



October 2021

# Our Mother of Sorrows Fraternity Ordo Franciscanus Secularis (OFS)

A Member of Divine Mercy Regional Fraternity

Newsletter

Volume 6, 10

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## October Monthly Gathering Rite of Welcoming Part 2 Wednesday, October 27 7:00 pm St. Thomas Lower Level

This month we will be welcoming in the two that couldn't make the September Gathering into the Inquiry stage of Initial Formation, John Langan and Bill Melucci. Michelle will lead us through Formation on Servant Leadership. Wear your own mask if you choose. Fully vaccinated members need not wear a mask unless they choose to. **Bring a snack to share.**

If you still wish to attend virtually, please click this link or call in:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82904542250?  
pwd=RzZySlhhdWhnZDBDTDB3MnRlemZhZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82904542250?pwd=RzZySlhhdWhnZDBDTDB3MnRlemZhZz09)

Meeting ID: 829 0454 2250

Passcode: 092376

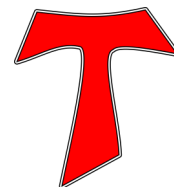
Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 929 436 2866 US (New York)

**\*\*Please mail your fair share checks for the month if you don't plan to attend 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.**

# Celebrating the Milestones



Wishing our brothers and sisters many blessings!

## Professions

Laura Bouchard November 30  
Chuck Drollinger November 30  
Jason George November 30  
Margaret Gessner November 30  
Margo Kiel November 30  
Karon Koepke November 30  
Keith Southerton November 30  
Sue Southerton November 30  
Julie Walters November 30  
Chris Walters November 30  
Jan Windy November 30

## Birthdays

Dorothy Deja November 5  
Rich Michalski November 9  
Harriet Pilson November 10  
Dwayne Betcher November 12  
Todd Oatley November 19

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## Message from the Minister

The council has officially accepted those that wished to transfer from St. Isidore fraternity into Our Mother of Sorrows. We welcome Jim Parent, Fran Walker, Joe Bialczak, and Sarah Wagner. Please reach out to welcome them yourselves.

I would like to give you an update on the Caledonia Newly Forming Group. Margo Dean has been appointed the Spiritual Assistant of that group. Because of this the Caledonia group is now officially an Emerging Fraternity! Over the next few months, they will be deciding on an official name, discerning those who would like to serve on the initial council, and studying the New Council Training Handbook with Margo. The group will send a representative each month to our Fraternity Gatherings and our Council will visit periodically to their monthly gatherings. Please hold them in your prayers and give support whenever needed as they move into this next phase.

Pax et bonum,

Barbara Scott, OFS



*Please pray for the repose of the soul of Josephine Simons, who went with Sister Death on October 3. May she rest in peace.*

## Upcoming Fraternity Gatherings

Oct 27	October Fraternity Gathering	7:00 pm	St. Thomas
Nov 17	November Fraternity Gathering	7:00 pm	St. Thomas
Dec 29	Annual Christmas Gathering	7:00 pm	St. Thomas

# The Maintenance of Being a Secular Franciscan

A Reflection by Jason George, OFS

In our fall of 2021 issue of Tau-USA, Francine Gikow, OFS, has offered advice for Franciscan Living in an article titled, *See, Hear, Become*. *Summing up her thoughts, she offers a few lines from Jan Novotka's song, Presence:*

*It's not what you do, but how you do it.  
It's not what you see, but how you see.  
It's not what you say, what you know or achieve.  
It's the Presence, the Presence you are!*

As Secular Franciscans, we are called to go from Gospel to life and life to Gospel. Living in the world, this is certainly no easy task and in this time of sharp political divide, fractured opinion on belief, and heightened emotion on the stands each of us have taken, to maintain our duty of living as Christ and seeing every other created thing as having the imprint of God can be quite difficult.

We often find ourselves doing quite the opposite: we are confrontational, easily angered, and lacking proper empathy.

It is often true that we will never change a mind or a heart with our heated discussions. Rather, it is only through being the only Scripture that many will ever see on a given day that any meaningful impression may be given. On occasions where there are differing stances on issues, we may, perhaps, reflect on St. Francis's time with Sultan al-Malik al-Kamil. Although St. Francis came with many inviolable truths, he, instead entered into a dialogue of respect where he made progress by listening.

To give others your ear, especially when they are not used to having another truly attempt to understand them, will open hearts that may have been hardened. As we grow in our charism, we must learn to make ourselves smaller; to be right, in many cases, may only serve to build our egos and take us further from Christ.

The goal is to empty ourselves until we can be a vessel for our Lord. We are usually so full of pride and self-righteousness that God has no way to shine. This is, indeed, our goal: to look at others as Christ and offer them the reverence that He deserves.

To see those who seem diametrically opposed to all we believe as another Christ is a hard thing to do and this is where prayer comes in. Gikow reminds us to follow the advice of St. Claire and "consider how Jesus gazed upon creation and other people. He saw past the outer trappings and peered into their eyes with His mercy, kindness, and love. See how Jesus loved them with his eyes and with his voice. See how he touched their hearts with compassion."

As with everything in our daily mundane existence, our lawns, the dishes, gas in our vehicles, we have to work at things over and over. So it is with our spiritual life; we must constantly work to keep ourselves the way we want to be to grow in holiness. Life is maintenance. We cannot make a change once and expect to be changed permanently. We must practice new habits, fail, and redouble our efforts.

Begin to contemplate those around you as those who will help you on your journey. Feel gratitude for those who are different than you for assisting you in growing smaller. Hold your tongue and pray that you may grow in humility. For it is only in humility that you may be seen as Christ and see others as Christ. In her article, Gikow also states, "Being contemplative and mindful as we go through our day is bringing Christ into the world through our very lives. *We become an instrument of God's love. This is what the Rule describes as 'trusting in the Divine Seed in everyone and in the transforming power of love and pardon.'*" (Art. 19)

That is mighty difficult work, but it is manageable if we are willing to make some room within our hearts for God. Pray for His grace, contemplate Him, and see His face in others. This is the beginning of the maintenance of being a Secular Franciscan.

# PRAYER PARTNERS

## for the Month of November



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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

OR Venmo to:  
**@OMS-Franciscan-GR**

## 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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