

Divine Mercy Regional Fraternity
NEWSletter

Messengers of peace moving forward with Francis

January 2008

Divine Mercy Regional Fraternity of
lower Michigan and Toledo Ohio



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Fran Walker, SFO, Minister of St. Isidore Fraternity joined Fr. Roch Neimeher, OFM and Margo Dean, SFO who were the speakers for the successful Day of Recollection held in Grand Rapids in November.

Mark your Calendar

April 5, 2008

Spring Ministers Meeting at
Holiday Inn, Lansing.

August 15-17, 2008

Annual Meeting and
Visitation at St. John's in
Plymouth. Guests will be
welcome and encouraged to
attend.

Note:

For CD recordings of the St.
Isidore Fraternity Day of
Recollection talks contact
David B. Walley, SFO (231)
869-4678.

Questions for fraternity discussion

by Mary Bitner, SFO

This fall the Regional Executive Council began reflecting on future directions for Divine Mercy Region. As we begin the new year, the Council is inviting all local fraternities to join with them in this work of discernment. We want to know what the Holy Spirit is doing in our fraternities. Where is the Spirit asking us to grow?

What we are asking is that the members of each fraternity spend some time at their monthly gathering discussing the following questions. The questions are open-ended; there is no one right answer. Ministers will be asked to share their fraternity's insights with the Council.

January

Describe the ideal Secular Franciscan. In twenty-five words or less, what is the essence of our SFO life?

February

If Francis were visiting your fraternity today, how would he critique the way you are living his form of life? How would he encourage you?

March

At the end of his life, Francis said "I have done what is mine to do...." What is the Spirit calling *you* to do, as an individual or as a fraternity?

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Help build the Solanus Center Candelarium

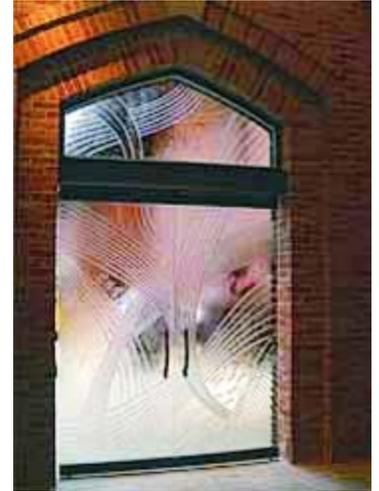
The Capuchins in Detroit are building a Candelarium behind the Solanus Casey Center. There is a chance that we may be able to have an outdoor section dedicated to the Secular Franciscan Order if enough people sign up. You many have a paver with your name or your fraternity's name for the following donation:

\$500 - 4 X 4

\$1,000 - 8 X 8

St. Bonaventure Seculars are contributing to this as are several individual members. We would love to see you and your fraternity have a presence too as witnesses to our vocation. It will be a pleasant place to come and pray.

For further information, contact Fr. Steve Kropp, OFM, Cap. at (313) 579-2100. Ask for Fr. Steve Kropp. He has a voice mail if he is not in.



Passings



Helen Foley, SFO

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Helen Foley SFO, age 80, passed away on Monday, December 10, 2007. Helen was raised during the Depression and knew what it was like to have limited funds. As early as the fifth grade Helen was painting pastels. Even though Helen never completed high school, she used her self-taught skills and eventually taught classes at the high school and college level including several years of teaching at Lansing Community College. Her paintings began with charcoal sketching but are mostly done in pastel and oil. Her religious artistry speaks in many ways as a prayer for others.

Helen was a member of Mary, Queen of the Apostles Fraternity in Sand Lake and a charter member of Grand Valley Artist Association. The Mass of Christian Burial was offered on December 15 at Mary, Queen of the Apostle, Sand Lake, with the Rev. Joseph Kenshol presiding. Interment was in Assumption Cemetery.



Maxine Currie, SFO

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Maxine Currie SFO, 85, of Sand Lake, died Saturday, November 3, 2007. Maxine was born February 11, 1922, in Muskegon Heights, MI, the daughter of James and Mary (Denhof) Currie. She had been secretary and housekeeper at St. Mary Magdalene Parish in Kentwood for Rev. John Breitensrein and Msgr. Charles Bolte. She was a member of St. Clara Catholic Church, Coral. Maxine was a founding member of the Mary Queen of Apostles Fraternity in Sand Lake and a dedicated Franciscan.

The Mass of Christian Burial was held at Mary Queen of Apostles Church, Sand Lake with Rev. Fr. Joseph W. Kenshol as celebrant. Interment was in Resurrection Cemetery, Grand Rapids. Memorial contributions may be made to St. Mary Magdalene Parish Capital Campaign or St. Clara Altar Chairs.

Assisting the Social Service Mission of the Chinese Catholic Church in the spirit of Saints Francis and Clare

若望孟高维诺信爱会

Most Catholics in China live in poor rural areas. One of the ways for Catholics to live out their Christian witness is through social services that benefit an entire community, not just targeting Catholics. The Catholic Church has been unable to create a nationwide social service network. Most rural dioceses do not have the capacity to set up professionally operated social service centers.

Ping An (Peace) Social Services Project is a project of the US based Saint John of Montecorvino Society (SJOMS), a Franciscan inspired Chinese-American Catholic lay missionary society and tax exempt public charity. The Society also continues to assist religious sisters with scholarships for advanced educational opportunities in those areas the Society is assisting rural dioceses to establish social service centers. At present most social services in the rural dioceses are provided by women religious.

For more information go to
<http://www.saintjohnofmontecorvino.org/>

We have heard that the Chinese SFOs are curious about how the American SFOs live out their vocations. Since one picture is worth a thousands words, perhaps some of the Sisters and Brothers could assemble a small photo story of their fraternities illustrating some of the things they do as Franciscans. Our NAFRA sources can translate our efforts into Chinese.



Our Brothers and Sisters in China also need supplies like Franciscan Holy Cards, Crown Rosaries, small San Damiano Crucifixes etc. If someone could launch a drive to collect these on behalf of the Sisters and Brothers in China, we can find a way to get them here. Some donated items are on hand, but supplies are running low.

Please send your photos and Franciscan religious items to:

Tom Bello, SFO
1710 Chesterbrook Vale Ct.
McLean, VA 22101

State Young Adult Conference

This conference will be held March 29 at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Ann Arbor. Each workshop round will feature two workshops in Spanish and four in English. Translation equipment will be used to enable our Spanish speaking young adults to enjoy the whole event. Program schedule includes lunch, supper workshops, keynote, liturgy and more.

49th International Eucharistic Congress, June 15-June 22

The 49th International Eucharistic Congress will be held in Québec City from June 15-June 22, 2008. "It will be an occasion for Catholics of the whole world to celebrate their faith in the Eucharist and to give witness to the Gospel by living moments of prayer, reflection and fraternity," says Cardinal Marc Ouellet, archbishop of Québec City.

Regional Towel Campaign update



At the Annual Ministers meeting in August during open forum, Ona Harris of St. Bonaventure of Detroit suggested that the Divine Mercy Region adopt an apostolate with many fraternities or cells taking part as a whole. She suggested that each fraternity/cell adopt a shelter/s in their area and host a Towel Drive. Secular Franciscans, friends and family members could donate the towels. The Towel Drive would begin at a set time and every fraternity/cell would collect during this specific time and deliver during the same suggested time. Below we suggest two different possible times. Each individual fraternity/cell would decide which shelters would be the recipients.

An ad hoc committee of members throughout the Region was established to oversee the implementation of the project. Now the committee asks that each fraternity consider the

following items.

1. Decide if your fraternity will be involved in the Towel Drive.
2. Designate a fraternity member to oversee a collection.
3. Determine which shelter/s you wish to support.
4. Meet or call shelter/s to determine if they have a need for towels and washcloths and would like to be a part of your Towel Drive

Questions to ask the shelter/s might include:

- a. How many people do they serve per month? Per year?
- b. Are they in need of towels and washcloths? (White preferably)
- c. Would they accept the towels?
- d. Give the shelter/s the dates of your proposed Drive to begin, end and delivery time.

The local committee will decide when and where towels and washcloths could be dropped off with dates.

The local committee should ask for volunteers to box up the towels and cloths.

Committee and fraternity/cell will decide on a mutual delivery date and time for delivery.

5. Consider a couple of dates and times that this campaign can begin and end.
 - a. During the Lenten Season – You start on Ash Wednesday as your kickoff date and end on Holy Week. Delivery would be 2nd week of Easter, which gives you approximately one week to box up your towels, unless you do this as you receive them.
 - or
 - b. Do the Drive for the month of May - You start May 1st and end May 31st with a delivery during the first week of June.

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 March issue is February 15.

Editor
622 W. Oldfield
Alpena, MI

St. Paschal Fraternity celebrates 800th anniversary of St. Elizabeth of Hungary

St. Paschal Fraternity in Ohio celebrated the 800th anniversary of the birth of St. Elizabeth of Hungary on November 19, 2007 with the Office of Readings of her feast day, a Hungarian Chicken Paprikas Dinner, Kolaczky cookies for dessert and the raffling of the St. Elizabeth of Hungary porcelain doll for which they had been selling chances during the last year.

The winner of the raffle was a Secular Franciscan from a fraternity in Fostoria, Ohio, who had purchased chances at the Franciscan Family Day held in Carey, Ohio to honor St. Elizabeth of Hungary.