

Divine Mercy Regional Fraternity
NEWSletter

Divine Mercy Regional Fraternity of
lower Michigan and Toledo Ohio

Messengers of peace moving forward with Francis

May 2008



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Marie Amore, SFO

Spiritual Assistant

Friar Tod Laverty, OFM



Shown here with Regional Councilor Lois Flickinger, SFO are scholarship winners: June McRae, SFO Minister, St. Anthony of Padua, Dearborn; Patricia Csatari, SFO Vice-minister, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Allen Park (alternate) and Feleiteau Epley, SFO Formation Team, St. David, Washington. Not Pictured are Marylynn Hewitt, SFO Minister, St. Benedict Joseph Labre, Detroit and Joan Van Buren, SFO St. Francis, Sterling Heights (alternate).

Mark your Calendar

August 15-17, 2008

Annual Meeting and Visitation at St. John's in Plymouth.

September 20, 2008

Conference for inquirers, candidates and formation ministers and teams in Saginaw.

Region awards scholarships to Leadership workshop

In order to assist and encourage our own developing servant leaders, DMRF offered three \$300 scholarships to the Developing Servant Leadership workshop that will be held at Saint Francis University, Loretto, PA in June. Any professed Secular Franciscan of Divine Mercy Region was eligible to apply.

The drawing to determine the scholarship recipients was held at the Ministers Meeting in Lansing on April 5. Applicants did not need to be present to be selected. Two alternates were chosen in case some of the winners cannot attend

You are invited to attend the Annual Meeting in August

The DMRF Annual Meeting is scheduled for August 15-17, 2008 at St. John's Center in Plymouth. We will be visited by our National Minister, Patrick Mendes, and one of the National Spiritual Assistants.

We have reserved a number of rooms for this year's meeting. Guests will be welcome and encouraged to attend on a first come, first served basis.

In this issue we are enclosing a registration form for this very interesting meeting, and we hope to see many of you there.



J. Patrick Mendes, SFO

Passings

M. Vivian D. Brincat, SFO

M. Vivian D. Brincat, SFO, age 79, died on February 23, 2008. Vivian was born on September 27, 1928. She married Joseph C. Brincat on June 4 1955, and he preceded her in death about 20 years ago. Survivors include a son, Steven and two sisters, Janette and Margaret Chenier, numerous nieces, nephews and about 10 godchildren.

Vivian was instrumental in the founding of the Divine Mercy Regional Fraternity and served as a mentor, teacher and sometime traveling companion to the Region's first Minister, Gloria Jean Staley, SFO.

"She prayed me through a very difficult pregnancy with my youngest daughter," Gloria recalls. "Vivian's husband, Joe, told me that Vivian had been on her knees praying all the time I was in labor and up until the time she received the call shortly after midnight on February 3, 1970 that Mary Jane Frances had been born. This is when I began to really understand the power of prayer."

Vivian was professed on June 11, 1972 at St. Hedwig English Fraternity and two years later became their Vice Minister Prefect. Over the years she served as fraternity secretary and novice mistress and was elected vice minister/treasurer of the St. Bonaventure Provincial Council in 1981. She later served as minister of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Fraternity in Allen Park.

. She was an artist, a poet and a self-styled stand up comedian who loved to make people laugh.



*M. Vivian D. Brincat, SFO
1928 - 2008*

Prayer for the General Chapter of the Secular Franciscan Order

Most High Glorious God, we praise You for Your presence in the world and for the tremendous gift of our Franciscan vocation.

We beseech You to inspire every brother and sister of the Secular Franciscan Order as we prepare for the upcoming General Chapter in Hungary.

Grant the necessary wisdom to our brothers and sisters who will take part in the Chapter to develop the priorities for the Order for the next six years and to elect those You want to lead and animate us.

Guide and direct us so that we may follow the Gospel and our Rule more closely and be coworkers with You in the rebuilding of the Church and the World.

We ask this through Christ our Lord and through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Francis, St. Clare, and our holy patrons St. Elizabeth and St. Louis.

Amen

Formation teams, spiritual assistants join minister at their semi-annual meeting

Formation team members and local spiritual assistants and assistants in training joined local ministers at their regular April semi-annual meeting in Lansing. The morning presentation was led by Regional formation minister Marie Amore, SFO and her formation team including Margo Dean, SFO and Patti Reynolds, SFO.

Afternoon breakout sessions gave local ministers, formation teams and spiritual assistants a chance to discuss topics of interest to their individual groups. The ministers also took time to hold a brief business meeting.

On the Road by Fr. Tod, OFM



*Friar Tod Laverty, OFM
Regional Spiritual Assistant*

I felt my heart being drawn into a commitment to these people. I knew that God had some kind of plan for the revitalization of the downtown area, and I wanted to be part of that resurrection experience.

I had a very interesting Lent. I began the season thinking I was the temporary pastor of St. Aloysius Parish in downtown Detroit. I ended the season as the permanent pastor of St. Aloysius Parish in downtown Detroit. I became my own successor!

It began this way. My confrere, Fr. Mark Soehner, OFM, pastor at St. Aloysius for the past 12-13 years, was preparing to move to another assignment. His replacement was not able to come here till mid-July. But Fr. Mark wanted and deserved to take a short sabbatical for prayer and renewal. I offered to fill in the gap till the new man could get here. I thought I would be pastor for six months. In fact the day my appointment was announced the Cardinal announced my replacement as well. So much for basking in glory.

But it seems the Lord had other plans. A month into the job, I found I was really enjoying myself. I was loving the parishioners of the two clustered parishes of St. Aloysius and St. Patrick. I sensed the energy and potential of both inner city parishes. I felt my heart being drawn into a commitment to these people. I knew that God had some kind of plan for the revitalization of the downtown area, and I wanted to be part of that resurrection experience.

So on the day after Easter I wrote my Franciscan provincial minister and asked to be assigned as the permanent pastor. My minister was meeting with the provincial council in Cincinnati at the time and had invited me to write to him should I still feel that I was being called to this ministry. The rest, as they say, is history. I received the letter of appointment a week later, and in the interim the Cardinal has approved my assignment.

What will it mean? First off, I will have to relinquish most of my Franciscan pilgrimage work in Italy. Secondly, I will decrease my counseling work drastically. Third, I will have to curtail my work with Secular Franciscan Fraternities a bit. This last bit of transformation will have to be worked out as we go along. I thought you should all know about this change in my status.

Please pray for me as I make this transition and still try to serve you as your regional spiritual assistant.

Happy Easter,
Fr. Tod S. Laverty, OFM

The Regional Towel project continues

Some fraternities already have completed their towel project. June McRae, SFO reports that St. Anthony of Padua Fraternity in Dearborn is collecting white towels and plans to make the project an ongoing affair in June, September and December. Rose Morato's St. Francis Fraternity in Sterling Heights placed an ad in the parish bulletin and made donations to two shelters. Most of the towels came from parishioners.

Pat Carsley says that her fraternity, Troubadours of St. Clare Fraternity in St. Clair Shores, is collecting small toothpaste, brushes, shaving supplies for Capuchin Soup Kitchen mission. Her Council put out a call to their email list and received a tremendous response.

St. Paschel Fraternity in Toledo collected for Bethany House, and St. Thomas More Fraternity in Rochester Hills reports that they collected toiletries and socks for St. Aloysius Parish in downtown Detroit.

Bob Brundage says that his fraternity, St. Joseph in Ann Arbor placed announcements in several parish bulletins. They have placed cardboard boxes to collect towels, and they expect to distribute them at the end of May. These will be donated to the Washtenaw County Prisoner Re-Entry Program.



The Secular Franciscans of St. Maximilian Kolbe Fraternity in Alpena donated towels they had collected during Lent to the Sunrise Shelter. The towel collection was part of a Regional project being conducted by Secular Franciscans throughout lower Michigan and Toledo, Ohio. Pictured here are Marge Morgan, SFO; Shelter worker Cindy Reynolds, Jill Schefke, SFO and Marie Kaminski, SFO.



Jill Schefke and Marge Morgan unpack some of the towels and washcloths that will be sent home with shelter residents when they move into to their own homes.

Pat Rogers, minister of St. Louis the King in White Lake, says that her fraternity collected food at several meetings for distribution at St. Michael in Pontiac for their food bank. They are also collecting men's clothes for St. Aloysius Parish.

Leigh Lentine's St. David Fraternity in Washington has made a monetary donation; and Ben Stapel says that his fraternity, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel in Allen Park adopts families throughout the year and encourages individual members to donate.

St. Anthony Fraternity in Indian River donates twice a year to a safe house in Petoskey. Fraternity Minister Marcia DePauw says that the shelter prefers cash donations.

Jim Geothels of Divine Providence Fraternity in Kalamazoo concludes, "After hearing this, I think we should pursue it." And so the Towel project, already a success in some parts of the Region, continues.

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 July issue is June 15.

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