



May 2020

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

Newsletter

Volume 5, 5

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****Please note:
The May gathering is cancelled.**

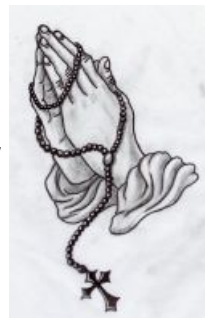
Again, due to the current health issues crisis, we are cancelling the May meeting for our Fraternity. We are asking that you set aside time at 7:00 pm, when we would normally meet, to pray together the Liturgy of the Hours.

If you would like to pray together as a community, Barb Scott will be leading the Liturgy of the Hours and ongoing formation on May 27 on a Zoom call. You can access the meeting by clicking on this [link](#). The link will also be available on the [Fraternity Facebook page](#), Our Mother of Sorrows Secular Franciscan Fraternity.

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

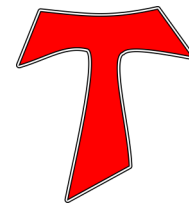
If you are not familiar with Zoom, we are here to help. You can access the video conferencing from your computer, laptop, iPad, Kindle Fire, or smartphone. **You can also use your phone (either smartphone or land line) to call in for participation in audio only.** The council is available to walk through the process with you if you are not comfortable using this method. Please call or email Barb Scott and a council member will set up a time to work with you.

Please keep in contact with your prayer partners until Carol sends out a new list. Keep them in your prayers between calls as well. We are all in this together. Fraternity looks a little differently right now, but we can still be fraternity for one another.



Celebrating the Milestones

Wishing our brothers and sisters many blessings!



Professions

Helene Crawford	June 24
Beth Price	June 24
Ray Boisvenue	June 25
Chris Bueche	June 25
Patti Reynolds	June 25

Birthdays

Mary Ann Swiatlowski	June 1
Jennifer Renegar	June 8
Susan Martin	June 16
Karon Koepke	June 17

Message from the Minister

My prayer is that everyone is navigating this health crisis through the grace of God. Times are challenging but God's love is never ending. He is with us through this and continues to strengthen our faith as we rely on Him. Continue to let Michelle Bryk know your prayer requests. If you are in need of anything with which the fraternity can help, please contact Marilyn Hawkins, our Infirmarian.

I would like to thank everyone that has continued to mail their monthly donations to Jeff Dills. Not only has your support been helping with the fraternity expenses, but many have increased their monthly amounts to cover future expenses. I encourage you to continue in your stewardship. If you have yet to send in your checks, please do so. It is greatly appreciated. We are blessed to belong to such a caring and generous fraternity.

Until we can meet again in person, the Zoom meeting option is a great way to stay connected as fraternity. This option is wonderful in that you can use your computer, laptop, iPad, Kindle Fire, or smartphone to utilize the video function. And for those that do not have those devices, you can still participate in audio only using your landline phone. The service is free to use as a participant. To learn this new format, the council is available to show you how easy it is to join in. Please call or email Barb Scott to set up a time with one of the council members to practice using Zoom. **Please consider joining us on May 27 at 7:00 pm to gather as fraternity in this new way.**

Pax et bonum,

Barbara Scott, OFS

Upcoming Fraternity Gatherings

May 27	Meeting Cancelled—Online Zoom	7:00 pm
June 24	Fraternity Picnic Cascade Park	6:00 pm
July 26	Come and See Event @ Holy Family	9:00 am

Ongoing Formation Opportunities

Formation Fridays

We have been emailing a one page Weekly News blast that contains a short reflection from Diane Menditto, OFS, the Chair of the National Formation Commission. These are also being posted on our Fraternity Facebook page. These are great for individual reflection but may also be used to discuss with your prayer partners. These are wonderful short formation pieces to help you to reflect on your Franciscan spirituality.

Laudato Si Week

Laudato Si Week is May 16-23. There are many resources associated with the 5 year anniversary of this encyclical.

On Wednesday, May 20th at 2 p.m. EDT you are invited to a Bishops' Roundtable. As part of their *Laudato Si'* Week activities, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops is hosting a *Laudato Si'* Week Bishops' Roundtable Conversation. Marianne Comfort, justice coordinator for the Sisters of Mercy and member of the Covenant's Steering Committee, will facilitate a dialogue between Archbishop Paul S. Coakley, Bishop Robert Barron, and Bishop Robert W. McElroy.

Visit [usccb.org/environment](https://www.usccb.org/environment) on May 20th to participate. **The live video feed will appear on the top of the webpage on May 20th.**

The Diocese of Grand Rapids will be posting a resource page on the main page of their website for this week. Please look at the many opportunities that will be posted here.

Visit LaudatoSiWeek.org for more resources.

Creation Study Series

Why should we care for the environment? Join this online study group to study the answers to the deeper questions about ecology and the environment within God's revelation as found in his creation and the teachings of the Catholic Church, including Pope Francis' encyclical, *Laudato Si'*. This series, Creation, is a contribution of Salt and Light Television to help develop a new awareness of solid, Christian spirituality surrounding the environment crisis. There will be two opportunities to join a session. One group will meet via Zoom on Thursdays from 3:00 – 4:30 pm for six weeks starting June 11. Another group will meet via Zoom on Mondays from 7:00 – 8:30 pm for six weeks starting June 8. Sr. Damien Marie Savino, FSE will be facilitating the Thursday group and Barbara Scott, OFS will be facilitating the Monday group. If you would like to be able to attend either meeting, depending on scheduling, you may register for both. If you do not have a computer, you may also dial in on your phone. Cost is free.

Please register by June 4 using the following link:

[Creation Study Series](#)

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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