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OCTOBER 2008

# THE DOVERELLO

ST. BONAVENTURE SECULAR FRANCISCANS ✕ DETROIT, MICHIGAN



At the request of Francis' very good friend, Lady "Brother" Jacoba, a portrait of Francis was painted while he was still alive. The original is found at Greccio. In this painting, Francis is wiping his eye with a handkerchief. He wasn't crying; he was suffering from a painful eye ailment – probably trachoma – which caused his eyes to water. Francis had his eyes cauterized in hopes of improving the condition. Nonetheless, he still became virtually blind. Following his death, the halo and letters "S" and "F" – for Saint Francis – were added. The inscription reads: "A true portrait of the Seraphic Patriarch, Saint Francis of Assisi, commissioned by the pious Roman woman Giacoma de' Settesoli, when the Patriarch was alive". This image was chosen for the frontpage of our fraternity's website.

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!*

This month we have many Fraternity events surrounding the feast of our Seraphic Father, St. Francis! [Please check the calendar!] I often visualize Francis walking in the footsteps of Jesus, the Suffering Servant. However, have you ever thought of Francis as an image of Jesus, the Good Shepherd?

Recently, John and I attended and enjoyed the Bach Festival in Stuttgart, Germany, but it was another event during our trip that became the highlight of my experience. It is called The **Schaferlauf** (the shepherds' race) Festival in the Swabian city of Markgröningen. This 3-day festival honors St. Bartholomew, the patron of herders, and dates back to medieval times. The festival includes a historical play known as Faithful Bartel. Period costumes, processions, pageants and general merrymaking all are features of the celebration. People and even the horses are decked out in medieval costume! The celebration begins with a church service, followed by a colorful procession through the town, and a series of contests. The main event is a race in which barefoot male and female shepherds run in pairs across the stubble cornfields. The victors are proclaimed king and queen of the Schaferlauf for the coming year and become the focus of honor. Later in the day, toasts are drunk to the king and queen of the Schaferlauf with the harvest's first new wine, and a sumptuous feast follows. Dignitaries, including the Burgermeister [mayor], and even some members of Parliament, shower praise on the shepherds and their families.

From medieval times to the present, shepherds cared for sheep that did not belong to them. It would be relatively easy for them to sell off a couple of sheep without the rightful owner even knowing it, but because the shepherds take so much pride in their humble position, they give the greatest care to the sheep entrusted to them and are respected for their honesty! Most commit themselves to this profession for life, even though the job doesn't pay much and the conditions – especially weather – aren't always optimal.

Jesus said, "The one who enters through the gate is shepherd of the sheep...I am the sheepgate. Whoever enters through me will be safe" (Jn 10:2, 5). In some respects, Francis is our shepherd. We listen to his voice and follow him to Jesus, the Sheepgate, in whom we find safety and pasture.

We, Secular Franciscans, are not only called by our baptism to embrace the cross as Francis did, but also to be shepherds by assuming the humble role of honestly giving the greatest of care to all those who belong to someone else (namely, to God), but who have in some respects been entrusted to us (namely, the people around us) – at home, at work, at school, at the store – always and everywhere. This is what Francis did; this is what Jesus did. And it is a lifetime commitment!

**Happy Feast Day, dear ones!**

Your sister in Francis and Clare,  
Janet

## From the Friars' Choir

**Many people want to serve God,  
but only in an advisory position.**



# Brothers and Sisters

On September 18, 2008, our former spiritual assistant, **Fr. Joe Maloney**, celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood. We congratulate him and wish him many more years in the Lord's service.

Joe and I recently saw **Fr. Jogues Constance** at the Washington Retreat House. He warmly welcomed us at the door. He was walking without a walker, although it was close at hand. He expects to be back to his normal routine about the first of October.

The first weekend of October this year is truly a **FRANCISCAN SPECTACULAR!** The **Transitus**, commemorating the death of St. Francis, will be celebrated as usual on (Friday) October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7 PM at St. Bonaventure's. We hope to see you all there. **Connie Musial** has graciously agreed to coordinate the baking and distribution of the almond scones. If you want to help, call Connie at (586) 294-5261.

Usually the Capuchins and Secular Franciscans celebrate a **Mass in honor of St. Francis** on October 4<sup>th</sup> in the evening. Since the feast falls on Saturday this year and the ordained friars will be out on parish helpouts and to avoid confusion about the Sunday obligation we will celebrate the St. Francis Mass at 7:45 AM at St. Bonaventure's, followed by a social/get together sponsored by the SFO.

To cap the weekend, the SFO-sponsored **Solanus Casey Concert** will be held at St. Bonaventure's on Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup> at 4 PM. A social will follow the Concert. Thanks to **Bev and Chuck Sapian** for spearheading this event, and to **Ona Harris** for her dedication to this cause. I would encourage everyone to pull out all the stops and come celebrate all three events with us.

A number of friars and people who attend the Healing Services have spontaneously offered words of praise and thanks for the ministry being provided by our SFO members at the socials which following the Healing Service. Much of the "family spirit" is attributed to the human warmth and hospitality shown by the Seculars there. Contact **Frank Kraimer** if you'd like to be part of the team.

**Virginia Hale** passed to her eternal reward on September 16<sup>th</sup>. She was a very sweet woman whose Secular Franciscan vocation meant everything to her. Virginia was professed 16 years ago, but for the past few years was excused because of health issues. Nonetheless, she regularly sent messages to the minister praising, thanking and encouraging the minister and the fraternity while "covering" us with her prayers.

Past fraternity councilor **Caroline Hojna** is undergoing chemotherapy for her CLL Leukemia and asks that we continue to remember her to the Lord. Caroline thanks everyone and says that she can feel the prayers at work during this difficult period.

Also, please pray for **Fred Dinverno**, an old-time, very active member of our Fraternity, and his family. Fred recently entered hospice care. You may recall that Fred chaired the Franciscan Interfaith Group for about 15 years. That's dedication! Cards can be sent to him at **24889 Hayes, Eastpointe, MI 48021** where Fred is among some lifelong friends.

[*Br. Pat's aside:* **Faye Boland** recently celebrated her 74<sup>th</sup> birthday. Congratulations to her on another year of life to serve the Lord. Over the years Faye has proven to be a sturdy column of support for our St. Bonaventure Fraternity. She continues to be just that even today. A ton of gratitude to her from the bottom of our heart!]

Lastly, September's Day of Reflection was beautiful – a fitting tribute to Maxine Piaseczny's memory – thanks to **Jo Marie Nardi** and the speakers she lined up for the day. All of them were living testimonies to what the Lord can do through the life of one individual, and even more through the lives of a group of dedicated people of faith like our Secular Franciscan Fraternity. Our Franciscan vocation was summed up beautifully by recalling the two central events of Francis' conversion: (1) before the Cross of San Damiano when the Lord came alive for Francis and he personally experienced the Lord's mercy, which then (2) enabled Francis to show mercy to others as he embraced and kissed the leper. May our lives follow that same pattern!

Faye

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



**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  
 Marcella Carter, mother of Ona Harris  
 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  
 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

**Memorials**

Kathrina Polemitis • 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**

**Deceased Members:**

Virginia Hale († September 16, 2008)

**Deceased Relatives:**

Elda Martinello, 105-yr-old mother of Gina Rizzo

**Members needing prayers:**

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

## ♥♥ Celebrating Anna M. Tyler ♥♥

Anna was born on August 9, 1944 in Bolton, Mississippi. Her father was a farmer. In 1945, in order to provide a better life for his family, her father moved the family to Detroit where he was employed in the automobile industry. Besides her sister, Gennie, Anna has three living brothers: James, Tyrone, and Ned, and one brother, Curtis, who is deceased. Both of her parents have passed. Anna has been married twice; both of her husbands are deceased. She has one daughter, Natasha, and four granddaughters: Olivia, Lorene, Vivia and Jade.

Anna attended Van Dyke Elementary School, Barbour Junior High School and St. Charles Borromeo High School. She earned a Bachelors of Science degree in Nursing from Madonna University and pursued post-graduate studies in sociology and theology. She successfully completed a two-year program in spiritual direction through the Dominican Center.

Besides working as a psychiatric nurse at the Veterans Hospital for ten years, Anna has also ministered at the Lafayette Clinic in Detroit, Northville Hospital and Walter Reuther Psychiatric Hospital in Westland. She taught classes both at Highland Park Community College and at

Madonna University. For three years, while living in Nebraska, Anna taught nursing classes at Emmanuel Medical Center.

Anna enjoys spending time with her granddaughters, reading, visiting friends and collecting antique rocks and gemstones. She is very active in St. Charles Borromeo Parish, serving on the parish council, as a Eucharistic minister and on the Parish Nurse Health Cabinet. She does volunteer work with mentally-challenged individuals, and with suicide prevention, Al-Anon and Emotions Anonymous.

Anna learned about the Secular Franciscans through a nurse at Walter Reuther Hospital. She began her formation classes at St. Michael's Fraternity in Southfield and then transferred to St. Bonaventure's Secular Franciscan Fraternity. Anna was professed into the Secular Franciscan Order in 1997. **We love you, Anna!** ♥♥



**Natalie Tanner**  
**1 year old**  
**Medulloblastoma**

In 2007, Natalie's mom noticed that her daughter, who had been such a happy, active baby since she was born 3 months earlier, could not lift her eyes upward. Something wasn't right. The next morning, Natalie's mom took her little girl to the pediatrician. Just 24 hours later, Natalie was in the local hospital, diagnosed with medulloblastoma, a rare and deadly brain tumor. The doctor told the family that the condition in infants is virtually untreatable. Radiation would be too toxic for little Natalie's developing brain. Local doctors performed surgery to remove 95% of the apricot-sized tumor. But it was up to Natalie's parents to find a place for her continuing care.

Natalie's mom contacted a St. Jude oncologist and asked him to level with her: With such grim odds, was it even worth it to make the cross-country trip to begin treatment at St. Jude? "Natalie could be the first one to survive," he told her. With that one sentence, the family's decision to come to St. Jude was made. "That was the type of person I wanted caring for and treating my daughter," explained Kristen.

"The nurses, the doctors, the staff just took us in. They provided for all our needs, emotionally and physically." Natalie received months of chemo, but a scan indicated the cancer had spread to her spine. In September, the Tanners put their daughter in hospice care and treasured the time they had left with her. Then a miracle happened. Natalie came back to St. Jude for a follow-up scan that showed the cancer was shrinking. The doctor said that her turnaround was like nothing he'd ever seen before. Natalie resumed her chemo so that hopefully, the cancer would stay away for good. Natalie is back home now and thriving. She loves talking, crawling and playing with her older brother.

## Mark Your 2008 Calendars

**PLEASE NOTE:** The dates of our Secular Franciscan Ministry at the Soup Kitchens are now posted below to give everyone advance notice in order to plan ahead.

- October 3..... Transitus at 7 PM.
- October 4..... Mass of St. Francis at 7:45 AM followed by a social.
- October 5..... Second Annual Solanus Casey Concert (4 PM).
- October 19 ..... Regular 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Meeting (Candidates at 12; Everyone at 1:30)
- October 23 ..... 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday SFO Ministry at the Conner Soup Kitchen: 11 AM to 1 PM.
- October 24 ..... Discover the Light (7:30-9:30 PM, Casey Center).
- October 31 ..... SFO Ministry at the Meldrum Soup Kitchen: 10:30 AM - 1 PM.
- 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 SFO Deceased (10 am)
- November 27 .. 4<sup>th</sup> 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 26 .. SFO Ministry at the Meldrum Soup Kitchen: 10:30 AM - 1 PM.



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|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| October 1 ..... Charles Kelley      | October 18 ..... Frank Liccardello |
| October 4 ..... Debra McCann        | October 19 ..... Joseph Marra      |
| October 7 ..... Anthony Brodeur     | October 20 ..... Thomas Ricard     |
| October 8 ..... Lawrencia Drobnicki | Joanne Schumacher                  |
| October 11 ..... Stephen Yuhase     | October 22 ..... Janet Bodell      |
| Eugene Snyders                      | October 24 ..... Anna May Jezak    |
| October 15 ..... Ralph Barnowsky    | October 27 ..... Diane Raymond     |
| Dorothy Mataragas                   | October 29 ..... Mary Ruth Minnick |
| Judith Vickerman                    | Ralph Marson                       |
|                                     | Nancy Fanning                      |

# Secular Franciscan Saints of October

- 1 .... **Bl. Louis Mary Monti** (1825-1900) SFO priest, founder of the Daughters of the Immaculate Conception  
2 .... **Bl. Anthony Chevrier** (1826-1879) SFO priest, founder of the Society of Priests of Prado  
4.... **Our Holy Father St. Francis (1182-1226), founder of the Franciscan Order, deacon**  
5.... **All Deceased of the Franciscan Order** (\* date may be moved)  
6 .... **St. Mary Frances Gallo of the Five Wounds** (1734-1791) SFO virgin  
10 .... **Bl. Mary Angela Truszkowska** (1825-1899) SFO virgin, founder of the Felician Sisters  
11 .... **Bl. John XXIII** (1881-1963) “Good Pope John” – SFO pope  
20 .... **Bl. Contardo Ferrini** (1859-1902) SFO educator  
24 .... **Bl. Luigi Guanella** (1842-1915) SFO priest, social apostle,  
founder of the Servants of Charity and of the Daughters of St. Mary of Providence

## Rule Reflections for October 2008

**Article 12:** Witnessing to the good yet to come and obligated to acquire purity of heart because of the vocation they have embraced, they should set themselves free to love God and their brothers and sisters.

**Article 13:** As the Father sees in every person the features of his Son, the firstborn of many brothers and sisters, so the Secular Franciscans with a gentle and courteous spirit accept all people as a gift of the Lord and an image of Christ with the lowly for whom they shall strive to create conditions of life worthy of people redeemed by Christ.

**Scripture:** Galatians 5:13-15, 1 John 3:17-18, Luke 22:24-27, John 1:16, 1 Corinthians 9:19-23.

### For Personal Reflection:

1. Who are the people you don't really accept as a gift and image of Christ?
2. What do you need to do to change your attitude and ways toward those individuals (conversion)?

### For Group Discussion:

Article 12 asks us to set ourselves free to love God and others while Article 13 indicates that “loving others” means actively creating living conditions that respect other peoples’ worth and dignity. What can we do as individuals and as a fraternity to live more authentically Articles 12 and 13 of our SFO Rule?

## VOTE FOR LIFE

Every election year brings new challenges and new opportunities. Ten years ago the Catholic Church throughout Michigan spoke with one voice to defeat assisted suicide and Proposal B. Rarely had an issue cut so close to the Catholic moral tradition. In this election year (2008), the Church once again has the opportunity to speak loudly and boldly regarding a ballot proposal that directly attacks the Church's teaching on human life. This year's general election ballot will include a proposed constitutional amendment that seeks to expand human embryo destructive research in our state. The bishops of Michigan are encouraging us to speak out against this immoral and most violent attack on the sanctity of human life, and strongly urge you to **vote NO on Proposal 2**.



The Connection - Detroit Young Adult and Campus Ministry

# DISCOVER

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path"

Psalms 119:105

## THE LIGHT

**7:30pm-9:30pm**

September 26, 2008

October 24, 2008

November 21, 2008

December 21, 2008

(Solanus Center Christmas  
Concert; @2pm; Hospitality @3pm)

January 30, 2009

February 27, 2009

[www.theconnectionyam.org](http://www.theconnectionyam.org)

### Contact Info:

Joi L. Hunter,  
313-549-6858,  
[theconnectionyam@gmail.com](mailto:theconnectionyam@gmail.com),  
[www.thesolanuscenter.org](http://www.thesolanuscenter.org) for directions  
and info on the Solanus Center

Young Adults ages 18-35

The Connection will host monthly praise and worship sessions at the Solanus Casey Center. The evening will begin with Eucharistic Adoration followed by Praise and Worship led by a local choir or singing group. The evening will conclude with a witness story, refreshments and tours of the Solanus Casey Center.

## Solanus Casey Center

1780 Mount Elliott Street, Detroit, MI 48207

(between St. Paul and Kercheval, 3 blocks north of Jefferson)



PRAISE & WORSHIP



## DISCOVER THE LIGHT

**The Connection** – Detroit Young Adult and Campus Ministry – will host monthly gatherings at the Solanus Casey Center for young adults aged 18-35. Each evening will include Eucharistic Adoration (i.e., Benediction) followed by praise and worship led by a local choir or singing group, a witness story, refreshments and tours of the Solanus Center. Ms. Joi Hunter of **The Connection** has invited our Secular Franciscan Youth and Young Adult Task Force to share briefly with these young adults what the Secular Franciscan Order and St. Bonaventure SFO Fraternity are, with the hope that some of these young adults may be inspired to look into our lifestyle. All of our members are invited to come to any of the evenings, wear your Tau, and mingle. Get to know the young adults and allow them to get to know you. Feel free to invite any young adults to attend. Details can be found in this issue of *The Poverello* on page 8.

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**THE SECOND ANNUAL  
SFO-SPONSORED  
REMEMBERING FATHER SOLANUS  
— A SIMPLE MAN —  
CONCERT  
OCTOBER 5, 2008  
AT 4:00 PM**

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Dearing Detroit Dance presents  
“A Toe Tap’n, Hand Clap’n, Shout’n and Sing’n Good Time”  
Magnify the Lord  
Eighteen Steps Higher

Saturday, November 8, 2008 at 7 PM  
St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church  
1491 Baldwin St.  
Detroit, MI 48212

Advance tickets \$15.

At the Door \$20.

Children 13 and under at the Door \$7.

Tickets sold at St. Charles Church (313) 331-0253

# From 1883 to 1978 and Today

by Carl Schafer OFM

I would like to indicate some of the major differences between the 1883 Rule of the Franciscan Third Order Secular and the 1978 Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order. It helps to understand where some of our most deeply rooted ideas came from and why they are no longer viable. We will see more clearly what has been abrogated and what has been approved. We will also be able to measure to what extent we have adopted the Pauline Rule and the Franciscan Third Order Secular has become the Secular Franciscan Order. The Secular Franciscan Order is the direct and legitimate successor of the Franciscan Third Order Secular. It is the same - but different!

## STRUCTURES: From Local...

There are those who say that the Franciscan spirit is what matters and that we shouldn't waste our time replacing structures. These people are sick of hearing about Rule, Constitutions and Statutes. For them, the years since 1978 have been a sheer waste of time and effort - and money, in some cases. They feel that their spirituality has suffered. However, the spirit expresses itself in the structures that it builds. Structures embody a certain spirit: they either hinder the genuine spirit or they help it to express itself. Renewal of our spirit inevitably involves renewal of our structures.

The Leonine Rule of 1883 envisaged the Franciscan Third Order Secular only as local fraternities [I, 3].

The Franciscan Third Order of Leo XIII was loosely a single Order insofar as his Rule was given to all the local fraternities, regardless of which Order of friars they were attached to. However, almost everywhere the local fraternities related little, if at all, to one another, even when they were directed by the same Order of friars. Rarely did they relate to other local fraternities directed by a different Order of friars, nor was it expected of them. In fact, the friars were rather possessive of "their" fraternities. In practice, the Franciscan Third Order was conducted in four separate branches, corresponding to the three branches of the First Order and to the Third Order Regular. The Leonine Rule did not legislate for T.O. provincial structures. Later, the General Constitutions of 1957 stated, "regional, pro-

vincial, national, and general councils may be set up ... in accordance with the particular statutes of each Family" [Art. 121]. In those countries where the T.O. structures were developed above the local level, they were usually provincial structures based on the Provinces of the Orders of the friars who directed a number of local fraternities within their Provinces.

The friars entered the old Rule as Custodes (Provincials), Guardians and Visitors [III, 2-3]. The Visitor had to investigate, at least once a year, whether the Rule was properly observed. The Visitors were to be chosen from the First Order or the Third Order Regular, and were appointed by the provincial or local superiors when requested. Laymen could not hold the office of Visitor [III, 3].

## .... To International

The Pauline Rule sees the Secular Franciscan Order as "an organic union of all Catholic fraternities scattered throughout the world" [Art. 2] and "divided into fraternities of various levels - local, regional, national and international ... These various fraternities are coordinated and united..." [Art. 20].

The Secular Franciscan Order of Paul VI is strictly a single Order with its own structures independent of the structures of the friars. The new Rule does not envisage an obediencial provincial structure for the SFO, but rather a regional fraternity comprising all the local fraternities in the territory, regardless of who assists them. This arrangement requires close cooperation between the various Orders and Provinces of the friars who assist the local fraternities in the territory. The collegial exercise of spiritual assistance has been codified in the *Statutes for Spiritual and Pastoral Assistance* since 1992.

The friars enter the Pauline Rule as the Superiors of the four religious Franciscan Orders, also as pastoral Visitors and spiritual Assistants. The Rule envisages the fraternities on the various levels as assisted spiritually by "suitable and well prepared religious" who are requested from "the superiors of the four religious Franciscan families (*sic*)" [Art. 26]. The secular Minister asks also for the pastoral visit by the competent religious superiors, and for the fraternal visit from the Minister of the higher fraternity [Art. 26]. Here, the fraternal visitor is a layperson.

## LEADERS: From Clerical...

In the Rule of Leo XIII, the friar-priests appeared as the leaders of the Franciscan Third Order, although offices were to be conferred at a meeting of the secular members [III,1], and the monthly meetings were called by the secular Minister [II,11]. The confessor could judge whether a married woman might be received without her husband's consent [I,2]. The friar Visitor was charged with the supervision of the Order and summoned all the officers and members to a meeting [III,2]. He and the ordinary Superiors of the friars had full power to dispense a member from observing any provision of the Rule [III,6].

The former Rule did not mention the Spiritual Director and said only that the members would "duly make their profession" [I, 4]. However, under that Rule, and according to the General Constitutions of 1957 [Art. 111-114], the friar-priest was the spiritual Director of the local fraternity who presided at the monthly meetings and at the sessions of the council, even when the fraternity had a secular Minister [II, 11]. He often functioned also as Treasurer and Secretary, although there were supposed to be secular officers [III, 1]. The Spiritual Director admitted postulants to the habit and novices to profession, in accord with the Ritual at the time.

## ... To Lay

In the Rule of Paul VI, "on the various levels, each fraternity is animated and guided by a Council and Minister (or President) who are elected by the professed..." [Art. 21]. The Council of the local fraternity "decides upon the acceptance of new brothers and sisters" [Art. 23]. Members in difficulty "should discuss their problems with the Council in fraternal dialogue." Withdrawal or dismissal from the Order is "an act of the fraternity Council" [Art. 23]. "The Council should organize regular and frequent meetings" of the fraternity [Art. 24]. The Minister at each level of fraternity, with the consent of the Council, should ask for a regular pastoral visit and for a fraternal visit [Art. 26].

The new Rule has no place for a Spiritual Director. It stresses the co-responsibility of seculars and religious in the direction of the fraternities at all levels, so that the Councils "shall ask for suitable and well-prepared religious for spiritual assistance" [Art. 26]. Under this Rule, and in accord with the 1984 Ritual, the Minister

of the local fraternity admits new members and receives their profession; otherwise the profession is not valid.

## MEMBERS: From Devotional...

In the old Rule, the ideal Franciscan Tertiary was obedient and devout. Loyal submission to the Roman Church and to the Apostolic See was among the conditions for admission [I, 1]. In their profession, they promised to obey the Church [I, 4]. They were to "meekly accept the correction" of the Visitor "and not refuse to perform the penance" [III, 2]. Disobedient members, if they did not submit, were to be dismissed from the Order [III, 4].

Half the Rule was given to prescribing the Tertiary's rule of life in devotional terms. The liturgy before the reforms of Vatican II allowed for public and active participation almost exclusively by the clergy. In that context, fast and abstinence [II.4], monthly reception of the sacraments [II, 5], daily recitation of a Divine Office [II, 6], attendance at daily Mass [II, 11] and at funerals of deceased members [II, 14], were mainly private exercises of piety on the part of the laity.

References to apostolic involvements were slight: in their family life, they were to lead others by good example and to promote good works [II, 8]; they were to try to heal discord [II, 9]; they were to aid their poorer members [II, 12] and visit their sick members [II, 13]. The Rule did not stretch their apostolic outreach beyond their own family and fraternity.

## ... To Apostolic

In the new Rule, the ideal Secular Franciscan is no less obedient and devout, but now Secular Franciscans are required to exercise more initiative in their obedience and to base their devotional life on the Scriptures and on actively participating in the liturgy.

The relationship of the Franciscan seculars to the friars is not one of submissive obedience but of "life-giving union with each other" [Art. 1]. They relate to the clergy by "living in full communion with the Pope, bishops and priests, fostering an open and trusting dialogue of apostolic effectiveness and creativity" [Art. 6]. They relate to the Savior by "uniting themselves to the redemptive obedience of Jesus, who placed his will into the Father's hands..." [Art. 10].

Scriptural spirituality is the soul of their devotional life. “By their profession, they pledge themselves to live the Gospel... [Art. 2]. Their rule and life is this: to observe the Gospel... They should devote themselves especially to careful reading of the Gospel... [Art. 4]. They should “seek to encounter the living and active person of Christ in their brothers and sisters, in Sacred Scripture, in the Church, and in liturgical activity” [Art. 5].

They have been “buried and raised with Christ in baptism; they have been united more intimately with the Church by profession” [Art. 6]. They are to participate in the sacramental life of the Church through the sacrament of reconciliation [Art. 7], of matrimony for the married members [Art. 17], and above all the Eucharist [Art. 8]. They are not merely to recite a Divine Office but to “join in liturgical prayer... reliving the mysteries of the life of Christ” [Art. 8].

Apostolic activity is presented in scriptural terms as building “a more fraternal and evangelical world so that the kingdom of God may be brought about more effectively ... in the Christian spirit of service” [Art. 14]. The Secular Franciscans are to promote peace and joy [Art. 19], and justice, “especially in the field of public life” [Art. 15]. Their work is an apostolate of “sharing in the creation, redemption, and service of the human community” [Art. 16]. Their family is an apostolic field for cultivating “peace, fidelity, and respect for life” [Art. 17]. Ecology is a special field of Secular Franciscan apostolate [Art. 18], where they refuse to exploit creation and establish kinship with all creatures instead.

### **LANGUAGE: From Religious...**

The language that we use is a sure indication of our way of thinking, of our deepest beliefs and of the values that we hold most dear.

The Leonine Rule was addressed to the “Franciscan Third Order” [I, 1] whose members it described as “Tertiaries,” who spent a year in the “Novitiate” and were admitted to “Profession” [I, 4]. They “recited” the Divine Office daily [II, 6].

Under that rule, terms were taken directly from religious life to describe novices and postulants, novice master and novice mistress; also, in the General Constitutions of 1957, T.O. Provinces, with Ministers Provincial.

Practices followed language. Tertiaries took a religious name at their profession. Harkening back to the

Rule of 1289, they continued to wear a religious habit, even though the Leonine Rule had replaced the habit with a small scapular and a cord [I, 3]. They called one another Brother and Sister in secular life. Men and women were separated into distinct fraternities or on opposite sides of the church during meetings.

### **... To Secular**

The Pauline Rule is addressed to the “Secular Franciscan Order” [Art. 2] whose members it describes as “secular Franciscans” [Art. 4], who spend “a time of initiation,” and “a period of formation of at least one year,” before making “profession” [Art. 23]. It is noteworthy that the present Rule retained the term, “profession”. The French have translated it as “engagement”, and some English-speakers prefer the term, “commitment”. However, the General Constitutions of 2000 speak of, “The Profession or Promise of Evangelical Life” [Art. 41-43].

Under this Rule, the terms from religious life (except “profession”) are translated into terms appropriate for secular people. The “candidates” are formed by the officers in charge of formation (the “formators”). The SFO has regional fraternities directed by regional Ministers and their councils. The members “join in liturgical prayer” [Art. 8]. The Rule speaks of the “spiritual assistance” given by religious [Art. 26].

Practices follow language. The members retain their baptismal names and address one another as they would address other lay people. They wear “a distinctive Franciscan sign” [Art. 23], such as the Tau cross or a badge, on their ordinary clothes. A husband and wife can belong to the same fraternity and it would be normal for them to sit next to each other at meetings.

Clearly, the model of secular Franciscan life prescribed by the Rule of Leo XIII is very different from the model described by the Rule of Paul VI. “Obedience” [I, 1] and “piety” [II, 8] are key ideals in the abrogated Rule. As ideals, they are not dropped in the new Rule, but they are renewed. “Dialogue,” and “apostolic effectiveness and creativity” [Art. 6] are key ideals in the approved Rule.

This article can be found online at:  
[http://www.franciscans.org.au/sfo/rulesconst/rule\\_comments.htm](http://www.franciscans.org.au/sfo/rulesconst/rule_comments.htm)

# A FATHER'S LOVE...

You may not know me, but I know everything about you. Psalm 139:1  
I know when you sit and when you stand. Psalm 139:2  
I am familiar with all your ways. Psalm 139:3  
Even the very hairs on your head are numbered. Matthew 10:29-31  
In me you live and move and have your being. Acts 17:28  
For you are my child. Acts 17:28  
I knew you even before you were conceived. Jeremiah 1:4-5  
I chose you when I planned creation. Ephesians 1:11-12  
I knit you together in your mother's womb. Psalm 139:13  
And brought you forth on the day you were born. Psalm 71:6  
It is my desire to lavish my love on you. 1 John 3:1  
Simply because you are my child and I am your Father. 1 John 3:1  
Every good gift that you receive comes from my hand. James 1:17  
For I am your provider and I meet all your needs. Matthew 6:31-33  
My plan for your future has always been filled with hope. Jeremiah 29:11  
Because I love you with an everlasting love. Jeremiah 31:3  
My thoughts toward you are countless as the sand on the seashore. Psalms 139:17-18  
I will never stop doing good to you. Jeremiah 32:40  
For you are my treasured possession. Exodus 19:5  
I desire to establish you with all my heart and all my soul. Jeremiah 32:41  
And I want to show you great and marvelous things. Jeremiah 33:3  
If you seek me with all your heart, you will find me. Deuteronomy 4:29  
Delight in me and I will give you the desires of your heart. Psalm 37:4  
For it is I who gave you those desires. Philippians 2:13  
I am able to do more for you than you could possibly imagine. Ephesians 3:20  
For I am your greatest encourager. 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17  
I am also the Father who comforts you in all your troubles. 2 Corinthians 1:3-4  
When you are brokenhearted, I am close to you. Psalm 34:18  
As a shepherd carries a lamb, I have carried you close to my heart. Isaiah 40:11  
One day I will wipe away every tear from your eyes. Revelation 21:3-4  
And I'll take away all the pain you have suffered on this earth. Revelation 21:3-4  
I am your Father, and I love you even as I love my son, Jesus. John 17:23  
For in Jesus, my love for you is revealed. John 17:26  
He is the exact representation of my being. Hebrews 1:3  
He came to demonstrate that I am for you, not against you. Romans 8:31  
And to tell you that I am not counting your sins. 2 Corinthians 5:18-19  
Jesus died so that you and I could be reconciled. 2 Corinthians 5:18-19  
His death was the ultimate expression of my love for you. 1 John 4:10  
I gave up everything I loved that I might gain your love. Romans 8:31-32  
If you receive the gift of my son Jesus, you receive me. 1 John 2:23  
And nothing will ever separate you from my love again. Romans 8:38-39  
Come home and I'll throw the biggest party heaven has ever seen. Luke 15:7  
I have always been Father, and will always be Father. Ephesians 3:14-15  
My question is... Will you be my child? John 1:12-13  
I am waiting for you. Luke 15:11-32

# OCTOBER 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 First Thursday Meeting: 1 PM	3 TRANSITUS: 7 PM	4 ST. FRANCIS MASS & SOCIAL: 7:45 AM
5 27 <sup>th</sup> SUNDAY RESPECT LIFE SUNDAY Pss: Wk 3 SOLANUS CONCERT: 4 PM	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 28 <sup>th</sup> SUNDAY ORD. TIME Pss: Wk 4	13	14 St. Joan of Arc: 1 PM	15 SFO COUNCIL: 6:30 PM	16 EMB Board: 10 AM	17 Solanus Cell: * (Ricards') 7:30 PM	18
19 29 <sup>th</sup> SUNDAY ORD. TIME Pss: Wk 1 3rd Sunday SFO Meeting 12 - Formation 1:30 - Everyone	20	21	22	23 CHRISTIAN SERVICE: Conner Kitchen 11 am - 1:00 pm	24 Bl. Luchiesio: 7:30 PM Interfaith Meeting: 7 PM - 9 PM  Discover the Light 7:30-9:30 PM	25
26 30 <sup>th</sup> SUNDAY ORD. TIME Pss: Wk 2	27	28	29	30	31 CHRISTIAN SERVICE: Meldrum Kitchen 10:30 am - 1 pm	

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## FAX ET PHONUM

**Minister**

Janet Bodell

**Vice Minister**

Ona Harris

**Treasurer**

Eugene Snyders

**Secretary**

Patricia Meldrum

**Formation**

John Bodell

**Councillors:**

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

**Spiritual Assistant:**

Br. Patrick McSherry

### 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 (2<sup>nd</sup> Friday, 7:30 pm):**

Faye Boland

**St. Joan of Arc Satellite (2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday, 1 pm):**

Frank Liccardello

**First Thursday Meeting (1 pm):**

Raymond Morehead

**Third Sunday General SFO Meeting:**

Maryann Kummer

**Bl. Luchesio Cell (4<sup>th</sup> 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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