

Hello Brothers, and Sisters in Christ:

We, at Saint David Fraternity, are extremely excited to be sending this letter to all our surrounding OFS Fraternities! Saint David Fraternity in Washington, Michigan is requesting that we all come together at Saint Joseph Chapel and Shrine of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in Pontiac (400 South Blvd. West, Pontiac, MI 48341) on March 25th for the Feast of the Annunciation for Mass and fellowship.

The purpose is threefold:

1. To support the Franciscan ministry of Terra Sancta Ministries (with Fr. Alex Kratz, OFM and Patti Giangrande, OFS) in their endeavor to promote the St. Joseph's Chapel/Shrine of the Immaculate Heart of Mary—one of six official Marian shrines of Michigan and recently blessed by His Excellency, Archbishop Allen Vigneron.
2. To bring all of us Secular Franciscans together to celebrate Holy Mass and share some camaraderie together in Christ.
3. To donate to the repaving of a dilapidated parking lot so as to better serve the people who come there to offer their devotion to Jesus, Mary and Joseph. The ministry, living in accord with gospel and Franciscan trust in our Heavenly Father, does not fundraise as a ministry, but is fine with others wishing to do so on its behalf. This is an attempt to do so.

The parking lot is 150 x 115, and with the driveways and approaches would be 21,250 ft. The pathway along it with outdoor Stations of the Cross is 575 feet long, and if they were to connect it to the outdoor crucifixion scene it would be another 46 ft. The estimate for redoing the whole lot was roughly \$100,000. As Fr. Alex said, "It would take a miracle for this to happen since we don't fundraise but trust in Our Father's providence."

Terra Sancta Ministries does not receive monies from the Archdioceses. All monies come from people like you and me. We, at Saint David Fraternity do four Franciscan outreaches a year. What better way than to reach out and help this Franciscan ministry to help promote Saint Joseph Chapel and Shrine of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in Pontiac?

We are grateful this ministry responded to the promptings of the Holy Spirit to buy and renovate this holy place (itself a "terra sancta"). It is the only Catholic church to re-open in the entire Archdiocese of Detroit! We want people to come, but the crumbling parking lot will increasingly pose a safety hazard to those who wish to visit this shrine.

We might not be able to hand him a check for the full amount, but with our prayers and coming together to give exposure to this beautiful shrine, Our Lady can work miracles!! One of us might know someone who does this for a living, or there just might be someone who could donate a large amount. We will meet on Monday, March 25, at 10:00 am to pray the Rosary. Mass will begin after the Rosary (about 10:30 am). Donations can be put into the collection. (Checks should be made payable to "Terra Sancta Ministries.") After Mass we will have fellowship in the basement with coffee and some snacks. (Religious goods and Holy Land items will be available for sale.) Please pray about this and let's us come together with our love and support of Terra Sancta Ministries and the shrine.

You can go online and learn about the history, the dates, and the many miracles that took place there.
The internet address is www.agiftforourmother.org.

Please RSVP to Cherry Iudiciani (248-630-6616) by March 18th.

Pax et Bonum,

St. David Fraternity Council
Washington, MI