiritual assistant sessions will run concurrently. Fr. Moises Villalta, OFM Cap., will celebrate Mass in Spanish at 4. Then at 8 Part 2 of the Festival of Cultures will take place, featuring music and dancing.

there is sadness, joy. O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to

Passings

Mary A. Pratt, SFO



Mary A. Pratt, 79, died Tuesday, January 16, 2007. She was a devoted member of the Secular Franciscan Order and St. Bonaventure Fraternity at Holy Cross Church in Lansing. She was professed on December 22, 1957 and was the outgoing Vice Minister of her fraternity at the time of her death.

Surviving are her loving husband of nearly 60 years, Jack, who is also a Secular Franciscan; 3 daughters; 3 sons; 13 grandchildren; and 18 great-grandchildren; 5 sisters; and one brother; and several loving nieces and nephews. The Funeral Mass was celebrated at Holy Cross Catholic Church with Fr. Maurice Hayes, OFM Conv. as

celebrant. Memorials can be made to Holy Cross Church, St. Vincent de Paul-Holy Cross or American Diabetes Association.

Clara S. Nadon, SFO



Clara S. Nadon of Waterford, age 99, loving mother of Fr. Elgar Nadon OFM, Mary Claire (Robert) Guinan, SFO and Therese (Larry) Rospierski; dear grandmother of 10 and great-grandmother of 11 died on January 27, 2007. Mrs. Nadon was preceded in death by her husband, Leopold, a granddaughter, a brother and 4 sisters.

Clara was born in Detroit, the sixth child in a family of seven children. Four of her sisters became School

Sisters of Notre Dame in Milwaukee. Her parents died while she was still a child, and she grew up with guardians. In her adult years she and her husband became daily communicants. Clara was professed at St. Bonaventure Fraternity in Detroit on June 18, 1939. She later transferred to St. Elizabeth of Hungary Fraternity.

The Funeral Mass was held at the Servant Church of St. Alexander, Farmington Hills followed by burial at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Southfield.

Those who wish to further honor the memory of Mrs. Nadon may do so by making a contribution to the Franciscan Missionary Union.

Barbara Janell Griffin, SFO

Barbara Janell Griffin, aged 66, of Sturgis, died July 22, 2006. She was a convert to Catholicism and a professed member of the Divine Providence Fraternity in Kalamazoo. Her home parish was Holy Angels in Sturgis where she was a woman of loving service to the Church and its parishioners.

Surviving are one daughter, three sons, four grandchildren, three sisters, three brothers and many nieces and nephews.

The family received friends at the Hackman-Foglesong Funeral Home in Sturgis where members of the SFO celebrated her life with a Model Wake Service for Secular Franciscans and the Franciscan Crown Rosary. The funeral Mass was held at Holy Angels Church on Tuesday, July 25, 2006 with the Rev. Fr. Richard Altine presiding, and she was laid to rest at St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery in White Pigeon.

*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.*

console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we

Mark your calendar now

March 24, 2006

The Executive Council will meet on Saturday March 24, 2007 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. [Note change of date.]

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.

June 10, 2007

Day of Renewal, St. Anthony Fraternity at Cross in the Woods, Indian River, MI. Opens with 10:30 Mass. Lunch will be provided, followed by Fr. Wm Burton, OFM speaking on Scripture.

July 3 - 8, 2007

The SFO family will meet for the 17th Quinquennial Congress in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. It is open to all Secular Franciscans from across the nation. A Franciscan Youth Congress will be meeting at the same time. See the enclosed Registration Form for details. 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.

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 May issue is April 6.

thepines@chartermi.net

Editor
622 W. Oldfield
Alpena, MI 49707



News from local fraternities



Members of St. Joseph Fraternity in Burton helped Amelia Helmboldt celebrate her 80th birthday. Amelia was professed at Queen of Angels Fraternity in Saginaw on April 9, 1972. Pictured here are Margaret Erickson, Monica Ingram, Wilma McKenzie, Janice Hennen, Marty Majestic. Seated are Amelia Helmboldt and Carol Puzycski.

Poor Clares say thanks

The Executive Council voted at their December meeting to make donations to a couple of groups on behalf of the Regional Fraternity. Here is the reply we received from the Poor Clares in Saginaw.

Dear Rosemary and Friends in the Family,

Thank you for sharing the light of love with your very generous gift to us. This helps us immensely - - be assured of your special place in our prayers. Often we talk about the meaningful visit with all of you - - so happy to be a part of your wonderful Fraternity!

Love,
Sr. Dianne and Sisters of St. Clare

receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.