

VOL. 68, NO. 11
NOVEMBER 2008

THE POVERELLO

ST. BONAVENTURE SECULAR FRANCISCANS ✠ DETROIT, MICHIGAN



The countryside Chapel of San Damiano is nestled among olive groves on a sloping hill just outside the city walls of Assisi, along the commercial road to Spoleto-Foligno. It was at this delapidated chapel, in the Summer of 1205, that Francis stopped to pray and heard the Crucifix say to him: “Go and repair my church which is falling into ruin.” The youth returned home, took as much material as he could from his father’s shop and went to Foligno to sell it. He returned to San Damiano with the proceeds but the priest in charge of the chapel recognized Francis, and fearing the wrath of Francis’ father, refused the donation. Francis flung the money into the small window near the entrance to the church. Francis returned to San Damiano on various occasions, mostly in connection with his visits to Clare with whom San Damiano is mostly linked. It was here that she lived from 1211 to 1253. Francis spent a period of time here in 1225 where, tired and sick, he composed the Canticle of Creation. When the Poverello died, his body was brought here on its way for burial in the parish Church of St. George in Assisi which later became the proto-monastery of the Poor Clares – the Basilica of St. Clare. It was in the dormitory of San Damiano that St. Clare died on August 11, 1253, just two days after the visit of Pope Innocent IV.

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

MINISTER'S LETTER

Dear brothers and sisters,

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

Pumpkins – pies baking – orange, red, yellow and russet leaves – cornstalks – plump turkeys roasting, filling the house with wonderful aromas – squirrels gathering nuts: all wonderful reasons to be thankful this November on Thanksgiving Day. What an awesome Creator we have!

In November we also celebrate All Saints' Day. The saints are a gift to us as examples to follow on our faith journey. They are like those solar lights along the driveway; we look to them to light our way. Then All Souls' Day gives us the chance to reflect on the lives of those we knew who have died. They may not be canonized as saints; however, they may have a unique and inspirational example to impart to us. Pray for them and ask them to pray for you.

Often there are many gray days in November, but these too can be a special time to focus inward because we do not get distracted by those beautiful sunny, blue-sky days of fall. Count a gray day as a gift from God to devote more fully to prayer. I did this recently on a business trip I had to make "up north." I just sat on an outdoor bench next to a small pond. The day was more gray than blue; it was cool glove-wearing weather. I felt small, helpless and so aware of the presence of the Holy Spirit. Empty, still, open...it was a special time of prayer that all too many times I am not able to settle down to. An all encompassing experience of love, peace and joy were the fruits of this prayer. A gray November day does not have to mean gloom and depression. Seize the moment! Make it a special time with our Lord.

Let us concentrate our prayer this November on **THANKSGIVING**. Third Sunday there will be a **MASS** of Thanksgiving for our SFO vocation. Although we have no candidates for Profession this year, we will be renewing our Profession during the Mass. Let us all pray the entire month for SFO vocations to our fraternity.

God bless you, dear ones!

Your sister in Francis and Clare,
Janet



Matthew Emerzian, a successful music industry executive in Los Angeles, was walking back to his office with a co-worker one afternoon in 2004 when he stopped to pick up a plastic fountain drink cover from the sidewalk and put it in a nearby garbage bin. "My co-worker quickly asked me what I was doing," Emerzian recalled. "I explained what I thought to be the obvious, but apparently I was wrong." To the co-worker, litter simple belonged to the litterer, not to the population as a whole.

From the Friars' Choir

"I explained to him that litter and pollution are everyone's problem not just the person who couldn't find the trash can for their cup lid. He profoundly responded with 'Dude, you're weird.'"

Emerzian, now 38, walked back to his office both angry and sad. "I couldn't believe that someone could remove themselves so far from the greater good of our world." Matt began to think, 'what if everyone in the country picked up one piece of litter on the same day.' Or 10 pieces! The math was easy, yet so powerful. He then began to think of a few other easy things that 300 million Americans could do to make a difference.

From this, a great idea was born... See how one person could significantly change the world...!

Brothers and Sisters

Twice a year our Fraternity takes time to celebrate Profession in our Secular Franciscan way of life. The focus of the two celebrations, however, is not identical. In April, we celebrate the lives and witness of individual jubilarians who are celebrating key anniversaries of their Profession as Secular Franciscans. We set aside November to celebrate Profession itself. Usually this is done with the profession of new members into our fraternity. Whether or not there is someone making profession, however, the November celebration reminds us all of the solemn, public commitment each one of us has made to God to take our Baptismal Promises more seriously and to walk more closely the gospel path of Jesus Christ by following in the footsteps of St. Francis. This November we will all renew our Profession and commitment to this chosen way of life. We are reminded of the saying attributed to Karl Marx: "Give me ten men like St. Francis of Assisi and I will change the world."

Thanks are due to a number of people who made the *Transitus*, the feast of St. Francis and the Remembering Fr. Solanus Concert so memorable. There's always a risk of overlooking someone who played an important role, but thanks has to be expressed to **Connie Musial**, **Joe Boland**, **Mary Ann Montpetit** and **Loretta Chmielarczyk** (our scones-makers), to **Janet Bodell** who does so much for our fraternity, to **Beverly and Chuck Sapien** who spearheaded the Concert this year, assisted by **Caroline Florescu**, **Teresa Westbrook-Lienert**, **Maryann Kummer** and **Ona Harris**. Thanks, too, to those who sold tickets before and on the day of the event, who bought tickets, greeted people, helped set up, served, cleaned up, etc. You are too numerous to mention individually by name, but our sincere thanks to each and every one of you.

November is the month of All Souls. On Saturday, November 22nd, our Fraternity will commemorate All the Deceased of the Franciscan Order – including the members of the first, second and third orders, both religious and secular, our benefactors, relatives and friends. Please make every effort to join us for Mass at 10 AM

in the choir chapel of St. Bonaventure's for this Mass for our Deceased.

Sister Death touched our lives again this past month. **Sherman Butler**, a former member of our Fraternity, passed away on September 27th. The eulogy was given by his brother-in-law who initially had a great dislike for him, but in the end praised Sherman for his Christian spirit and Franciscan vocation. We also mourned the passing of **Marcella Carter**, Ona Harris' mother, and of **Marie Bodell**, John's mother. We give thanks to God for the gift of Ona and John that we received from these two mothers. We also celebrated the life and passing of one of our very active older members, **Fred Dinverno** who died on October 14th. Fred was professed on November 13, 1966; he had not been active for a long time in recent years, due to illness. Fred chaired the Franciscan Interfaith Group for more than 15 years and at numerous churches where he worked he was an example of an authentic Christian and true follower of Francis. At Fred's parish – St. Barnabas – where Fred served as sacristan, the secretary was telling me what a wonderful man Fred was, and Fr. Bob Schuster, the pastor, depicted Fred as one who knew and loved God. During the Franciscan Prayer Service prior to the Funeral Mass, others also testified to Fred's faithfulness.

Lastly, Joe and I just returned from a Marriage Retreat (the 24th Annual Executive Seminar) at the St. Clair Inn with many inspirational testimonies and excellent speakers – Peter and Debbie Herbeck of Renewal Ministries. To make a long story short, I am claiming a healing of my dementia (and other things), that has been interfering with my ministries and my life, and for receiving back the joy that I once had, as well as for the healing of my son, Ken. So, **PRAISE THE LORD!** with me, **NOW AND FOREVER!**

Please remember that this column was designed to bring you news about our members. I haven't received much news from you; please, don't be shy.

Faye Kluk Boland

Please send news items about our members to Faye Kluk Boland at:
(tel) 586-939-3342 or (e-mail) Boland7@juno.com



Relatives needing prayers:

Angel Bettin and Donna Mitchell,
daughters of Caroline Hojna
Melanie Bruss, niece of Dan and Jan Atkinson
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
Melanie McAleer, sister of Alice Vier
Marilyn Nichols, daughter of Anthony Brodeur
Jean Nozewski, wife of Thomas
Lawrence Poole, father of Mary
Sean Sherman, son of Sandra
Steve Yuhase, father of Claire Johnson

Deceased Members:

Fred Dinverno († October 14, 2008)
Sherman Butler (former member) († Sept. 27, 2008)

Deceased Relatives:

Marie Bodell, mother of John
Marcella Carter, mother of Ona Harris

Members needing prayers:

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

Memorials

Marie Bodell • Marcella Carter • Elda Martinello

Those serving in the Armed Forces:

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

Pray for all who asked for our prayers.

Help keep our list up-to-date,
to remove or add names, call:
Jo Marie Nardi at 586-978-2335

Celebrating Nona Mary Hebert



Mary was born on August 15, 1918 in Chicago, Illinois. In 1919, her father sought employment with the Ford Motor Company and the family moved to Oak Park, which was called Liggett Farms at the time. In 1925, the family moved to Ferndale. Mary attended St. James Grade School and was graduated from St. James High School with honors in 1936.

After high school, Mary found a job in the invoice office of the Ernest Kern Company in downtown Detroit. After completing comptomer school, she was employed in a war plant on Fort Street. Beginning in 1972, she worked in the payroll office at Crowley's in Dearborn for seven years and then, for 10 years, in Crowley's purchasing office located in downtown Detroit.

From the time of her high school graduation until her marriage, Mary was involved with the youth groups at the Shrine of the Little Flower and at St. James Catholic Church.

Mary met her future husband, Louis, at a dance at the Grande Ballroom. Louis introduced her to the Third Order of St. Francis. When he left for the Navy in 1944, Mary began attending the Third Order novice study group at the monastery.

In January 1946, Mary and Louis were married at St. James Catholic Church. They lived in River Rouge for four years and then moved their family to Lincoln Park. Mary and Louis were blessed with seven children: Francis, Mary, Anne, Carol, Joyce, Cynthia and William. Mary was a wife and stay at home Mom for 25 years.

Following her divorce, Mary became a charter member of Bethany and held many positions in the organization. Following the death of two of her children by suicide, she became a co-leader in Survivors of Suicide.

Mary's current hobbies include reading, six-handed Euchre, playing computer games (solitaire and hearts), and spending time with her children, 12 grandchildren, and 16 great-grandchildren. Mary has always taken advantage of opportunities to continue to learn and grow, and to be of greater service to others.

Mary currently lives in the Trenton Co-Op Towers. She has served on the Co-Op board of directors for six years, held many volunteer positions, chaired numerous committees, and serves as an unofficial Stephen Minister in her building. She belongs to St. Joseph Catholic Church in Trenton.

Mary stands tall as a person who has weathered many difficult times in life and who has gained a breadth of wisdom from her life's experiences. Through it all she not only kept the faith but deepened it, and has grown ever more grounded in her Gospel-Secular Franciscan way of life.

Mary, we love you!

Secular Franciscan Saints of November

- Nov. 4..... St. Charles Borromeo, bishop
- Nov. 7..... Bl. Mary Assunta Pallotta, virgin, religious
- Nov. 9..... Bl. Jane of Signa, virgin and recluse
Bl. Maria Del Carmen, wife, religious founder
- Nov. 13... St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, religious founder
- Nov. 15... Bl. Mary De Chappotin De Neuville, religious founder
- Nov. 17... St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Patron of the SFO
- Nov. 22... Bb. Salvator Lilli and 1st and 3rd Order Comp. Martyrs
- Nov. 22... All Deceased of the Franciscan Order (* moveable date)
- Nov. 25... St. Elizabeth "the Good" of Reute, virgin
- Nov. 29... All Saints of the Franciscan Order

Mark Your 2008 Calendars

November 16 .. **Renewal of Profession within Mass (Candidates at 12; Everyone at 1:30)**

November 21 .. Discover the Light (7:30-9:30 PM, Casey Center)

November 22 .. Mass for All the Deceased of the Franciscan Order (10 am)

November 27 .. 4th Thursday SFO Ministry at the Conner Soup Kitchen: 11 AM to 1 PM.

November 28 .. SFO Ministry at the Meldrum Soup Kitchen: 10:30 AM - 1 PM.

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.



Carson Higgins
4-years-old
Neuroblastoma

When 3-year-old Carson was diagnosed with neuroblastoma, the news came as a shock to his parents. "I was devastated," said his mother, Debbie. "I just started praying and

praying." For several weeks, Carson ran high fevers and developed a limp when he walked. One day, Carson asked his mother to kiss his legs because they hurt. Over the next week, Carson was seen by several doctors, including a bone specialist, an oncologist and a rheumatologist. When the diagnosis of neuroblastoma was made, Debbie said. "I was prepared for something, but not cancer." By the time the family arrived at St. Jude, Carson was no longer able to walk.

At St. Jude, Carson received chemotherapy and radiation, surgery to remove the tumor and a stem cell transplant. Carson also received physical, occupational and speech therapies. His physical therapy sessions helped him regain strength and, to his family's delight, Carson soon started walking again.

Debbie is thankful for the donors who help support St. Jude. "The people who donate to St. Jude are just amazing," she said, noting that their family appreciated the housing, transportation and grocery cards that are provided to patients and families. Carson is home now and thriving. He continues his chemotherapy at home and returns to St. Jude for regular checkups.



November 4	Ann Wilson
	James Heymes
November 5	Dolores Peckham
November 7	Rose Longo
November 8	Robert Peckham
	Connie Musial
November 9	Evelyn Olden
November 12	Caroline Hojna
November 15	Mary Klein
November 19	Michael Goga
November 22	Caroline Florescu
November 23	Irene Modrzewski
	Norbert Chmielarczyk
November 24	Stella Mordarski
November 25	Wesley Faust
	Julia Ertzbischoff-Donahue
November 26	Gertrude Beattie
	Clara Babala
November 27	Louis Peppler

Rule Reflections for November 2008

Article 14: Secular Franciscans, together with all people of good will, are called to build a more fraternal and evangelical world so that the kingdom of God may be brought about more effectively. Mindful that anyone “who follows Christ, the perfect man, becomes more of a man himself,” let them exercise their responsibilities competently in the Christian spirit of service.

Article 15: Let them individually and collectively be in the forefront in promoting justice by the testimony of their human lives and their courageous initiatives. Especially in the field of public life, they should make definite choices in harmony with their faith.

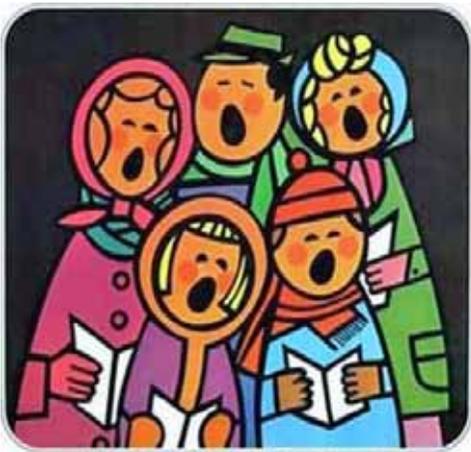
Scripture: Lk 17:7-10; Mt 7:12; Mt 10:40-42; Phil 2:3-4; Rom 2:13.

Personal reflection:

1. What would a “more fraternal and evangelical world” look like concretely?
2. Call to mind a specific example of how someone promoted justice.
3. How did St Francis promote justice?

Group Sharing:

From the time of his conversion, St. Francis’ life was one of service. Francis gave up a life of prominence to become a lesser brother, one who would serve the needs of others, in much the same way as Jesus came to wash the feet of the apostles. Service to others was important to Francis. **How do you serve the needs of those around you? Where/how could you do more?**



CALLING ALL CAROLERS

Anyone interested in singing in a little Detroit band are urged to meet in the sewing room of the EMB (Eucharistic Mission Band) on Tuesdays at 11:30 AM for rehearsals. No experience is necessary. With Christmas on the way, maybe we can sing for the less fortunate of our Detroit brothers and sisters. No need to call beforehand – just show up!

Caroline Florescu

Enclosed with the issue of *The Poverello* is a flier advertising the EMB’s Christmas Mass and Brunch which will take place on Sunday, December 7, 2008. The Mass begins at 11:30 AM, followed by the Brunch in the Solanus Casey Center. The EMB’s sewing ministry will continue, but this will be the last EMB-sponsored Christmas Brunch. The cost of the Brunch is \$12 per person. Please consider participating as a show of support. *Thanks!*

Signs of a Vocation (Pt. 1)

by Br. Pat McSherry, OFM Cap.

Sometimes I'm asked, "What are the signs of a true vocation?" Without pretending to exhaust everything that could be said about discerning God's call, I'd like to start a conversation about vocations.

The Pre-vocation Phase

I find it helpful to prompt people about some common experiences that most people have had. "How did you first get to know so-and-so, your friend?" "How did you and your spouse first meet?" "Why'd you choose to work in that field?" "What drew you to married life? [or religious or priestly life]?"

As in so many areas of life, God often works through secondary causes. "We were introduced by a mutual friend." "We met on a blind date." "Somebody said to me, 'Have you ever thought of asking so-and-so out?'" "It was all quite by accident." "My father was a teacher, and he was a major influence on my choice."

God's call can be awakened in individuals through other people, by reading, through events – even sickness and other unfortunate circumstances, through someone like a teacher or a close friend, by some seemingly totally accidental and coincidental event, etc. Some casual occurrence may just be the spark that sets our imagination going.

When we speak about a vocation to the Franciscan way of life, often the impetus comes through an invitation from a professed Secular Franciscan who knows the individual and offers the invitation: "Have you ever considered becoming a Franciscan?"

As important as these initial springboards are, it's important to distinguish these original sparks from a real calling. The motivations behind our initial attraction may be noble or superficial, and very often they're mixed. While we know that God works in mysterious ways, we need to get beyond the pre-vocation phase and get to discerning: "what are the real signs of a genuine call?"

It seems to me that there are four fundamental signs for discerning a vocation: 1) it must be an inner call; 2) you must be motivated to serve; 3) you must be fit for that particular calling; and, 4) the call you think you may have must be discerned and affirmed by others.

The inner call

After the initial introduction and a relatively brief period of "getting to know" the other person – or in our case, what the Secular Franciscan life is all about –, the desire and motivation to continue must come from within the individual rather than from some other person or external factor. I am no longer dating so-and-so because my friend fixed us up or because someone else thought it was a good idea, but because I really want to. I'm not becoming a doctor because my mom was a doctor, but because it seems to fit who I am and brings me a sense of happiness, purpose and fulfillment.

This new situation puts the professed Secular Franciscan who has invited someone to look into our lifestyle in a delicate position. While continuing to offer support and encouragement to the invitee, more than anything else, the invitee needs to be afforded the freedom to discern his or her own vocation without any pressure whatsoever. This can be quite difficult because the professed member has a vested interest in this individual. It can also be difficult for the invitee because she or he may not want to let down or disappoint the professed member who gave the invitation. What helps is to remember that discernment is about *God's* will for this person, not mine.

All too frequently in the seminary there were individuals who initially were attracted to priesthood or religious life through the encouragement of their parents and who struggled through the natural maturation process of individuation. Even after heroic efforts to make the vocation their own and often after investing years of their lives in seminary training, they reluctantly came to the realization that their vocation was not to become priests or religious, but that it had been "their mother's vocation".

There are some positive telltale signs to look for with regard to the "inner call". I'll address that in the next segment.





The St. Germaine Choir
presents

“Waiting for a King”

A Choral Meditation

featuring the St. Germaine Adult Dance & Repertory Company
to benefit the Solanus Casey Center
on Sunday, December 21, 2008
2:00 PM

This pre-Christmas event has been our December Third Sunday practice for a few years. Those in initial formation will meet, as usual, at 12 Noon, and the entire Fraternity will gather at 1:30 PM in the dining room of the Solanus Center. The Concert will begin at 2 PM in the Chapel, and the Secular Fraternity will host the social following the Concert. Wear your *Taus* and don't be afraid to introduce yourselves as Secular Franciscans. Invite guests to pick up brochures, if they're interested in us.

God has a positive answer

When you say:.

It's impossible.

I'm too tired.

Nobody really loves me.

I can't go on.

I can't figure things out.

I can't do it.

I'm not able.

It's not worth it.

I can't forgive myself.

I can't manage.

I'm afraid.

I'm worried and frustrated.

I'm not smart enough.

I feel all alone.

God says:

All things are possible.

I will give you rest.

I love you.

My grace is enough for you.

I will direct your steps.

You can do all things.

I am able.

It will be worth it.

I forgive you.

I will supply all your needs.

I have not given you a spirit of fear.

Cast all your cares on ME.

I give you wisdom.

I will never leave or forsake you.

See:

Luke 18:27

Matthew 11:28-30

John 3:1 6, John 3:34

2 Corinthians 12:9;

Psalm 91:15

Proverbs 3:5- 6

Philippians 4:13

2 Corinthians 9:8

Romans 8:28

1 John 1:9

Romans 8:1

Philippians 4:19

2 Timothy 1:7

1 Peter 5:7

1 Corinthians 1:30

Hebrews 13:5

NOVEMBER 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 ALL SOULS	3 31 st Week Pss: Wk 3	4 Election Day	5	6 First Thursday Meeting: 1 PM	7	8
9 Dedication of the Lateran Basilica	10 32 nd Week Pss: Wk 4	11 St. Joan of Arc: 1 PM	12	13	14	15
16 33 rd SUNDAY ORD. TIME Pss: Wk 1 3 rd Sunday SFO Meeting 12 - Formation 1:30 - MASS	17	18	19 SFO COUNCIL: 6:30 PM	20 Thanksgiving	21 Discover the Light 7:30-9:30 pm St. Bonaventure Chapel	22 All Deceased Franciscans, Parents, Benefactors, Friends Mass at 10 am Choir Chapel
23 Christ the King	24 34 th (Last) Week ORD. TIME Pss: Wk 2	25	26	27 CHRISTIAN SERVICE: Conner Kitchen 11 am – 1:00 pm	28 Bl. Luchesio: 7:30 PM Interfaith: 7 pm - 9 pm Christian Serv. at Meldrum 10:30 am – 1 pm	29
30 ADVENT I						

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Clara Falzone
Caroline Florescu
Gary Johnson
Frank B. Kraimer
Maryann Kummer

Spiritual Assistant:

Br. Patrick McSherry, OFM Cap

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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