

Divine Mercy Regional Fraternity
NEWSletter

Divine Mercy Regional Fraternity of
lower Michigan and Toledo Ohio



Executive Council

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Lois Flickinger, SFO

Formation Minister

Marie Amore, SFO

Spiritual Assistant

Friar Tod Laverty, OFM

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OFM - p.3*

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Messengers of peace moving forward with Francis



Members of the Executive Council surprised Formation Minister Marie Amore with a cake in honor of her birthday. With Marie is Lois Flickinger who hosted the June meeting. Others present are Roger Ensign, Patti Reynolds, Mary Bittner, Rosemary Hannaford, Pat Carsley, Jean Martin and Fr. Tod Laverty.

You are invited

The Annual Meeting of the Regional Fraternity is upon us once again, and we will meet at St. John's Center for Youth and Family in Plymouth on August 3 – 5, 2007.

Last year was an election year, and next year we will again have a Visitation from the National Fraternity. This year our time is all our own; and we are free to enjoy ourselves praying, learning and laughing together, as well as conducting Regional business. This is our chance to

meet with old friends and make new ones from among our Franciscan brothers and sisters.

The Center itself has a rich history of service to the Catholic community. In 1949 Cardinal Edward Mooney and the Bishops of the State of Michigan opened St. John's Provincial Seminary as a place of formation for all priests of the state. In 1994, after St. John's had remained dormant for several years, Cardinal Adam J. Maida brought to life a vision of reviving the property as a resource for youth and families.

Most of our gatherings will take place in the Steward's Room of the Center.

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July 2007

Annual Meeting Tentative Schedule

Friday August 3, 2007

5:30 PM - Registration

7:00 - Welcome and

Opening Prayer

Approval of Minutes

Regional Ministers Report

7:30 - Treasurers Report/
Budget

8:00 - Evening Prayer

Social Time

Saturday August 4, 2007

7:30 - Morning Prayer

8:00 - Breakfast

9:00 - Presentation I

11:00 - Mass

12:00 - Lunch

1:30 - Presentation II

3:30 - Open Forum

5:00 - Break

5:30 - Dinner

7:00 - Evening Prayer

Social Time

Sunday August 5, 2007

7:30 - Morning Prayer

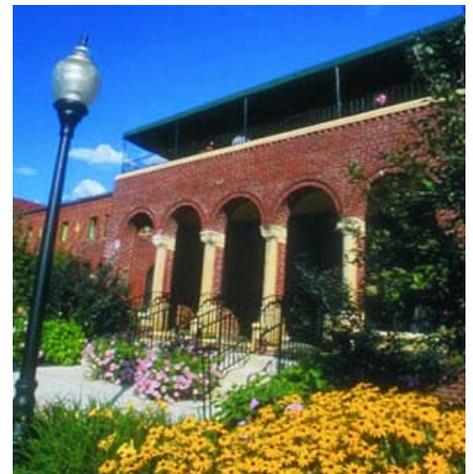
8:00 - Breakfast

9:00 - Business meeting

11:00 - Mass

12:00 - Lunch

1:00 - Depart



Attention Formation Ministers And Candidates

Conference for inquirers, candidates and formation ministers and teams coming up Sept. 15

Each year the Divine Mercy Regional Fraternity offers an opportunity for candidates, inquirers, and formation ministers of the region to gather. This year's gathering will take place on Saturday September 15, 2007. We will meet at the Center for Ministry in Saginaw.

The \$15.00 fee will cover the cost of a continental breakfast and lunch. Please plan to attend. A registration form and directions to the Saginaw Center for Ministry will be sent to each fraternity at a later date.

In the past these days have been well attended and enjoyed. We are eagerly looking forward to this year's gathering.

Reasons for candidates and inquirers to attend

- Discern the call to the Secular Franciscan Order
- Appreciate the vocation to be a Franciscan
- Learn more about Secular Franciscan spirituality.
- Discern ways to serve God in our fraternity and in the world.
- Meet other brothers and sisters from the Region who are in the formation process.
- Share experiences of formation.
- Deepen knowledge and love of God,
- Be inspired and encouraged.

For Formation Ministers

Are you fraternity formation minister? Are you on the formation team? Do you have questions about your service to the fraternity like: How can I do the best job? How can I improve the skills I need? What books should I use? Where can I find the most helpful resources? What about the discernment process?

The conference will include enough time for the formation ministers and teams to gather separately to discuss these and other questions as well as concerns about their service. It is one way to fulfill the requirement from the general constitutions that says a formation minister should program gatherings as far as possible and opportune, in common with the candidates of other fraternities (art. 40 GC.) If your fraternities do not have a candidate or inquirer at this time, we hope to meet with the formation minister anyway.

We are looking forward to seeing you there.

May the Lord give you peace,
Divine Mercy Regional Fraternity Formation Team



*Marie Amore, SFO
Formation Minister
Divine Mercy Regional Fraternity*

Date

September 15th

Time

9:00 till 3:00 pm

Place

**Saginaw Ministry
Center**

Cost

\$15.00

On the Road by Fr. Tod, OFM



*Friar Tod Laverty, OFM
Regional Spiritual Assistant*

In my wanderings around the region over the past two years, I've had the opportunity to meet a little over half of the fraternities. It is always a wonderful moment for me to meet the members of the fraternities and to hear how they are living the Franciscan life in their area.

One of the recurrent themes I've noticed is the need to develop well trained formators. Because of the demands of family, work and other commitments it is hard to go away for intensive training in Franciscan history or spirituality. Two things suggest themselves to me.

First, there may be some members of the regional fraternity who have the aptitude and interest in deepening their understanding of the Franciscan charism, but they lack the resources to do the study. Here's where the region could help them with the financial help they would need to avail themselves of the education that is available.

Second, there are on-line resources that are available to anyone with a computer or access to a library computer. Just Google "online franciscan courses" and lots of info will pop up to get you started finding on-line courses of in-depth study of our franciscan charism.

You are invited continued from p. 1

Sleeping rooms will provide one single bed, but a limited number of rooms with one double bed are available. We invite you to get your registrations in early to be assured of a room.

As always we invite Ministers or their delegate to be our guest for the weekend. This year especially we hope that other members of the local fraternities join the gathering. Guests may choose to stay at St. John's (\$120 registration fee includes lodging and meals) or commute (\$50 fee includes meals and meetings only).

Overnight guests and commuters who send in their payment with their reservations may request a refund if necessary as late as July 27. Early registration closes July 23. No reservations will be accepted after July 30.

On August 3 arrival and room assignment will take place from 4:30-7:00 p.m., and dinner from 5:30 to 6:30. The opening session will begin at 7:00. Please register today using the enclosed Registration form and . . .

See you at St. John's in August.

Mark your calendar now

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.

August 22, 2007

St. Francis Fraternity Day of Recollection at St. Rene Goupil Church in Sterling Hts.

September 15, 2007

Conference for inquirers, candidates and formation ministers and teams at the Center for Ministry in Saginaw. Registration forms and directions will be sent to each fraternity.

Day of Recollection will be August 22

St. Francis Fraternity is inviting everyone to a Day of Reflection on Wednesday August 22, 2007. The theme for the Day will be Mother Mary and St. Elizabeth: SFO Models of Prayer and Compassion. The reflections will be presented by Bernardine Franciscans, Sister Elena and Sister Marie.

The Day of Reflection will be held at St. Rene Goupil Church, 35955 Ryan Rd., Sterling Hts., Michigan from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The schedule will be as follows:

- Continental Breakfast: 9:30 - 9:45am
- Morning Session: 9:50am-11:30am
- Lunch: 11:35am-12Noon
- Afternoon Session: 12:10-1:50pm

MASS will be celebrated at 2 p.m. in the Main Church with Fr. Alex Kratz, OFM, Presider.

The cost for the Day is \$15.00 and includes lunch. Checks should be made payable to St. Francis Fraternity 56-133, and the deadline for registration is August 13, 2007. Due to limited space, registrations will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

Send Registrations to:
Rose Maroto, SFO,
30800 Elmhurst Dr.
Madison Hts. MI 48071

Or E-mail: rosemsfo@wowway.com

Recent elections

St Bonaventure Lansing

Gertrude Dunham -
Minister
Paula Barker -
Vice-minister
Ann Manion - Secretary
Clare Rademacher -
Treasurer
Councilors
- Esther Brown
- Colleen McMahon

Our Mother of Sorrows, Grand Rapids

Jim Howard - Minister
Ray Boisvenue -
Vice-minister
Shari Boisvenue - Secretary
Chris Bueche - Treasurer
Councillors
- Barb Czurak
- Lois Flickinger
- Jamie Martisius
- Alan Hartwick

St. Pachal Fraternity, Toledo

Lisa Craig - Minister
Joyce Weithman -
Vice Minister
Diane Reichow -
Secretary
Adele Shultz - Treasurer

St. Joseph Fraternity, Monroe

Theresa Raymond -
Minister
Susan Huntley -
Vice-Minister
Shawna Mazur - Secretary
Beatrice Wilson - Treasurer
Rita La Pointe - Councilor

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 September issue is August 15.

dmercy@chartermi.net

Editor
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Alpena, MI 49707