



VOL. 71, NO. 9
SEPTEMBER 2011

THE POWELL

ST. BONAVENTURE SECULAR FRANCISCANS ✦ DETROIT, MICHIGAN



The Stigmatization of St. Francis by Vicente Carducho (c1575), Madrid

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

MINISTER'S LETTER

My dear brothers and sisters,

May God's peace and joy be with you!

PLEASE NOTE ON YOUR CALENDAR

On Sunday, September 18, our fraternity Day of Reflection will begin at 11:00 a.m. **Sylvia Jagielski**, a member of the Regional Formation Team, will present an overview of the new *For Up to Now* (FUN) formation manual and a presentation on prayer. Please remember to bring a brown bag lunch and, if you are able, a dish to share. There will be no Mass that day.

I invite you, your family and friends to join with our Capuchin brothers in remembering the **Transitus** of St. Francis on October 3 at 7:00 p.m. and a Mass in honor of St. Francis on October 4 at 7:00 p.m. As they have for hundreds of years, Franciscans throughout the world will gather together on the evening of October 3 to remember the Transitus of St. Francis, his passing from earthly life to everlasting life. This service is more than just a remembrance of the death of the Poor Man of Assisi, it is also a celebration of the Franciscan spirit that lives today in each of us. Just as Francis was a light for his world, we are called to be a light for our world. Please make every effort to participate in this special evening of remembrance and celebration, and invite other Secular Franciscans, families and friends, in-laws and outlaws!

If you know of anyone who is interested in learning more about the Secular Franciscan Order, an **Orientation session** will be held at 12 Noon on Sunday, September 18, in the second floor conference room.

MEMBER INFORMATION

At our August fraternity gathering, **Irene Mecha** informed me that **Kay Balas** fell at home and is now recuperating at Shore Pointe Nursing Center. We encourage you to send Kay a card at: **Shore Pointe Nursing Center, 26001 Jefferson, Room 247B, St. Clair Shores, MI 48081.**

During my vacation in July, I had the pleasure of visiting with **Gert Beattie**, who is living with her son, Bill, and her daughter-in-law, Kathy, in Houghton Lake. As you can see in the picture below, Gert is doing very well. Gert sends her best wishes to everyone and remembers us in her daily prayers.

Remember to **pray daily for vocations to the Secular Franciscan Order.** I look forward to seeing you at our Day of Reflection on Sunday, September 18. Have a restful, safe, and joyful Labor Day weekend.

Your sister in Ss. Francis and Clare,
maryann



Franciscan Spirituality for the 21st Century

A series of talks, discussion and reflections on Franciscanism in our day.
Capuchin Retreat, Washington, MI



Capuchin Retreat is offering a eight month series in Franciscan Spirituality starting in October, 2011 running through May, 2012. This series will have a variety of Franciscan speakers who specialize in Franciscanism. They will be coming each month from all around the mid-west. Each session will be held the first Saturday of each month, beginning at 1 p.m. and conclude at 5 p.m. The Sunday Liturgy will be offered after at 5:15 p.m. for those who wish. Because of having outside speakers, the requested donation will be \$35 per session and we will need a minimum of 25 paid participants to offer each program. For those who wish to commit to the whole series, the total donation, paid in advance, will be \$210. For more information, or to register, call the office. The tentative line up of speakers and presentations is as follows:

Oct 1: Fr. Niles Kauffman, ofm cap
“The History of Symbolism of the San Damiano Cross”

Nov 5: Fr. Bill Cieslak, ofm cap:
“The ABC’s of Franciscan Spirituality”

Dec 3: Fr. Bill Ceislak ofm cap:
“The Franciscan Understanding of Christmas”

Jan 7: Fr. Mike Crosby, ofm cap:
“What is the House that Needs Repair?”

Feb 4: Sr. Joann Schatzlein, osf:
“The role of Clare of Assisi in Franciscan Spirituality”

March 3: Fr. Bill Hugo ofm cap:
“Sister/Brotherhood: The Foundation of Franciscanism”

April 14: Fr. Ron Smith, ofm cap:
“Francis and Healing”

May 5: Fr. Jerry Kessel, ofm cap:
“Timeliness of St. Francis”

(Please note that some of these topics may be subject to change)

From the Friars' Choir



**Before me, even as behind,
God is, and all is well.**

— John Greenleaf Whittier



- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 Theresa Coschino | 10... Beverly Joseph |
| 2 Maryann Bourgeau | 14... Mary Schalm |
| | Rita Collins |
| | 18... George Pelyak |
| 5 Clara O’Keefe | 24... Sheryl Ann Nordstrom |
| | Br. Pat McSherry |
| | Clara Falzone |
| 8 Mary Burghardt | 26... Lorraine Korte |



Our Deceased:

John Litch (†July 30, 2011)
 William E. Manning (†July 16, 2011), son of Ilene
 Judith Smith (†July 29, 2011), mother-in-law of Eileen

Members needing prayers:

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Wilhelmina Adkins | Rose Longo |
| Peter Aluzzo | Ilene Manning |
| Kay Balas | Joseph Marra |
| Gertrude Beattie | Sophie Martin |
| Mary Lou Catino | Maria McNally |
| Rocco Cesaro | Mabel Michaels |
| Jim Flickinger | Barbara Pardington |
| Mary Gillen | Eleanor Pulido |
| Natalie Grabowski & Family | Rosie Patin |
| James Heymes | Bob Peckham |
| Caroline Hojna | Terry Pfaendtner |
| Anna May Jezak | Joseph Pierce |
| Donna Marie Johnston | Eleanore Pulido |
| Beverly & Louis Joseph | Mary Saber |
| Mary Klein | Francis Scallion |
| Lorraine Korte | Gene Snyders |
| Jerry & Helen Koslowski | Alice Vier |
| Mary LaBudie | Helen Wardowski |
| Les and Josie Lafata | Joseph Wisk |
| Frank & Rosalie Liccaddello | Steve & Ronnie Yuhase |
| Tony Lienert | |

Relatives needing prayers:

Theresa Brannigan, daughter-in-law of Marguerite
 Shannon Ertzbischoff, niece of Julia
 Ted and Judy Hojna
 William Pierce Hunter, great-grandson of Mary Hebert
 Anita & Denise Joseph, daughters of Beverly & Louis
 Esther Mae Kelly, wife of Charles
 Fred LaChance, brother of Donna Marie Johnston
 Jerome & Tristan Manning, grandsons of Ilene
 Rosemary Marson, sister of Ralph
 Steven Matusin

Sal Militello, great grandnephew of Jo Marie Nardi
 Janet Nassen
 Jean Nozewski, wife of Thomas
 Teresa Poole, mother of Mary
 Family of Joanne Schumacher
 Victoria Snigier, mother of Sylvia
 Chester Wisk, brother of Joe

Those serving in the Armed Forces:

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Andrew Arcznski | Thomas Greenia |
| Christopher Beattie | Michael Manning |
| James Anthony Brannigan | John Marra III |
| Thomas Chmielarczyk | Joseph Marra, Jr. |

Memorials offered by Jo Marie Nardi:

John Litch
 Eleanor Josaitis
 James MacGinnis

Please help to keep our list up-to-date. Call:

Jo Marie Nardi at 586-978-2335



**Brayden
 1 year old
 Retinoblastoma**

Shortly after Brayden's birth, his mother knew something was wrong. Seven months later, the parents were devastated by the news that the little boy was likely

blind. An ophthalmologist found tumors in both eyes. He referred them immediately to St. Jude Hospital.

At St. Jude, Brayden received chemotherapy, but doctors are unsure how much vision he has lost. The tumor growth has been persistent, and his parents face the very real possibility that their little boy might still lose his eyes one day. The situation is being monitored, and ongoing laser therapy and cryotherapy are provided when new tumors appear.

Brayden's parents are grateful that St. Jude covered his treatment costs, especially because their insurance company did not. "I believe that the children who come to St. Jude are very blessed. They receive treatment they might not have at other places." Brayden visits St. Jude for regular checkups. He is happy and active, loves music, dancing and playing with his older brother.



Celebrating Natalie Grabowski



Natalie Grabowski was born on January 15, 1935 at University Hospital in Philadelphia, PA. Her father, Zigmund, was born in Poland and came to the U.S. when he was four years old. Her mother, Mary Rose Shillingford/Gribbon was born in Philadelphia. Natalie is the youngest of four sisters: Mary Bernice, who is 80 years old and lives in Virginia; Laura, who died at birth; and Margaret Kathleen (Marleen) who died at the age of 60 from spinal meningitis.

Natalie attended the first and second grades at Misericordia School in Philadelphia. When her father was diagnosed with lumbar pneumonia, the family moved to Detroit to be close to her father's family. (The doctors informed her father that he had only a year to live; however, her father regained his health, enrolled in classes at the University of Detroit, and became a lawyer.) Natalie attended St. Edward's Grade School, Annunciation High School, the University of Detroit, and Siena Heights College.



When Natalie was 12 years old, she was hit by a car. Her left leg was broken in four places and her right leg was badly mangled. Natalie underwent over 50 surgeries and grafts on her legs. The doctors considered amputating her legs. Her family had Masses offered at St. Bonaventure Monastery, Cardinal Newman in Philadelphia and the Miraculous Medal Association for her. Their prayers were answered and the doctors did not have to amputate.

When Natalie was 14 years old, her sister, Mary Bernice, who was already a Secular Franciscan, invited her to the St. Bonaventure Juniors' meeting. Natalie loved belonging to the Third Order and participating in the various activities (plays, choir). Being involved in the SFO, was a real blessing to Natalie in her teen years. Natalie is very grateful to her sister for introducing her to the Secular Franciscan Order.

After her father died in 1955, Natalie entered the novitiate of the Oxford Dominican Sisters. After a few months, she was sent home to have surgery on her legs. In September of 1956, Natalie married Charles DeBeau at St. Clare of Montefalco Church. They were blessed with six children (Ritamari, Marirose, Charles, Maria, Frances and Loretta). (Two babies died at birth.) In 2007, Marirose died of brain cancer at the age of 47. Natalie was a stay-at-home Mom and her husband was a school teacher. In 1967, Charles and Natalie were divorced. Fr. Jogues helped them obtain an annulment.

When her children were grown, Natalie entered the Dominican Cloister near Lake Orion. She was there for three months. When she returned home, Fr. Gus Cops introduced her to the Franciscan Missionaries of Jesus Crucified. Natalie made her life-long commitment as a member of that group in 2002.

Natalie has served as a nurse's aide, a teacher at St. Brendan's, Queen of Peace, St. Clare of Montefalco, St. Edward's and St. Martin's, and taught CCD at St. Matthew's. She also worked at Fuch's religious goods store. She was trained in hospice care at Harper and Bon Secours Hospitals and did home care and hospice care for many years.

With raising six children, going through a divorce and physical ailments, the members of the SFO (especially Maxine Piaseczny, Joe Doeren and Mary Ann Montpetit) and the Capuchins at the Monastery provided her with support and encouragement to get through the difficult times. Natalie is especially grateful to Fr. Carmel Flora, Br. Richard Merling, Br. Leo Wollenweber, Fr. David Preuss, Fr. Ben Markwell, Fr. Marty Pable and Br. Pat McSherry for providing their spiritual guidance and support. Natalie is also grateful to Fr. Tom Schmied who, whenever he is in the area, stops by to visit Natalie and others.

Natalie is a parishioner at St. Anthansius Church. In her free time, she enjoys crocheting afghans, preparing Fr. Solanus badges, praying, reading, spending time with her 13 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren, and watching EWTN.

I had the pleasure of interviewing Natalie at her apartment in Fraser. We had a special evening of looking at her family photos, reading her poetry, and sharing family stories.

We love you, Natalie!



SEPTEMBER 2011

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|----------------|---------|-----------|----------|---|-------------------------------------|
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 23 WEEK ORD. TIME Pss. Wk. III | 5 LABOR DAY | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 24 WEEK ORD. TIME Pss. Wk. IV | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 MELDRUM KITCHEN 10:30 AM - 1:00 PM | 17 Fraternity Council 1:30 |
| 18 25 WEEK ORD. TIME Pss. Wk. I FRATERNITY DAY OF REFLECTION Everyone: 11:30 am Formation: noon | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 Bl. Luchesio: 7:30 PM | 24 |
| 25 26 WEEK ORD. TIME Pss. Wk. II | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | |

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Teresa Westbrook-Lienert

Treasurer pro tem

Eugene Snyders

Secretary

Patricia Meldrum

Initial Formation

John Bodell

Councillors-at-Large:

Stephen Haycox

Tony Lienert

Beverly Sopian

Chuck Sopian

Spiritual Assistant:

Br. Patrick McSherry

APPOINTMENTS

Infirmarian:

Jo Marie Nardi

Continuing Formation Commission:

Chuck & Bev Sopian (chairs)

Christian Service Commission:

(call for information)

Hospitality Commission:

Teresa Westbrook-Lienert

& Tony Lienert (chairs)

Vocations Ministry Commission:

To be announced (chair)

Eucharistic Mission Band (EMB):

To be announced

MAKING FRATERNITY HAPPEN

The entire St. Bonaventure Secular Franciscan Fraternity gathers on the Third Sunday of every month. For more information, contact:

Chuck & Bev Sopian

In addition to our monthly Fraternity gathering, some members also gather in small groups:

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

Mary Ann and Hugh Montpetit

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

Connie Musial

FRATERNITY MINISTRY OUTREACH:

Meldrum Soup Kitchen

Usually on the 2nd Friday of each month.

&

Healing Service Social

(call for information)

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on the Third Sunday of each month.



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