

Divine Mercy Regional Fraternity
NEWSletter

Divine Mercy Regional Fraternity of Lower Michigan and Toledo OH

November, 2010



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This year's guest speaker at the Annual Formation Day in Saginaw was Kathy Taormina, SFO

The 2010 Annual Day of Formation was held on October 2 in Saginaw. This year's theme was Life in Fraternity – “Yes, This is *What I Want*” ??? These are the words we find in our Rite of Profession and do not realize fully, it seems, until after we are Professed.

The Scripture theme was from the Gospel of Luke, Chapter 5, and Article 22 of our Rule. The Apostolic Letter of Pope John Paul II, *Novo Millennio Ineunte* with his words: *Duc in altum*, “Put out into the Deep” was also featured.

Guest speaker Kathy Taormina, SFO offered two talks with small group sharing. These included regarding “Intergenerational SFO – Sharing the Charism” and “Making It All Work – Living Within a Fraternity”.

The challenge that the presenters commissioned fraternities with for these next few months has to do with Celebrating Youth, the #3 priority of the National Secular Franciscan Order this year. How we celebrate youth depends on all of us.

Overwhelmingly, the evaluations from the Day reflected that the Day met your expectations and then some. Both Kathy's presentation and the small group discussions were called informative and inspiring. Participants thought the Day was beneficial and a great opportunity to be together as Fraternity.

See you next year on Saturday, September 24, 2011, at the Saginaw Center for Ministry.

Mark your calendar

November 11, 2010

Song and Spirit concert
St. Therese of Lisieux Parish
Shelby Township - 6 p.m.
www.songandspirit.org

November 13, 2010

EC in Farmington Hills

March 5, 2011

EC in Grand Rapids

April 9, 2011

Spring Ministers gathering
St. Francis Retreat Center, DeWitt MI

June 4, 2011

EC in Farmington Hills

July 22-24, 2011

Forming the Formators
Capuchin Retreat Center, Washington MI

August 12-14, 2011

Annual Meeting with Visitation
St. Francis Retreat Center, DeWitt MI

September 24, 2011

Annual Day of Formation in Saginaw

Inside:

Forming the Formators p. 2

Youth Goody Bags p.2

The Poor Clares p. 3

Piquette Square update 4

An invitation p. 4

Civility in Discourse p. 4



Patti Reynolds, SFO

Forming the Formators workshops coming up

As you will see from the NAFRA formation website, there are many exciting things happening.

Two of us from the Divine Mercy Region will be attending the NAFRA Forming the Formators Workshop at of Our Lady of the Snows in Belleville, IL next May, 2011. We will be introduced to and trained in the new *Initial Formation Manual* that is strongly recommended for all of us to use in our Fraternities.

As you may remember, I have written to you about these essential topics in the Manual that are the foundation of a solid plan for the Order. The suggested Formation topics that we will be going over are:

Orientation: The Creed, Ecclesiology of Laity (Baptism), and the Franciscan Movement.

Inquiry: Vocation, Charism of the Founder and Mission of the Order, Fundamental Elements of Christian Doctrine (Scripture), Nature of the SFO, Identity of the Secular Franciscan, and Discussion on the life of St. Francis of Assisi.

Candidacy: Year 1. The Rule of the SFO (3 sessions), JPIC (Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (2 sessions), Conversion-Penance, Further elements on conversion, Profession (2 sessions), and Fraternity as fundamental element of St. Francis.

Candidacy: Year 2. Francis and his approach to Divinity and Franciscan Spirituality, Francis and the Blessed Mother, St. Clare of Assisi, History of the SFO and its Rule, Secular Franciscan Saints and Blesseds, General Constitutions and NAFRA Statutes, Franciscan Youth and Young Adults (FYA), and Pastoral Assistance to the SFO.

In order for you to be introduced to all that the two of us will be sharing Divine Mercy Region will be hosting our own Forming the Formators workshop. This will be held the weekend of July 22-24, 2011 at the Capuchin Retreat Center, in Washington, Michigan. Please mark your calendars now and plan to attend.

The Registration form with details will be posted on our website: www.divinemercyregion.org, as well as mailed these next couple of months to Fraternity Ministers, Formation Ministers and their Teams. All Professed Secular Franciscans who are interested in attending the weekend will be most welcome.

Franciscan Goody Bags can help SFO celebrate Youth

Please consider, as fraternity, putting together Youth Goody Bags for the youth of your parish. These Franciscan goody bags can be for those who have just been Confirmed, for those graduating from high school or for those young adults who are away at college and need a love note from their parish, via the SFO.

You may want to consider working with your parish youth minister or your parish religious education Confirmation catechist for these bags. Some of the items you may want to gather to put in the goody bags are: Franciscan items, e.g. a brochure about who the SFO is with a contact name and number, prayer cards, chocolate, cookies, a Franciscan medal, a Rosary, a small San Damiano crucifix, a candle, a pocket-size New Testament, more chocolate, a Francis and Clare youth and young adult timeline (This can be found on the YouFra website www.franciscanyouthusa.com), travel size toiletries, school supplies, more cookies, etc.

Surely you have many more ideas that you will be able to include regarding our Secular Franciscan Order.



Remember the Poor Clares during the upcoming Christmas Holidays

Our Poor Care Sisters in Saginaw design, market, and distribute greeting cards to support their lifestyle.

These contemplative nuns have ventured into the greeting card industry. More notably, they've been designing, marketing, and distributing Christmas cards for nearly 10 years. About 12 years ago they began making their own Christmas cards and sending them to friends. The friends eventually wanted to buy them and send them to others. "We begin working on concepts and images in March," explains Sister Laura.

"We are always looking for something new and crisp, attractive, with a good message. After the proof process, we work on the inside message, which is something personal. We're assuming they are sending the cards to friends and you want a warm message inside."

This Christmas season they have four different designs "Glorious Morn", "Glory to God", "Deep in December", and "Mary".

"We haven't moved our costs even though production costs have risen," says Sister Laura. "We want to make them affordable. We know the increase in postage rates has affect us."

"All of the money we make stays right here to provide us with food, housing, and health care," she adds.

In October of 1991, at the invitation of the late Bishop Kenneth Untener, four nuns began their contemplative community in the Diocese of Saginaw.

As Poor Clare Nuns also known as Sisters of St. Clare, the only Poor Clare Community in Michigan, they continue the ministry of their founder, St. Clare of Assisi, a contemporary of St. Francis of Assisi.

In the spirit of St. Clare, they focus on God, the people and intentions of the world. The four sisters share a Saginaw Township home together, sisters Dianne Doughty, Bernardone Reining, Laurene Burns, and Laura Hammel.

The four sisters, who came from a monastery in Minneapolis, pray five times a day. In the morning they pray the Liturgy of the Hours followed by Eucharist. The day's labor follows: housework, computer tasks, correspondence, yard work, telephone calls, and their community projects. At midday they return to prayer, have lunch and have some free time.

During the afternoon they continue the tasks they began in the morning. With evening they again gather to pray the psalms, share a meal, and complete the day by catching the news or engaging in some form of recreation. They end the day with Centering Prayer.

To view or order Christmas cards, visit <http://srsclare.com>



Thank You to all the Divine Mercy Region Fraternities who donated to the Piquette Square Home for Veterans collection of twin sheet sets, pillows and blankets. As I announced at our Annual Meeting, our participation was acknowledged in their Opening Day Program. There were many VIP's at the opening including Mayor Dave Bing and it was nice that the SFO had recognition. Below are selected portions of their opening program:

Shari



Piquette Square
for Veterans
Grand Opening Ceremony

Thursday, July 15, 2010
2:00 – 3:30 PM

285 Piquette Street, Detroit, MI 48202



PROGRAM

Tammy Duckworth

Assistant Secretary for Public and Intergovernmental Affairs, United States Department of Veteran Affairs

David Bing

Mayor, City of Detroit

Robert A. Ficano

Wayne County Executive

Gary Heidel

Interim Executive Director, Michigan State Housing Development Authority

Charles Pugh

President, Detroit City Council

Mark McDaniel

President, Great Lakes Capital Fund

Coniel Norman

Veteran and resident of Piquette Square

John Van Camp

President, Southwest Solutions

Timothy Thorland

Executive Director, Southwest Housing Solutions

Music provided by the Motor City Brass Band Quintet, with sponsorship from Dencap Dental Plans. Color Guard provided by 1st Battalion, 24th Marine Regiment located on Selfridge Air National Guard Base.

Southwest Solutions wishes to acknowledge all those who provided funding and resources for Piquette Square for Veterans.

Wish List Donation Partners

American Legion Ford Motor Co. Post #173
4th District Department of Michigan VFW
UAW Local Union #412

American Legion Department of Michigan
UAW Region 1 Veterans Council

Sons of American Legion Squadron #396
Charles Shapiro Gen. Maurice Rose JWV Post #510
Don S. Hubert VFW Post #345

AmVets Ladies Auxiliary Post 57

AmVets Post 29

AmVets Post 29 Riders

Disabled American Vets Chapter 113

Kiwanis Club of Woodhaven

Ford Motor Company

Bank of America

Masco

Toyota

Christ Church Detroit

Great Lakes Health Plan

Gleaners Community Food Bank

Kiwanis Club #1 of Detroit

Divine Mercy Region of Secular Franciscans

St. Elizabeth of Hungary Secular Franciscan Fraternity

Prince of Peace Catholic Church

Collaborative Michigan Church Quilt Ministries

Rick Nowakowski

Rebecca Magiera

Safford & Baker, PLLC

General Dynamics

Blue Cross Blue Shield Senior Advisory Committee

And many other individuals and organizations who donated their time and gifts.

You are invited

You are invited to join Lumen Christi Emerging Fraternity in celebrating the permanent Profession of their first seven Candidates.

Carolyn Dusik, Jerry Dusik, Barb Lyons, Linda Solis, Christine Tabone, Bill Temple and Amber Toporek attended the first gatherings of the Newly Forming Group at St. Elizabeth of Hungary Parish in Wyandotte. Their Professions will take place on Saturday November 20, 2010 during the 5 o'clock Liturgy at St. Elizabeth of Hungary Parish in Wyandotte.

Making the F.R.A.N.C.I.S. Commitment to Civility in Discourse

National conversations on policy currently contain a great degree of inflammatory language. This language exaggerates differences, hardens positions, provokes emotion and uses violent imagery at times.

As an alternative to this destructive pattern, Franciscans International has partnered with Franciscan Action Network to offer principles for public conversation based on the life of St. Francis and Franciscan traditions. The purpose in proposing these principles is to be mindful of a Franciscan way to promote civic engagement and to demonstrate peace in an ongoing process of transformation.

If you are inspired by the peaceful witness of Sts. Francis and Clare of Assisi, would like to learn more about and make the F.R.A.N.C.I.S. commitment, or would like access to other civil dialogue resources, please visit:

<http://www.franciscanaction.org/franciscancommitment>

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** www.divinemercyregion.org divinemercyregion@gmail.com

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