

January 2021

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

Newsletter

Volume 6, 1

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January Fraternity Gathering

****Saturday, January 30 @10:00 am****

****Please note date and time change****

Contemplative Action of Franciscans

Michelle Bryk will lead us in formation on the contemplative action way of bringing life to the Gospel and the Gospel to life. We will begin with Liturgy of the Hours together at 10:00 am with formation to follow.

Discussion for the breakout groups will be based on the reading enclosed in this newsletter. Please join us using the link below:

Topic: January Fraternity Gathering

Time: Jan 30, 2021 10:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 819 1122 9775

Passcode: 247081

One tap mobile

+19294362866,,81911229775#,,,,*247081# US (New York)

+13017158592,,81911229775#,,,,*247081# US (Washington D.C)

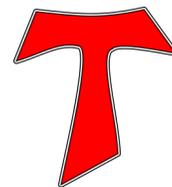
****Please mail your fair share checks for the month to Jeff Dills (address on the back on the newsletter).**

Need help getting on to Zoom?

Technology can be very daunting sometimes. If you are new to Zoom or would like to join us using your telephone, please call Barb Scott, 550-5916. We can practice joining Zoom either through your computer or your phone.

Celebrating the Milestones

Wishing our brothers and sisters many blessings!



Professions

Jim Howard February 21
Linda Lee Spencer February 21
Virginia Champion February 28

Birthdays

Pat Fiebig February 2
Jan Windy February 10
Jerry Swiatlowski February 22
Nancy Supran February 24

Message from the Minister

I would like to thank again Jason George for the beautiful music for our Christmas Devotion last month. It made the devotion an especially meaningful experience.

For the winter months of January and February, we are scheduling the gatherings for Saturday mornings. This month Michelle is leading us in formation. Next month will be our Profession Renewal on February 27. We will see if we can meet for Mass followed by the renewal on Saturday morning. It is unclear yet if we will be able to meet in person or online. Stay tuned.

Also, take a look at the fraternity apparel offered by the Region. The logo is the Regional logo with our fraternity name underneath. There are options for long and short sleeved t-shirts, polo shirts, sweatshirts, hats, and patches. The brochure and order form are on the fraternity website, www.ourmotherofsorrowsofs.org under the Documents tab. You can mail your check made out to Our Mother of Sorrows Fraternity and order form to Jeff Dills.

Pax et bonum,

Barbara Scott, OFS



Year of St. Joseph

In this year of St. Joseph, we would like to reflect on various gifts of leadership that St. Joseph was given. We pray for his intercession in developing these gifts in ourselves to use for the common good of the fraternity.

Respect—the ability to recognize the true worth of every individual

“Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.’ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him.” (Matthew 1:19-20, 24a)

Do I see the Holy Spirit in others? Do I treat all people as beloved children of God? How can I see Christ more in those around me?

Please read in preparation for our fraternity gathering on January 30.

Prayer, Scripture, Action and Secularity

In April (2009), members of the various branches of the Franciscan Family gathered in Rome to highlight this (800th anniversary) celebration with our Holy Father. Pope Benedict XVI remarked:

“Like Francis, always start with yourselves. We are the first house that God wants to restore. If you are always able to renew yourselves in the spirit of the Gospel, you will continue to assist the pastors of the Church to make more and more beautiful the Church's face, that of the bride of Christ. The Pope, now the same as then, expects this of you.” (FUN The Franciscan Rule pg 7 of 46)

Jesus' passion and death shows us that God loves us so much there is nothing He would hold back on our behalf. Such complete, unconditional and steadfast love on God's part is the wonderful journey we come to understand, through Scripture, through community and through living authentic lives that seek Jesus.

(Franciscan Theology, Tradition and Spirituality – 4-12-2011 Page 13 of 30)

The most important thing we should care to know about St. Francis is his relationship to God and his journey to Him. This was made possible through knowledge of the Gospels. Francis' whole life was based on a radical living out of what he considered to be his calling to be a man of the Gospel. What we need to know is how Francis regarded what he read of the Gospel and what thought processes he went through to make it a reality in his life. There are factors which made Francis do what he did with the Gospel ... geography, temperament, personality, view of religion and of the Church, etc.

He saw poverty – this colored his reading of scripture. He witnessed injustice – this influenced the way he treated people. He saw political and ecclesiastical grasps for earthly power – this helped him to appreciate total dependence on God. He experienced violence and prayed for peace and actually became a peacemaker.

You can see the next question coming. **What is our experience of life up against our reading of scripture – especially the Gospels? How will we regard all people as the creatures God has created and loved? How will we depend on God and abhor violence?**

How will we make Christ accessible to others? How will we see the heart and spirit behind the words of Scripture and allow it to affect our sisters and brothers? Francis' approach to the Gospels was radical. His approach was joyful and brought life and light into the world. How will we do that in our own times, in our societies – today in this century? This will be the Franciscan gift to the world.

(Profession 3-23-2011 Page 13 of 18)

From the living *charism of Saint Francis* we have come to understand certain practices and behaviors, specific ways of being and of relating to God, i.e. a spirituality, that we call "Franciscan". This spirituality is characterized especially by:

- A very intense Eucharistic life (contemplation of God's kenosis – becoming human)
- Poverty (the consequence of *kénosis*)
- Minority-Humility (the consequence of kenosis)
- Simplicity¹
- Obedience (to conform to the eternal project of the Father),
- Chastity
- Fraternity as the specific characterizing element, also in its universal and cosmic implications, to be lived with special intensity.
- The Franciscan evangelical radicality, as a specific way Saint Francis followed the total Christ in simplicity and *sine glossa* (without splitting hairs on Gospel interpretation taking away, watering down or adding to it).

All of us, the children of Francis (1st, 2nd, 3rd Order) are called to participate in his exceptional gift (charism) and to continue his mission. Francis shows us the way to follow; to fully live our vocation, and effectively accomplish the mission entrusted, through him, to all of us.

Vocation, Charism and Mission of the Secular Franciscan Order 3-23-2011 Page 14 of 20

How does your being in prayer overflow into your actions?

- What do the words *observe the gospel mean to you? How do you observe the Gospel?*
- Which scripture passages do you know by heart – not necessarily word by word, but which ones are imbedded in your heart?
- How is Christ the center for your life?
- In what specific ways do you go *from gospel to life and life to gospel?*

Honoring the Divine Breath of Creation

Reflect

God's love for us cannot be separated from God's love for creation. Let us honor the Divine breath that connects all living things through our actions as well as our words as we pray.

Pray

Creator of all,

You have given me the gift of this earth and all too often I fail to treat it with care.

Light my way today as I seek to live out my belief

that you are here speaking to me through all forms of life.

Guide me to see the changes I need to make to better honor this home you have created. Amen.

Act

Think of one practical step you can make today to care more earnestly for creation. Take heart that even our small actions make an impact.

From Franciscan Media, Pause + Pray

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NOTES

****Please note the new format****

- We ask you to pray for the person you are partnered with all month.
- We encourage **either** person to call to check in or ask for prayer requests.
- All numbers are cell numbers, if available
- M=Mailing list
F=Formation
- Prayer requests can be emailed to Barb Scott and Michelle Bryk

We encourage you to call your prayer partners and check in to see how they are fairing. Specific prayer requests can be sent to Michelle Bryk if needed.

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

Upcoming Fraternity Gatherings

Jan 30 (Saturday)	Franciscan Charisms	10:00 am	Online
Feb 27 (Saturday)	Profession Renewal	8:00 am	St. Thomas
Mar 6 (Saturday)	Day of Reflection	8:00 am	St. Thomas
Mar 24 (Wednesday)	TBD	7:00 pm	St. Thomas

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