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THE DOVERFIELD

ST. BONAVENTURE SECULAR FRANCISCANS ✕ DETROIT, MICHIGAN



**Pray for our nation,
and make yourself an instrument of peace!**



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MINISTER'S LETTER

My dear brothers and sisters,

Happy New Year! May God's peace and joy reign in your heart!

I want to express my appreciation to **Teresa Westbrook-Lienert and Tony Lienert** for organizing the reception following the Christmas concert, to **Stella Mordarski, Dorothy Stapel, Pat Meldrum, Caroline Florescu** for helping in the kitchen and/or assisting with the set up and clean up for the reception, and to everyone who brought food and beverages for the reception. The choir members, their family and friends, and all of our guests were quite impressed with the incredible banquet we prepared for them.

If you have not already done so, please remember to mail in your Fair Share and Poverello contributions as soon as possible. If you have already sent in your payment, thank you very much.

It is of utmost importance that you attend our January gathering since we will finish our ELECTIONS on that day and in order to hold elections we need to have the QUORUM required by our OFS Constitutions. Our gathering will begin promptly at 1:00 PM on Sunday, January 20th. That same day we will celebrate the Profession of **Javier Aguilar**, and have the Admissions and Welcoming ceremonies.

REFLECTION

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son,
that whoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life” (Jn 3:16).

“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and he shall be called Emmanuel, meaning God is with us.” (Mt 1:23).

Christmas celebrates the birth of God's love among us. God loved the world he created so much that he freely chose to give us his greatest gift, the gift of his Son, Jesus Christ, to become one like us, to walk with us on our journey through life, and to en flesh God's unconditional love for us. Christmas is not only an occasion to remember Jesus' birth in Bethlehem 2,000 years ago, but it is also a time for us to celebrate with great rejoicing the living presence of God with us today. The celebration of Christ's birth is a reminder to us of God's deep desire to have a personal, intimate relationship with each of us. During this Christmas Season, let us give thanks to God for the gift of his Son and for his ever present presence and love within us. As we continue to journey through this Year of Faith and enter into a New Year, let us commit ourselves to deepening our relationship with God.

“Three years before he died, St. Francis decided to celebrate the memory of the birth of the Child Jesus at Greccio with the greatest possible solemnity. He asked and obtained the permission of the pope for the ceremony, so that he could not be accused of being an innovator, and then he had a crib prepared, with hay and an ox and an ass. The friars were all invited and the people came in crowds. The forest reechoed with their voices and the night was lit up with a multitude of bright lights, while the beautiful music of God's praises added to the solemnity. The saint stood before the crib and his heart overflowed with tender compassion; he was bathed in tears but overcome with joy. The Mass was sung there and Francis, who was a deacon, sang the Gospel. Then he preached to the people about the birth of the poor King whom he called the Babe of Bethlehem in his tender love.”

– St. Bonaventure, Major Life, X, 7

Every Christmas, I look forward to reading and reflecting on the story of Christ's birth. In recent years I began reading the story of Francis' creation of the first Nativity scene for the people in the Italian village of Greccio. In 1223, Francis invited the townspeople of Greccio to come to a cave to reenact the first Christmas. Francis wanted them to have a personal experience of the Incarnation of Jesus. He wanted the Incarnation to come alive in their lives for them to truly experience the wonder and awe of that first Christmas. During this Year of Faith, let us commit ourselves not only to reading the Gospel but to living the Gospel message in the ordinary days of life so that others may come to experience God's gifts of peace, hope, joy and love.

PRAYER

by Jesse Cox, campus minister at Marygrove College

Loving God, in this Christmas season, it is you who bring us light in our darkest hour, a reason to hope in the face of despair, solace when we are grief stricken, and answers to questions that exist beyond our comprehension. You give us holy books to read, the Torah, the Quran and the Gospel, but in this season of light, the holy words on the page are not as important as our ability to live the words we read and believe.

You ask that, as we celebrate the birth of Jesus, we allow your light to come alive in our lives so that we may become peacemakers and star gazers with our feet planted firmly on a foundation of justice and our eyes and hearts fixed on that hope that is promised.

We give you thanks for the gift of your grace that has seen us through difficult days and, despite that, or perhaps because of it, we thank you for helping us see the opportunities to live our lives for others and the need to be the peace and justice we seek.

Bless those who mourn this Christmas season – may we bring God’s comfort. Bless those who suffer with mental and/or physical illness during this Christmas season – may we bring God’s healing. Bless those who are hungry, homeless or alone during this Christmas season – may we bring God’s abundance.

Today we celebrate all that this year has been – illuminated by the divine light of God; may we walk forward together in faith, knowing that every step we take you are Emmanuel, “God with us”.

For this reason we give thanks for this season of joy, for the gift of family and friends, and for holding each of us gently in your tender, loving arms. Let this prayer become a reality in our lives and in our times. Amen.

Your sister in Ss. Francis and Clare,
maryann

**CHAPTER OF ELECTIONS: JANUARY 20 AT 1:00 PM
-- QUORUM NEEDED -- PLEASE MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO BE PRESENT!**

GOSPEL HAPPENINGS

Twenty-five of our members – each wearing our brown insignia shirts – participated in the Corporate Communion at St. Bonaventure’s Monastery on December 2. The occasion marked the 10th anniversary of the opening of the Solanus Casey Center. Archbishop Allen Vigneron presided. The Mass was taped for the Catholic TV Network Detroit (CTND). In his remarks, Fr. Larry Webber – the director of the Center – singled out our fraternity. It was a wonderful display of community. Thanks to all of you for your participation and prayers.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 12, 2013 — CAPUCHIN SERVICE CENTER EVENT

We are scheduled to work at the Capuchin Service Center on Saturday, January 12th from 9am til noon. We are committed to having a minimum of eight (8) volunteers. We will be working with another small group that day. Remember to wear your brown shirts. Contact **Eileen Smith** if you plan to participate or just show up. We are looking forward to spreading our Franciscan joy!

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2013 — OFS MASS FOR THE DECEASED

Join us at 10 AM for a Mass for our deceased. Mass will be held in the friars’ choir. This is a beautiful way to remember those who have gone before us in faith and to foster our own “communion of saints”. Our OFS Constitutions (53:4) encourages us, stating: “The fraternity remembers with gratitude its brothers and sisters who have passed away and continues its communion with them by prayer and in the Eucharist.” A social follows in the dining room.



Our Deceased:

Peter Aluzzo († Nov. 28, 2012)
 Carol Nozewski, daughter of Tom († Nov. 13, 2012)
 Daniel Linsky, nephew of Anna Marie Jesak († Nov. 10, 2012)
 Victor Linsky, brother of Anna Marie Jesak († Dec. 11, 2012)
 Nozewski (daughter of Tom)

Members needing prayers:

Wilhelmina Adkins	
Dan & Jan Atkinson	
Kay Balas	Les and Josie Lafata
Claire Boutain	Frank & Rosalie Liccardello
Mary Lou Catino	Patricia Long
Rocco Cesaro	Rose Longo
Mary Gillen	Ilene Manning
Natalie Grabowski & Family	Joseph Marra
Nona Mary Hebert	Sophie Martin
James Heymes	Mabel Michaels
Caroline Hojna	Hugh Montpetit
Dora Sue Jay	Barbara Pardington
Anna Marie Jezak	Bob Peckham
Gary Johnson	George Pelyak
Donna Marie Johnston	Joseph Pierce
Louis Joseph	Tom Ricard
Mary Klein	Mary Saber
Lorraine Korte	Francis Scallion
Frank B. Kraimer	Alice Vier
	Joseph Wisk

Relatives needing prayers:

Richard Boutain, son of Claire
 Theresa Brannigan, daughter-in-law of Marguerite
 Kate Comizio, sister of Br. Pat
 Alice Greene, sister of Hank Forys
 Ted and Judy Hojna
 Denise Joseph, daughter of Louis
 Esther Mae Kelley, wife of Charles

Fred LaChance, brother of Donna Marie Johnston
 Family of Patricia Long
 Family of Ilene Manning
 Rosemary Marson, sister of Ralph
 Jean Nozewski, wife of Thomas
 Teresa Poole, mother of Mary
 Joseph Ricard, brother of Tom

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.

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

Jo Marie Nardi



**Dawson
7 years old**

Dawson is the middle child and loves to make his family laugh. He loves to tell knock-knock jokes. But in April 2011, things turned serious for Dawson and his family. He was an active child who liked to hike with his parents and siblings. But one day, he said he was too tired to join the others. Within days, he developed a fever. Soon his abdomen and lymph nodes swelled. Blood work revealed an abnormality. Hours later, Dawson's family learned he suffered from acute lymphoblastic leukemia, the most common form of childhood cancer.

"My life crashed down upon me," said Dawson's mother. Dawson traveled by ambulance to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. "I decided we would try to make our time at St. Jude like an adventure," Dawson's mom said. "We would be happy and find the happiness every day. It feels strange to tell you that we've had a wonderful time at St. Jude, but that's the truth. Dawson is happy here."

Dawson has a year left of treatment. He's able to receive much of it near his family's home. He's in first grade and very outgoing and bright. Dawson likes playing video games and riding his bike. And he still likes telling jokes.



Celebrating Ben and Dorothy Stapel, OFS



Ben Stapel, the oldest of seven siblings, was born in the Netherlands on January 22 and emigrated to the US in 1952. Dorothy was born in Detroit on December 3 and is the youngest of 13 siblings. The two were married on June 30, 1962, and are the proud parents of two sons, two daughters and three children in Heaven, as well as the proud grandparents of seven grandsons.

Ben graduated from the University of Detroit with a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering. He retired from the Ford Motor Company in 2001. Dorothy graduated from the University of Detroit with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Education and from Henry Ford Community College with an Associate Degree in Nursing. She retired as the Natural Family Planning (NFP) Coordinator for the Archdiocese of Detroit on December 3, 2012.

Capuchin (†) Fr. Giles Soyka encouraged Ben to join the Secular Franciscans. Ben and Dorothy were professed into the Secular Franciscan Order on November 15, 1992 by Dorothy Bowden, OFS. Ben served our fraternity as the Continuing Formation Director, and Dorothy as Formation Director. I was blessed to have Ben and Dorothy as guides and supporters during my formation process. In October of 2001, they transferred from our fraternity to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Fraternity where Ben served as Minister and Treasurer, and Dorothy as the Formation Minister. They transferred back to the St. Bonaventure Fraternity this past Fall. At St. Sebastian Parish Ben and Dorothy serve as Eucharistic Ministers, lead a Bible sharing group and conduct a *Marriage Is A Decision* Seminar for engaged couples. For the Archdiocese of Detroit and the Chaldean Community, Ben and Dorothy lead the *Conjugal Love* NFP Presentations and a series of NFP classes for engaged and married couples. In addition, Ben is a lector at St. Sebastian's, is part of a charismatic prayer group, and serves as regional representative in the DCCR Assembly. Dorothy leads the rosary before Sunday Mass and helps prospective NFP teachers in the Detroit Hispanic community achieve NFP teacher certification for the Archdiocese of Detroit. We love you, Ben and Dorothy!



From the Friars' Choir



Resolution One: I will live for God.

Resolution Two:

If no one else does, I still will.

Jonathan Edwards



3	Alice Vier
4	Joe Driessen
7	Gary Johnson
8	John Bodell
	Tony Lienert
10	Mary Lou Catino
10	Bridget Schultz
15	Natalie Grabowski
16	Sylvia Stanik
19	Gloria Longueuil
25	Tom Nozewski
	Paul Catrow
28	Beverly Hanus
30	Kathleen Lang
	Patricia Vail

NEW ADDRESS:
 Anna Tyler
 4200 West Utica Road
 Apt 210-B
 Shelby Township, MI 48317

JANUARY 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Mary, Mother of God Holy Day of Obligation	2 Christmas Wk 1 Pss Wk I	3	4	5
6 EPIPHANY Pss Proper	7 Christmas Wk 2 Pss Wk II	8	9	10	11 Meldrum Soup Kitchen: 20:30-1:00 Solanus Cell: 7:30 PM	12 Gospel Happening at Capuchin Service Center 9 AM to Noon (see page 3)
13 BAPTISM of the LORD Pss Proper	14 Ordinary Time Wk 1 Pss Wk I	15	16	17	18	19 Fraternity Council 1:30 pm
20 WEEK II ORD. TIME Pss Wk II FORMATION: NOON CHAPTER: 1:00 PM PROFESSION (NO MASS)	21	22	23	24	25 Bl. Luchesio: 7:30 PM	26
27 WEEK III ORD. TIME Pss Wk II	28	29	30	31		



Pray for Vocations
to the OFS Daily

FAX ET PHONUM

Minister

Maryann Kummer

Vice Minister

Teresa Westbrook-Lienert

Treasurer

Laura Sapien

Secretary

Tony Lienert

Initial Formation

Sylvia Snigier

Councillors-at-Large:

Mary Williams

Spiritual Assistant:

Br. Patrick McSherry

APPOINTMENTS

Infirmarian:

Jo Marie Nardi

Continuing Formation Commission:

Christian Service Commission:

Hospitality Commission:

Vocations Ministry Commission:

To be announced (chair)

MAKING FRATERNITY HAPPEN

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

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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Pablo Picasso, *Le visage de la paix*

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