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MAY 2009

THE DOVERELLO

ST. BONAVENTURE SECULAR FRANCISCANS ✕ DETROIT, MICHIGAN



unknown European artist, mid-1800's
St. Bonaventure Monastery, Detroit
(originally at St. Elizabeth's, Milwaukee)

**Mary,
Mother of the Franciscan Family,
pray for us.**

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MINISTER'S LETTER

Dear brothers and sisters,

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

Today I'm writing to you from my work computer. My 10-year-old Dell "home" computer finally breathed its last! I really did work it to death — mea culpa! I probably saved too many things on the hard drive or maybe, as my daughter suggested, "Mom, it was just too old for all the new programs you have to use." Yes, computers get too old, but how about Franciscans? We keep going and going and going. It seems to be our way, the way the Lord has put before us when we say "yes" to this vocation.

Entering into the special month of May, the month of our Blessed Mother, how thankful we can be when it seems that our "hard drive" is getting too overloaded with the new technology that is being developed faster and faster and we might think that we are ready to "crash," we have Mary, our mother to turn to. We never get too old to turn to her and ask for her help to come closer to her Son, Jesus. St. Francis seemed to have this special closeness to her too, to help him on his way, making her the Patroness of the entire Order.

As for myself, you can often find me at the 8 AM Mass at St. Joseph's in Trenton on Tuesday mornings. Fr. Steve Wertanen always does the Mother of Perpetual Help Devotion after Mass. He often has as many as 100 people in attendance. Yes, we may be like old computers ready to crash, but the *good news* is that we have that faith that tells us that our Blessed Mother is there for us, giving our hearts to Jesus who cleans up our hard drive, adding at least another hundred gigabytes to keep us running on the path of doing his will.

Let us remember Mary's words this month, "My soul magnifies the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my Savior!"

God bless you, dear ones!

Janet

Secular Franciscan Saints of May

- 1 **Bl. Vivald of San Gimignano**, mid-13th cent., SFO hermit
- 3 **Bl. Edward Joseph Rosaz**, SFO bishop, founder of the Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis of Susa
- 6 **Bl. Mary Catharine Troiani** (1813-1887) Founder of the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of the BVM
- 8 **Bl. Amato Ronconi of Saludecio**, 1225-1300, SFO
- 10 **St. Miro of Canzo**, 1306-1381, SFO (?), hermit
- 16 **St. Margaret of Cortona**, SFO, penitent, religious
- 19 **St. Yves H elory de Kermartin of Brittany**, 1235-1303, SFO priest
Bl. Humiliana de' Cerchi, (1219-1246) abused wife, widow, SFO
Bl. Mary Bernard B utler, 1848-1924, virgin, founder of the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of Mary Auxiliatrix
- 20 **Bl. Josepha Hendrina Stenmanns** (1852-1903) SFO, Co-founder of the Sister Servants of the Holy Spirit of Perpetual Adoration and of the Mission Congregation Servants of the Holy Spirit
St. Guy (Guido) della Gherardesca, 1060-1140, priest, hermit, SFO (?)
- 24 Dedication of the Basilica of St. Francis in Assisi
- 25 **Bl. Gerard Mecatti of Villamagna**, (1174-c. 1270) SFO pilgrim, hermit
- 28 **St. Maryann of Jesus de Paredes**, virgin, III Order, religious
- 30 **St. Ferdinand III of Leon and Castille**, SFO spouse, ruler

Brothers and Sisters

We arrived safely back home on Wednesday, April 8th, after a visit with my son, Ed, at Ft. Riley, Kansas, on the way home from Florida. We are so very glad to be home; we missed all of our family and friends. We celebrated our 25th wedding anniversary with an Eastern Caribbean cruise in February and a short cruise to Key West from Ft. Myers Beach, to stay overnight on the actual date, March 17th.

The only news that I sadly report is that my friend and brother, **Ray Morehead**, went to his eternal reward on Wednesday, March 18th, at the age of 66. Ray's funeral was at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church in Detroit and he was buried up North. Had he lived, Ray would have celebrated the 25th anniversary of his Profession on May 20th. He was a good dancer, an active member, always ready to lend a helping hand, attending most everything, and his Franciscan vocation meant a lot to him. He worked hard on the first annual fundraiser "Remembering Father Solanus – A Simple Man – Concert" and was pictured right in the front of the picture of our Fraternity in the September 2007 issue of *The Poverello* listing all of our members according to the date of their Profession. Ray was under hospice care when he died, very receptive to his end, praying all the time and accepting of visits from SFO members. Please keep Ray and his family in your prayers.

Br. Pat adds: To me, Ray will always stand as a model for us. I think everyone in the fraternity knows that a few years ago, Ray went through a difficult time and strained relationship within our fraternity. He was so shaken to the core that often when he spoke his voice would be filled with emotion. Faced with this situation, he had a choice to make: either leave; or remain filled with bitterness, anger and pain; or work through it to regain his serenity and peace. Ray's commitment to the fraternity made leaving a non-option. His faith led him to let go of the bitterness, anger and pain, if for no other reason than for his own good. And his commitment to our Franciscan way of life and prayer gave him the resolve and strength to work through that very difficult situation. When each of us faces disillusionment and disappointment in life — sometimes even with the people we most love and cherish—, let us take Ray's example and rather than withdraw, let us recommit; rather than hold on to bitterness and pain, let us "let go and let God"; rather than hurt, let us heal — ourselves and others. Thanks, Ray, for this invaluable life lesson!

I want to commend **Maryann Kummer** on the "Celebrating" column in *The Poverello*. I enjoy it very much and know that it is appreciated very much by all of our members. So thanks, Maryann!

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



- May 7 Marguerite Brannigan
- May 8 Frank B. Kraimer
- May 9 Donna Marie Johnston
- May 10 Francis Scallion
- May 16 Elizabeth Savage
- May 17 Cecil McComb
- May 19 Rosalie Liccardello
- May 21 Jo Marie Nardi
- May 22 Mary E. Voisin
- May 22 Sophie Martin
- May 24 Isabelle Fleming
- May 27 Robert Snyder
- May 29 Esther Kelley



Deceased Relatives:

Joseph Liscinsky, brother of Anna Mae Jesak

Members needing prayers:

Wilhelmina Adkins	Denise Joseph
Peter Aluzzo	Maryann Kummer
Jan Atkinson	Les and Josie Lafata
Kay Balas	Janice Litch
Gertrude Beattie	Rose Longo
Evelyn Bishop	Joseph Marra
Janet & John Bodell	Sophie Martin
Anthony Brodeur	Maria McNally
Loretta Chmielarczyk	Genevieve Ochenkowski
Laurie Drobnicki	Rosie Patin
Clara Falzone	Dolores & Bob Peckham
Wesley Faust	Theresa Pfaendtner
Marie Fontanive	Joseph Pierce
Natalie Grabowski	Valerie Ridley
James Heymes	Mary Saber
Caroline Hojna	Bridget Schultz
Anna May Jesak	Helen Wardowski
Donna Marie Johnston	Joseph Wisk

Relatives needing prayers:

Susan Arcznski, cousin of the Atkinsons
Avian, great nephew of the Atkinsons
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

John Erzbischoff, cousin of Julia E-Donahue
Beverly Falzone, mother of Clara
Stefan Florescu, husband of Caroline
Bob Fontanive, husband of Marie
Doreen Gerwollis, daughter of Sophie Martin
Billy Gerwollis, son-in-law of Sophie Martin
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
Marilyn Nichols, daughter of Anthony Brodeur
Jean Nozewski, wife of Thomas
Teresa Poole, mother of Mary
Dan Tyrna, grandson of Mary Hebert
Steve Yuhase, father of Claire Johnson

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 entrusted themselves to our prayer.

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

Jo Marie Nardi at 586-978-2335

Please remember in prayer:

Fr. Joe Maloney, OFM Cap

who will have knee replacement surgery
on May 4, followed by rehabilitation, and

Fr. Philip Naessens, OFM Cap

who, on April 23, is scheduled
for a surgical procedure on his hip
to remove calcium deposits,
followed by a period of rehabilitation.

MARK YOUR 2009 CALENDARS

- May 15 Christian Service at the Meldrum Kitchen (10:30 AM-1:00 PM)
May 17 3rd Sunday Meeting (Formation at Noon; everyone at 1:30 pm)
May 20 Council Meeting (6:30 pm)
June 12 Christian Service at the Meldrum Kitchen (10:30 AM-1:00 PM)
June 14 3rd Sunday Meeting (Formation at Noon; everyone at 1:30 pm)
June 17 Council Meeting (6:30 pm)
June 27 SFO Mass for our Deceased (10 am)
July 10 Christian Service at the Meldrum Kitchen (10:30 AM-1:00 PM)
July 15 Council Meeting (6:30 pm)
July 19 Fraternity Annual Picnic (Formation at Noon; everyone at 1:30 pm)
August 14 Christian Service at the Meldrum Kitchen (10:30 AM-1:00 PM)
August 16 3rd Sunday Meeting (Formation at Noon; everyone at 1:30 pm)
August 19 Council Meeting (6:30 pm)
September 11 Christian Service at the Meldrum Kitchen (10:30 AM-1:00 PM)
September 16 Council Meeting (6:30 pm)
September 20 SFO Day of Reflection (everyone at 11 am) - NO Mass; bring bag lunch
October 9 Christian Service at the Meldrum Kitchen (10:30 AM-1:00 PM)
October 18 CHAPTER OF ELECTIONS
October 21 Council Meeting (6:30 pm)
October 24 SFO Mass for All Deceased Franciscans (10 am)
November 13 Christian Service at the Meldrum Kitchen (10:30 AM-1:00 PM)
November 15 SFO Renewal Mass (Formation at Noon; everyone at 1:30 pm)
November 18 Council Meeting (6:30 pm)
December 11 Christian Service at the Meldrum Kitchen (10:30 AM-1:00 PM)
December 16 Council Meeting (6:30 pm)
December 20 3rd Sunday Meeting - Christmas Concert (Formation at Noon; everyone at 1:30 pm)

Interested?



The third annual **Remembering Father Solanus — A Simple Man** Concert will be held on September 13, 2009 at 3:00 P.M. Light refreshments will be served after the concert. We will be featuring the *Father Solanus Choir*; **Mike Glaser**, pianist; and the **New Spirit Singers**. The Concert Committee will have a meeting on **Wednesday, May 20th from 4:30 to 5:30 P.M.** If you would like to be on the Concert Committee for this year, please call Chuck or Bev Sapien at **734-675-5525** or e-mail us at bsapien@wowway.com. The Committee that worked on last year's concert did an outstanding job! They included: Clara Falzone, Caroline Florescu, M.D., Ona C. Harris, Maryann Kummer, Teresa Westbrook-Lienert and Patricia Meldrum. We are looking forward to another wonderful concert this year!



Celebrating Debra McCann



Born in Detroit on October 4, 1956, Debbie has five sisters and one brother. She attended Berkley High School in Berkley, MI, and was graduated from Grand Valley State College with a Bachelor's Degree in Philosophy.

Immediately after graduating from Grand Valley, Debbie worked as a receptionist in the film theater at the Detroit Institute of Arts. Afterward, she worked as a keyliner, designing automotive-related publications at Maritz Communications.

In 1986, Debbie married James McCann. Their marriage was blessed at St. Valentine's Church in Redford, MI. With the birth of her first child, Debbie became a full-time homemaker. She is the mother of three sons: Paul, Luke and Joseph. Debbie learned about the Secular Franciscan Order through an advertisement in the St. Anthony Messenger. She called the 800 number given and spoke with Marie Amore who directed her to St. Bonaventure Fraternity. Debbie was professed in the year 2000 at St. Bonaventure's.

Debbie is the type of person who is completely dedicated to the people and priorities in her life. She is generous with her time and talents, reliable and caring. At

one point, she was simultaneously holding down a job, raising a family, tutoring, and serving as Vice Minister of our fraternity, all the while successfully pursuing higher studies toward an academic career. She also served the fraternity by helping in the kitchen at our fraternity gatherings. Debbie can appear to be somewhat quiet or shy because she's seldom in the limelight. But she's not afraid to take on responsibility and you can rest assured that she will carry it through. As part of the leadership team, she never domineered or dominated, but always attempted to find ways of contextualizing situations and individuals, not only to understand them better, but also to create unity out of divergent views and opinions. She always managed to express herself clearly and confidently, even when hers was a minority position, without ever disrespecting opinions contrary to her own. She was a valued member of the team.

Debbie is a member of St. Valentine's Parish, having served there as an usher and faith formation teacher. She enjoys spending time with her family and birdwatching with her husband. She deeply appreciates all of the Secular Franciscans even though she cannot always attend meetings. Debbie will be awarded her teaching certificate this May from Madonna University with a specialization in K-12 Art. If you know of a teaching position in art, please let Debbie know.

Congratulations, Debbie! We love you!



Montana Oatman 3 years old Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia

Montana's parents were immediately concerned when their normally active 2-year-old son suddenly seemed tired all the time. After many trips to three different doctors, a blood test revealed devastating news: Montana was suffering from ALL. The doctor recommended that Montana come to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital for treatment right away. At St. Jude, Montana's parents felt instantly comforted. "It's a beautiful place," Montana's dad said. "It gave you hope. You could tell they knew what they were doing." Doctors placed Montana on a 3-year protocol of chemotherapy, and after three weeks of treatment, his family got the news every parent in this situation longs to hear: Montana was in remission. "I wasn't expecting it that quickly," Montana's mom said. "It was the best moment." Today, Montana is able to continue chemotherapy from home, under the guidance of his St. Jude doctors. He returns to St. Jude every eight weeks for checkups, and Montana looks forward to these visits. "Montana loves St. Jude and the people here despite the fact that some of the treatment is painful," his dad said. Montana is once again able to enjoy his favorite things, like swimming and playing with his little sister. Plus, he's getting ready to become a big brother for the second time.

From the Friars' Choir



There was a blind girl who hated herself because she was blind. She hated everyone, except her loving boyfriend. He was always there for her. She told her boyfriend, “If I could only see the world, I would marry you.”

One day, someone donated a pair of eyes to her. When the bandages came off she was able to see everything, including her boyfriend. He asked her, “Now that you can see the world, will you marry me?”

The girl looked at her boyfriend and saw that he was blind. The sight of his closed eyelids shocked her. She hadn't expected that. The thought of looking at them the rest of her life led her to refuse to marry him.

Her boyfriend left in tears and days later wrote a note to her saying: “Take good care of your eyes, my dear, for before they were yours, they were mine.”

Sometimes we lose sight of the things that really matter.

Rule Reflections for May 2009

Article 6 (Church rebuilt in loyalty)

“They [i.e., Secular Franciscans] have been made living members of the Church by being buried and raised with Christ in baptism; they have been united more intimately with the Church by profession. Therefore, they should go forth as witnesses and instruments of her mission among all people, proclaiming Christ by their life and words.

“Called like Saint Francis to rebuild the Church and inspired in full communion with the pope, bishops and priests, fostering an open and trusting dialogue of apostolic effectiveness and creativity.”

Scripture: Matthew 16:24-28; Luke 10:1-12, 17-24; Romans 6:3-4

For Personal Reflection:

1. How do we as Secular Franciscans go about rebuilding the Church?
2. What does it mean to live in “full communion with the pope, bishops and priests”?

For Group Sharing:

Secular Franciscans are “living members of the church” first through baptism and then through profession.” Fr. Lester Bach believes that we should develop a personal relationship with Jesus, not just through study, but also through prayer. What are my reflections on this as I witness to my faith outside our fraternity?

DIVINE MERCY VS. THIRD SUNDAY

by Br. Pat McSherry, OFM Cap

This year, as in some past years, our Fraternity's April gathering coincided with Divine Mercy Sunday (i.e., the Sunday following Easter). Because the coincidence is a concern for some of our members who have great devotion to the Divine Mercy, I was asked by one of them to share my reflections on the subject. When people feel strongly about an issue, it often helps to put things in perspective, so I'd simply like to make a list of angles and aspects that to me figure into the discussion.

- When our Fraternity Council plans our yearly schedule, it does not **intentionally** look for ways to complicate the lives of our members. For example, we always change our June gathering date to avoid a conflict with Fathers' Day.

- It's among the Council's foremost responsibilities, according to the SFO Constitutions, to see to it that our fraternity has the time it needs to form and be a true fraternity, not just in name but in fact.

- A two-hour monthly meeting is a pretty minimal time commitment for creating and sustaining a viable fraternity. Over the course of an entire year, that's only one day [24 hours +/-] when we even see each other as a fraternity.

- Our Fraternity does not have exclusive use of the Monastery chapel or of the Solanus Casey Center. Usually, there is a Healing Service at 2 PM on the fourth Sunday of every month. I mention this only because it is a factor that limits our ability to use that day for our purposes. This year, for instance, with only four Sundays in April, the last Sunday was not available to us because of the scheduled Healing Service.

- For a variety of reasons, the Fraternity **cannot** and **ought not** schedule a gathering either on Palm Sunday or on Easter Sunday.

- Because Easter is a moveable feast [i.e., it doesn't fall on a fixed date], conflicts between the date of our April gathering and Divine Mercy Sunday do **not** occur every year. In fact, the only time the conflict occurs is when Easter falls on the second Sunday of the month, as it did this year. Looking ahead we find:

2010 - Easter is on the first Sunday of April - **no** conflict.

2011 - Easter is on the last Sunday of April - **no** conflict.

2012 - Easter is on the second Sunday - **potential** conflict

[note: April 2012 has **five** Sundays, so there is the possibility for some flexibility].

2013 - Easter is on the last Sunday of March - **no** problem.

2014 - Easter is on the third Sunday of April - **potential** conflict

[the fraternity might have to meet on the first Sunday due to the Healing Service on the last Sunday (Divine Mercy Sunday)].

- I think we also need to acknowledge the **appropriateness** of our gathering on Divine Mercy Sunday. We belong to the Divine Mercy SFO Region. This day highlights the bond that unites all Secular Franciscans of Southeastern Michigan and Toledo. Divine Mercy Sunday is our **regional patronal feastday**. It's important that we see ourselves as part of a fraternity larger than just ourselves.

- We also need to acknowledge that a **person's devotional life is an essential and important element in a holistic approach to spirituality**. Without in any way diminishing the importance of the devotional element of one's spiritual life, we must also acknowledge that other elements, **objectively speaking**, are even **more** important in the spiritual life. For instance, participation in the Sacraments,

especially the Eucharist, is a more important element than one's devotional life. Permanent public commitments are, objectively speaking, more important than devotions. For example, your marriage and family **have** to come first. Similarly, your Profession in the Secular Franciscan Order **has** to come first. Why? Because you have acknowledged having been called by God and the Church to this way of life, and you have given your word in a most solemn way to make this a priority in your life, and part of our Franciscan commitment entails being present and giving priority to your fraternity.

- Most people have multiple commitments, multiple priorities. At times, there can be a tug-of-war between the demands placed on us by multiple sources. All of us, at times, have to **prioritize even our priorities**. For example, you who are married Secular Franciscans have made **two** public, solemn commitments: to your spouse and to the SFO Fraternity. When there is a conflict between attending to the needs of one versus the other, you **MUST** choose your marriage commitment. Why? Because it's a **Sacrament** and by that very reason it has a higher priority even than your SFO Profession. I am committed to my Capuchin Fraternity as well as to our SFO Fraternity. But when I have to choose between the two, I will always choose my Capuchin Fraternity because that is my **primary commitment**.

- Some might ask: couldn't I just skip our Fraternity gathering, after all it's only once every third or fifth year when there's a conflict with Divine Mercy Sunday devotions? I would reverse the question: Would it be too much to ask you, once every third or fifth year, to skip the devotion in favor of your Fraternity? They may both be personal priorities, but they are **not** equal.

- Sometimes all of us base our choices not on principle, but on what makes us feel good. Undeniably, there is a sense of being part of a tremendous spiritual powerhouse when people gather together in a common expression of devotion. I would hope that you are similarly animated and moved by our Fraternity's gatherings. But in the long run, if we use our **feelings** as the basis for deciding between priorities, no commitment will be permanent, because the demands of commitments don't always make us feel good, at least in the short term.

- Part of the modern **crisis of commitment** and peoples' increasing inability to make commitments, is the attitude that my commitment is not "through thick and thin, in good times and bad, in sickness and in health", but rather "until something better comes along".

- Finally, as adults, each of us has to make our own choices and decisions. I trust people to make a good decision. I hope that my reflections help you in that process. I am also confident that your Council will continue to do its best, **whenever possible**, to accommodate our meeting schedule to our members' needs, including those needs that might not be as important, objectively speaking, as our need to gather as a Fraternity. When that's not possible, however, the Council's responsibility is clear: **put the Fraternity first**.



MAY 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 St. Joseph the Worker	2 Mary, Mother of the Good Shepherd
3 EASTER WEEK 4 Pss: Wk 4 World Day of Prayer for Vocations	4	5	6	7 First Thursday Meeting: 1 PM	8 Fr. Solanus Cell: 7:30 PM ?	9
10 EASTER WEEK 5 Pss: Wk 1	11	12 St. Joan of Arc: 1 PM	13 Our Lady of Fatima	14	15 CHRISTIAN SERVICE MELDRUM KITCHEN 10:30 AM - 1:00 PM	16 Armed Forces Day
17 EASTER WEEK 6 Pss: Wk 2 Fraternity Gathering Noon: Formation 1:30: Everyone	18	19	20 SFO COUNCIL: 6:30 PM	21 EMB Board: 10 AM	22 Bl. Luchesio: 7:30 PM Interfaith: 7 PM - 9 PM	23
24 ASCENSION	25 Memorial Day	26	27	28	29	30
31 PENTECOST						

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Minister

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Vice Minister

Ona Harris

Treasurer

Eugene Snyders

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Patricia Meldrum

Formation

John Bodell

Councillors:

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 8

First Thursday Meeting (1 pm):

Third Sunday General SFO Meeting:

Maryann Kummer

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

Connie Musial

FRATERNITY MINISTRY OUTREACH:

Meldrum Soup Kitchen

See Fraternity Calendar (page 5)

Frank B. Kraimer

OTHER SFO-AFFILIATED GROUPS:

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

Jo Marie Nardi

The Poverello is published by the
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Deadline for articles is 3:30 PM
of the 3rd Sunday of each month.



HE LIT A FIRE IN THEIR HEARTS.

That burns in those who love him.

St. Bonaventure
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