



April 2024

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

Newsletter

Volume 9, 4

Established

February 17, 1988

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## FOCUS ON PLASTICS

Wednesday, April 24 7:00 pm

ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE MINISTRY CENTER

1449 WILCOX PARK DR SE

GRAND RAPIDS MI 49506

### HEALING OUR THROWAWAY CULTURE

IN HONOR OF BOTH THE 53RD ANNIVERSARY OF EARTH DAY & THE 9TH ANNIVERSARY OF LAUDATO SI, BETH PRICE WILL BE LEAD US ON A REFLECTION ON THE IMPACT THE PROLIFERATION PLASTICS HAS HAD ON OUR WORLD—PROGRAM BY THE CATHOLIC CLIMATE COVENANT

### ZOOM MEETING DETAILS

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

MEETING ID: 297 887 8119 | PASSCODE:OMSOFS

THE HOST WILL ADMIT YOU FROM ONLINE “WAITING ROOM”

### Fair Share Contributions

Mail: MARK MANN, OFS

1007 DIAMOND AVE NE

GRAND RAPIDS MI 49503

Electronic: Venmo @OMS-Franciscan-GR

### *Mark Your Calendars*

May 29

Fraternal Gathering

7:00 pm St. Thomas Ministry Ctr

Jun 26

Annual Picnic

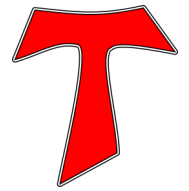
6:00 pm Cascade Township Park

Jul 31

Fraternal Gathering

7:00 pm St. Thomas Ministry Ctr

# Prayer Petitions



## Professions

Ryan Maier, OFS                      May 15  
Joe Bialczak, OFS                    May 17  
Jim Parent, OFS                      May 17  
Dorothy Deja, OFS                   May 20

## Birthdays

Cory Mitchell                              May 03  
Jim Howard, OFS                        May 18  
Julie Walter, OFS                        May 26  
Margo Dean, OFS                        May 28  
Jim Dohm, OFS                            May 30

## Memorials

Carol Yskes, OFS                      May 21

## In Formation

Cory Mitchell

## Active Excused

Virginia Champion  
Dorothy Deja  
Verona Dunn  
Joanne Dusendang  
Ellie Estes

Ken Estes                      Margo Kiel  
Pat Fiebig                      Rose Hickey  
Marge Gessner                Marge Krystiniak  
Diane Gray                    Wally Krystiniak  
Rose Hickey                    Ted Kusmierz

Susan Martin  
Harriet Pilson  
Claire Pinsonneault  
Linda Lee Spencer  
Mary Lou Thompson  
Fran Walker

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

## Congratulations To Our Newly Professed! March 20, 2024



Beginning 3rd from Left: Chris Willmeng, Jack Hartmann & Eileen Schmuker

Flanked by Chris Bueche (Minister) & Paul Wojtas, Michelle Bryk & Beth Price (Formation Team)

# Comforter and Spirit of Truth

What fascinates me about Pentecost is the undoing of the Tower of Babel. You probably remember--even if you haven't read it exactly--how the people were trying to build a tower to heaven and God frustrated their efforts by making them speak different languages so they could no longer understand each other and coordinate their building project (Genesis 11:1-9).

Of course, on the feast of Pentecost after the Resurrection, we have the gift of instantaneous translation: "they gathered in a large crowd, but they were confused because each one heard them speaking in his own native language" (Acts 2).

Interesting fact: there was already a feast of Pentecost, that is, "of the 50 days." This was a Jewish feast 50 days after the first day of Passover: in Hebrew, Shavuot. Today the Jewish feast commemorates Moses receiving the Torah (Law) on Mount Sinai, but at the time of Jesus it was still a feast celebrating the first harvest.

St Paul describes Christ's Resurrection as the "first fruits of those who have fallen asleep" (1 Corinthians 15:20). We might think of Jesus' words, "Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit" (John 12:24). We sow our lives, sometimes feeling we are plowed into more than we plow into the ground. But Christ descended into the realm of the dead to bring life even to those who had gone before.

God frustrated the people building the tower to take heaven lest "nothing they presume to do will be out of their reach." But having died in Christ, we rise with Him who is the "first fruits of those who have fallen asleep," and He has given us the Spirit, so our hearts might be in harmony with God. With St Paul we might say, "The one who gives us security with you in Christ and who anointed us is God; he has also put his seal upon us and given the Spirit in our hearts as a first installment" (2 Cor 1:21-22).

Thus, we don't seek to grasp at everything. In Christ, we recognize that we have been given the power to bless, not the power to curse; the power to love even to suffering the troublesome, not the power or authority for vengeance and control.

This Pentecost, let us reflect on this healing of the Spirit that helps us not to build our own tower but to allow ourselves to be living stones, built together into an edifice for God's purpose. Let us consider how we might better love those who trouble us. Let us consider the many ways we have tried to keep control and might let go of that desire for security so that we can give better witness, more strength to God's tower, God's beacon, God's plan.

Jerome, ofm  
spiritual assistant

jeromeofm@gmail.com  
570-401-8684



## 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:

Carol Dills OMSGRsecretary@gmail.com  
Chris Bueche OMSGRminister@gmail.com

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