

Divine Mercy Regional Fraternity
NEWSletter

Divine Mercy Regional Fraternity of
lower Michigan and Toledo Ohio

Messengers of peace moving forward with Francis

July, 2009



Executive Council

Minister

Mary Bittner, SFO

Vice Minister

Roger Ensign, SFO

Secretary

Jean Martin, SFO

Treasurer

Rosemary Hannaford, SFO

Councilors

Robert Brundage, SFO

Pat Carsley, SFO

Marie Criste, SFO

Lois Flickinger, SFO

Formation Minister

Marie Amore, SFO

Spiritual Assistant

Friar Tod Laverty, OFM



Ecology Apostolate

For more than 20 years now St. Anthony Fraternity, now located in Indian River, has acquired seedling trees and distributed them to 4th grade students.

This year students at Bishop Baraga School in Cheboygan received trees to plant along with an explanation of why and how to plant their trees.

Show here is Cora Brodeur, SFO with Jack Ingalsbe and Sierra Chamberlain.

Get ready for the Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Divine Mercy Regional Fraternity and Chapter of Elections will be held on August 14 – 16, 2009, at St. John's Center for Youth and Family in Plymouth. The presider will be SFO National Treasurer, Dennis Ross, SFO, and the Friar Witness will be Fr. Alex Kratz, OFM.

As usual we will be electing officers to the Executive Council of the Regional Fraternity. These include a Minister, a Vice Minister, a Secretary, a Treasurer and four Councilors. The new Council will appoint a Formation Minister to lead an appointed Formation Team.

During the weekend there are always three calls for nominations from the floor. Usually the first call for nominations is made on Friday night, the second on Saturday morning and the third just before the election process begins. The purpose of this method is to get ministers thinking about who might be able to serve in addition to those who have already accepted nomination earlier in the year.

The meeting is open to all members of the Regional Fraternity. Everyone, including fraternity ministers or delegates, needs to register by July 30. Guests may choose to stay at St. John's (\$130 registration fee, includes

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Mark your calendar

July 17-26, 2009

Ste. Anne de Detroit Novena to Ste. Anne honoring the Holy Sprit and Detroit's ethnic diversity

August 14 - 16, 2009

Chapter of Elections and Annual Regional Ministers Meeting at St. Johns in Plymouth. Registrations cannot be guaranteed after July 30, 2009.

September 19, 2009

Conference for inquirers, candidates and formation ministers and teams. Registration forms have been mailed to local ministers and formation teams. Please return forms no later than September 5, 2009.

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Novena - p. 4*

St. Isidore Professes four

St. Isidore Fraternity in Grand Rapids professed four candidates on Sunday May 17, 2009.

Pictured from left are Joseph Bialczak, Anne Bialczak, Mary Gibbons and James Parent.

Anne was professed at age 18 in the Youth Third Order, and Joe was professed in 1972. Both now have completed formation under the 1978 Rule. Prior to coming to Grand Rapids they were members of St. Bonaventure Fraternity in Detroit.

Mary has belonged to St. Isidore Parish for many years. Jim was raised in Livonia and has been in the parish for ten years.



Plan Ahead for the Candidate Day

It is not too early for you to begin planning to attend the upcoming Candidate Day set for September 19, 2009 in Saginaw.

Each year the Divine Mercy Regional Fraternity offers an opportunity for candidates, inquirers, and formation ministers and teams of the region to gather. In the past these days have been well attended and enjoyed. We are eagerly looking forward to this year's gathering.

Some good reasons for attending the candidate's conference include meeting other candidates and formation ministers, learning, sharing and praying. You will deepen your appreciation of your vocation and love of God. You may learn once more to see Christ through the eyes of St. Francis.

Registration forms have been mailed to all local Ministers and Formation teams. The fee for the Day will be \$15.00 to cover the cost of a continental breakfast and lunch.

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lodging and meals) or commute (\$50 fee, includes meals and meetings only). This year the Registration Fees are reduced for those who register by July 15 to \$115 for overnight guests and \$45 for commuters.

There are a limited number of sleeping rooms available, so you are invited to get your reservations in early to be assured of a room, and to take advantage of the reduced registration fees. Overnight guests and commuters who send in their payment with their reservations may request a refund if necessary as late as July 30. Early registration closes July 15. **No reservations will be accepted after July 30.**

If you would like a registration form, contact your fraternity minister or Lois Flickinger at 616-453-9104 or loisflickinger@yahoo.com

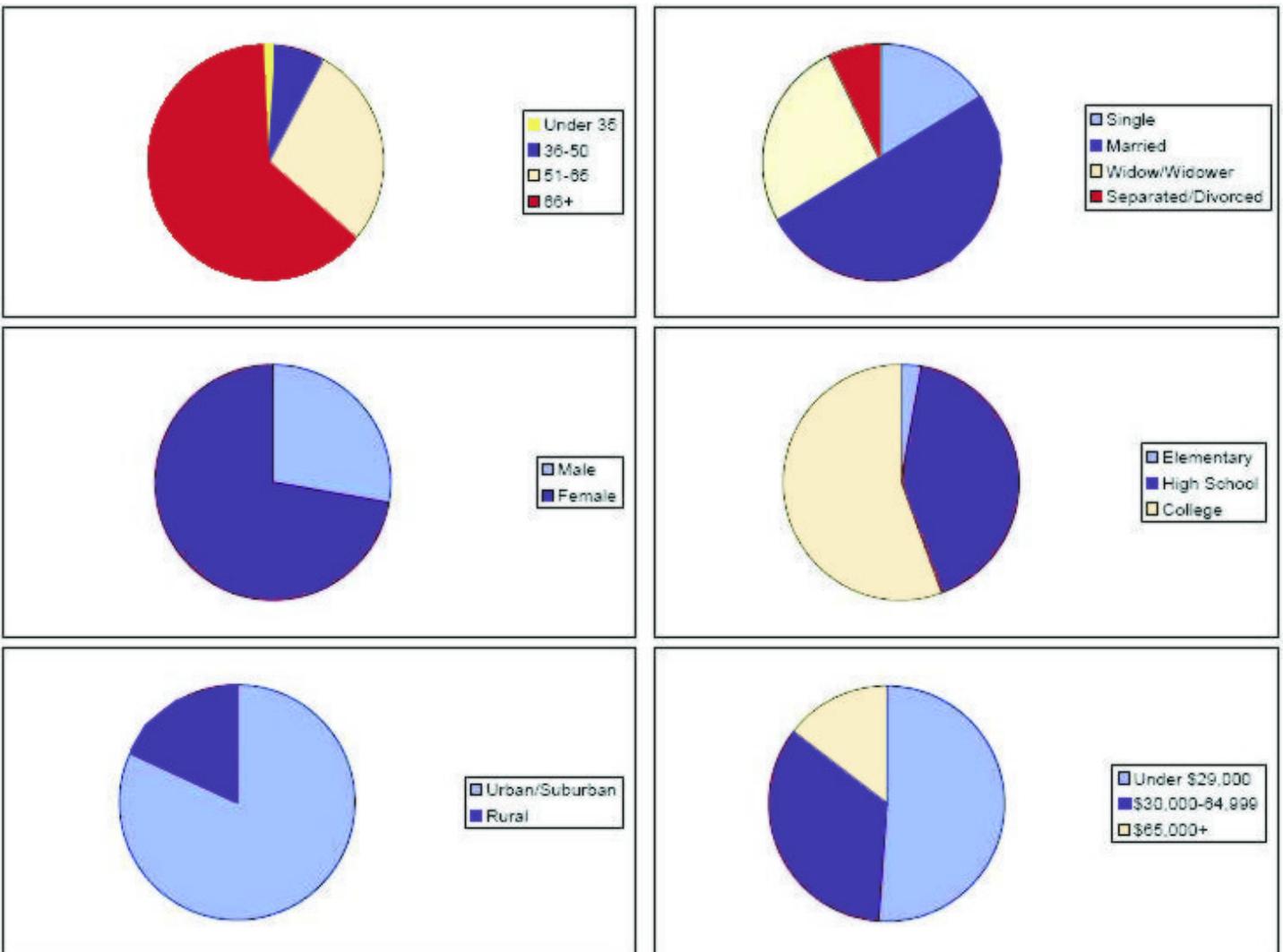
2009 Demographics

Our Regional Minister Mary Bittner, SFO shares some of the demographic information that she gleaned from the local ministers in their Annual Reports.

By age we are predominately 66 years of age or more with only a few members under the age of 35. About half of us are married, and a majority our members are female. A slight majority of us are college educated, and most of us live in urban areas. In keeping with our Franciscan charism a little more than half of us live on an income of \$29,000 per year or less.

This year we have 13 Spiritual Assistants serving 17 of 35 fraternities, and we have two fewer friars than last year. Several of the individuals who recently completed the Franciscan Family Connections program are awaiting appointment to local fraternities.

SFO members manifest their presence in the world through outreaches to the poor and needy and their prayerful participation in their local parishes. Most fraternities have members who serve as lectors and extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist, catechists, and in perpetual adoration within their local parishes. Most fraternities also participate in a variety of direct outreach programs, providing food and clothing to the needy, both locally and via organizations like Amazon Relief, Franciscan Missions, and Franciscan Family Apostolate. Other common ministries include pro-life activities and prison ministry.



2009 Lenten H2O Project update

*You may donate to
the FYYA H2O
Project at any time of
the year.*

We are pleased to announce the FYYA 2009 Lenten H2O Project total is \$11,575.00.

This year's recipient is the Canticle Café in Detroit. They provide radical hospitality to the homeless, unemployed and the elderly of downtown Detroit, MI. Through your generosity, they will have cool, clean drinking water throughout the hot summer months. To read about the Canticle Café, go to www.canticlecafe.org.

Please be aware that you may donate to the FYYA H2O Project at any time of the year. Go to www.franciscanyouthusa.com for details.

Graduation Mission

St. David Fraternity in Washington MI has delivered their second annual Graduation Packets. Once again this year in a dual attempt to evangelize young adults and familiarize them with the SFO the fraternity gifted approximately eighty Graduates of the Class of 2009 with a Catholic Packet.

The gifts were given after the Graduation Baccalaureate Masses in two local 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*.

Fraternity members hope 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 graduates in more of our parishes in future years.

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 18

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Ste. Anne de Detroit Catholic Church and Shrine Novena Service Schedule July 17 - 26, 2008

Celebrate nine consecutive days of Masses and special devotions with daily processions and veneration of Ste. Anne's relics.

Experience Detroit's ethnic diversity at unique Masses with the languages, music, costumes and Catholic rites of many cultures.

Join us for bilingual Mass on Ss. Anne and Joachim's feast day, followed by a fiesta.

Daily Schedule for July 17-26 Including Saturdays

10:00 a.m. Mass & Novena Prayers

7:00 p.m. Mass, Novena Prayers, and Procession

No 5:00 p.m. Mass on Saturday July 19th or Saturday July 26th
