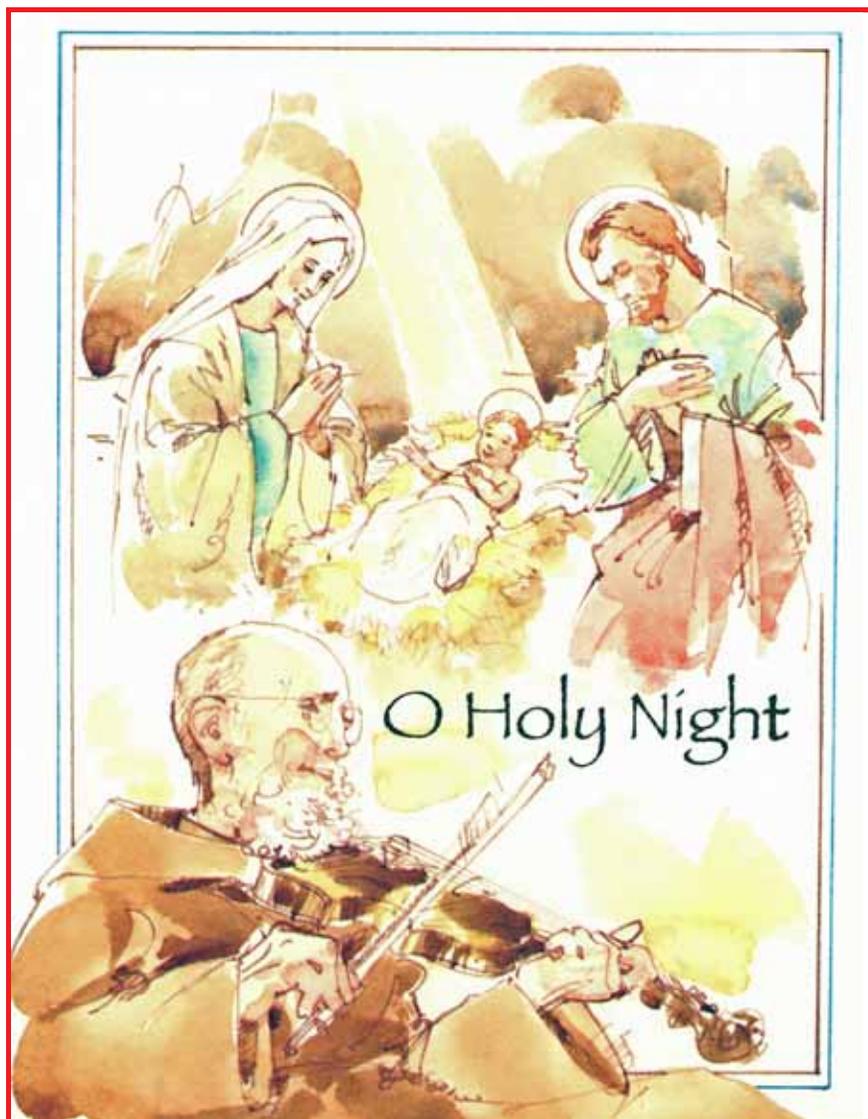


VOL. 68, NO. 12
DECEMBER 2008

THE DOVERELLO

ST. BONAVENTURE SECULAR FRANCISCANS ✦ DETROIT, MICHIGAN



Art by Don Lietzau

*When all was quiet
in the early hours of Christmas morn,
Fr. Solanus could be heard
playing his violin
before the Holy Infant's crib.*

Visit our website: <http://www.sfostbonaventure-detroit.org>

MINISTER'S LETTER

Dear brothers and sisters,

May our Lord's peace and all good be with you!

Now that Advent has begun and Christmas is approaching, my thoughts turn – naturally – to babies. That consideration is special to me this year because John and I have a new granddaughter, Sophie Anne, born this past September 2nd. She is a beautiful gift indeed. But of course, the Baby Jesus draws my all encompassing attention as the *reason for the season*. Do you remember how you learned about Jesus? Perhaps it was at the family manger scene, or maybe it was not even at Christmas time. I learned about Jesus through the Polish Christmas carol, *Dzisiaj W Betlejem*. “Today in Bethlehem, today in Bethlehem, there is joyful news!”



**Dzisiaj w Betlejem, dzisiaj w Betlejem
Wesoła nowina
Że Panna czysta, że Panna czysta
Porodziła syna**

**Chrystus się rodzi, nas oswobodzi
Anieli grają, krole witają
Pasterze śpiewają, bydłęta klękają
Cuda, cuda ogłaszają**

I remember being told that this Polish carol relayed the story of how 1,000 years ago, when the Holy Roman Catholic Church sent missionaries to Poland, Jesus was born into the hearts of our family and into the hearts of all the people of the entire country of Poland. In this way Poland became a new Bethlehem! And so the song went that this was such a *miracle* that, at the stroke of midnight on Christmas Eve, even the farm animals were empowered to **talk to each other** about the newborn Baby Jesus. I would even try to stay awake to see if my dog would be able to talk on Christmas Eve! But I never could keep my eyes open that long. The *miracle* of Jesus' birth, of his coming to live among us, still excites me when I sing this song.

As adults, the holiday season often gets so frantic with shopping, parties, family dinners and writing cards that it is easy to lose the excitement of the *miracle* of Jesus' Incarnation that we are celebrating. This year let's try to make a special effort to find the excitement of the Baby Jesus, born again in our hearts, very much alive this Christmas so that we once again become that new Bethlehem. Let us sing “Today in Bethlehem, today in Bethlehem, there is joyful news. It's a miracle, it's a miracle!!!”

This Third Sunday is the benefit concert for the Solanus Casey Center. Besides our regular monthly fraternity offering, a collection will be taken up during the Concert — a free will offering — to benefit the Solanus Center. Our Fraternity is continuing the tradition of hosting the social that follows the Concert, so bring finger food — Christmas cookies, pastry, fruit, etc. By the food, our hospitality and interaction, people will be able to get to know us better and perhaps that will “spark some flames” in their hearts. This has proven to be a wonderful experience for us these past few years, let's continue the tradition.

God bless you, dear ones, and have a most Blessed Christmas!

Your sister in Francis and Clare,
Janet

Brothers and Sisters

At our October Cell meeting we celebrated the 75th birthday of **Tom Ricard**; we decided that he certainly doesn't look or act 75! We thank the Lord for giving Tom 75 years, and for giving Tom to us as a gift.

Congratulations to **Carolyn Hojna** who celebrated her 65th birthday on November 12th. Carolyn is especially thankful to God because, on her 50th birthday she was diagnosed with Leukemia and, as her biological sister, Janet Atkinson said, "She is one of God's great miracles to be alive 15 years later. Her last blood test after her chemo showed her blood levels better and she does not need any more immediate chemo; so, praise the Lord for that! Janet was on a mission last month to have 65 cards sent to her sister for her 65th birthday. The actual number received fell short of her goal, so if you want to send a belated birthday card send it to Caroline at 3112 Alden Dr., Sterling Heights, MI 48310-6034.

Joe and I visited **Terry Pfaendtner** at Shorepointe Nursing Center. She is doing well and really misses everyone. Terry's address is 26001 East Jefferson, St. Clair Shores, MI 48081.

Last month we also visited **Dolores Peckham** at St. John Senior Community to celebrate her birthday. She was in very good spirits. Her address is 18300 East Warren, Detroit, MI 48224.

We had planned on seeing our dear brother, **Les Lafata**, also at St. John Senior Community, but he had been transferred to Royal Oak Beaumont Hospital for rehabilitation. Although partially paralyzed and blind, he seems to be recovering some of his sight. He and Josie are asking for prayer. Notes of support can be sent to their home at 18942 Alstead, Detroit, MI 48236.

I talked with **Kay Balas** who continues to improve, although progress is very slow. Her many friends are helping with visits, Communion, food, etc., and she wants to thank all of you for your many prayers and kindnesses. She'd love to hear from you. Her address is 1124 Beaconsfield, Grosse Pointe Park, MI 48230-1345, or give her a call at (313) 823-4872. Also, **Mary Hebert** would appreciate your prayers for her grandson, Dan Tyrna, who is very ill.

Please remember all those on the *Prayer List* and *Birthday List* in *The Poverello*. They're **counting** on our prayers and support.

With well over 60 of our members present, the Mass of Thanksgiving for our Secular Franciscan Vocation last month was a beautiful reminder of our vocation and commitment as members of the Secular Franciscan Order. The Liturgy with the Renewal of Profession was the most inspiring and uplifting experience I have had in quite some time, opening wide my heart, mind and soul to receive Jesus in the Eucharist. After calling on all those Secular Franciscan saints in the *Litany for Secular Franciscans*, no wonder the renewal was so powerful! Many, many thanks to Br. Pat and Janet Bodell for making it all happen. This renewal of commitment seemed more meaningful to me than my Profession 55 years ago; that could be because of the spiritual growth and openness that has taken place in me over the years. There was a lot of good spirit at the warm Franciscan gathering following the Mass.

Many of you know my son, Edward Kluk. Ed is a Lieutenant Colonel in the National Guard and there is a good chance that he will be activated in February as part of an embedded training team to train Afghanistan troops. The training is necessary so that Afghani troops can take the lead role in combat operations. Although I am certainly not thrilled that Ed will be celebrating his 50th birthday in either Kansas or Afghanistan, I know that our Lord will be with him and ask that you keep Ed and his family in your prayers.

I hope to see you all at the Christmas Concert this month and then at our Chapter on Sunday, January 18th. And, of course, Joe and I wish all of you the most blessed and joyous Christmas ever and a very Happy New Year.

Faye Kluk Boland
(586) 939-3342
Boland14@SBCGlobal.net
(new e-mail address)

Send news items about our members to Faye Kluk Boland at:
(tel) 586-939-3342 or (e-mail) Boland14@sbcglobal.net

PRAYER LIST



Deceased Former Assistant TO Director:

John, aka Warren, Bergman (✝ October 20, 2008)

Deceased Relatives:

Rita Chupka, aunt of Michael Goga
Donald Jesak, Sr., brother-in-law of Anna Mae Jesak
Donald Jesak, Jr., nephew of Anna Mae Jesak
Paul Linsky, brother of Anna May Jesak

Members needing prayers:

Wilhelmina Adkins	Rose Longo
Peter Aluzzo	Joseph Marra
Jan Atkinson	Sophie Martin
Kay Balas	Dorothy Matargas
Gertrude Beattie	Maria McNally
Evelyn Bishop	Ray Morehead
Janet Bodell	Genevieve Ochenkowski
Anthony Brodeur	Dolores & Bob Peckham
Loretta Chmielarczyk	Theresa Pfaendtner
Wesley Faust	Joseph Pierce
Marie Fontanive	Mary Saber
Natalie Grabowski	Joanne Schumacher
Caroline Hojna	Helen Wardowski
Anna May Jesak	Joseph Wisk
Donna Marie Johnston	
Les and Josie Lafata	
Janice Litch	

Relatives needing prayers:

Susan Arcznski, cousin of the Atkinsons
Angel Bettin and Donna Mitchell,
daughters of Caroline Hojna
Marie Bodell, mother of John
Melanie Bruss, niece of Dan and Jan Atkinson
Kate Comizio, sister of Br. Pat
Angelina and Joey Daleo,
daughter-in-law & son of Josie and Les Lafata
Starr Dehn, niece of Mary Poole
Raymond Donahue, husband of Julia E-Donahue
Rose Dreissen, wife of Joseph
Barbara Erzbischoff, mother of Julia E-Donahue
Beverly Falzone, mother of Clara
Stefan Florescu, husband of Caroline
Bob Fontanive, husband of Marie
Sr. Shirley Heymes, OP, sister of James
Judy Hojna, Caroline's sister-in-law
Ted Hojna, husband of Caroline
Fred LaChance, brother of Donna Marie Johnston
Jane I. Litch, mother of Janice
Michael McSherry, brother of Br. Pat
Marilyn Nichols, daughter of Anthony Brodeur
Jean Nozewski, wife of Thomas
Lawrence Poole, father of Mary
Millie Scott
Sean Sherman, son of Sandra
Dan Tyrna, grandson of Mary Hebert
Steve Yuhase, father of Claire Johnson

Memorials

Virginia Hale • Joseph Terranova

Those serving in the Armed Forces:

Andrew Arcznski
Christopher Beattie
Francisco Biber
Thomas Chmielarczyk
Thomas Greenia
Edward Kluk
John Kristensen
John Marra III
Joseph Marra, Jr.

Pray for all who have asked for prayer.

Help keep our list up-to-date,
to remove or add names, call:

Jo Marie Nardi at 586-978-2335

♥ Celebrating Caroline Hojna ♥



Caroline was born in Detroit, Michigan on November 12, 1943. She attended Our Lady Queen of Heaven Grade School and Osborn High School. Between the time of her high school graduation and when she got married, Caroline held various jobs working as a waitress, cleaning homes, working part

time at K-Mart and Atlas Pharmaceutical Company in Detroit.

She met her husband Ted at a wedding in September, 1963. They were married at Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church on May 30, 1964. They have two daughters, Angeline and Donna. Caroline has two siblings: her sister, **Janet Atkinson** (also a Secular Franciscan of our fraternity), and a brother, Barney. She has three grandsons: Michael, Eric and Jon. In 1967, the family moved to Sterling Heights and joined St. Anne's Catholic Church in Warren.

Caroline has been and continues to be actively involved in her parish. She styles herself a "professional volun-

teer", having served as president of the Christian Women, as a member of the parish council and on the Worship Commission, having taught catechesis, being involved in a Bible Study group. In 1973, Caroline became involved with *Right to Life* and participated in the *Right to Life* march on Washington, DC in 1974. She has had a long-time involvement in Catholic evangelization programs, having even taken evangelization courses at Sacred Heart Seminary. Since 1993, she has taught the course, *Empowerment to Personal Evangelization*, at parishes throughout the state of Michigan.

Caroline learned of the Secular Franciscans from Sandy McConnell, her spiritual director. Caroline was professed in the Secular Franciscan Order in 1997 at St. Bonaventure Monastery. She served on the SFO leadership council as a councilor and spearheaded the (now) annual St. Bonaventure Fraternity Picnic. Caroline's hobbies include making Rosaries, crocheting and, in the past, baked and decorated cakes for weddings and other special occasions.

Caroline reminds everyone: when you are with someone and they sneeze, and you say "God bless you", that may be the only time that person hears the word "God". That is evangelization!

Caroline, we love you!



Brook Johnson 2-year-old ATRT

When Brook was 18 months old, her parents, Melissa and Brian, noticed Brook kept tilting her head to the right and also seemed off balance; they became concerned. When her right eye turned inward, they knew something was terribly wrong. For weeks, Brook was in and out of the doctor's office, her family desperate for answers. The results of a CT scan and an MRI were devastating: Brook had a rare and aggressive brain tumor identified as atypical teratoid rhabdoid tumor (ATRT). She underwent a 9½-hour surgery during which doctors removed most of the tumor. While Brook recovered, her parents reviewed the doctor's treatment protocol, which seemed harsh for

such a young child. "All I could think about was how sick Brooke would be," Melissa said. "We wanted her cured, but not at the risk of being too sick to function." They decided to search for alternative treatment. Their search led them to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. A week later, Brook underwent a second brain surgery, followed by four months of chemotherapy and radiation. "She's a little miracle," Melissa said. "If we'd stayed home, I don't think she'd still be with us." Brook spent her summer at home with her sisters, swimming and playing. She continued oral chemotherapy and visited St. Jude for regular checkups. Recently, Brook's family learned her cancer has returned, and they are back at St. Jude. Melissa is grateful for the care Brook continues to receive. "We just think the people who donate to St. Jude are amazing," she said. "The care, the treatment, everything is the best. St. Jude is like home."

Mark Your Calendars

- December 7 EMB Mass and Christmas Brunch (11:30 am)
- December 10 .. Franciscan Day of Prayer and Fasting for World Human Rights Day
- December 21 .. Christmas Concert
- December 25 .. *No* SFO Ministry at the Conner Soup Kitchen.
- December 26 .. SFO Ministry at the Meldrum Soup Kitchen: 10:30 am – 1 pm.
- January 18 CHAPTER



- December 6Mary Saber
- December 7 Mary Ann Kristensen
- December 10 Margaret D’Hulster
- December 11 Ralph Mason
- December 12 Irene Mecha
- December 13 Veronica Yuhase
- December 17 Helen Wardowski
- December 20 Chuck Sapien
- December 24 Joseph Pierce
- December 25 Patricia Meldrum
- December 29 Lorna Brock
- December 30 Frank Laramie
- December 31 Sylvia Snigier



Secular Franciscan Saints of December

- December 1 Bl. Mary Rose Pellesi, SFO, religious
- December 4 Bl. Peter Pettinaio of Siena, SFO, penitent
- December 8 Immaculate Conception (Patron of the Franciscan Family)
- December 10 Bl. Peter Tecelano of Campi, SFO, widower, mystic, nurse
- December 11 Bl. Hugolino Magalotti, SFO hermit
- December 13 Finding of the entombed Body of St. Francis (1818)
- December 15 Bl. Mary Frances Schervier, SFO, virgin, religious founder

Fresco at Greccio in the grotto where Francis re-enacted Christmas

A CALL TO ALL FRANCISCANS TO OBSERVE...

A Day of Prayer and Fasting
on Wednesday, December 10, 2008
— World Human Rights' Day —
to commemorate the 60th Anniversary
of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,
to show our solidarity with our sisters and brothers
in the DR Congo; Palestine/Israel; India,
and wherever people are suffering violence.
Let us use the *Peace Prayer of St. Francis*
and/or *The Canticle of Creation*
to unite our voices in a cry for world peace
with universal justice and respect
for all God's creatures.

Rule Reflections for December 2008

Article 16: Let them esteem work both as a gift and as a sharing in the creation, redemption, and service of the human community.

Scripture: Exodus 20:8-11; 2 Thessalonians 3:10; James 2:14-18

Meditation:

In the job market today, what skills are most needed by a Franciscan seeking work? How does trust in God, combined with using our own skills and talents, help build in us a healthy Franciscan life?

Shared Discussion: According to St. Francis, work is a gift. Therefore we need to consider work not merely in its relation to production and its economic end, but as a privilege of fulfilling God's plan, namely, that God has called us to collaborate with him in mastering the earth for the benefit of the whole human race by using our skills and capacities. What are you doing for the benefit of the human community?



From the Friars' Choir

**People are like sticks of dynamite;
the power's on the inside
but nothing happens until the fuse gets lit.**

Signs of a Vocation (Pt. 2)

by Br. Pat McSherry, OFM Cap.

The Inner Call

No matter what people, places and/or events might have initially drawn us to consider a calling to the Franciscan way of life, every authentic call comes from God. There's neither an easy nor foolproof way of knowing God's will. However, because profession is a solemn, lifelong promise and commitment to God, the Church and the Order – not unlike other permanent life commitments –, it ought not be entered into lightly. Yet all we can reasonably do is “look for signs”. Although it'd be nice if signs appeared in the heavens, we have to look to the candidate for the signs. The period we refer to as “initial formation” is a gradual introduction of a person to our way of life. The purpose of this extended period is to discern whether or not there are signs of a true vocation. Not only is the candidate involved in this discernment process, but so is the fraternity, acting through its formation personnel.

You might ask: isn't it enough that the candidate be a “nice guy”, a good person? In short, *no!* Not every nice guy or good person is called to be a Secular Franciscan. Keep in mind other permanent commitments – like marriage. Is being a good person or a nice guy reason enough to marry someone? I think we would all agree that something more is required. The discernment process looks for signs of that “something more”.

Initial formation is not just focused on teaching someone about the life and values of St. Francis, our Rule and Constitutions and, after a few years, saying: “Voilà, now this person is ready for profession. Formation is not primarily about intellectual understanding, although certainly we need to know the Gospel in order to live it; we need to know Francis in order to follow in his footsteps, etc. Formation is much more like matchmaking. As we sometimes hear it said in religious life: “Is this individual and the habit ‘a good fit’”? Or in terms of marriage: “Are these two individuals ‘good for each other’ or ‘meant’ for each other?”

Personally, I think the easiest way to discern a call is for the candidate simply to be him- or herself without pretense, sharing openly with the formation staff what's going on in their concrete lives as a result of their contact

with the Secular Franciscan fraternity. What difference or impact is their contact with us having on their real, everyday life? Again, think of the dating/engagement process. Dating is not just about going out for dinner and giving flowers, etc., it's primarily about individuals taking the risk to share their selves, their values, thoughts and feelings, hopes and dreams, fears and difficulties with someone else, in order to form and deepen their relationship. It is also the time to reflect on what difference this individual has made in my life that no one else has ever made, indicating perhaps that this is the person I should marry? That's the litmus test. Discernment doesn't mean passivity or “just going with the flow.” It requires a certain boldness and brutal honesty, and sharing of life.

We Secular Franciscans ritualize the entrance of a person into candidacy and we consider candidates part of the Fraternity, albeit without having made profession. What does that mean? It seems to me that it parallels a couple's engagement period. A permanent commitment hasn't yet been made, but the other person (or in our case, the Secular Franciscan fraternity) has a privileged place in the life of this person. During the candidacy phase, as during the engagement period, certain relational tasks must be accomplished. Just as during engagement two individuals become “a couple”, so too during the candidacy phase the individual must come to identify him- or herself (i.e., not relate as an outsider) with the Secular Franciscan way of life. Have they become a good match, a good fit, a “couple”?

The process is sometimes referred to as “interiorization”. An individual coming to the Secular Franciscan Order often starts out with an interest (desire), and if something “clicks” the interest turns to attraction (satisfaction), and grows over time to become passion (identity), so that readiness for profession (or any other permanent commitment) steers a course from thinking, to feeling, to a point of conviction. It's a gradual but necessary process if “becoming a Secular Franciscan” is going to be more than just “joining a club”.

More to come next month...



RENEWAL DAY REMARKS

Good afternoon, dear brothers and sisters!

Saint Paul says, “I urge you therefore, by the mercies of God, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, your spiritual worship. Do not conform yourselves to this age, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect” (Rm 12:1-2).

As you know, November is usually our month for Professions. However, we do not have anyone for Profession this year, and we will not have anyone for two years. Fifteen years ago I was professed along with 21 other people. Of those 22 people, only three of us are now active Secular Franciscans in this fraternity. A vocation is not to be taken lightly. The Secular Franciscan vocation is a lifetime commitment that is not always easily understood. We are active contemplatives living in fraternity and living in the world. We have families, jobs, parish commitments, but still commit to follow Jesus Christ in the footsteps of Francis of Assisi along the Way of the Cross. This is done in fraternity — coming together monthly as brothers and sisters in Francis and Clare to continue our Franciscan formation which assists us to go out into the world and to work together there in various ministries and commissions, thus making our lives a living Franciscan prayer to Almighty God.

Today as we celebrate this Mass of Thanksgiving and Renewal of our own Commitment, let us especially pray for vocations to this beautiful way of life. Like Father Solanus, let us thank God ahead of time for sending us committed, able-bodied, healthy men and women who will be able to take our place when the Lord calls us home. We have had 12 brothers and sisters called to their heavenly home this year already!

Our formation program is only 2½ years, and then the real work of this vocation begins as a professed member. As Secular Franciscans we have a mission in the Lord’s service as varied as the spiritual and corporal works of mercy to live the SFO Rule. This requires studying and knowing the Rule while living it out in our daily lives.

Perhaps each of us could offer a particular penance every week especially for vocations to the SFO for our fraternity? Think about this, pray about this. The SFO vocation depends on you!

God bless all of you!

Janet



*We're very proud of Janet Atkinson
who successfully completed
her spiritual direction internship
and was certified on November 15, 2008.*

*Janet is now a credentialed spiritual director.
She presently ministers in this capacity
at St. Clement's Parish in Centerline.
Congratulations, Janet!*

DECEMBER 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4 First Thursday Meeting: 1 PM	5	6
7 ADVENT II Pss: Wk 2 EMB XMAS MASS & BRUNCH	8 IMMACULATE CONCEPTION Holy Day	9 St. Joan of Arc: 1 PM	10	11	12 Solanus Cell: 7:30 PM (Bolands')	13
14 ADVENT III Pss: Wk 3	15	16	17 SFO COUNCIL: 6:30 PM	18 EMB Board: 10 AM	19	20
21 ADVENT IV Pss: Wk 4 3 rd Sunday SFO 12 - Formation 1:30 - Everyone CONCERT	22	23	24	25 CHRISTMAS	26 Bl. Luchesio: 7:30 PM Interfaith: 7 PM - 9 PM CHRISTIAN SERVICE: Meldrum Kitchen 10:30 am - 1 pm	27
28 HOLY FAMILY Pss: Wk 1	29	30	31			

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Clara Falzone

Caroline Florescu

Gary Johnson

Frank B. Kraimer

Maryann Kummer

Spiritual Assistant:

Br. Patrick McSherry (313) 579-2100, x. 141

APPOINTMENTS

Infirmarians:

Jo Marie Nardi

Sylvia Stanik

Continuing Formation:

Maryann Kummer

Christian Service:

Frank B. Kraimer

Ecology:

Clara Falzone

Work:

Gary Johnson

Family:

Peace and Justice:

Jo Marie Nardi

Eucharistic Mission Band (EMB):

Caroline Florescu

MEETING CONTACTS

(for Locations and Times of Meetings)

Fr. Solanus Cell (2nd Friday, 7:30 pm):

Faye Boland

St. Joan of Arc Satellite (2nd Tuesday, 1 pm):

Frank Liccardello

First Thursday Meeting (1 pm):

Raymond Morehead

Third Sunday General SFO Meeting:

Maryann Kummer

Bl. Luchesio Cell (4th Friday, 7:30 pm):

Connie Musial

OTHER SFO-AFFILIATED GROUPS:

Interfaith Justice & Peace Group (4th Friday, 7-9 PM):

Jo Marie Nardi

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Deadline for articles is 3:30 PM
of the 3rd Sunday of each month.

Keep Christ in Christmas!



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