

Divine Mercy Regional Fraternity  
**NEWSletter**

Divine Mercy Regional Fraternity of Lower Michigan and Toledo OH

March, 2010



*Oh, how happy and blessed are these men and women when they do these things and persevere in doing them because the spirit of the Lord will rest upon them and He will make His home and dwelling among them.*

## 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

## Mark your calendar

### April 24, 2010

Spring Ministers Meeting, Causeway Bay Inn, Lansing

### June 13, 2010

Day of Recollection in Conway with St. Anthony Fraternity in Indian River. 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. \$15, lunch included. More information coming.

### August 20-23, 2010

Annual Regional Ministers Meeting at St. Paul of the Cross Retreat Center, Detroit.

## Where does your Fair Share go?

Have you ever wondered how your individual fair share payment is distributed? The following is a short narrative that we have prepared to show you just how your dollars are spent.

First you will notice that \$12 of your \$29.50 comes right off the top so that we can help support the National and International Fraternities. In a moment we will show you how that fair share is used too.

At the top of the 2010 budget you will notice several charitable contributions that are made by the Regional Fraternity. These dollars do not come directly from your fair share but are instead usually taken from interest the Region has accumulated from our savings accounts.

Formation has been designated as a priority in the Region, and \$1.99 of your fair share is devoted to these expenses. Another \$1.59 is spent for the Candidates Conference held in the fall for all inquirers and formation people. If you have never had a chance to attend one of these gatherings, we urge you to watch the newsletter for information about the 2010 Conference scheduled for Saturday, October 2 in Saginaw.

Another \$1.99 is needed to conduct the Council elections that your fraternity holds every three years and for Fraternal and Pastoral Visitations. Executive Council

### Inside:

*Fair Share- p. 2*

*Ongoing Formation- p. 3*

*Renewal of Profession  
- p. 4*

*Practicing Eco-Penance  
during Lent - p. 4*

*Continued on p. 2*



Rosemary Hannaford, SFO  
Treasurer

expenses for the Minister, Secretary and Treasurer combined total another \$2.66. These include postage and copying, and stipends for travel within the Region are available when it is required.

One big ticket item, this bimonthly NEWSletter, costs each of you \$5.31 per year. The other big items are the two meetings of the Regional Fraternity held every spring and summer. Since Ministers or their delegates are expected to attend these meetings, the Regional Fraternity pays for them.

Other members of local fraternities are always welcome to attend; so if you feel like you would like to get your \$6.64 worth from one of these meetings, please set aside April 24 or August 23-25 to join us. If you are not a Minister, you will have to pay something; but even then a portion of your expenses will be picked up by the Regional Fraternity.

In many ways the \$12 of your fair share that go to the National Fraternity are also well-spent. You will notice that \$1.38 comes off the top of that and is passed on to CIOFS, the International Fraternity. Because of the huge quantities involved, your TAU newsletter is an even better value at \$2.76 per year. The \$.22 NAFRA spends on insurance covers all of your fraternity gatherings too, and your fraternity benefits every day from the \$1.38 spent on formation printing and materials. Look for even more formation information coming your way soon.

We urge you to spend a few more minutes looking over the budgets for the Regional Fraternity below to learn more about the priorities your leaders have set for the upcoming year.

## 2010 Evaluation Budget

Expense		From your \$29.50 Fair Share
2010 Charity Donation (to be determined)	\$500.00	\$0.67
NAFRA-CIOFS Donation	\$200.00	\$0.27
Spiritual Asst. (Stipend)	\$400.00	\$0.53
Formation	\$1,500.00	\$1.99
Candidate Conference (Sept. 2010)	\$1,200.00	\$1.59
Fraternity Elections/Visitations	\$1,500.00	\$1.99
NAFRA Fairshare	\$9,036.00	\$12.00
Regional Newsletter	\$4,000.00	\$5.31
Ministers Exp.	\$1,500.00	\$1.99
Secretary Exp.	\$400.00	\$0.53
Treasurer Exp.	\$100.00	\$0.13
Apostolic Ministry Expense	\$277.50	\$0.37
Regional Fra. Con. Mtg. (Spring/Fall Minister Mtgs.)	\$5,000.00	\$6.64
EC Fra. Con. Mtg. (travel)	\$500.00	\$0.67
Est. Total Expenses	\$26,113.50	\$34.68

---

---

## Ongoing Formation

### *What a wonderful gift to our community*

Ongoing Formation can take on a few different forms: 1) a priority for your council, the major topic for discussion at most if not all of your council meetings, 2) during your Fraternity gatherings, and 3) a small group setting in a member's home (or other venue) possibly called Dinner and Dialogue with Francis.

Why, you say? Why ongoing formation? I pray the Office every day, I attend as many Fraternity gatherings as I can, I contribute to the general fund, I am an active and practicing Catholic. Yes, these are all good and part of our commitment as members of our Order. But let me ask you this. Are you actively and purposely seeking the Secular Franciscan way of life? Have you an apostolic zeal like Brother Francis had . . .actively participating in society? Do we truly understand the meaning of our Profession and have a remarkable sense of belonging to our Order? Or are we looking for more.

Let us say yes to ongoing formation on a monthly basis and be challenged by our International Fraternity's Central Theme of Annual Formation. *"...the sense of belonging, vocation to fraternity, and the importance and nature of the commitment of Profession are all fundamental elements in the life of Secular Franciscans that must be undertaken, underlined, and re-proposed with strength in initial and permanent formation."* (Conclusions of General Chapter 2008)

But don't worry – there is really no more work for you to do; you don't have to re-invent the ongoing formation wheel! Just go to [www.ciofs.org](http://www.ciofs.org). Click on "English". Click "ongoing formation project monthly dossier". There is also a link on our regional website: [www.divinemercuryregion.org](http://www.divinemercuryregion.org), under Worldwide Formation for 2010. If you don't have a computer, maybe someone on your Fraternity Council or Formation Team, or a sister or brother, can print the article for you. Please also feel free to contact me, and I will be more than happy to mail you a copy.

Each ongoing formation Monthly Dossier has three sections. The first section is **Profession in the SFO: Gift and Commitment**, and also **Belonging to the SFO**. The second section will connect the monthly topic within the context of the Liturgical Calendar or any other significant event related to the respective topic. The third section will connect the monthly topic to the **Catholic Church's Social Teaching**. Each section also includes a few comments and questions for personal reflection and discussion at fraternity gatherings.

Although this material from CIOFS is not a mandate, it is encouraged that all formators use this to support important formation work. And I'll bet that every Fraternity and Fraternity member can engage in at least one of the three different forms of ongoing formation as indicated above.

Ongoing formation is a gift for us; it is just waiting to be unwrapped and opened.

---

---



*Patti Reynolds, SFO*

***Are you actively  
and purposely  
seeking the  
Secular  
Franciscan way  
of life?***

---

## Practicing Eco-Penance during Lent

### *Prayer, Fasting, and Almsgiving*

Francis understood that creation is a self-expression of God's fruitful and self-giving love. As the Trinity is a loving Communion of Persons, so we are called to relate to God and all creatures in loving communion. Whereas sin tears at relationships, penance brings us to a new familial relatedness. Our resources include ways of practicing eco-penance.

**Prayer:** We raise our voices as the consciousness of creation in contrition, thanksgiving, and praise.

**Fasting:** Our abstinence from various earthly goods provides space to consider whether our individual and social relationships with these goods are just and loving or in need of conversion.

**Almsgiving:** We find inspiration and encouragement in the witness of those who strive to live out merciful right relationship with God's creation.

We hope that these penitential practices will prepare us to respond to the gift of our salvation which we commemorate at Easter with renewed commitment to acting on our care for creation.

- Franciscan Action Network (FAN)

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 15

[dmercy@charter.net](mailto:dmercy@charter.net)

Editor  
622 W. Oldfield  
Alpena, MI



*On January 16, 2010 St. Joseph Fraternity in Grand Blanc held a renewal of profession within a Mass celebrated by Fr. Tod Laverty, OFM. Those renewing their professions included: Monica Ingram, SFO; Walter Schoendorff, SFO; Wilma Mc Kenzie, SFO; Marty Majestic, SFO; Janice Hennen, SFO; Theresa Dorsay, SFO; Elaine Packard, SFO; Rob Tomalia, SFO; and Margaret Erickson, SFO (not pictured).*

