



April 2020

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

Newsletter

Volume 5, 4

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**\*\*Please note:  
The April gathering is cancelled.**

Due to the current health issues we are cancelling the April meeting for our Fraternity. We are asking that you set aside time at 7, when we would normally meet, to pray together the Liturgy of the Hours.

If you would like to pray together as a community, Barb Scott will be leading the Liturgy of the Hours on April 29 on our fraternity Facebook page. Go to <https://www.facebook.com/groups/533395150927168/> to join. After prayer Ray Boisvenue will be leading us on a Saint Musing about St. Clare.

**\*\*Please mail your fair share checks for the month to Jeff Dills (address on the back on the newsletter).**

Let us pray also for all those who suffer the consequences of the current pandemic, that God the Father may grant health to the sick, strength to those who care for them, comfort to families and salvation to all the victims who have died.

Almighty ever-living God,  
only support of our human weakness,  
look with compassion upon the sorrowful condition of your children who suffer because of this pandemic;  
relieve the pain of the sick,  
give strength to those who care for them,  
welcome into your peace those who have died  
and, throughout this time of tribulation,  
grant that we may all find comfort in your merciful love.  
Through Christ our Lord.

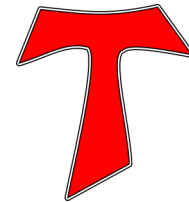
Amen.

~Franciscans of Canada



# Celebrating the Milestones

Wishing our brothers and sisters many blessings!



## Professions

Dorothy Deja May 20

## Birthdays

Josephine Simon	May 12
Jim Howard	May 18
Julie Walters	May 26
Margo Dean	May 28
Jim Dohm	May 30

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## Message from the Minister

Here we are at another month of staying at home. The good news is that we have much more time for prayer, at least for me. I know there are more ways that God is working through this for the greater good of his people out of his great love for us.

Again, we will not be able to meet this month. We are asking that you pray the Liturgy of the Hours at 7:00 pm on April 29. If you would like to pray with the fraternity more intentionally, I invite you to join us on the fraternity Facebook page. You will need to make a Facebook account if you don't have one already. Then request to be a member of Our Mother of Sorrows Secular Franciscan Fraternity, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/533395150927168/>. Since it is a closed group, you will need to be accepted. Please do this PRIOR to 7:00 pm on April 29. After prayer, Ray Boisvenue will be leading us in a Saint Musing on St. Clare. If you would like to send any prayer requests for the group, please post them on the Facebook page or you can send them via email to me, [OMSGRminister@gmail.com](mailto:OMSGRminister@gmail.com). I will read them during the prayer. You can also include them in the comment section of the Facebook page as well.

In addition to this, we will be sending out a weekly email to share prayers, Franciscan information, and ongoing formation reflections, etc. It won't be a lot of information. Just a weekly summary-type format with links to read more if you so desire.

I am staying in contact with the Diocese with regard to the Green Mass (Mass for Creation). As soon as they get more answers about when we can start gathering again, they will let us know the status. We should still continue to plan so that we are ready in case we can gather again. If we still have to be home, it is good to have it planned for a later date. I will be contacting the committee leaders to keep this planning going.

Please stayed tuned for the date to reschedule the Profession Mass for Mary VanderPloeg. It will be rescheduled as soon as we are able to gather again.

I miss you all and look forward to the day we can gather in fraternity again. May the Lord bless and keep us. May His face shine upon us and be gracious to us. May He look upon us with kindness and be give us His peace. May the Lord bless us in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Pax et bonum,

Barbara Scott, OFS

### **Upcoming Fraternity Gatherings**

**April 29**

May 27

June 24

**Meeting Cancelled**

Possible Profession Mass St. Thomas 7:00 pm

Fraternity Picnic Cascade Park 6:00 pm

## Budget for 2020/2021

<b>Income</b>	<b>Budget 20/21</b>	<b>Actual 19/20</b>
Common Fund	\$5,000.00	\$4,131.00
Special Collections (Haiti)	240.00	397.00
Product Sales (Day of Reflection/Directory)	<u>500.00</u>	<u>773.49</u>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$5,740.00</b>	<b>\$5,301.49</b>
<b>Operational Expenses</b>		
Divine Mercy Fair Share	\$3,692.00	\$3,731.00
Travel	100.00	51.00
Postage and Office Supplies (Newsletter)	200.00	94.34
Facilities	200.00	200.00
Formation Materials (Orientation & New Council)	150.00	184.00
Picnic Expenses	75.00	95.00
Meeting Supplies/Expenses	50.00	25.00
Spiritual Assistant Stipend	0.00	40.00
Infirmarian Team	150.00	150.00
Day of Reflection	400.00	400.00
Pictorial Directory	0.00	392.64
HELP Pregnancy Crisis Aid	165.00	109.20
Amazon Relief	165.00	153.70
Circle Rocking S Children's Farm	165.00	118.80
Haiti	<u>240.00</u>	<u>271.00</u>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$5,752.00</b>	<b>\$5,865.68</b>
<b>NET DIFFERENCE</b>	<b>-\$12.00</b>	<b>-\$564.19</b>

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### We Need Your Help!

The last three months have brought in less money in monthly collections than previous years. Illnesses in January, the profession renewal Mass, and our cancelled meeting from last month have all taken its toll on our coffers. Our expenses still continue even when we don't meet or have unusually low turnouts. We are looking into setting up electronic giving options when it is safe to go into banks. But in the meantime, I encourage you to send in your monthly checks to Jeff Dills, OFS

2265 Burton Pines SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49546

# 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:

Jeff Dills, OFS  
2265 Burton Pines SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49546

## To Be Excused

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

Carol Dills OMSGRsecretary@gmail.com  
Barb Scott OMSGRminister@gmail.com

## Prayer for a Pandemic



May we who are merely inconvenienced, remember those whose lives are at stake.

May we who have no risk factors, remember those who are most vulnerable.

May we who have the luxury of working from home, remember those who must choose between preserving their health or making their rent.

May we who have the flexibility to care for our children when their schools close, remember those who have no options.

May we who have to cancel our trips, remember those that have no safe place to go.

May we who are losing our margin money in the tumult, remember those who have no margin at all.

May we who settle in for a quarantine at home, remember those who have no home.

As fear grips our country, let us choose love.

During this time when we cannot physically wrap our arms around each other, let us find ways to be the loving embrace of God to our neighbors. Amen.

~Sarah Stonesifer Boylan and Chris Decatur



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