



March 2021

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

Newsletter

Volume 6, 3

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March Fraternity Gathering
Wednesday, March 24 at 7:00 pm
Zoom Gathering

The Franciscan Family

Please join us for a special guest speaker to lead us in formation of how the Franciscan family is relevant to fraternity life. We will again meet through Zoom since we still are not able to meet in person. Please click below to join the meeting.

[Join the Zoom Meeting Here](#)

Meeting ID: 862 0549 9297

Passcode: 095749

Phone users dial this number: 1 929 436 2866

Enter the above meeting ID and passcode.

****Please mail your fair share checks for the month to Jeff Dills (address on the back on the newsletter). You may also electronically transfer your fair share using Venmo. You can find our account at @OMS-Franciscan-GR.**

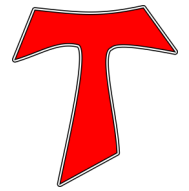
Please pray for the repose of the soul of Edward Morrin, husband of Pat Morrin from the St. Isidore Fraternity who went with Sister Death on March 13. May he rest in peace.



Upcoming Fraternity Gatherings

Mar 24 (Wed)	The Franciscan Family	7:00 pm	Zoom
Apr 28 (Wed)	Rite of Welcoming	7:00 pm	St. Thomas
May 24	Green Mass	7:00 pm	St. Andrew
May 26	TBD	7:00 pm	St. Thomas

Celebrating the Milestones



Wishing our brothers and sisters many blessings!

Professions

Terri Mauro	April 23
Dwayne Betcher	April 24
Cami Mann	April 24
Mark Mann	April 24
Susan Martin	April 24
Barb Scott	April 24
Lori Fedewa	April 25
Amy Oatley	April 25
Todd Oatley	April 25
Jim Flickinger	April 27
Alvin Matkovich	April 27
Harriet Pilson	April 27
Jerry Swiatlowski	April 27

Birthdays

Ken Estes	April 2
Margaret Gessner	April 5
Linda Lee Spencer	April 6
Peg Wegenka	April 14
Mary Michalski	April 18
Ted Kusmierz	April 19
Michelle Bryk	April 22
Mary VanderPloeg	April 22
Beth Price	April 24
Patti Reynolds	April 28
Lori Fedewa	April 30
Claire Pinsonneault	April 30

Message from the Minister

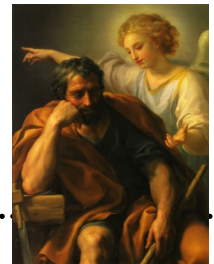
First of all I would like to apologize for the disruption in the Profession Mass. If you didn't get the link later to view the actual Profession Renewal Rite, you can find it [here](#) on Youtube. In lieu of a stipend for our video recorder, Peter asked for a contribution to beauty in his name. Lori Fedewa will be using this money to maintain flowers to Mary for the month of May. Thank you, Lori.

You should have also gotten an email regarding the nomination forms for the Regional Council. For those on the mailing list, they were also mailed to you as well. If you need them resent, please let me know. Elections will be conducted at our August Minister's Meeting.

Even though things are slowly opening, our group is still too large to gather at St. Thomas in person. We are praying that we can gather in person in April. If we do, we plan to still record the meeting for those that are still uncomfortable coming together. Stay tuned.

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.

Healing—helping to make a community or fraternity whole again.

“When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife.” (Matthew 1:24)

Do I look to the Lord to help me heal hurtful situations in my family? In my workplace? In my Church community?

Reflections

by Jeff Dills, OFS

At every Council Meeting, we study an article from the Handbook for Secular Franciscan Servant Leadership to guide our formation and focus us on the life of our fraternity. This month the article addressed a fraternity's General Fund and, as always, this generated dialogue as it relates to our fraternity. Our Mother of Sorrows is asked by both the National and Regional Councils to have two (2) years of our annual budget in savings. This is a responsible accounting principle so that we are prepared for hard times as many fraternities have seen over the past year. While it fluctuates from month-to-month depending on collections and expenses, we currently have seven (7) months, or just over one-half of our yearly budget in savings.

A big Thank You to all who have mailed contributions over this past year. These monies go toward our expenses, the largest being our Fair Share to the Regional Council. We are very responsible with these funds, but we are not gaining any ground toward increasing our savings. Therefore, I am appealing to you to help us now. While keeping our eye on the long-term goal of having two (2) years of our budget in savings, our immediate goal is to reach and maintain the equivalent of one (1) year of our budget. Please help our fraternity reach this achievable goal, while not losing sight of the long-term goal. For those who haven't contributed, know that we must still pay our Fair Share to the region even in these difficult times for all 68 of our members, including you and some who just can't contribute at all or as they used to. For those who have been giving, please prayerfully consider increasing by a small percentage to help grow our savings. As always, checks can be sent to: Jeff Dills, OFS at 2265 Burton Pines Dr SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546.

For those who like paying electronically, we now have a Venmo account established to simply transfer money to our LMCU account. Our Venmo Username is: @OMS-Franciscan-GR. If you can't find in that way, you can search for "Our Mother of Sorrows" and it should locate the Username also.

In his recent encyclical *Fratelli Tutti*, Pope Francis writes, "*Life without fraternal gratuitousness becomes a form of frenetic commerce, in which we are constantly weighing up what we give and what we get back in return.*" (No. 140). *In this case, we know exactly what we get back in return, the vibrancy of our local and greater Franciscan family, Our Mother of Sorrows and Divine Mercy Region.*

Newsletters Available

The Regional and National Newsletters are now available online.

The Divine Mercy Regional Newsletter is available on the Regional website at <https://divinemercyregion.com/recent-newsletters/>

The Tau National Newsletter is available on the National website at <https://secularfranciscansusa.org/tau-usa-newsletter/>



Upcoming Franciscan Feast Days

St. Joseph	March 19
Bl. Didacus Joseph of Cadiz	March 24
The Annunciation of the Lord	March 25
Palm Sunday	March 28
Good Friday	April 2
St. Benedict the Black	April 3
Easter Sunday	April 4
Divine Mercy Sunday	April 11
St. Bernadette of Soubirous	April 16
St. Benedict Joseph Labre	April 17

Bold denotes Third Order Secular Saints & Blesseds From Proper Offices of Franciscan Saints and Blessed in the Liturgy of the Hours

For the Spirit of Penance

O seraphic father, St. Francis, I venerate in you the living image of Christ crucified. Your love transformed your whole life into one long martyrdom. It made you strive by means of severe penances to satisfy the ardor of your desires, until at last it impressed on your body the wounds it had long before engraved deeply in your heart. It thus made you a living crucifix, preaching sweetly to all people the sufferings and love of Jesus. Obtain for me, O holy father, that I too may banish from my heart the spirit of the world; that I may esteem poverty and humiliation above wealth and honor; that I may mortify my passions and advance daily in the knowledge and love of God, until at last, detached from myself, from the world and from all creatures, I may live for God alone, and like you say with my whole heart, "My God and my all," my God, my inheritance and my joy in time and eternity. Amen.

From the Secular Franciscan Companion

PRAYER PARTNERS for the Month of April



Alan Supran 616-340-2194
Lori Fedewa 616-633-8131

Alvin Matkovich 616-460-3807
Marcia Dohm 616-877-0007

Amy Oatley 616-915-2414
Marge Gessner (M) 616-453-0338

Barb Czurak (M) 616-458-1096
Marge Krystiniak 616-780-9731

Barb Scott 616-550-5916
Margo Dean 616-272-2976

Beth Price 616-915-1757
Margo Kiel (M) 269-795-3013

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Marilyn Hawkins 616-791-1279

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Mark Mann 616-450-1923

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Mary Ann Swiatlowski
616-458-8205

Chris Walters 616-828-7544
Mary Lou Harig 616-334-0116

Chris Willmeng (F) 285-3712
Mary Lou Thompson (M)
616-363-8710

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Dwayne Betcher 616-283-6883
Pat Herwaldt (F) 616-682-7970

Elaine Kozloski 616-453-9965
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Jim Flickinger 616-485-6183
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Linda Lee Spencer (M) 616-361-6090

Kay Wilson (M) 616-361-7422
Lois Flickinger 616-443-3126

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

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