Executive Council

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  Mary Bittner, SFO
Vice Minister
  Roger Ensign, SFO
Secretary
  Jean Martin, SFO
Treasurer
  Rosemary Hannaford, SFO
Councilors
  Robert Brundage, SFO
  Pat Carsley, SFO
  Marie Criste, SFO
  Lois Flickinger, SFO
Formation Minister
  Marie Amore, SFO,

Divine Mercy Regional Fraternity

NEWSletter

Messengers of peace moving forward with Francis

Holy Cross Friary in Lansing is home to St. Bonaventure Fraternity.

Looking for a Lenten project?
The problem:
  In some parts of the world women and children walk 2 hours each way to
  fetch water, often hauling dirty water back to their families. They have no
  time or energy left for education or small business, and many of them
die.

  Preventable water-related diseases kill one child every 15 seconds. That’s 8,000
  every day, and that’s just the children.

The Solution:
  Take the H2O Challenge and encourage other
  members of your fraternity to do the same.

  For 2 weeks make water your only beverage.
  Contribute the money you would have spent at the
  soda machine and coffee shop toward the drilling of
  clean water wells.

  Will you be changing someone else’s life forever?
  Absolutely.

Send The Money Collected:
Make all checks payable to: NAFRA. You must note on the check memo the
name of your Fraternity and Divine Mercy Region.

Mail all checks by May 1, 2007 to:
  Kathy Taormina, SFO
  920 Whitney Drive
  Apple Valley, MN  55124

Peace Prayer of St. Francis

Lord make me an instrument of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;

where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where
The ‘Q’ Beckons SFOs

*Many Cultures – Through Francis – In Christ*

Held every five years, the Quinquennial Congress will convene July 3 at the Radisson Hotel Pittsburgh Green Tree, 101 Radisson Drive, Pittsburgh, and run through July 8.

The first function is dinner at 6 p.m., and the opening Mass at 7:15. This will include a procession of cultures with attendees encouraged to wear native costume or attire.

Wednesday begins with morning prayer and announcements at 9 a.m., followed by keynote speaker Fr. Eric Law at 10. Fr. Law is an Episcopal priest and Missioner for Congregation Development in the Diocese of Los Angeles who has been featured at conferences sponsored by Catholic dioceses and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

After lunch and free time, there will be three concurrent sessions at 2 p.m. General attendees will join Congress Fraternities, while spiritual assistants gather for their first session.

Then at 4 p.m. Mass will be celebrated in the Korean language by Fr. Francis Kim, OFM. The day will culminate with a 4th of July Dinner celebration at 6 p.m.

The rest of the Congress will follow a similar format, beginning with morning prayer and announcements at 9 each day. On some days morning prayer will feature songs in different languages.

On Thursday Fr. Law will deliver another keynote speech at 10. At 2 the Congress Fraternities and spiritual assistant sessions run concurrently. Then at 4 Fr. Peter Vettickanakudy, OFM Cap., will celebrate Mass in the Indian, Syro Malabar Rite. That evening at 7:30 there will be Part 1 of a Festival of Cultures with the Multicultural Commission and Fr. Law facilitating.

Friday features off-theme workshops at 10, which repeat in the afternoon at 2. The workshops are:
— Patti Normile, SFO, on “Caregiving and the Elderly.”
— Ron Pihokker, SFO, “Secular Franciscans and the Catechetical Ministry.”
— Javier Orozco, SFO, “Francis, Divine Providence and Our Secular Life.”

At the same time, spiritual assistants will have their own workshop. An Eastern Rite Divine Liturgy at 4 will be celebrated by Bishop John Kudrick of Parma, OH, and then at 8, there will be a social.

Saturday returns to the themed format with a keynote presentation by Fr. Law at 10. At 2 the Congress Fraternities and spiritual assistant sessions will run concurrently. Fr. Moises Villalta, OFM Cap., will celebrate Mass in Spanish at 4. Then at 8 Part 2 of the Festival of Cultures will take place, featuring music and dancing.

*there is sadness, joy. O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to*
Passings

Mary A. Pratt, SFO

Mary A. Pratt, 79, and died Tuesday, January 16, 2007. She was a devoted member of the Secular Franciscan Order and St. Bonaventure Fraternity at Holy Cross Church in Lansing. She was professed on December 22, 1957 and was the outgoing Vice Minister of her fraternity at the time of her death.

Surviving are her loving husband of nearly 60 years, Jack, who is also a Secular Franciscan; 3 daughters; 3 sons; 13 grandchildren; and 18 great-grandchildren; 5 sisters; and one brother; and several loving nieces and nephews. The Funeral Mass was celebrated at Holy Cross Catholic Church with Fr. Maurice Hayes, OFM Conv. as celebrant. Memorials can be made to Holy Cross Church, St. Vincent de Paul-Holy Cross or American Diabetes Association.

Clara S. Nadon, SFO

Clara S. Nadon of Waterford, age 99, loving mother of Fr. Elgar Nadon OFM, Mary Claire (Robert) Guinan, SFO and Therese (Larry) Rospierski; dear grandmother of 10 and great-grandmother of 11 died on January 27, 2007. Mrs. Nadon was preceded in death by her husband, Leopold, a granddaughter, a brother and 4 sisters.

Clara was born in Detroit, the sixth child in a family of seven children. Four of her sisters became School Sisters of Notre Dame in Milwaukee. Her parents died while she was still a child, and she grew up with guardians. In her adult years she and her husband became daily communicants. Clara was professed at St. Bonaventure Fraternity in Detroit on June 18, 1939. She later transferred to St. Elizabeth of Hungary Fraternity.

The Funeral Mass was held at the Servant Church of St. Alexander, Farmington Hills followed by burial at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Southfield. Those who wish to further honor the memory of Mrs. Nadon may do so by making a contribution to the Franciscan Missionary Union.

Barbara Janell Griffin, SFO

Barbara Janell Griffin, aged 66, of Sturgis, died July 22, 2006. She was a convert to Catholicism and a professed member of the Divine Providence Fraternity in Kalamazoo. Her home parish was Holy Angels in Sturgis where she was a woman of loving service to the Church and its parishioners.

Surviving are one daughter, three sons, four grandchildren, three sisters, three brothers and many nieces and nephews.

The family received friends at the Hackman-Foglesong Funeral Home in Sturgis where members of the SFO celebrated her life with a Model Wake Service for Secular Franciscans and the Franciscan Crown Rosary. The funeral Mass was held at Holy Angels Church on Tuesday, July 25, 2006 with the Rev. Fr. Richard Altine presiding, and she was laid to rest at St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery in White Pigeon.
Mark your calendar now

March 24, 2006
The Executive Council will meet on Saturday March 24, 2007 at St. Francis Church in Ann Arbor. The meeting will be held 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., and Councilors are reminded to bring a bag lunch. [Note change of date.]

April 21, 2007
The date and place for the Spring Ministers’ Meeting has been set for April 21, 2007 at the Lansing Holiday Inn. The meeting will begin at 9 a.m. and include a buffet and a snack. You will be receiving more information later.

June 10, 2007
Day of Renewal, St. Anthony Fraternity at Cross in the Woods, Indian River, MI. Opens with 10:30 Mass. Lunch will be provided, followed by Fr. Win Burton, OFM speaking on Scripture.

July 3 - 8, 2007
The SFO family will meet for the 17th Quinquennial Congress in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. It is open to all Secular Franciscans from across the nation. A Franciscan Youth Congress will be meeting at the same time. See the enclosed Registration Form for details. Please pray about attending this special gathering.

August 3 - 5, 2007
The Annual meeting of the Regional Fraternity will be held at St. John’s Center for Youth and Family, 44011 5 Mile Rd., Plymouth, MI. Since there will be no Visitation or Chapter of Elections, the Regional Fraternity is inviting members of local fraternities as well as their Ministers to attend. Come and get to know your brothers and sisters from around lower Michigan and Toledo, OH.

News from local fraternities

Members of St. Joseph Fraternity in Burton helped Amelia Helmboldt celebrate her 80th birthday. Amelia was professed at Queen of Angels Fraternity in Saginaw on April 9, 1972. Pictured here are Margaret Erickson, Monica Ingram, Wilma McKenzie, Janice Hennen, Marty Majestic. Seated are Amelia Helmboldt and Carol Puzycki.

Dear Rosemary and Friends in the Family,

Thank you for sharing the light of love with your very generous gift to us. This helps us immensely - - be assured of your special place in our prayers. Often we talk about the meaningful visit with all of you - - so happy to be a part of your wonderful Fraternity!

Love,
Sr. Dianne and Sisters of St. Clare