

Divine Mercy Regional Fraternity
NEWSletter

Divine Mercy Regional Fraternity of
Lower Michigan and Toledo Ohio



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Friar Tod Laverty, OFM

Messengers of peace moving forward with Francis



St. Bonaventure on Monastery Mt. Elliott in Detroit is home to St. Bonaventure Fraternity.

Join us in welcoming the Visitors

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 15 – 17, 2008.

This year is our Visitation year. We are privileged to have Patrick Mendes, SFO and Lester Bach, OFM Cap as our scheduled visitors.

We hope that many of our brothers and sisters will join the Ministers and Delegates in meeting and making our Visitors feel welcome in our Region.



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July 2008

Annual Meeting Tentative Schedule

Friday August 15, 2008

3:30 – 5:30 Arrival/
Registration

5:30 Dinner

6:30 Welcome/
Introduction of Guests

7:00 Opening Liturgy

8:00 Social Gathering

Saturday August 16, 2008

7:30 Morning Prayer

8:00 Breakfast

9:00 Minister's Time
with Visitors Patrick
Mendes and Lester Bach,
OFM Cap

12:00 Lunch

2:00 Spiritual Assistants
Meeting

2:00 DMRF Minister/
Council

3:15 Break

3:30 Ongoing Formation

4:45 Break

6:00 Dinner

7:00 Evening Prayer

8:00 Social Gathering

Sunday August 5, 2007

7:30 Morning Prayer

8:00 Breakfast

9:00 Business

9:45 Regional Minister's
Closing Comments

10:00 NAFRA Minister's
Closing Comments -
Patrick Mendes

10:15 NAFRA Spiritual
Assistant's Closing
Comments - Lester Bach,
OFM Cap.

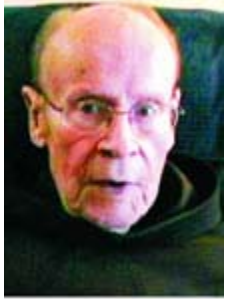
10:30 Closing Prayer

11:00 Liturgy

12:00 Lunch

1:00 Departure

Passings



Father Donard Paulus, OFM

Father Donard Paulus, OFM

Father Donard (Edwin) Paulus, OFM, 86, died May 10 in the Hospice Unit of St. John's Hospital in Springfield. Born in Petoskey, Mich., on June 7, 1921, he was the son of Joseph and Mary Wegemer Paulus. He entered the Order of Friars Minor in Sacred Heart Province on Aug. 19, 1942, and received the name Donard. He professed solemn vows in 1946 and was ordained a priest on June 24, 1948.

Father Donard became known as a "master builder" because it seemed that wherever he was stationed, he embarked upon a major building project. He was responsible for the new shrine church at Cross in the Woods in Indian River, Mich.

The Mass of Christian Burial was held on May 14 at Cross in the Woods Church in Indian River, Mich. Burial was in Cross in the Woods Cemetery.

Pilgrimage to Assisi and Rome For SFOs

November 8 - 17, 2008

This pilgrimage is a journey for Secular Franciscans to deepen Franciscan Spirituality through the special places in Italy connected with the lives of St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi. It is a life-changing, transforming, experience, immersing one into the gospel like never before. Ask those who have made the experience.

November 8, Saturday: Flight from the US to Rome.

November 9, Sunday, Rome: Arrival, rest, orientation, walk to St. Peter's.

November 10, Monday Rome: Mass at Tomb of St. Peter, where Francis visited on his first pilgrimage. Historical, spiritual input on the Basilica of St. Peter. Afternoon: Visit to St. John Lateran, the baptistry of the Franciscan family, and the most important Franciscan place in Rome. To San Francesco a Ripa, Francis's home among the poor in Rome. Bus tour of Rome.

November 11, Tuesday, Rome/Greccio/Assisi: Free morning in Rome. Depart for Greccio. Bag lunches on bus. Arrival in Greccio. Christmas Mass at this Franciscan Bethlehem. To Assisi, Orientation. Walk to Piazza Comune, center and heart of Assisi. Festive Christmas dinner.

November 12, Wednesday, Assisi: Powerpoint presentation on the San Damiano Crucifix, Personal Prayer before original Crucifix at the Basilica of St. Clare. Taxis to San Damiano for Eucharist, visit and healing ritual. Afternoon: Chiesa Nuova, Francis's paternal home. Historical visit and input. To Santa Maria Maggiore, visit and ritual of Francis stripping himself.

November 13, Thursday, Assisi: Eucharist at the Porziuncola in the valley below Assisi. Visit and ritual of sending forth. Afternoon: Taxis to La Maddalena, site of leper colony during the time of Francis and Clare.

November 14, Friday, Assisi: Journey to the Carceri above Assisi for visit and Eucharist. Here Francis and the brothers nurtured their life of prayer. Free afternoon. Cena (evening meal) at Ristorante Il Paradiso, staff treat.

November 15, Saturday, Assisi/La Verna/Assisi: Bus excursion to mountain of La Verna where Francis received the stigmata of Jesus. Eucharist in Stigmata Chapel. Picnic or sit down dinner. Time on the mountain. Focus on the centrality of the Cross in Francis's spirituality.

November 16, Sunday, Assisi: Basilica and Tomb of St. Francis. Eucharist: tomb of St. Francis. Historical/spiritual visit. Festive farewell dinner at the Casa. Free afternoon. Evaluation and close to the pilgrimage.

November 17, Monday, Assisi/Rome/USA: Early departure for airport in Rome and return flight to USA.

Franciscan Pilgrimage Programs

P.O. Box 321490

Franklin, WI 53132 USA

http://www.franciscanpilgrimages.com:80/09_PIL_OSF.html



May I Help You?

Service in Fraternity

Date
September 20

It has become a tradition of the Regional Fraternity of Divine Mercy to offer a time for those in formation and their formation ministers to come together to:



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

Time
8:30 A.M.
Registration/
Continental
breakfast

- Discern the call to the Secular Franciscan Order
- Deepen our knowledge and love of God,
- 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
- Have some fun in the process

Noon - Lunch

3:00 - Closing

In the past we have called this event the Candidate Conference. As we did last year we want to offer this opportunity to all those in any of the phases of formation. So inquirers, candidates and newly professed, along with the local fraternity formation teams are invited to the Saginaw Ministry Center.

Place
**Saginaw Ministry
Center**

The regional formation team is planning a day to inspire and encourage the candidates as well as the formation ministers of the fraternity. If your fraternity does not have people in formation at this time we are eager to meet with the formation minister and team anyway.

Cost
\$15.00

We are looking forward to seeing all of you in Saginaw on September 20th. So that we can have an accurate count for the good people at the Center to serve us, please fill out the registration form and mail it to Rosemary Hannaford at the address below.

Come join us!

- The Regional Formation Team

Graduation Mission

In a dual attempt to evangelize young adults and familiarize them with the Secular Franciscan Order, St. David Fraternity gifted approximately seventy

Graduates of the Class of 2008 with a Catholic Packet. The gifts were given after the Graduation Baccalaureate Masses in three of our respective parishes. The packet contained a congratulatory letter from St. David Fraternity, brief information on the SFO, a scapular, a rosary, and three pamphlets. The Pamphlets were: *How to Pray the Rosary with Meditations*, *Keeping the Faith: A Guide for Catholic College Students*, and *The Infinite Value of the Holy Mass*.

Our hopes are that young people will embrace the prayer of the rosary, wear the scapular and continue the practice of attending Holy Mass while away or at home during their college years. God willing, the Graduation Mission Project will grow to include gifting more graduates in our respective parishes in future years.

Mark your calendar now

August 15 - 17, 2007

Annual Meeting of the Regional Fraternity with Visitation with Patrick Mendes, SFO and Lester Bach, OFM Cap. at St. John's Center for Youth and Family in Plymouth.

September 20, 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.

Saturday, October 11, 2008

Day of Reflection at St. Joseph Fraternity, Ann Arbor

Franciscan Center Presents Journey Of The Human Person Into God

March 20, 2009 to March 29, 2009

In the fall of 1259, St. Bonaventure, the seventh general minister of the Franciscan Order, was longing to satisfy the desire of (his) spirit for peace. As Bonaventure describes it: "I was moved by a divine inspiration and withdrew to Mount LaVerna since it was a place of quiet." While there he composed his famous work, *The Journey of the Human Person into God*.

Andre Cirino, OFM and Josef Raischl, SFO have designed an eight-day retreat in which they lead the participant through the prologue and seven chapters of Bonaventure's *Journey* by means of a series of prayerful experiences, explanations, and liturgies.

The retreat opens with an audio-visual presentation on the life of Bonaventure to provide a context for the study of his work. Each of the eight days of the retreat is then dedicated to one of the chapters of *The Journey*. Each day is a balance of instruction on the text, periods for reading and personal prayer, and community participation in Eucharistic liturgy

and morning and evening prayer. The liturgies and prayers are especially designed by the presenters to disclose the profound themes in a contemporary experience, with musical accompaniment by Josef Raischl.

The only text needed by the retreatant is a copy of *The Journey into God: A Forty-Day Retreat with Bonaventure, Francis and Clare* by Andre Cirino, OFM and Josef Raischl, SFO (available for purchase through the Center Gift Nook.)

The presenters would like to stress that all prayer services, conferences and Eucharistic celebrations are integrated around the theme of the day, the step on the journey. Only by attending the retreat in its entirety will you be able to maximize your experience to the fullest. For this reason we will not be offering the option of attending only portions of the retreat.

The Center encourages you to arrange your schedule so that you are able to stay through the important conclusion of the journey on the final day, Sunday, March 29, 2009 at 2:00 p.m. Overnight accommodations for that evening are available at no additional charge.

For more information contact:

The Franciscan Center, 3010 N. Perry Avenue, Tampa, FL 33603-5345, (813) 229-2695, Francntr@tampabay.rr.com

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 20.

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