

May 2021

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

Newsletter

Volume 6, 5

Infirmarian Contact:

Marilyn Hawkins, OFS
Phone: 616.791.1279 Cell
Email: roseysposies@gmail.com

Executive Council

Barb Scott, OFS
Minister
OMSGRminister@gmail.com
616-550-5916
Keith Southerton, OFS
Vice Minister
keith.southerton@gmail.com
616-891-1564
Carol Dills, OFS
Secretary
OMSGRsecretary@gmail.com
616-822-7191
Jeff Dills, OFS
Treasurer
OMSGRtreasurer@gmail.com
616-490-8458

Councilors

Jennifer Bahm, OFS
jbahm697@gmail.com
989-235-2353
Laura Bouchard, OFS
bouchardfamily6@gmail.com 616-813-7648
Jason George, OFS
johnkite@rocketmail.com
231-736-7487
Sue Southerton, OFS
southertonfamily@gmail.com
616-891-1564
Michelle Bryk, OFS
Formation Minister
michellebofs@gmail.com 616-616-361-8489
Mary VanderPloeg, OFS
JPIC Animator
vanderploegmary49@gmail.com
616-454-0349
Lori Fedewa, OFS
Ecumenical Chair
wadalaf@gmail.com
616-633-8131
Regional Spiritual Asst.
Linda Solis, OFS
lsolisofs@gmail.com



May Fraternity Gathering
****Monday, May 24 at 7:00 pm****
Cathedral of St. Andrew

Our May Gathering will be the Mass of God’s Creation instead of our regular Wednesday meeting on Zoom.

****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.**

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.

Collaboration—striving to build the Kingdom of God

“An angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, ‘Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there till I tell you.’” (Matthew 2:13)

**How do I work with others in building up the Kingdom of God?
Do I ask my family or friends or do I try to do it by myself?
How can the fraternity work better together in a spirit of collaboration?**

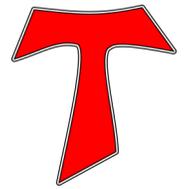


Upcoming Fraternity Gatherings

May 24	Mass of God’s Creation	7:00 pm	St. Andrew
Jun 30	Annual Picnic	6:00 pm	Cascade Park
Jul 28	Next Steps in Our Apostolate	7:00 pm	St. Thomas

Celebrating the Milestones

Wishing our brothers and sisters many blessings!



Professions

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

Birthdays

Mary Ann Swiatlowski	June 1
Susan Martin	June 16
Karon Koepke	June 17

Message from the Minister

At our last Council Meeting, it was decided that I use this space going forward to summarize the Council Meetings in an effort to increase transparency to the fraternity. This is a great vehicle for communication and any increase in communication will bring us all closer together.

We are doing well in our yearly financials considering we are not meeting in person. Thank you to all who have been sending their checks in to Jeff or using our new Venmo account. We still need to build up our savings. National has recommended that we maintain two years of yearly expenses in our savings account. We currently do not have anything in savings. We are looking for ideas on how to build that up.

Sue Southerton has agreed to learn the job of Formation Minister for the Caledonia group. This is a critical step in the progress of Caledonia moving to Emerging Fraternity status. They still need to be assigned a Spiritual Assistant, who will guide them to the next steps.

We changed the May Gathering from our normal Wednesday to celebrate together the Mass of God's Creation (the Green Mass) at the Cathedral on Monday, May 24 at 7:00 pm. I hope everyone can make it!

Our picnic is scheduled for Wednesday, June 30 at 6:00 pm at Cascade Park. The council will provide burgers and hot dogs. Please plan on bringing your own place settings, a dish to pass, and a white elephant gift.

And lastly, in addition to Pat in Candidacy and the six we welcomed into Inquiry last month, we have three more that have begun in Orientation. Praise God! The Holy Spirit is working!

Pax et bonum,

Barbara Scott, OFS

Reflections on the Tau

by Jennifer Bahm, OFS

“Most Franciscan Jesuit, Pope Francis Set the Bar High” by Donna Hollis, OFS

The article “Ecumenical Interfaith Committee Joint Committee on Franciscan Unity: Most Franciscan Jesuit, Pope Francis Set the Bar High,” shows how the holy Father leads our Church through Franciscan example. This article resonates because dialogue and ecumenical efforts are so essential in today’s world.

Pope Francis reminds us of the example of his namesake, “Wherever he went he sowed the seeds of peace and walked alongside the poor, the abandoned, the infirm and the outcast, the least of his brothers and sisters.” These values are Catholic values and the values of most people.

Dialogue is an important component of all ecumenical efforts. I love the words quoted by the Bishops of India, “the goal of dialogue is to establish friendship. Peace, harmony, and to share spiritual and moral values and experiences in a spirit of truth and love.”

This article also reminds us about religious freedom which proclaims “that we can build harmony and understanding between different cultures and religions. It also testifies to the fact that, since the important things we share are so many, it is possible to find a means of serene, ordered and peaceful coexistence, accepting our differences and rejoicing that, as children of the one God, we are all brothers and sisters.” Many people would then ask about how we hold firm to our Catholic identity when we are embracing so many different cultures and ideas? The answer that we are given is that we ask God to strengthen the unity within the Church. There are so many causes of division and hatred, sometimes it can seem difficult for people to come together, but it is always important to try.

“Pope Francis concludes Fratelli Tutti with this thought: ‘Each one of us is called to be an artisan of peace, by uniting and not dividing, by extinguishing hatred and not holding onto it, by opening paths of dialogue and not by constructing new walls.’”

Laudato Si Week

May 16-25



As we mark the close of the special *Laudato Si'* Anniversary Year and prepare for the launching of the *Laudato Si'* Action Platform, we honor the great progress made by the global Church in our journey towards ecological conversion and prepare for the next decade of action to care for all God’s creation. Throughout the ten days of prayer, learning, and action we invite you to reflect on the following: *what can I do to make sure that our common home remains a place that respects the dignity and interconnectedness of all created life?*

Pray

“Triune God, help us to hear the cry of those in poverty, and the cry of the earth, so that we may together care for our common home.” Reflect on our call to care for our common home by praying the [Prayer to Care for Our Common Home](#)

Learn

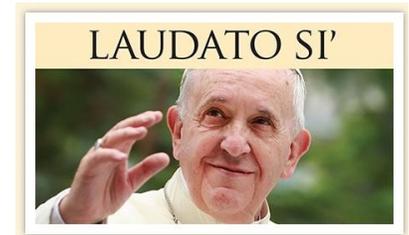
Care for the earth is a requirement of our faith. Learn more about how Catholic schools in [Cincinnati](#) and [Cleveland](#) are helping to teach young people to care for God’s creation and think about how your community can empower young people to care for our common home.

Act

Caring for our common home is a vital part of our work to care for the poor and vulnerable. Join the work to [address the current climate crisis by taking steps](#) to make your home or community a place that protects all created life.

Learn more about the [Laudato Si' Action Platform](#) here.

Mass for God's Creation



Celebrate the sixth anniversary of Pope Francis' landmark encyclical on care for creation, *Laudato Si*. **Bishop Walkowiak invites the faithful to join him for Mass on May 24 at 7 p.m. at the Cathedral of Saint Andrew.** The Mass will be livestreamed on the diocesan website and Facebook page for individuals who are unable to join. Prior to attending in-person, please review diocesan COVID-19 guidelines, which can be found at grdiocese.org.

We will have an opportunity to deepen our gratitude to God for the gift of the earth, our common home, and to strengthen us to care for all members of the human family.

For more information, please contact D.J. Florian by calling 616-551-4748 or email: dflorian@grdiocese.org.

Regional Nominations Due by June 15!

May you be full of God's grace, the Holy Spirit, to prayerfully nominate professed members of the Divine Mercy Region to serve on the next Regional Executive Council (REC)! Please use the *Nominations Form* below that can be typed on to nominate members.

[Cover Letter](#)

[Timeline for Nominations](#)

[Prayer for OFS Leaders](#)

[Nominations Form](#)

[Regional Offices Duties](#)

You can also print the forms from our regional website, www.divinemercyregion.com. The forms can be found under the resources tab/forms and records.

A Pentecost Prayer by Tibor Kauser, CIOFS Minister General

Lord, let us be the water of your river, so that we may bring life from the spring to those who need it so much. Lord, let us be your soil, so that we may accept your seeds and bring fruits, thus offering your food for those who hunger your words and your spirituality. Lord, let us be your fire, so that we may enlighten the darkness in the world and heat up the soul of those who feel the cold of suffering, isolation, hardships. Lord, let us be your wind so that we may bring fresh air, so that we may swipe off the dust of the bad thoughts and ideas, and we may inspire people to open the windows and doors, letting in your Spirit, and that we may help them take deep breathes, feeling the freedom of the children of God. Lord, let us be the clay in your hands, form us into a pot as you wish, so that being unique pieces of your loving handwork we may bring that gift of yours to others that fits into us the best. Lord, let us be your fruit tree, so that we may bring lots of your fruits and may we be like the one which gives home for the bird on its branches and the children are eager to climb onto. Come, Holy Spirit, come!



PRAYER PARTNERS for the Month of June

Alan Supran 616-340-2194
Marge Gessner (M) 616-453-0338

Alvin Matkovich 616-460-3807
Marge Krystiniak 616-780-9731

Amy Oatley 616-915-2414
Margo Dean 616-272-2976

Barb Czurak (M) 616-458-1096
Margo Kiel (M) 269-795-3013

Barb Scott 616-550-5916
Marilyn Hawkins 616-791-1279

Beth Price 616-915-1757
Mark Mann 616-450-1923

Cami Mann 616-450-1897
Mary Ann Swiatlowski 616-458-8205

Carol Dills 616-822-7191
Mary Lou Harig 616-334-0116

Chris Bueche 616-485-9668
Mary Lou Thompson (M) 616-363-8710

Chris Walters 616-828-7544
Mary Michalski (M) 616-723-1250

Chris Willmeng (F) 285-3712
Mary VanderPloeg 616-443-5554

Chuck Drollinger 616-481-0831
Michelle Bryk 616-485-5783

Claire Pinsonneault 616-846-5955
Nancy Supran 231-462-3732

Cory Mitchell 616-427-2379
Pat Fiebig (M) 616-453-5222

Diane Gray 608-217-3499
Pat Herwaldt (F) 616-682-7970

Dorothy Deja (M) 616-453-2827
Patti Reynolds 616-822-5723

Dwayne Betcher 616-283-6883
Paul Wojtas (M) 616-538-5574

Elaine Kozloski 616-453-9965
Peg Wegenka 616-666-1072

Ellie Estes (M) 616-784-3869
Ray Boisvenue 616-450-6397

Harriet Pilson (M) 616-791-2061
Rich Michalski (M) 616-723-1251

Jan Windy 616-438-7893
Rose Hickey (M) 616-446-3036

Jason George 231-736-7487
Sue Southerton 616-881-3276

Jeff Dills 616-490-8458
Susan Martin 616-456-5951

Jenn Bahm 989-235-2353
Ted Kusmierz (M) 616-261-8777

Jerry Swiatlowski 616-458-8205
Terri Mauro (M) 616-803-5733

Jim Dohm (M) 616-877-0007
Todd Oatley 616-894-8999

Jim Flickinger 616-485-6183
Verona Dunn (M) 616-228-4927

Jim Howard 616-459-7940
Virginia Champion (M) 616-323-4719

Joanne Dusendang 616-498-2365
Walter Krystiniak 616-304-3382

Julie Walters 616-828-7505
Laura Bouchard 616-813-7648

Karon Koepke 616-631-0137
Linda Lee Spencer (M) 616-361-6090

Keith Southerton 616-881-3259
Lois Flickinger 616-443-3126

Ken Estes (M) 616-784-3869
Lori Fedewa 616-633-8131

Kay Wilson (M) 616-361-7422
Marcia Dohm 616-877-0007



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

Newsletter Editor
Our Mother of Sorrows
Secular Franciscan Fraternity
6490 Kingtree SW
Byron Center, MI 49315

