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February 2024

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

Newsletter

Volume 9, 2

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Fraternal Gathering

Wednesday, February 28 7:00 pm

ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH—MINISTRY CENTER
1449 WILCOX PARK DR SE
GRAND RAPIDS MI 49506

ZOOM MEETING DETAILS

[HTTPS://US06WEB.ZOOM.US/J/2978878119](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/2978878119)

MEETING ID: 297 887 8119 | PASSCODE: OMSOFS

STATE OF THE FRATERNITY

Fair Share Contributions

Mail: MARK MANN, OFS

1007 DIAMOND AVE NE

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Electronic: Venmo @OMS-Franciscan-GR

Mark Your Calendars

Mar 20

Professions & Renewal

7:00 pm St. Thomas Church

Apr 24

Fraternal Gathering

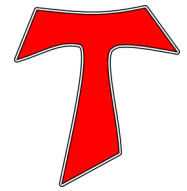
7:00 pm St. Thomas Ministry Ctr

May 29

Fraternal Gathering

7:00 pm St. Thomas Ministry Ctr

Prayer Petitions



Professions

Ken Estes, OFS Mar 21
Ellie Estes, OFS Mar 21
Lois Flickinger, OFS Mar 25
Diane Gray, OFS Mar 25
Marilyn Hawkins, OFS Mar 25
Mary Lou Thompson, OFS Mar 25
Paul Wojtas, OFS Mar 25

Birthdays

Alvin Matkovich, OFS Mar 07
Eileen Schmuker Mar 08
Barb Scott, OFS Mar 08
Mary Lou Harig, OFS Mar 14
Jack Hartmann Mar 20
Barb Czuras, OFS Mar 23
Jeff Dills, OFS Mar 26

Memorials

Terese Venn, OFS Mar 09 Frank Venn, OFS Mar 29

In Formation

Jack Hartman
Cory Mitchell
Eileen Schmuker
Chris Willmeng

Homebound

Dorothy Deja Margo Kiel Fran Walker
Verona Dunn Ted Kusmierz Peg Wegenka
Pat Fiebig Harriet Pilson Kay Wilson
Marge Gessner Claire Pinsonneault

Reminder: Send prayer line requests to Michelle Bryk, OFS
E-Mail: michellebofs@gmail.com
Phone: 616-485-5783



Franciscan Lenten Reflections for 2024

Join the friars of Our Lady of Guadalupe Province (OFM) as we reflect on the Gospel for each Sunday of Lent and reflect on it from the Franciscan tradition. These videos prayerfully explore how Franciscan spirituality links with the Gospel's impact on today's society.

<https://friars.us/article/2024/02/12/franciscan-gospel-reflections-for-lent-2024>

Subscribe to the Friars' newsletter at <https://friars.us/news-and-media/subscribe>

How will we celebrate?

Is it too early to think about Easter? The celebration of Easter is the very reason for keeping Lent. Most practically, I think about how if I eat chocolate every day, I don't really stop to appreciate it the same way. I have to slow down; I also have to experience life without chocolate in order to better enjoy it.

There's a story about a monk who was given a large ring of smoked sausage for Easter, but it was still Lent, so he hung it up in his room. In this monastery, forbidden meat for all of Lent, the monk smelled the smoked meat day after day, his mouth watering. Finally, on Good Friday, he could take it no longer, and he ate it.

Are we fasting because we must? Are we fasting because it gives us power and strength and discipline? Maybe a cautious "yes" to these questions, but the real reason we fast is to prepare our hearts. We recognize that certain foods, however good, are not all-important or even necessary. So, then, we do this in order to enjoy more the celebration? The loud music is more powerful after a quiet passage. The meat is tastier after we spend time without.

Yet even so, the purpose of our Lent is not to enjoy the meat more but rather to celebrate the Resurrection. Our celebration of the Resurrection is richer because we save some things aside to give greater joy to our hearts when the day comes.

In fact, Christ is already Risen—a historical reality for the past two millennia or so. We celebrate Easter each year for a time because the rise and fall of liturgical seasons helps us to deepen our reflection and better embrace the Resurrection, as with each of the feasts through the year.

So, how will we celebrate Easter? And what are we doing today so that we will be better able to celebrate Easter this year?

Jerome, ofm
spiritual assistant

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:

MARK MANN, OFS
1007 DIAMOND AVE NE
GRAND RAPIDS MI 49503

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:

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