

Divine Mercy Regional Fraternity
NEWSletter

Divine Mercy Regional Fraternity of
lower Michigan and Toledo Ohio



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Friar Tod Laverty, OFM

Inside:

Passings - p. 2

On the road - p. 3

*Scholarship funds needed
p. 3*

*Belonging to the SFO -
p. 4*

Messengers of peace moving forward with Francis



This statue of St. Francis of Assisi greets visitors to St. Francis Church in Lewiston, Michigan. The church is home to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Fraternity.

January, 2009

Mark your calendar

April 18, 2009

Fraternal service Workshop at Holiday Inn, Lansing. Combined with Ministers Meeting open to Council and fraternity members.

August 14 - 16, 2009

Annual Regional Ministers Meeting at St. Johns in Plymouth. Chapter of Elections

September, 2009

Conference for inquirers, candidates and formation ministers and teams at the Center for Ministry in Saginaw.

April meeting to be devoted to Fraternal Service

In past years the Divine Mercy Regional Fraternity has held a meeting of local fraternity Ministers in the spring. This year the Executive Council has decided to build on this tradition and devote the April meeting to assist and encourage our own developing servant leaders.

This leadership workshop will take place on Saturday April 18, 2009 at the Holiday Inn in Lansing and will be open to any member of a local fraternity. The Region will pay for each fraternity minister and one other fraternity member to attend for the day. Other members of local fraternities and their councils are welcomed and encouraged to attend. The Region is asking that the local fraternity pay \$15 for each additional participant to cover their expenses including a continental breakfast and lunch and materials.

The Executive Council hopes to see members from each local fraternity in the Region take advantage of this great opportunity for personal growth. Mark your calendar now, and plan to attend this very special Regional gathering.

In other action the Executive Council set the date for the Annual Meeting for August 14 - 16, 2009 at St. Johns Center in Plymouth. This year we will celebrate a Chapter of Elections, so it is not too early to be thinking about how you can contribute to the Regional Fraternity in future years.

Passings

Lester D. McIntosh, SFO

Lester D. McIntosh was born in Ivanhoe, MI on January 4, 1924, son of Dan and Bertha (Porsche) McIntosh and passed away November 2, 2008 at Ingham Regional Medical Center. He was surrounded by Helen, his devoted wife of 61 years, all of his children and Fr. John Byers.

Lester operated a television repair shop and worked at General Motors, Chrysler and Silverstein's before starting his long career at the General Electric Company, retiring as District Service Manager for the Lansing area in 1985. He spent much of his post retirement years delivering food to the hungry.

Lester and his wife, Helen, were professed in 1984 at Our Lady of the Angels SFO Fraternity in DeWitt and served on the Fraternity Council for many years. He was an active member of the Knights of Columbus, IHM Council 10542, Prime Timers advocate, Social Minister Representative, Eucharist Minister, Adoration Chapel helper, Rosary Maker and DeWitt Retreat House helper. His fantastic sense of humor and great giving heart will be missed by all.

The Funeral Mass was held on Thursday, November 6 Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church in Lansing with the Rev Fr. John A. Byers as celebrant. Interment followed at St. Columbkilles Catholic Cemetery (Sheridan Church), Ubly, MI.



Lester D. McIntosh, SFO

Catherine S. Payeur, SFO

Catherine S. Payeur, SFO, age 96, of Blissfield, formerly of Adrian and Ann Arbor, died at home on Monday, December 8, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. She was born June 12, 1912, in Adrian, to Frank and Anna (Habrick) Schwab. On June 12, 1941, she married Alfred Payeur of Ann Arbor. He preceded her in death on June 24, 1999.

Catherine and Alfred were founding members of St. Francis of Assisi Church in Ann Arbor, where they raised their family. Catherine was also a founding member of the St. Joseph Fraternity of Secular Franciscans, a group who shared her strong faith in the Lord that sustained her throughout her life.

The Mass of the Resurrection was celebrated on Thursday, December 11, 2008 at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Adrian where Catherine was baptized, confirmed and married. Fr. Tom Helfrich, her spiritual advisor, officiated. Catherine's ashes will be placed with her husband's in the St. Francis Memorial Garden at a later date.

Executive Council seeks scholarship funds

At its November meeting the Executive Council discussed the Leadership initiative that it established last year to encourage and assist Secular Franciscans in the Region. Last year the small scholarship fund established by the Regional Executive Council was able to award three \$300 scholarships to help interested SFOs attend a Leadership Conference at Saint Francis University, Loretto, PA.

Now the Council is encouraging donations from individuals and local fraternities to build up the fund so that others may develop their leadership skills in service on behalf of the Order and the larger communities to which they belong.

Last summer the National Minister, Patrick Mendés, SFO reminded us, "Servant leadership is not a function: it's who we are. We are a bottom up organization."

On the Road by Fr. Tod, OFM



*Friar Tod Laverty, OFM
Regional Spiritual Assistant*

Paul comes through as a person like ourselves, grappling with the issues and demands of his mission in the context of the social and political and religious issues of his time.

Recently I had the privilege of attending a lecture on St. Paul given by Dominican scripture scholar Father Jerome Murphy-O'Connor. Fittingly, the lecture was given at St. Paul-on-the-Lake Catholic Church in Grosse Pointe. The invitation had been extended to Fr. Murphy-O'Connor as a way of kicking off the Year of St. Paul.

In essence what Fr. Jerome did was to compact into exactly 55 minutes the work of two books, one quite scholarly and the other more of a biography, that he had recently published on the life of Paul. I've always thought that the scholarly stuff should be tackled after lots of preparation, so I picked up the biography and took it home to read. In the end I read it twice in a month. What a goldmine of information!

I'm not going to try to summarize over 200 pages of gripping text; I'll let you discover that on your own. I will say, however, that just the geographical information contained in Paul: His Story (Oxford University Press, 2006. 259 pages, about \$24.99) is worth the price of the book. As you follow Paul's journeys and learn the perils of travel in first century Syria and Greece, you begin to see the determination, stamina and sheer drive of the apostle to the Gentiles.

But the book is about far more than geography. Paul comes through as a person like ourselves, grappling with the issues and demands of his mission in the context of the social and political and religious issues of his time. I grew to like and respect Paul not so much for his religious views or even his theology embedded in his letters, but for the deep faith he demonstrated in being faithful to his call.

If you read anything during this Year of Paul, find a copy of Paul: His Story. Maybe the fraternities could buy it for their libraries, and then everyone could pass it around. I'll bet it would lead to more than one lively discussion as you explore your own mission awareness in the context of the cities and towns and rural lifestyles where you find God.

Book Details Summary:

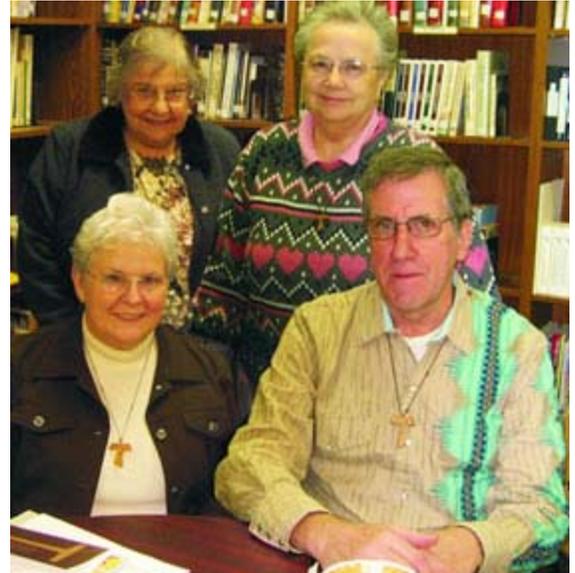
The title of this book is **Paul : His Story** and it was written by Jerome Murphy-O'Connor. This edition of Paul : His Story is in a Paperback format.

This book's publish date is February 2006 and it has a suggested retail price of \$24.99. There are 259 pages in the book, and it was published by Oxford University Press.

The 10 digit ISBN is 0199283842 and the 13 digit ISBN is 9780199283842.



On November 15, 2008 Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Fraternity in Lewiston held a Chapter of Elections. Elected were Janette Kwapis, SFO - Treasurer, Chet Collins, SFO - Minister, Sharon Hendrickson, SFO - Secretary and Betti Van Kainen, SFO - Vice Minister.



Belonging to the SFO

by Emanuela De Nunzio, Former Minister General

How, in practice, do we nurture the sense of belonging to a Secular Fraternity and to the whole Order?

On the local level. Every single Fraternity, at the various levels (not just local, but also regional and national), should consider seriously the objective of becoming:

a school of sanctity – These are instruments that the Fraternity can use to promote in its members full development of the interior life: an intense liturgical life, sacramental and charitable life, and also taking care in organizing Franciscan retreats in the spirit of rest and renewal of life;

a school of formation - the spirit of belonging is nurtured in the measure of which the Rule becomes the “life” of the brothers and of the sisters. It will assure a kind of “assimilation” of the spirit of the Rule in the life and in the history of each person. . . . Secular Franciscans should regularly read spiritual readings from the Sources;

a witness of ecclesial communion – It is necessary that Franciscans intensely live their meetings as a sacrament of the Fraternity. It is essential that everyone make the decision to make himself/herself present in the life of the brothers and sisters: rejoicing with those who participate, being mindful of those that do not come, trying to find the reasons for which someone has lost the motivation. The Council should look for and plan meetings that are pleasant, productive and enriching;

participation in the apostolic purpose of the Church – Too often Secular Franciscans tend to stop at traditional ways in fulfilling their apostolic commitment, forgetting that the Rule recommends to us to be creative. Society has changed, the Church has renewed itself and is renewing itself again. The Gospel is always the same, but new approaches and new encounters with the Gospel and history are necessary;

presence in society, in the light of the social doctrine of the Church – Every Fraternity should question its priorities in its own missionary commitment.

[You will find a link to the whole piece on our website at www.divinemercuryregion.org]

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.

dmercy@chartermi.net

Editor
622 W. Oldfield
Alpena, MI 49707