

**Our Mother of Sorrows Fraternity  
Ordo Franciscanus Secularis (OFS)  
A Member of Divine Mercy Regional Fraternity**

**Newsletter**

Volume 3, Issue 7

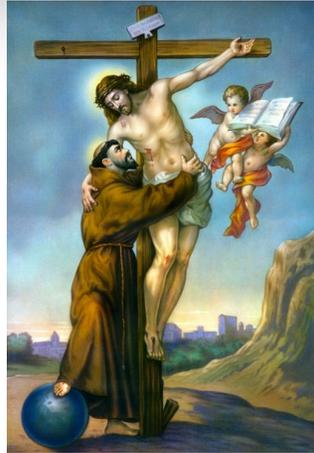
**Executive Council**

Barb Scott, OFS  
Minister  
bscott3315@gmail.com  
616-550-5916  
Marilyn Hawkins, OFS  
Vice Minister  
roseysposies@gmail.com  
616-791-1279  
Carol Dills, OFS  
Secretary  
grdillpickles@sbcglobal.net  
616-822-7191

Dwayne Betcher, OFS  
Treasurer  
dbetcher@herrickdl.org  
269-350-9614

**Councilors**

Lori Fedewa, OFS  
wadalaf@gmail.com  
616-458-7966  
Amy Oatley, OFS  
aoatleyofs@gmail.com  
616-915-2414  
Alan Supran, OFS  
ajsupran@yahoo.com  
616-895-1463  
Jason George, OFS  
johnkite@rocketmail.com  
231-736-7487  
Michelle Bryk, OFS  
Formation Minister  
michellebofs@gmail.com  
616-361-8489  
Cami Mann, OFS  
JPIC Animator  
cmann1897@gmail.com  
616-450-1897  
**Regional Spiritual Asst.**  
Linda Solis, OFS  
lsolisofs@gmail.com  
Br. Loren Connell, OFM  
brolocon@gmail.com



**Infirmarian Contact:**

Joanne Dusendang, OFS  
Phone: 616.361.6472 Home  
616.498.2365 Cell  
Email: JLDsfo@aol.com

***Mother of Sorrows Fraternity Gathering***

**Wednesday, October 24**

**7 p.m.**

Apostolate Committee Work

St. Thomas

***Upcoming Fraternity Gatherings***

November 28      Formation Topic TBD      St. Thomas  
December 19      Christmas Party—Family invited      St. Thomas

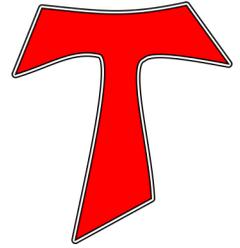
***Upcoming Franciscan Feast Days***

Didacus of Alcalá, Religious	November 7
Nicholas Tavelic, Priest and Companions, Martyrs	November 14
<b>Elizabeth of Hungary, Patroness of the Third Order</b>	<b>November 17</b>
Agnes of Assisi, Religious	November 19
Commemoration of all the Deceased of the Seraphic Order	November 24
Leonard of Port Maurice, Priest	November 26
Blessed Francis Anthony Fasani, Priest	November 27
James of the March, Priest	November 28
All Saints of the Seraphic Order	November 29

***Bold denotes Third Order Secular Saints & Blesseds***

## Celebrating the Milestones

Wishing our brothers and sisters many blessings!



### Professions

Larry Forrester	October 7
Marijo Forrester	October 7
Margo Dean	October 25
Verona Dunn	October 25
Mary Michalski	October 25
Rich Michalski	October 25
Claire Pinsonneault	October 25
Nancy Supran	October 27
Marcia Dohm	October 30
Camilla Sonefeld	October 30
Alan Supran	October 30
Judith VanderLaan	October 30

### Birthdays

Marijo Forrester	October 3
Terri Mauro	October 4
Jennifer Bahm	October 8
Carol Yskes	October 13
Carol Dills	October 14
Sharon Wohlner	October 16
Jim Flickinger	October 18
Laura Bouchard	October 19
Mark Mann	October 19
Paul Wotjes	October 29
Mary Lou Thompson	October 30

*Please note: If we have incorrect information regarding profession and/or birthday, please contact Carol Dills, secretary, [grdillpickles@sbcglobal.net](mailto:grdillpickles@sbcglobal.net) or Cami Mann, newsletter editor, [cmann1897@gmail.com](mailto:cmann1897@gmail.com) or 616.450.1897.*

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## Message from the Minister

Last month we had a VERY productive gathering. After our evening prayer and announcements, we spent a few minutes discussing the new fair share amount starting in January. (See last month's newsletter for more details.) Thank you all for understanding how this is now necessary.

Next Patti Reynolds spoke to us about the Spiritual Assistant Program. What a wonderful program! Patti and Linda Solis have put together a top-notch formation program that is really quite remarkable. National is even looking to it as a national standard for Spiritual Assistant formation. It is now a three year program, and the Spiritual Assistants completing this program will be the best formed in the country! If you are interested in the training, please contact Patti Reynolds. She will also be available after this month's gathering to answer any questions.

Cami Mann then proposed a more defined model for implementation of our apostolate. Each committee will designate a point person and recorder. If committees are too large to be efficient, they may split into two or three if needed. But each subcommittee will choose a point person and recorder as well. We are doing this in an effort to communicate better among the committees. The point people will work with the other point people from the other committees if there is a project that needs collaboration. At the end of each gathering, the council will collect the notes from each committee to identify a direction or ideas that permeate throughout the committees, a sure sign of the Holy Spirit. Hopefully this will strengthen the structure of our implementation.

In addition, **anyone who wishes to begin a book study of Laudato Si can come an hour early at 6:00 p.m. in the basement of St. Thomas. Please bring a potluck dish to share.** This month we will begin with Chapter One, What is Happening to Our Common Home.

We then spent the remainder of the gathering in committee work, beginning with a wonderful presentation on the overall document by the education committee, facilitated by Mary VanderPloeg. Thank you, Mary! Great ideas and discussion are beginning to yield fruit. We will continue our committee work this month as well.

Pax et bonum, Barb Scott, OFS

# Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation Corner

Cami Mann, OFS JPIC Animator

Peace & all good,

Last month, Mark Mann, OFS reminded me that *Laudato Si* is not the title of a papal encyclical. It is the very heart of who we are as Franciscans. It is the first line of St. Francis’s Canticle of the Sun, “Laudato si, mi signore—Praise be to you, my Lord.”

In opening the encyclical, *Laudato Si, Care for our Common Home*, Pope Francis quotes St. Francis’ prayer, “...St. Francis of Assisi reminds us that our common home is like a sister with whom we share our life and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us. ‘Praise be to you, my Lord, through our Sister, Mother Earth, who sustains and governs us, and who produces various fruit with colored flowers and herbs.’”

I appreciated this reminder. I was able to share it with the larger fraternity during my presentation last month. On further reflection, I realize that Mark, as a member of the education committee, was carrying out the work of the apostolate when he shared this insight with me. It didn’t take a grand gesture or a powerpoint presentation, but a simple conversation that linked the encyclical with my Franciscan vocation. I have come to realize that is what has been most profound about Mark’s informative statement; in discussing the apostolate, he strengthened my Franciscan vocation.

In the end, that is the fruit of the apostolate, while we do— we are being transformed more into the life of Christ through our Franciscan vocation. The work of the apostolate sharpens and polishes our growing edges.

During the presentation we discussed the need to be attentive to the process as we become anxious to produce activity. I am reminded of the times Scripture encourages us to see not with the eyes of man, or to put on the mind of Christ. The work of the apostolate is sacred work. It demands we recognize our apostolate as entering into St Francis’ prayer of praise—Laudato si, mi signore-Praise be to you, my Lord. We produce activity. However, that activity has to be the fruit of prayerful attention to the process, lest we offer busy work rather than transformative, life-giving moments of conversion for ourselves, those lives we touch, and the ecclesial and civil structures in which we navigate.

Thank to those who have been called forth to serve as the point person and recorder for each committee. If you have questions as to what a committee is doing, please contact the designated point person below:

Advocacy Committee  
Direct Service  
Education Committee  
Prayer

Cami Mann, OFS  
Jason George, OFS  
Jim Howard, OFS and Mark Mann, OFS  
Margo Dean, OFS and Ray Boisvenue, OFS

### Committee insights (from September committee notes)

Advocacy Advocacy can connect the dots, see the problems, and have ideas for implementation.  
Direct Service We are willing to serve where needed.  
Education People have to learn this as a way of life. Stories of St Francis are a great point of entry.  
Prayer Our heart has to be of love.



### 2019 Fraternity Elections

In March we will again elect a new slate of officers and counselors to lead our fraternity for the next three years. Please prayerfully consider nominating your best choice to lead our fraternity. The forms have the names and addresses of where to send them or you can give it to Margo or Ray at the next meeting . Thank you for your love and participation in our future fraternal life. Forms can also be found on our website.

## Fair Share Update

If you are excused from attending the fraternity gatherings and would like to send your fair share amount, please make check payable to Our Mother of Sorrows Fraternity and send your check to:

Dwayne Betcher, OFS  
8366 Olive Lake Ct  
West Olive, MI 49460

## Hospitality Ministry October 24

### Set-Up

Margo Dean

To sign up online please visit Sign Up Genius  
[www.signupgenius.com/go/10c044dabac2aa7fd0-hospitality](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c044dabac2aa7fd0-hospitality)

### Clean-Up

Jeff & Carol Dills

### To Be Excused

If you are unable to attend a fraternity gathering due to health or other hardship reasons, please email:

Carol Dills    [grdillpickles@sbcglobal.net](mailto:grdillpickles@sbcglobal.net)  
Barb Scott    [bscott3315@gmail.com](mailto:bscott3315@gmail.com)



Newsletter Editor  
Our Mother of Sorrows  
Secular Franciscan Fraternity  
1007 Diamond NE  
Grand Rapids MI 49503

