

Divine Mercy Regional Fraternity
NEWSletter

Divine Mercy Regional Fraternity of Lower Michigan and Toledo Ohio

November, 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 DePaauw, SFO
Jim Howard, SFO
Nancy Maioho, SFO

Formation Minister
Patti Reynolds, SFO

Spiritual Assistant
Friar Tod Laverty, OFM



Vice Minister Sheri Hafeli and Councilor Jim Howard look on as Formation Minister Patti Reynolds pulls up the Region's new website on her office computer.

Mark your calendar

April 24, 2010
Spring Ministers Meeting, Causaway Bay Inn, Lansing

August 13 - 15, 2010
Annual Regional Ministers Meeting at St. John's, Plymouth.

Executive Council holds visioning session

Members of the Executive Council held a visioning gathering on Saturday September 26, 2009 at St. Thomas Parish in Grand Rapids. The five-hour session served to give members of the new Council a chance to become better acquainted with one another and to begin to share their hopes and aspirations for the Regional Fraternity for the next three years.

In the afternoon the group moved briefly into Patti Reynold's office in the building to view and discuss the new website the Council had commissioned in office. They also received a brief hands-on demonstration of the Region's Twitter and Facebook pages.

Inside:

Candidate Gathering - p. 2

New website - p. 2

Third Regional Minister lauded - p. 3

Recent local elections - p. 4

Follow us on the web - p. 4

Schedule local fraternity elections

Part of Sheri Hafeli's responsibility as your newly elected Vice Minister is to schedule upcoming elections with the fraternities. If your fraternity has an election coming up soon, you need to please contact her at (586) 758-5769 or email her at shafeli1@hotmail.com and write SFO Election in the subject line.

Sheri would respectfully ask that you contact her 2-1/2 to 3 months in advance so that she can contact the Regional Minister and Executive Council members in your area to make sure they are available on that date. We will also need to arrange for a Friar Witness or Delegate for that same day.

Candidates Gathering takes a new look at our old Order



Sr. Laura Hammel, OSC and Sr. Dianne Doughty, OSC of the Sisters of St. Clare in Saginaw joined their Secular Franciscan brothers and sisters during their formation gathering.

The 2009 Candidates Day was held at the Center for Ministry in Saginaw on September 19th. The theme for this year was A New Look at an Old Order, Exploring our Secular Franciscan Identity. The annual gatherings are provided in order to help Candidates and Inquirers discern the call to the Secular Franciscan Order, appreciate the vocation to be a Franciscan, learn more about Secular Franciscan spirituality, discern ways to serve God in fraternity and in the world and to meet other brothers and sisters from the Region who are also in the formation process.

Speakers for the day included Mary Bittner, Mike Carsten, Patti Reynolds and Marie Amore. In the afternoon a panel of Divine Mercy Regional Councilors answered questions which had been submitted by Candidates and the newly Professed from throughout the Region.



Visit our new website early and often

The Regional Fraternity's new website includes frequent news updates. Here you will also find back issues of the NEWSletter, a complete list of local fraternities in the current roster and downloadable copies of current registration forms and other documents of interest to fraternity members.

Meanwhile the Regional Fraternity has established a presence elsewhere on the Internet with Twitter and Facebook. On these social networking sites we will also offer inspirational updates and postings of interest to Franciscans and all Christians. More information about this can be found on the last page.

Visit the Regional Fraternity on the web at
<http://www.divinemercuryregion.org>

Third Minister of Divine Mercy Regional Fraternity lauded

by Marie Amore, SFO and Marie Criste, SFO

We have watched Divine Mercy Region grow and develop since its inception. In many ways it is like a family. A few new members are added as older members move on, content to see the family grow and expand. There have been some turbulent times, but the joy is in watching the members come together to heal and find peace again.

Mary Bittner became our third Regional minister when Mike Carsten was elected to a national office. She barely had time to get used to being Vice-Minister when she was given the additional duties of Minister. Mary handled it well, as she always does. She possessed the God-given ability to listen, to be open and fair. She was analytical and stood strong when she felt something was right for the Region.

The Minister of a Regional Fraternity is on call seven days a week, twenty-four hours a day. Mary has a very responsible job at the University of Michigan and a family in Wisconsin that also likes her attention. Mary has done it all with great grace.

During her time in office the Regional Fraternity has made great progress. One of the innovations was adding a second Regional meeting in the spring since one meeting a year was not enough to accomplish all of the business of the Region.

It is good for the members to gather twice a year with time enough to socialize and pray together. The brothers and sisters learn much from one another and share ideas.

In Mary's tenure there were leadership workshops and workshops for formation ministers. The National Formation team came to give their program to the Region. The Spirit and Life Team (SALT) was invited to give two different weekend presentations. The annual conference for Inquirers and Candidates has steadily grown and is now attended by many formation team members in addition to the Inquirers and Candidates.

The Regional Fraternity has grown spiritually as it has focused on formation and peace as well as prayer. Now it is ready for the next step into the future.

Mary has done her job well. The Region has been blessed with her leadership.

Thanks, Mary and may God reward you.



Mary Bittner, SFO

*The Regional Fraternity
has grown spiritually as it
has focused on formation,
peace and prayer.*

Breaking news from NAFRA

Divine Mercy Regional Fraternity's own Mary Bittner was elected as the first National Councilor during NAFRA's Chapter of Elections held on October 24, 2009.

Deacon Tom Bello is the new National Minister. Elaine Hedtke is the new National Vice Minister. Jan Parker has been elected Secretary, and the vote for Treasurer resulted in Dennis Ross being elected for a third term. The other Councilors are Michelle Kim and Arturo Villareal. The position of International Councilor went to Anne Mulqueen.

Local Fraternities elect new Councils

St. Anthony Fraternity, Indian River

Minister - Bob Bowersox, SFO
Vice Minister - Sylvester Pingatore, SFO
Secretary: Muriel Pekrul SFO
Treasurer: Joan Rybinski, SFO
Councilors: Kevin Wahr, SFO
Marcia DePauw, SFO
Cora Brodeur, SFO
Jean Martin, SFO

Troubadours of St. Clare Fraternity, St. Clair

Minister: Mary Anne Novak SFO
Vice Minister: Cynthia Wahl SFO
Secretary: Joan Pallet, SFO
Treasurer: Jerry Alderman, SFO
Christian Service Councilor: Marie Krzesowski, SFO
Councilor at Large: Rosemarie Niebauer, SFO

Solanus Casey Fraternity, Roseville

Minister: Raymond Sox, SFO
Vice Minister: Andrew Belanger, SFO
Secretary: Sandra A. Harrington, SFO
Treasurer: Norma Rea, SFO
Formation Minister: Toni Ozdych, SFO
Councilor: Sandra Marie Belanger, SFO

St. Bonaventure Fraternity, Detroit

Minister: Maryann Kummer, SFO
Vice Minister: Teresa Westbrook-Lienert, SFO
Secretary: Patricia A. Meldrum, SFO
Treasurer: Joe Portugal, SFO
Councilors:
Stephen Haycox, SFO
Anthony Lienert, SFO
Patricia A. Munafó, SFO
Chuck Sopian, SFO
Beverly Sopian, SFO
Formation Minister: John E. Bodell, SFO



The new Council for St. Joseph Fraternity in Grand Blanc includes: Treasurer Martha Majestic, SFO; Secretary Margaret Erickson, SFO; Minister Elaine Packard, SFO; Vice Minister Monica Ingram, SFO and Formation Minister Rob Tomalia, SFO

Follow us now at:



<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Divine-Mercy-Regional-Fraternity-SFO/290925040220>



and <http://twitter.com/dmercy43>

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 January issue is December 15

dmercy@charter.net
www.divinemercyregion.org

Editor
622 W. Oldfield
Alpena, MI 49707
