

VOL. 72, NO. 5  
MAY 2012

# THE POWELL

ST. BONAVENTURE SECULAR FRANCISCANS ✠ DETROIT, MICHIGAN



*St. Bonaventure*

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

# MINISTER'S LETTER

My brothers and sisters, may God's peace be with you!

I want to express my appreciation to everyone who worked on the celebration in honor of our jubilarians: to **Bev Sapien** for contacting each jubilarian inviting them to the celebration and for coordinating the arrangements for the Mass; to **Br. Pat** for preparing the program booklets and providing us with an inspiring homily; to **Mary Poole** for designing and preparing the jubilarian certificates; to **Hugh Montpetit** for taking photos at the service, and to **Tony Lienert** and **Theresa Westbrook-Lienert** for handling the arrangements for the reception.

At our fraternity gathering on Sunday, May 20, we will gather together to celebrate the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of our fraternity and to give thanks to God for the many blessings he has showered upon our fraternity over the past 125 years. Please note: **REGISTRATION BEGINS AT 12 NOON. OUR ANNIVERSARY MASS WILL BEGIN AT 1:00 P.M.** More details about this celebration are included in this issue of the Poverello.

## REFLECTION

### *Alleluia! Alleluia! Jesus Christ Is Risen!*

The Easter season is a time to celebrate and rejoice that our Lord is risen and living among us. Now is time to open wide the door of our heart to receive the graces of this new life in Christ. The Gospel readings during the Easter season contain Jesus' words of comfort and reassurance and final instructions to his disciples and to each of us, his disciples living in the world today. These final messages instruct us on how we are to continue living the Gospel in our lives today. The words of Jesus offer us peace, joy and strength as we journey through life.

*Peace be with you. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them. Believe.*

Can you imagine the confusion, guilt, shame and fear the disciples felt in that locked upper room? Their hearts were heavy at the loss of their master and friend. Then, Jesus appears in their midst and says to them: Peace be with you. I know you and your heart. Be at peace. All is forgiven. Come, let us begin again. Their fear is turned into joy because they have received Christ's peace, forgiveness and a fresh start. We, too, have been given a new beginning. God's unconditional love, peace and forgiveness are available to us today. We only need to believe and open ourselves to receive these gifts.

*I am the Good Shepherd, and I know mine and mine know me. Remain in me, as I remain in you.*

Jesus is our Good Shepherd. Like a good shepherd, Jesus cares about us and our concerns and challenges, protects us and provides for all our needs, knows us and calls us each by name. Because God knows us, he desires a personal relationship with each of us. By remaining closely connected to his presence and in his word, we are able to grow in relationship with God.

*Keep my commandments. Love one another as I have love you. Go and bear fruit.*

*Go into the whole world and proclaim the Gospel to every creature.*

As disciples of Jesus, we are to continue carrying out the mission of Jesus to bring about the kingdom of God. We are to keep his commandments by loving and serving one another. He tells us to go into the world (our workplaces, neighborhoods, churches) to be bearers of his light and to proclaim through our example his peace, love, mercy and forgiveness to all and to make disciples of all persons.

### *Receive the Holy Spirit*

Our heavenly Father knows our journey on earth will be filled with challenges, difficulties and trials. Because God loves us so much, he does not leave us to weather the storms of life alone. The Spirit of the living God is among us in the sacraments, especially the Eucharist and in the community of believers. The Spirit of God is with us to empower, guide and strengthen us. As Secular Franciscans, we are also blessed to have the companionship of Spirit-filled brothers and sisters to inspire us and strengthen us on our journey.

May you experience the presence and peace of the living and active Christ in your midst and share this gift with others during this Easter season.

Your sister in Ss. Francis and Clare,  
maryann



Saint Bonaventure, Miniature,  
*Heures à l'usage de Rome* (c. 1510)  
Tours - BM - ms. 2104 f. 172

# 125 Years of Gospel Living and the Journey Continues

On Sunday, May 20, we will gather to celebrate the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of St. Bonaventure Secular Franciscan Fraternity. You are invited to attend this joyous occasion in the life of our fraternity. The schedule for the day is as follows:



**12 Noon** - Registration begins

**1:00 p.m.** - Mass in the Main Chapel

Fr. Tod Laverty, OFM, Regional Spiritual Assistant, will preside at the Eucharist.

**2:00 p.m.** - Program in the Auditorium

**3:00 p.m.** - Catered buffet dinner in the Social Hall

Because we need to give the caterer an exact count of people for dinner,

**RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED.**

Please RSVP no later than Friday, May 11  
to the SFO Office at **313-579-2100, ext. 136**,  
or e-mail your response to [OFSDetroit@gmail.com](mailto:OFSDetroit@gmail.com).

When you call or e-mail your reservation, please leave your name and phone number.

If you would like to attend the celebration and need a ride,  
please let us know and we will try to arrange for one of our members  
to pick you up and bring you to the Monastery.

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## From the Friars' Choir



**"We cannot love the God we cannot see  
unless we love the God we see  
within ourselves and in others.  
The more we are able  
to find God within ourselves,  
the more we can find God outside ourselves."**

— St. Bonaventure



**Our Deceased:**

Clara O’Keefe († February 21, 2012)  
 Stephen Yuhase († April 2, 2012)  
 Victoria Snigier († April 2, 2012), mother of Sylvia

**Members needing prayers:**

Wilhelmina Adkins	Mary LaBudie
Peter Aluzzo	Les and Josie Lafata
Dan Atkinson	Frank & Rosalie Liccardello
Kay Balas	Tony Lienert
Gertrude Beattie	Patricia Long & Family
Janet Bodell	Rose Longo
Mary Lou Catino	Joseph Marra
Anthony Cerroni	Sophie Martin
Rocco Cesaro	Mabel Michaels
Mary Gillen	Barbara Pardington
Natalie Grabowski & Family	Bob Peckham
James Heymes	Joseph Pierce
Caroline Hojna	Tom Ricard
Anna May Jezak	Gina Rizzo
Donna Marie Johnston	Mary Saber
Beverly & Louis Joseph	Francis Scallion
Mary Klein	Gene Snyders
Lorraine Korte	Alice Vier
	Joseph Wisk

**Relatives needing prayers:**

Theresa Brannigan, daughter-in-law of Marguerite  
 Alice Greene, sister of Hank Forys  
 Bernadette Haycox, wife of Stephen  
 Ted and Judy Hojna  
 Denise Joseph, daughter of Beverly & Louis  
 Esther Mae Kelley, wife of Charles  
 Fred LaChance, brother of Donna Marie Johnston  
 Rosemary Marson, sister of Ralph  
 Jean Nozewski, wife of Thomas  
 Teresa Poole, mother of Mary  
 Joseph Ricard, brother of Tom

Chester Wisk, brother of Joe

**Those serving in the Armed Forces:**

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

**Memorials (offered by Jo Marie Nardi):**

Andrew Macko  
 Grace Siezinski

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

**Jo Marie Nardi at 586-978-2335**



**Emma Grace  
5 years old**

Shortly after Emma Grace’s third birthday, her parents noticed odd bruising all across her little body. Her doctor ordered blood work. When the test results came back abnormal, Emma Grace underwent a bone marrow biopsy. The results indicated that she suffered from b-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia. She arrived at St. Jude’s that very same night.

At St. Jude, she began a two-and-a-half-year chemotherapy protocol. Her cancer quickly went into remission, where it remains today. “Knowing that Emma Grace is being treated at St. Jude at no cost to us provides us with a sense of calm in a sea of uncertainty,” said her mom. “We’re so grateful to the hospital and to the people who help support St. Jude.”

Now 5-years-old, Emma Grace is a sweet-natured, happy girl. She likes to play with her dolls and dance. She also likes to paint birdhouses that she sells to help raise money for St. Jude. Emma Grace is scheduled to finish treatment this summer. It’s a day her family eagerly awaits.



## Celebrating Jo Marie Nardi



It was Ascension Thursday, May 21, 1925, when Jo Marie was born into the family of southern Italian immigrants, Joseph and Mary Nardi and their five children: Mary, Peter, Philip, Joseph and Anthony.

The family moved from Joseph Campau to a two-story dwelling on Townsend and St. Paul, across the street from St. Charles Borromeo Church where she was baptized, made her first confession, communion and confirmation.

“We lived above a confectionary store. My father was the proprietor. Times were rough, and he struggled to make ends meet. We landed up on welfare and were about to lose our home when my Mom decided to have the house blessed. They called St. Bonaventure’s Monastery, and Fr. Solanus Casey came! This story and more are recounted in *The Porter of St. Bonaventure*, (pp 208-9).

After graduating from St. Charles’ High School, a scholarship to Marygrove College was being offered. When the winner of the scholarship decided to enter the convent, the scholarship was awarded to Jo Marie. Scholarship notwithstanding, her parents were reluctant to let her go. A last minute call from Marygrove stating that they needed an answer persuaded her parents to give their permission. With a major in psychology and education, Jo Marie graduated with a teaching certificate and was immediately employed by the Detroit Public School System. She later earned a Master’s Degree in Psychology from the University of Detroit.

Seven years later, Jo Marie’s psychology professor from Marygrove, Sr. Mary, recommended her to a prominent Catholic couple in New York who were searching for a teacher for the recently founded St. David’s School for Boys. They sent Jo Marie a roundtrip plane ticket to spend a day and night at their stately home. She was hired and had an amazing year teaching at St. David’s. Classes were small and outings were great. One student’s father owned a fleet of tugboats. He arranged for the children and staff to experience a ride around the Statue of Liberty. At year’s end, Jo Marie was invited to extend her stay, but declined. She later discovered that, had she stayed, she would have been the teacher of John-John Kennedy!

Shortly after her return, Jo Marie decided to become a school psychologist. After working a while at a clinic, she spent the next 25 years with the Head Start Program, serving children, staff and parents in some 50 schools and advanced to become a psychologist supervisor. In 1989, Jo Marie retired — well, not exactly. She worked more two years in the same capacity as an hourly consultant.

Jo Marie was professed in St. Bonaventure’s Junior Fraternity on March 12, 1961. What began as an invitation to a Passion Play — as part of a crowd making muffled sounds behind the curtain — turned into something far more. The invitation brought her there, but it was what she experienced there that convinced her to stay: Spirit-filled, faith-filled sharing. It was good to be able to talk with others about God and his great love and to hear stories about St. Francis’ affliction and pain, yet great joy and love.

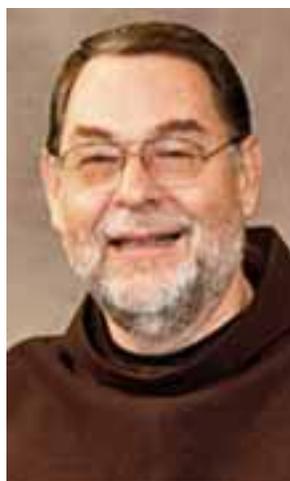
Following an invitation from Maxine Piaseczny, Jo Marie also became active in the Peace and Justice Interfaith Group and together they coordinated many interfaith events. Jo Marie also served as fraternity coordinator, and produced our first membership directory. She currently serves as our fraternity infirmarian. “We have a responsibility to reach out in caring ways to the sick and infirm, to honor our deceased and to comfort those who mourn.”

Jo Marie belongs to Ss. Cyril and Methodius’ Church. Through her participation in the Holy Trinity Apostolate she was asked to play a bit part in a movie entitled, *Leonie!*, the story of an older sister of St. Terese of Lisieux. “They needed an extra nun! Look for me in the sewing room scene.”

Jo Marie is formally consecrated to Jesus through Mary (St. Louis Marie de Montfort) and to her Holy Guardian Angel (*Opus Sanctorum Angelorum*). “Once God places you in my life, you are in my prayers.” Throughout her life, Jo Marie has discovered that God’s plan always prevails. Repeatedly, she has had one amazing experience of God’s providence after another – in her words, “wow!” or “whew!” experiences. She enjoys many things, but finding ways to make a difference in life is pure joy for her. “I love being a Franciscan.” And we love you, Jo marie!



## Congratulations, Fr. Tod



Congratulations to our Regional Spiritual Assistant,  
fr. Tod Laverty, OFM,  
on the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of his Priestly Ordination!  
*Ad multos annos!*



7	.....	Marguerite Brannigan
8	.....	Frank B. Kraimer
9	.....	Donna Marie Johnston
10	.....	Francis Scallion
19	.....	Rosalie Liccardello
21	.....	Jo Marie Nardi
22	.....	Sophie Martin
27	.....	Robert Snyder
29	.....	Esther Kelley

## Calendar of Fraternity events in 2012

- Saturday, May 19 ..... 1:30 p.m. .... Leadership Council Meeting
- Sunday, May 20 ..... **12:00 p.m. ....** 125<sup>th</sup> celebration of the founding of our fraternity
- Saturday, June 2 ..... 10:00 a.m. .... OFS Mass for Deceased
- Saturday, June 9 ..... 1:30 p.m. .... Leadership Council meeting
- Sunday, June 10..... 1:30 p.m. .... Fraternity Gathering (moved due to Father's Day)
- Saturday, July 14 ..... 1:30 p.m. .... Leadership Council meeting
- Sunday, July 15 (*St. Bonaventure Day*) .. 1:30 p.m. .... Fraternity Picnic at Belle Isle – Welcoming Ceremony
- Saturday, August 18 ..... 1:30 p.m. .... Leadership Council meeting
- Sunday, August 19..... 1:30 p.m. .... Fraternity Gathering – Admissions Ceremony
- Saturday, September 15 ..... 1:30 p.m. .... Leadership Council meeting
- Sunday, September 16 ..... 11:00 a.m. .... Fraternity Day of Reflection
- Wednesday, October 3..... 7:00 p.m. .... Transitus
- Thursday, October 4 ..... 7:00 p.m. .... Mass in honor of St. Francis
- Saturday, October 20 ..... 1:30 p.m. .... Leadership Council meeting
- Sunday, October 21 ..... 1:30 p.m. .... Fraternity Chapter of Elections
- Saturday, October 27 ..... 10:00 a.m. .... OFS Mass for Deceased
- Saturday, November 17 ..... 9:30 a.m. .... Formation Education meeting
- Saturday, November 17 ..... 10:30 a.m. .... Profession Retreat
- Saturday, November 17 ..... 1:30 p.m. .... Leadership Council meeting
- Sunday, November 18 ..... 1:30 p.m. .... Profession Mass
- Saturday, December 15..... 1:30 p.m. .... Leadership Council meeting
- Sunday, December 16 ..... 1:30 p.m. .... Christmas Concert and Social

## Homily for the Jubilee Celebration by Br. Pat McSherry, OFM Cap

This reading from St. Luke's *Acts of the Apostles* strikes at the heart of Franciscans. It was the ultimate inspiration behind Franciscan fraternity. It was this description of the Church at the time of the apostles that inspired many Christians to want to "live the Gospel" – to duplicate a community like the one described in the Acts. St. Francis was not the first to desire this, nor was he alone in this quest. At a time when everyone seemed to hunger for power and wealth, for fine clothes and jewelry, for influence and prestige, there were some Christians who tried to imagine what a Christian community would look like when its members put their faith into action, if they practiced what they preach. When these Christians formed communities, fraternities, they felt like they really were the body of Christ with his blood surging through their veins. But if we were to continue to read the *Acts of the Apostles*, just a few chapters forward, we would discover that not everything was so hunky-dory in the Garden of Eden! And it required the community to decide how to maintain its values and ideals in the face of real life. Most of those apostolic communities in the Middle Ages fizzled out, but not before they became bitter, and needed to blame and lash out at others. Francis was a notable exception.

That seems to be a normal pattern of life – you begin a new adventure and everything starts out great, nothing could be finer. Life feels good. But eventually there comes a "day after" – a time of disillusionment, disappointment, let down. Real life happens!

Some discover an empty tomb and wonder what happened? Some return sadly to their homes with their hopes seemingly dashed. Many are fearful, some are doubtful. Once the warm fuzzy feelings have left some don't know how to feel or what to think. When people share these types of experiences, councilors sit back and ask, "And then what happened?" because you just know the other shoe is going to fall. Some refer to this as: "The honeymoon is over." Religious people sometimes refer to this as the "fourth day". Jesus rose on the third day, and then came the next day – a bit of a let down.

Today's Gospel from John describes a gathering of the community eight days after the resurrection of Jesus. The leaders are still full of fear, and the disciples continue to struggle with their belief. Jesus stands in their midst and says, "Be at peace!" Do not worry; do not be afraid." Then he tells them to forgive – he commissions them to be instruments of forgiveness and peace. But now Thomas is a problem. He's not there. He doesn't have that personal experience. A week later, Thomas is there. And this time, he gets to experience for himself the power of the risen Lord. The catalyst for his personal experience is the fact that he is gathered with the community – he is physically present with fellow believers.

Today we celebrate jubilees of profession and the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the profession of St. Clare. There are five lessons that I think today's readings offer us as we celebrate our jubilees of profession and the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the profession of St. Clare.

**1:** We have to cling to our ideals and values. We have to **practice what we preach**.

**2:** When the honeymoon is over and the warm fuzzy feelings subside, we have to allow the reality of life to speak to our faith and ideals, and we have to allow our faith and ideals to speak to our concrete reality. That's why we say: **"from Gospel to life and life to Gospel."**

**3:** On the day of our profession, each one of us felt or will feel like we're on the top of the world. But we know that our own "fourth day" will come when the spiritual high fades and reality sets back in. Our commitment to live the Gospel is not a one-time deal, it requires on-going conversion. We may celebrate our profession, but we can't live off of it. We have to renew our Profession each day. Today, I **will** live the Gospel. When I'm not feeling quite up to it, I **will** live the Gospel. When I'm upset over something, I **will** live the Gospel. When that son-of-a-gun comes around, I **will** live the Gospel.

**4:** If you want inner peace and outer peace, learn to **forgive others**. If you want a lot of peace, forgive a lot.

**5:** No one gets a free ride on the coattails of others. Like Thomas, each one of us has to experience the Lord for ourselves. Today's Gospel reminds us however that when you're not there when the community gathers, you miss out – and I don't just mean that you miss the good times, you miss seeing people, you miss the socials, you miss a good presentation – you miss out on something far more life-giving: **the Lord revealing himself in our midst**.

# The Responsibility of Secular Franciscans Today in the Church and in the World

by Manuela Mattioli, O.F.S.

The Secular Franciscan Order and its members are a vital part of the entire Franciscan spiritual family, sharing the same vocation, charism, and mission on the level of secular life. This spiritual family is a gift of the Holy Spirit to the church. We are called to live the gospel life in fraternity where the charism of St. Francis is shared, accepted, and lived in unity and mutual sharing of life with one another. As a fraternity we owe our existence to the historical experiences of St. Francis of Assisi and his Order.

St. Francis through faith embraced the gospel of Jesus Christ. He was keenly aware of his calling to go with his brothers to the world and proclaim the Word of God and conversion to the gospel, the coming of God's kingdom, and the manifestation of God's love to all and among all, thus giving witness to his faith through his style of living. And it is from this that the Secular Franciscans draw their identity. Their duty is first to achieve a personal gospel-conversion in order to move into action.

Thus our vocation and mission call us to live this charism and spread the evangelical-Franciscan ideal in the world. This vocation and mission emerge from the shared responsibility of the whole Franciscan family to live up to its identity and at the same time contribute to the Church and the world the gifts of its vocational calling, always remaining open to the continuous action of the Spirit.

Accordingly, the Secular Franciscan Order as a spiritual family and a universal Order has both an inward responsibility in the formation of its members, giving them a sense of identity, motivation, mutual help and support, etc., through its fraternities on various levels and, at the same time, also an outward responsibility to its entire organization to coordinate, organize and represent its members. This is its primary duty as a copy in miniature of the church which it serves and with which it works in spiritual interdependence.

The Secular Franciscan Order emphasizes these elements in each fraternity and in every member. Fraternities have a personality in themselves and as such must take on those characteristics which make them real expressions of Franciscanism, concerned with the welfare of each and every member, and by their fidelity in following Christ, showing the world that they practice what they preach.

The individual Secular Franciscan, as a man or woman alert to the needs of the time and place where one lives infidelity to a Christian and Franciscan vocation, accepts the challenge of living consistently in accordance with one's conscience. Although in the lay state, the Secular Franciscan has nevertheless made a public profession of living a life according to the gospel ideal. This is done, in a spiritual family whose charism unites "being something" with "doing something." Thus this commitment calls for three things: helpfulness, service and decision.

A continuous gospel-conversion transforms the Secular Franciscan into a "living testimony" and "herald of the gospel," working actively to solve the problems of the world in the Franciscan style and spirit. Naturally, one's attitude toward the Church must be one of loyalty and service.

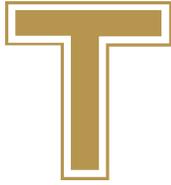


2012 Jubilee Celebration



# MAY 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6 EASTER V Pss. Wk. 1	7	8	9	10	11 MELDRUM KITCHEN (10:30-1:00)  Solanus Cell: 7:30 PM	12
13 Easter VI Pss. Wk. 2  Mothers' Day	14	15	16	17	18 Bl. Luchesio: 7:30 PM	19 Fraternity Council 1:30
20 ASCENSION Proper FRATERNITY 125 <sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY REGISTRATION: NOON MASS: <u>1:00 PM</u>	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 PENTECOST Proper	28 Memorial Day	29 St. Bonaventure OFS Fraternity established on this day in 1887.	30	31		



Pray for Vocations  
to the OFS Daily

## FAX ET PHONUM

### Minister

Maryann Kummer

### Vice Minister

Teresa Westbrook-Lienert

### Treasurer

Laura Sapien

### Secretary

Patricia Meldrum

### Initial Formation

John Bodell

### Councillors-at-Large:

Stephen Haycox

Tony Lienert

Beverly Sapien

Chuck Sapien

### Spiritual Assistant:

Br. Patrick McSherry

### APPOINTMENTS

#### Infirmarian:

Jo Marie Nardi

#### Continuing Formation Commission:

Chuck & Bev Sapien (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 Sapien

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

Fr. Solanus Cell (2<sup>nd</sup> Friday, 7:30 pm):

Mary Ann and Hugh Montpetit

Bl. Luchesio Cell (4<sup>th</sup> Friday, 7:30 pm):

Connie Musial

### FRATERNITY MINISTRY OUTREACH:

Meldrum Soup Kitchen

Usually on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of each month.

&

Healing Service Social

(call for information)

*The Poverello* is published by the  
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