

Divine Mercy Regional Fraternity  
**NEWSletter**

Divine Mercy Regional Fraternity of Lower Michigan and Toledo Ohio

September, 2009



**Executive Council**

**Minister**

*Roger Ensign, SFO*

**Vice Minister**

*Sheri Hafeli, SFO*

**Secretary**

*Jean Martin, SFO*

**Treasurer**

*Rosemary Hannaford, SFO*

**Councilors**

*Ray Boisvenue, SFO*

*Marcia DePauw, SFO*

*Jim Howard, SFO*

*Nancy Maioho, SFO*

**Formation Minister**

*Patti Reynolds, SFO*

**Spiritual Assistant**

*Friar Tod Laverty, OFM*



*Chet Collins, Minister of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Fraternity in Lewiston, congratulates Patti Reynolds on her installation as Formation Minister for the Regional Fraternity during Saturday evening's Installation Mass.*

**New Executive Council members chosen**

Nearly sixty local ministers and guests gathered at the Retreat Center at St. John's in Plymouth for the annual meeting of the Regional Fraternity. This year's gathering was special because the Regional Fraternity also celebrated a chapter of elections. Five new Council members were elected in eleven ballots.

Minister Roger Ensign, SFO was returned to the Council from his previous position as Vice Minister. Also returning are Secretary Jean Martin, SFO and Treasurer Rosemary Hannaford, SFO. Fr. Tod Laverty, OFM remains the Regional Fraternity's Spiritual Assistant.



*Roger, Jean, Rosemary and Fr. Tod*

New members of the Council include: Vice Minister Sheri Hafeli, SFO and Councilors Ray Boisvenue, SFO; Marcia DePauw, SFO; Jim Howard, SFO and Nancy Maioho, SFO.

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**Mark your calendar**

**September 13, 2009**

Third Annual Father Solanus Concert at 3 p.m. at St. Bonaventure on Mt. Elliott in Detroit.

**September 13, 2009**

Corporate Mass at St. Alphonsus Parish at 11 a.m., sponsored by St. Anthony of Padua Fraternity, Dearborn

**September 19, 2009**

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

**September 27, 2009**

Corporate Mass at Divine Child Parish at 11:30 a.m., sponsored by St. Anthony of Padua Fraternity, Dearborn

**October 10, 2009**

St. Joseph Fraternity, Ann Arbor will host their annual retreat. Call Joan at 734-972-9000 for details.

**August 13 - 15, 2010**

Annual Regional Ministers Meeting at St. John's in Plymouth.

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## Regional Fraternity honors outgoing Council members

On Sunday morning during this year's annual meeting outgoing Minister Mary Bittner took the microphone one last time to celebrate two longtime servants of the Regional Fraternity who have chosen not to return to their offices. On behalf of the Regional Fraternity Mary presented \$50 gift certificates to Border's Books to Marie Amore, SFO and Marie Criste, SFO in gratitude for their many years of devotion to the Region.

In the spring and summer of 1992 representatives from the eleven separate Secular Franciscan Provinces in the Lower Peninsula of Michigan and Toledo, OH began meeting with a representative of the National Fraternity to explore the process of regionalization. One of the participants in those first meetings was Marie Amore who later became a member of the Council for the Emerging Regional Fraternity.



*Marie Criste, SFO*



*Marie Amore, SFO*

Long before the Regional Fraternity was started, Marie was already well known for her work in Formation on the International, National and Provincial levels. She has served the Regional Fraternity in that capacity almost continuously since that time except for times when her expertise was needed in National or International areas. When people throughout the Region begged Marie to reconsider accepting the position of Formation Minister one more time, Marie assured them that it was time to pass the torch to another generation. While the retirement of Marie Amore leaves a big gap, she has been careful to nurture members of her Formation Team and prepare them to carry on in her absence.

When the first Regional Executive Council was elected in 1994, Marie Criste was there. After Jean Martin resigned as Secretary of the Regional Fraternity Executive Council very early in her first term, it was Marie who stepped into the breach to save the day; and she has been active in service to the Region every since. Over the years as Secular Franciscans have gathered at various places, more often than not Marie's smiling face was the first one they saw at the registration table. Most recently Marie has served the Executive Council as their Liturgist. Marie has always been willing to do anything that the Council asked of her. She will be missed in meetings of the Executive Council, but we still expect to see her at gatherings of the Regional Fraternity.

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### *Chapter of Elections - continued from p. 1*



*Sheri, Ray, Marcia, Jim, Nancy and Patti*

During their first meeting the new Council chose Patti Reynolds, SFO to be the new Regional Formation Minister.

Vice Minister Sheri Hafeli is the Minister of St. Elizabeth Fraternity in Southfield and in the past has served the Regional Fraternity as its newsletter editor.

Councilor Ray Boisvenue is currently the Vice Minister of Mother of Sorrows Fraternity in Grand Rapids and is known for his formation materials, Franciscan Musings, which he intends to take to the local fraternities.

Marcia DePauw is the Minister of St. Anthony Fraternity in Indian River, and Jim Howard is the Minister of Mother of Sorrows Fraternity in Grand Rapids.

Nancy Maioho is the Minister of Mary Queen of Angels Fraternity in Sand Lake and has served the Regional Fraternity as head of the Ecology Commission.

The new Formation Minister, Patti Reynolds, is a member of Mother of Sorrows Fraternity in Grand Rapids. She is longtime member of the Regional Fraternity's Formation Team and has served as the head of the Youth and Young Adult Commission for the Region.

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## Candidates Day coming up soon

The Candidates Day in Saginaw is scheduled for September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2009. Each year the Divine Mercy Regional Fraternity offers an opportunity for the Candidates, Inquirers, and Formation Ministers and teams of the Region to gather. In the past these days have been well-attended and enjoyed by all participants. We are eagerly looking forward to this year's gathering.

This year's theme is:

### A New Look at an Old Order Exploring our Secular Franciscan Identity

We are planning an informative and motivational day for our regional candidates. One activity scheduled is a panel of Divine Mercy Regional Councilors who will answer questions that have been submitted ahead of time by Candidates and the newly Professed from throughout the Region. Questions can be about anything participants would like to know or explore more deeply about the Secular Franciscan Order.



Speakers for the day include: Mary Bittner, Mike Carsten, Patti Reynolds and Marie Amore

Date: September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2009

Time: 9:00 till 3:00 p.m.

Place: Saginaw Ministry Center

Cost: \$15.00

### Fr. Solanus Concert is Sept. 13

Be inspired at the Third Annual Father Solanus Concert on Sunday, September 13 at 3:00 P.M. The concert will feature The Father Solanus Choir, Mike Glaser, pianist, Patrick Macoska, organist and The New Spirit Singers.

Tickets will cost \$15 each. For ticket information please call Patricia Meldrum at 586.296.7966 or the Secular Franciscan Office at 313.579.2100 ext. 136.

Please join St. Bonaventure Fraternity at the Monastery Chapel at 1760 Mt. Elliott Street, Detroit 48207 for this blessed event.

### Make a donation and get a very special candle

The Canticle Café at St. Aloysius Parish in Detroit is asking other parishes to donate candles to support their latest fundraising project.

Volunteers at the Café are using only recycled Easter candles and other bee's wax altar candles to make very special candles for sale to the public. These candles, which are poured in pint-sized jars, are available to the public for a donation of \$10 each.

The Canticle provides hospitality to their neighbors in need in downtown Detroit. For more information please visit the Café in downtown Detroit or go to <http://www.canticlecafe.org>.

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## Join Terra Sancta's project on behalf of Christians in the Holy Land

We have fraternal brothers and sisters Bethlehem who are suffering because they live under military occupation. Christianity is in peril in the very land, the very town, where our Savior was born. Christians now number fewer than 2% in the Holy Land and fewer than 30% in Bethlehem.

Pope John Paul II told them during his Jubilee trip in 2000, "Do not be afraid to preserve your Christian presence and heritage in the very land where the Savior was born."

We Western Christians are called to safeguard that Christian presence so that there will always be living stones in the Land of Jesus.

### Bridge to Bethlehem

Your fraternity is invited to join Terra Sancta Pilgrimages in our first project, collecting school supplies and backpacks. Please read the following description for further information.

A group of Pilgrims from the Franciscan ministry of Terra Sancta Pilgrimages will personally carry them back to Bethlehem. They will be taken as carry-on luggage, so there will be no cost to send the supplies to the Holy Land.

Suggested items include:

- College quality backpacks
- #2 Pencils
- Colored Pencils (no crayons please)
- Black and Blue Ball Point Pens
- Pink Pearl Erasers
- Glue Sticks
- Christian Stickers
- Funds for Food Vouchers

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 November issue is October 18**

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### Dearborn fraternity to sponsor corporate masses

June McRae, Minister of St. Anthony of Padua Fraternity, says that her fraternity will be sponsoring two corporate masses in upcoming weeks. The fraternity has invited any Secular Franciscans to attend, to wear their taus and to join them in a show of solidarity to parishioners of the host parishes.

The first of the masses will be held on September 13, 2009 at St. Alphonsus Parish during their 11 a.m. parish mass. The church is located at 7455 Calhoun in Dearborn.

The second mass will be held at Divine Child Parish on September 27 during their 11:30 mass. Divine Child is located at 25001 Herbert Weier Drive in Dearborn.

Members of St. Anthony of Padua Fraternity hope to see many of their Secular Franciscan brothers and sisters in attendance at both events.