

Divine Mercy Regional Fraternity
NEWSletter

Divine Mercy Regional Fraternity of
lower Michigan and Toledo Ohio



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Messengers of peace moving forward with Francis



Volunteers serve guests at Detroit's Canticle Café. Now they hope to be able to include bottles of cold, clean water among their offerings thanks for the FYYA's 2009 H2O Project.

Canticle Café named 2009 H2O Project recipient

The FYYA has chosen our own Canticle Café to benefit from their 2009 Lenten H2O Project. St. Aloysius Community and Outreach Center in downtown Detroit is run by the OFMs of the St. John the Baptist Province. Inside the Center is the Canticle Café which is directed by our own Mike Carsten, SFO.

Recently a commercial beverage cooler was donated to the Café, but Mike had no idea what he could possibly fill it up with. Mike says there are no public water fountains in Detroit; and after the homeless leave the Center, there is no place to get even a drink of water, especially during the hot months of summer. Through the FYYA 2009 Lenten H2O Project we could fill that cooler with water for an entire year. We could give that cool water so needed by so many.

Right here in the USA we are in need of clean drinking water for our brothers and sisters. We, through the H2O Project, could fulfill that need, even if only for a short time. A poster will be placed on top of the cooler to let everyone know where the water came from. This may inspire other groups who volunteer there to donate water and may also open up the idea of the Franciscan Youth USA because those youth volunteers looking for something more.

The water would be in plastic bottles; and many may have questions about the environment and recycling.

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Mark your calendar

April 18, 2009

Ministers Meeting and Workshop at Holiday Inn, Lansing. Open to local Council and fraternity members.

August 14 - 16, 2009

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

September, 2009

Conference for inquirers, candidates and formation ministers and teams

Passings

Violet "Grace" Sterly, SFO

Grace Sterly, SFO, 81, passed away Friday January 16, 2009 in Bear Creek Township in Emmet County. Her life began on July 9, 1927 in St. Marys Pennsylvania, when she was born the daughter of Cletus and Julia (Strickler) Lenze. At a young age her family moved to Michigan where they made their home.

She married Lawrence on June 28, 1947. Together they raised seven children who all pf whom survive. Grace was professed on June 12, 1988 at St. Anthony Fraternity in Indian River. Her children remember a tireless mother who did everything within her power to help keep up the family farm while at the same time raising seven children. Grace understood the value of hard work and passed that lesson on to her children.

A Funeral Mass celebrating Grace's life was held on Tuesday, January 20th at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Petoskey. Burial was in Greenwood Cemetery. Those wishing to honor Grace's memory with a charitable contribution are asked to consider Hospice of Little Traverse Bay or The Living Room.



Violet "Grace" Sterly, SFO

Mary Gorsline, SFO

Mary A. Gorsline SFO, 92, retired federal auditor, died Wednesday February 18, 2009. She was born October 18, 1916 in Peoria, IL to Ludwig Schwab and Anna Madill Schwab. Mary grew up in Charlevoix, MI. In 1944 she married Rex J. Gorsline, and he preceded her in death. Together they raised two children. Mary was professed at St. Bonaventure Fraternity in Lansing on February 26, 1978.

A few years ago after Mary had moved to a senior adult residence, her fraternity members decided that since she could no longer join them at meetings, they would bring a monthly meeting to Mary. When members arrived at Mary's apartment, they found Mary with extra seats waiting for them and her Ritual book setting on the table next to her chair. That day everyone came away with a new appreciation for the meaning of fraternity.

Funeral services were held on Saturday February 21, 2009 at St. Joseph Catholic Church in St. Johns.



Mary Gorsline, SFO

How the H2O Project works

Again this Lent we challenge you and your fraternities not only to donate — but to participate in this project. By actively fasting from all beverages except water we get a truer idea of how important clean water is to our brothers and sisters. We who participate in the project experience solidarity with the poor, a solidarity that is called for within our Franciscan Charism.

We urge you to consider joining the project again this year.

Make all checks payable to: NAFRA. You must note on the check memo the name of the Fraternity and the name of the Region. Mail ALL checks by May 1, 2009 to:

Kathy Taormina, SFO
920 Whitney Drive
Apple Valley, MN 55124

Loretto summer seminar is June 25 - 28

Another summer seminar is planned at St. Francis University in Loretto PA. The program will take place from Thursday evening, June 25, 2009 through Sunday lunch, June 28, 2009.

This year's offering will be Franciscan Spirituality for Secular Franciscans featuring presenters Vinal Van Benthem, SFO and Bob "Fitz" Fitzsimmons, SFO.

Vinal is a freelance writer, poet, spiritual director and Pastoral Associate ministering in the areas of Spirituality, Pastoral Care and Adult Faith Formation at St. Raphael Parish in Oshkosh, WI. Twenty-Third Publications published her most recent book, *On the Way to Work*, in the spring of 2004.

Bob is our new National Formation Commission Chair. He was appointed to this position in October of 2007 and worked with Theresa Baker, outgoing National Formation Commission Chair, until October 2008. He has served as Formation Director of the Troubadours of Peace Region and of his own local fraternity Holy Trinity in Pasco, WA.

The seminar will begin on Thursday evening with introductions, an overview, and an opportunity for participants to spend some meditative time to reflect on their current images of God then reflect on their experience of God. On Friday and Saturday participants will look at the primary spirituality of the Church (Dominican) and at Franciscan Spirituality/theology as the alternate view. The foundations given us by Francis will be developed, Christocentric but more Trinitarian. Love as the source of our hopefulness and joyfulness will be expanded to include both Bonaventure's view of Trinity and Scotus's Primacy of Christ and *Thisness* as our supreme inherent dignity. Then they will look at Franciscan spirituality as Eucharistic.

The cost for a single room is \$220 and includes registration, air-conditioned dorm room, van shuttle to/from dorm, and all meals. A double occupancy room is \$180. These prices will rise by \$15 if registration is made after April 30. This seminar is endorsed by the Executive Council of NAFRA.

Last year the Divine Mercy Regional Council offered several scholarships to the Loretto seminar. More scholarship information for this year's seminar will be forthcoming after the March Executive Council meeting.



Vinal Van Benthem, SFO



Bob Fitzsimmons, SFO

Retreat celebrates 800th anniversary

St. Frances Cabrini Fraternity in Akron, OH is sponsoring a Franciscan Retreat in celebration of the 800-year anniversary of the foundation of the Franciscan Order. The retreat will be held April 3-5, 2008 at White Pine Campus, Cuyahoga Valley National Park, OH

The cost for the weekend is \$85. Space is limited, so early registration is limited. To register or for more information please contact: Pepe Ventosa, SFO (330)497-8403 www.stfrancescabrinisfo.catholicweb.com

Ministers Meeting and Workshop is April 18

Mark your calendar now, and plan to attend the Fraternal Service workshop that will take place on Saturday April 18, 2009 at the Holiday Inn in Lansing. This year's meeting 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, 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.



Brother Al Mascia, OFM and Mike Carsten, SFO



The Café gives visitors an opportunity to surf the internet.

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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 May issue is April 18.

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Editor

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“Recycling is a luxury for those who have a place to live,” Mike says. “Most of the homeless have only backpacks with them in the Center in which they carry their most valued possessions back to their cardboard hideouts, back to the place they call home. Maybe someday the City of Detroit will have a recycling system in place for inner-city businesses, but for now they do not.

“The water is the important thing. A way to quench their thirst, fill their otherwise empty bellies, and somehow let them know that someone sees their plight and wants to help. Is it a long-term solution? No. But it may be a beginning to let others see the possibilities,” he concludes.

As one of our FYYA Council young adults put it, “It would be nice to let the SFO gang know that there are people stateside that need our help as well.”

The Café serves the homeless of Detroit with food, clothing and fellowship. Some of their clients are the senior citizens who live in the surrounding apartment buildings and come to the Center’s Food Bank because they are trying to live on their \$450 Social Security monthly checks.

For more information go to www.canticlecafe.org to see the Center and the Café.
<http://www.franciscanyouthusa.com/h2o/main.html>
<http://www.theh2oproject.org/>