

Newsletter: Divine Mercy Region Secular Franciscan Order



Lower Michigan and Toledo, Ohio

August, 2015

News from the Annual Ministers Meeting

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The Regional Chapter of Elections for Divine Mercy Region was held at the Annual Ministers Meeting on Saturday, August 8th. We have a new council. Please welcome:

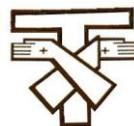
Minister – David Seitz OFS
Vice Minister – Jim Graczyk OFS
Secretary – Theresa Brown OFS
Treasurer – Fran Walker OFS
Councilor – Amy Oatley OFS
Councilor – Paul DeWeese OFS
Councilor – Annette Dolan OFS
Councilor – Jan Kaeding OFS
Spiritual Assistant – Br. Loren Connell OFM

We wish to extend a heartfelt THANK YOU to our out-going council who have worked so hard over the last several years and served us so well!

Thank you so much and may God bless you for the generous service you have given.



L to R: Br. Loren, Paul, Theresa, David, Jim, Annette, Amy, Jan



From Our Regional Minister

Dear sisters and brothers,

I have to admit, I'm a little bit scared and nervous as I take on the role of Minister for the Divine Mercy Region. While serving the past three years as vice-minister, I have witnessed firsthand the dedication and devotion of our outgoing minister, Jim Howard. Jim was wholly dedicated to the service of our region, spending many hours and days outside of the quarterly regional council meetings attending to the needs of our region and that national fraternity. I certainly pray the Holy Spirit will give me the wisdom and guidance to fill his shoes.

With that said, my three years serving on the regional council has given me some insight as to what the job entails. The good news is that being surrounded by all of you, supported by your prayers, the work of the region will get done. I am looking forward to continuing to work with all of you. I have visited over the past three years almost all of our fraternities conducting elections, assisting at fraternal visitations, and sometime, as an invited guest to join your gathering or being asked to be a guest speaker.

Some more good news; the outgoing members of our past regional council can all assist with local elections, and they can count on our new regional vice minister to ask them for assistance on occasion. Yes, you thought you were getting out easy by not being on the council this time around...but it's like the Hotel California, you can check out any time you like, but you can never leave!

Please keep our new regional council in your prayers. It is prayer and the Holy Spirit, the true Minister General of the order that will accomplish the work of the region. Your council members are simply the humble instruments that will be used over the next three years.

Thank you for your vote of confidence in all those you have chosen to serve on the Regional Council. May all of you be blessed in your local fraternities.

I pray for the Lord's peace to be with each and every one of my sisters and brothers in the Divine Mercy Region.

I have created a new e-mail account that I will use for my role as the Divine Mercy Region Minister. My old e-mail can still be used, however, I'd like you to please use this for any OFS business and correspondence with me.

dmrofsdavid@gmail.com

Your humble servant,

David Seitz, OFS

Laudato Si

Since the last newsletter, Pope Francis has published his long-awaited document on care of the environment. The encyclical is named after the recurring line "Praised be You," in the Canticle of the Creatures, written by St. Francis. The title of the encyclical is rendered "Laudato Si" in Latin (Be Praised!).

A copy of the encyclical can be found at the Vatican's website. The address is:

http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html

"Moreover they should respect all creatures, animate and inanimate, which "bear the imprint of the Most High," and they should strive to move from the temptation of exploiting creation to the Franciscan concept of universal kinship. (Our Rule, Art. 18)

How Can I Help?

Beth Brown OFS, a member of St. Louis the King Fraternity in White Lake, is raising funds for a 2-year mission trip with the Franciscan Mission Service.

Beth has already served missions in Timor Leste and Haiti, but does not yet know where she will be serving this time. Wherever she serves, she will be writing about her experiences online at her blog. Her blog is at: <http://franciscanmissionservice.org/profile/bbrown/>

You can donate for Beth's mission trip at: <http://ow.ly/P6JNj>

Countdown to the Q

The next Quinquennial Congress will be held June 30-July 4, 2016 in St. Louis, Missouri. The keynote speaker will be Fr. Dan Horan OFM. His topic will be Relationship.

Note: The 2016 Quinquennial was originally planned for a few days later in Denver. The time and place have been changed to June 30-July 4 in St. Louis, Missouri. A copy of the flier can be found in the latest Tau Magazine or online at http://www.nafra-sfo.org/tau-usa/articles/spring15/misc4_spring15.pdf

Transitus Celebrations in Our Region

St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, 1449 Wilcox Park Dr. SE, Grand Rapids, October 2nd (Friday), 7PM (Hosted by Our Mother of Sorrows Fraternity, Grand Rapids)

Solanus Casey Center, 1780 Mount Elliot Street, Detroit, October 3rd (Saturday), 7PM (Hosted by St. Bonaventure Fraternity, Detroit)

Day of Reflection

St. Bonaventure Secular Franciscan Fraternity in Detroit would like to invite everyone to a day of reflection on Sunday, Sept 19, 11AM-3:30PM. It will be held at the Solanus Casey Center. Father Keith Clark OFM Cap. will be speaking on servant leadership. If you plan to attend please bring a brown bag lunch.

Please send information about upcoming events in your fraternity to:
Theresa Brown, Regional Secretary, at jtmcbrown@msn.com OR
Jan Kaeding, Editor at <http://www.divineprovidencefraternity@gmail.com>

"Blessed be God in all His designs." Ven. Solanus Casey OFM Cap.

Regional Calendar

October 31, 2015	Formation Day, Center for Ministry, Saginaw, MI
April 30, 2016	Spring Ministers Meeting, Center for Ministry, Saginaw, MI
August 12-14, 2016	Annual Ministers Meeting, Franciscan Retreat Center, Dewitt, MI

Compassion

Compassion for each other, and for others, is an integral part of living our rule. The gospel says, *"The glory that you have given me I have given them, so they may be one, as we are one. I in them and you in me, that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me."* (John 17:22-23)

This Trinitarian love that Jesus speaks of displays no criticism or jealousy, no strife or competition, only mutual love. And in this way we should also love one another. Our Rule says, *"As the father sees in every person the features of his Son, the firstborn of many brothers and sisters, so the Secular Franciscans with a gentle and courteous spirit accept all people as a gift of the Lord and an image of Christ."* (Art. 13)

Because we are *called to build a more evangelical fraternal and evangelical world (Rule Art. 14)*, in union with Jesus, we must take this disposition of compassion out to the world as well as observing it with our brothers and sisters in the Order. Compassion is part of who we are as Secular Franciscans.

Moreover, we share the effects of what we do. *"What happens in one fraternity affects all fraternities; what happens in one region affects all regions."* (David Seitz, August 8, 2015)
What happens with one of us affects us all. Being one in unity and compassion is vitally important.

Introducing Our New Regional Coordinators:



Amy Oatley OFS

Formation

Michelle Bryk OFS

Contact Us

- David Seitz OFS, Minister
dmrofsdavid@gmail.com
- Jim Graczyk OFS, Vice Minister
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- Theresa Brown OFS, Secretary
jtmcbrown@msn.com
- Fran Walker OFS, Treasurer
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- Paul DeWeese OFS, Councilor
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- Jan Kaeding OFS, Councilor
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- Br. Loren Connell OFM, Spiritual Assistant
brocolon@gmail.com

National Prayer for Vocations to the Secular Franciscan Order

O good and gracious God, God of mercy, compassion, generosity, and love, as we live our lives today in the model of St. Francis, choosing daily to live the Gospel life, help us to help others hear your call.

Help us to help others recognize their vocation as a Secular Franciscan that You have already planted in their heart.

Help us, so that together we all may work to bring the Gospel to life. Amen!

Additional Catholic Events in Our Regional Area this Fall

(These are not sponsored by the OFS; they are additional opportunities for prayer, service or worship.)

John Michael Talbot Parish Missions

- September 11-12, 7 PM each evening, Holy Childhood of Jesus, Harbor Springs, MI
For more information call 734-476-5733
- September 15-18, 7PM each evening, St. Simon, Ludington, MI
For more information call 231-233-6520
- September 19-20, 7PM Sat & 2PM Sun, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Temperance, MI
For more information call 734-856-5638
- September 22-24, 7PM each evening, National Shrine of the Little Flower Basilica, Royal Oak, MI
For more information, call 248-918-3765

A full schedule can be seen at: <http://johnmichaeltalbot.com/tour>

Relics of St. Maria Goretti

- October 8, Our Lady of Good Counsel, Plymouth, MI
For more information call 734-453-0326
- October 10, Sts. Cyril and Methodius, Sterling Heights, MI
For more information call 586-726-6911
- October 11, St. Scholastica, Detroit, MI
For more information call 313-531-0140

A full schedule can be seen at <http://mariagoretti.com/tour-schedule-3/>

Quite a few of our formation materials come from **Smoky Valley Printing** in Lindsborg, Kansas. They do not have a website, but their catalog generally appears in the TAU magazine each quarter. Their contact information is below:

Smoky Valley Printing
P.O. Box 189
Lindsborg, KS 67456

Phone: 785-227-2364
FAX: 785-227-3360
Email: lindabce@kans.com

*“In my deepest wound I found you, Lord,
and it dazzled me.” St. Augustine*