

Newsletter: Divine Mercy Region Secular Franciscan Order



Lower Michigan and Toledo, Ohio

October 2020

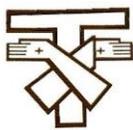
From Our Regional Minister

In this edition:

- From Our Regional Minister
- Calling All Ministers!!
- A Franciscan Story
- Formation
- Vocations Toolkit
- Professions
- Please Pray for Our Deceased
- Contact Us!

May the Lord be in our hearts and on our lips, so that we may live the holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ in the spirit of St. Francis and proclaim it to all the world.

p. 38, Ritual of the Secular Franciscan Order



Sisters and Brothers,

I would like to update you with regards to our Divine Mercy Region.

First of all, for all ministers, please set aside the date of November 14, from 12:45 to 3:00 pm for a Zoom Meeting. We have lots of information for you, and we will be voting on next year's budget. We will be contacting you to make sure you are able to log into the meeting. Your presence is needed to establish a quorum.

Our Regional Executive Council has been meeting at least monthly over the past several months. Much time has been spent analyzing our budget, but we have made progress in other areas as well. A Council Training Program has been developed that helps new and seasoned members understand their role on a fraternity council. Our Regional Guidelines are being updated, which will provide best practices for our Region, where issues aren't clear within our Essential Documents. We have new vocation material that can aid us in attracting new vocations. Also, we have worked on the ability to get our new logo on shirts and hats. These are some of the projects our council has worked on during this virus time period. There is a desire to accomplish things while we are unable to gather or perform our usual duties.

Our council is a diverse mixture of people and talents. I am proud to be associated here with each of them. Even with the difficulties of the pandemic, new ideas have emerged which will help us as a Region. Zoom Meetings have been a blessing. Even though some meetings have been "spirited," it comes from people who truly care about our Order.

Continued on page 2...

Continued from the front page...

Looking ahead to next year, our Annual Meeting in August will be busier than normal. With the cancellation of this year's Visitation, the current plan is to combine Visitation and Elections next year. This may cause us to stay a little longer on Sunday. We will coordinate with those given the responsibility of Visitation and Election to best help them.

Lastly, on a national level, the Quinquennial has been postponed. Originally the Q was scheduled for August 2021 in Arizona. Due to the uncertainty of COVID-19, a new date is being negotiated with the hotel. More information will be given as we learn details.

I pray for your health and safety and that of your families. We are an order of community. With the pandemic, our system of community has been disturbed and changed. Let's not forget who we are. Let's reach out to our brothers and sisters who need to hear from us.

Peace,
Jim Graczyk OFS
Divine Mercy Regional Minister

One day, Brother Masseo and Brother Francis were walking along. Brother Masseo looked at Brother Francis and suddenly said, "Why? Why do all these people flock after you? Why do they hang on every word you say? You are not good-looking. You are no longer wealthy or powerful. You are not of noble blood. Look at yourself! Why? Why you? Of all people, why you?"

Francis stopped walking for a minute, closing his eyes. And then, considering carefully, he said, "God has chosen the vilest and most sinful of creatures to do this, so that I could not claim credit for it myself. For the simple teach the educated; the poor show the powerful how to live. All Glory be to God, the Most High!"

~An old and often-told Franciscan Story, paraphrased from the Little Flowers of St. Francis~

Calling All Ministers!!

Annual Meeting

November 14th

12:45-3:00 on ZOOM

You will receive an invitation in email.
You may attend on a computer, tablet or
with a telephone.

If you need help, please contact Theresa at
divinemercury.region@gmail.com



Formation

Rule, Article 7a: United by their vocation as “brothers and sisters of penance” and motivated by the dynamic power of the gospel, let them conform their thoughts and deeds to those of Christ by means of that radical interior change which the gospel calls “conversion.” Human frailty makes it necessary that this conversion be carried out daily.

Article 15: Let them individually and collectively be in the forefront in promoting justice by the testimony of their human lives and their courageous initiatives. Especially in the field of public life, they should make definite choices in harmony with their faith.

I’m tired. I don’t know about you, but for me, life in the pandemic has been unbelievably busy. I am blessed to have been able to work at home. As someone who works at an area non-profit, a lot of my work has included listening. I have listened to many people struggling during this pandemic. I am privileged to be able to help, but I worry it is not enough.

As I bring this and many others things to prayer, I have been listening to God. I have asked that he show me the lessons in all of this. While I am sure there will be many lessons, the one I want to share is about conversion and action. I know I have written about this before. Yet God has placed on my heart to share this with you.

Conversion requires vulnerability. That is what God tells me over and over. I know when I am tired, when I have exhausted my own strength, I am driven to prayer. I am driven to listen, and God speaks. I am ripe for the Lord to use me. I am vulnerable and open to him.

If you find yourself worried, tired, angry or filled with any other strong emotion I urge you to cast your cares on Him. Ask how God wants you to grow today. Who does he want you to see in a different light? What injustice in our world does he want you to stand up and speak out against? What bad habit in your interactions with others does he want you to address?

When you receive the answer - act on it! Our vocation is all about striving for conversion and the time is ripe to embrace it. Take the next step in your relationship with the Lord and humble yourself to embrace his call. Know you are seen, and loved, and important to God’s plan to bring his kingdom into our world!

Pace e Bene,

Michelle Bryk OFS
Formation Minister, Divine Mercy Region



Vocations Toolkit

Vocations can be a daunting venture. How do we reach people? How do Catholics in our area know our fraternity is here? If these are questions that you are pondering, this toolkit may be of help to your fraternity.

Last year our National Executive Council approved a Vocations Toolkit and published it in the Tau. We have adapted this toolkit to our region and the fraternities within it. This toolkit will be available on our Regional Website. It contains a brochure template that can be adapted to your local fraternity as well as guides and materials to host a Come and See event.

As with all things, we must begin with prayer. These prayer cards are also included on the website for easy printing.

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!

Composed by Marian R. Crosby, OFS, 2010 National Fraternity gathering in Scottsdale, AZ www.SecularFranciscansUSA.org

To summarize from the OFS-USA Vocations Toolkit, here are some places to start. More information can be found on the Secular Franciscans USA website and on the Divine Mercy Region website.

1. Pray for vocations.
2. Create and distribute promotional brochures.
3. Develop business cards for contact information.
4. Spread the word using social media.
5. Hold a Come & See event.
6. Practice your "elevator speech" about your vocation. What does being a Franciscan mean to you? Why are you a Secular Franciscan? What does that "T" around your neck mean?
7. Record your own testimony and send it to 1.800.Francis@mail.com for posting to the Secular Franciscans YouTube Channel.

The above suggestions are taken from the OFS-USA Vocations "Tool Kit" March 2018.

As Regional Vocations Director, I am also available as a regional resource for you. I would be happy to help your fraternity work through the resources as well as to plan a Come and See event.

Barbara Scott, OFS
Vocations Director, Divine Mercy Region
Bscott3315@gmail.com

Professions

St. Francis Fraternity in Sterling Heights professed three new members on Sunday, October 4th at St. Joseph Chapel in Pontiac, Michigan. Newly professed members are Mary Lambrix OFS, Marsha Moore OFS, and Frances Schena OFS. The celebrant was Spiritual Assistant Fr. Michael Lenz OFM. The concelebrant and homilist was Fr. Alex Kratz OFM. Professions were accepted by the local Fraternity Minister Dawn Pulcer OFS, assisted by Formation Director Jane McKay, OFS and fraternity witnesses Joan Buchta OFS, Christopher Monette OFS, and George Durkatz OFS. Guests from five neighboring OFS fraternities attended.



Beverly and Nicholas declared their permanent profession to the Order of Secular Franciscans during the Liturgy of the Word at Cross in the Woods National Shrine in Indian River. The profession occurred on Sunday, October 4, the feast day of our Father St. Francis of Assisi. Officiating were Father Mike Haney OFM, as pastor and spiritual assistant to the St. Anthony Fraternity, and Kevin Wahr OFS, as fraternity minister, who accepted the commitment and the profession for both new members. Jim Hagenauer OFS, assisted as the formation minister. The Rite of Profession is a culmination of three years of formation and discernment of the Franciscan life and represents a permanent commitment to living the Gospel life as St. Francis of Assisi did.



Divine Mercy Regional Fraternity

Deceased August 1, 2019 – July 31, 2020

25 Active Fraternities Reporting



Decedents' Name	Fraternity Name / City	Date of Death
Dorothy Kodrik, OFS	Queen of Angels / Sanford #107	05/12/2020
Gloria Heflin-Oates, OFS	Mother of Sorrows / Grand Rapids #113	10/06/2019
Camilla Sonefeld, OFS		06/22/2020
Ray Thibault, OFS	St. Elizabeth of Hungary / Southfield #122	12/29/2019
Mary Madigan, OFS		06/06/2020
Eugenia Von Bok, OFS	Our Lady Queen of Angels / Detroit #124	01/02/2020
Lynne Baron, OFS	St. Anthony of Padua / Dearborn #123	11/28/2019
Mary Headrick, OFS		04/16/2020
Patrick Powers, OFS	San Damiano / Brighton #128	12/07/2019
Ralph Maresco, OFS		04/23/2020
Ruth Kaltz, OFS	St. Francis / Sterling Heights #133	01/12/2020
Rosalie DiLorenzo, OFS	St. David/Washington #142	08/08/2020
Franco LaRosa, OFS	Lumen Christi/Wyandotte #145	10/19/2019
<p>No deaths reported in these fraternities: St. Anthony/Indian River #102, Immaculate Conception/Detroit #103, St. Louis the King/White Lake #108, Divine Providence/Paw Paw #110, St. Joseph/Ann Arbor #111, St. Bonaventure/Detroit #112, St. Joseph/Grand Blanc #115, St. Paschal/Toledo #125, St. Isidore/Grand Rapids #127, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel/Allen Park #130, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel / Gaylord #131, St. Bonaventure/Lansing #134, St. Francis/Jackson #135, St. Clare/St. Clair Shores #140, Solanus Casey/Roseville #141, St. Thomas More/Rochester Hills #143</p>		

Contact Us!		
Jim Graczyk OFS	Minister	jgraczykdivinemercury@aol.com
Mike Carsten OFS	Vice Minister	mikecars10@gmail.com
Theresa Brown OFS	Secretary	divinemercury.region@gmail.com
Mike Okragleski OFS	Treasurer	mokragleski@gmail.com
Dawn Pulcer OFS	Councilor	dpulcerofs@gmail.com
Kevin Wahr OFS	Councilor	kevinwahr1@gmail.com
Kathleen Carsten OFS	Councilor JPIC Animator	parish.nurse@ameritech.net
Jan Kaeding OFS	Councilor Webmaster/Editor	divineprovidencefraternity@gmail.com
Michelle Bryk OFS	Regional Formation Minister	michellebofs@gmail.com
Barb Scott OFS	Vocations	bscott3315@gmail.com
Linda Solis OFS	Members, Regional	lsolisofs@gmail.com
Patti Reynolds OFS	Conference of SAs	pattir.ofs@gmail.com



To obtain the latest issue of the Divine Mercy Region Newsletter...

Newsletters are posted on the Divine Mercy Region website as soon as they are completed. In addition, they are emailed directly to each Local Fraternity Minister by the Regional Secretary. To find the latest issue, please visit the Divine Mercy Region website to find the latest one posted there, or ask your Local Fraternity Minister. Here is the address for the page of the website that has the latest newsletters:

<https://divinemercuryregion.com/recent-newsletters/>

To submit pictures, events or articles for the newsletter...

Please attach them to an email, place the words “Newsletter Item” in the subject line of the email, and then send the email to Jan at the following email address:

divineprovidencefraternity@gmail.com

The submission deadline for the next issue is **December 31, 2020**. Items not received by that date will be considered for a later issue.

