

# The Pozverello

St. Bonaventure Secular Franciscans ✠ Detroit, Michigan

Vol. 76, no. 1— January 2016

FOLLOW YOUR  
*dreams*

LET YOUR HEART  
*believe*

FEEL YOUR SPIRIT  
*soar*

*imagine*  
WHAT CAN BE

# Minister's Letter

My dear sisters and brothers,

***Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!***

At the Leadership Council meeting held on December 5<sup>th</sup>, the Council approved the following appointments in service to our Fraternity: **Brittney Walendzik** as *Gospel Happenings Coordinator*; **Jeanine Ward** as *Hospitality Coordinator* and **Onakapoma (Ona) Moore** as *Annual Picnic Coordinator*.

## REFLECTION

God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son,  
that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life [John 3:16].

Since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.  
No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another,  
God lives in us and his love is made complete in us [1 John 4:11-12].

“The Christology of Francis focuses on the divine dimension of the Word, ‘The Most High Lord, God the universe’, and leads Francis to a descending Christology that emphasizes strongly the humbleness and the poverty of the Incarnation and of the Eucharist. Humility and poverty will become the hallmarks of all of Franciscan spirituality, and it will become necessary to understand that the actions of God, which we often call unconditional love, also show God’s poverty and humility or his desire to be in relationship with his creatures.

“God is fully complete within God’s self, yet by choice God desires to be in relationship with us, not as Lord and Master, but as a lover with his beloved. This unimaginable invitation to love is another characteristic of Franciscan spirituality. Atonement for the sin of Adam is not at the heart of our tradition, the love of the Father is.

“In an act of love and supreme poverty and humility Jesus, the beloved Son of the eternal Father, by the power of the Holy Spirit and in the womb of the Blessed Mother, takes on all the frailty of our humanity, just to show us the face of the Father.

“The Incarnation, then, for Francis becomes the first moment of experiencing the greatest love possible and becomes the one single and most important event in all human history. God is physically with us as one of us, able to touch and be touched and showing us our salvation.”

– *For Up to Now Manual*, Francis and his approach to Divinity, 8

The precious gift of Christmas is peace, and Christ is our true peace. And Christ knocks on our hearts to give us peace, peace in our souls. Let us open the doors of our hearts to Christ.

– Pope Francis, Angelus address, December 21, 2014

Pope Francis in his Apostolic Letter entitled *Misericordiae Vultus* wrote:

“Jesus is the face of the Father’s mercy. Mercy has become living and visible in Jesus of Nazareth, reaching its culmination in him. The Father, ‘rich in mercy’ (Eph 2:4), after having revealed his name to Moses as ‘a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness’ (Ex 34:6), has never ceased to show, in various ways throughout history, his divine nature. In the ‘fullness of time’ (Gal 4:4), when everything had been arranged according to his plan of salvation, he sent his only Son into the world, born of the Virgin Mary, to reveal his love for us in a definitive way. Whoever sees Jesus sees the Father (see Jn 14:9). Jesus of Nazareth, by his words, his actions, and his entire person reveals the mercy

of God [§1].

“In Sacred Scripture mercy is a key word that indicates God’s action toward us. He does not limit himself merely to affirming his love, but makes it visible and tangible. Love, after all, can never be just an abstraction. By its very nature, it indicates something concrete: intentions, attitudes and behaviors that are shown in daily living. The mercy of God is his loving concern for each one of us. He feels responsible; that is, he desires our well-being and he wants to see us happy, full of joy, and peaceful. This is the path which the merciful love of Christians must also travel. As the Father loves, so do his children. Just as he is merciful, so we are called to be merciful to each other [final paragraph, §9].

“I present, therefore, this Extraordinary Jubilee Year dedicated to living out in our daily lives the mercy which the Father constantly extends to all of us. In this Jubilee Year, let us allow God to surprise us. He never tires of casting open the doors of his heart and of repeating that he loves us and wants to share his love with us” [see §25].

On December 8, Pope Francis ushered in the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy by opening wide the Holy Door at St. Peter’s Basilica. In a similar manner, cathedrals throughout the world opened their doors to proclaim a year of mercy. Now is the time for us to open wide the doors of our hearts to welcome the Christ Child, Emmanuel, God-with-us, the Incarnation of God’s mercy, who journeys with us through this holy year.

As we journey through this Holy Year of Mercy, let us open wide the doors of our hearts by:

- Welcoming Emmanuel, God-with-us, into our hearts and allowing his tender and merciful love to transform our hearts so we can be the merciful presence of his love to others.
- Breaking open the Gospel stories on the mercy and forgiveness of God and living their message in our daily lives. Here are a few suggestions: the Good Shepherd finding the lost sheep ([John 10](#)), the Prodigal Son asking for forgiveness from his father ([Luke 15](#)), Peter asking Jesus how many times a person must forgive ([Matthew 18:21f](#)), Mary Magdalene washing the feet of Jesus ([Luke 7:36f](#)).
- Opening our eyes to see the needs of others and reaching out to them with compassion, understanding and love – by accepting people as they are, breaking down barriers that separate us from each other, offering a word of comfort or encouragement to someone going through a difficult time, visiting the sick, forgiving, smiling, being open to getting to know people of other religions, races and ethnic groups.
- Putting into practice these words of St. Paul to the Colossians (3:12-21):

Brothers and sisters: Put on, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another. If one has a grievance against another; as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do. And over all these put on love, that is, the bond of perfection. And let the peace of Christ control your hearts, the peace into which you were also called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as in all wisdom you teach and admonish one another, singing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

I wish you and your loved ones a joyous and peaceful Christmas Season. May this holy year of mercy be a time of grace for all of you to experience God’s mercy in abundance and to extend that mercy to others.

Your sister in Ss. Francis and Clare,  
Maryann



## PRAYER REQUESTS

### Our Deceased

**Charles Longueuil**, † 21 November 2015

**Theresa Coschino**, † 17 December 2015

**William Haas**, † 18 December 2015

### Members of our Fraternity

Dan & Jan Atkinson	Teresa Lienert
Kay Balas	Patricia Long
Mary Lou Catino	Ilene Manning
Mary Gillen	Joseph Marra
Grabowski Family	Mabel Michaels
James Heymes	Hugh Montpetit
Caroline Hojna & Family	Barbara Pardington
Anna Marie Jezak	Bob Peckham
Gary Johnson	George Pelyak
Donna Marie Johnston	Tom Ricard
Louis Joseph	Mary Saber
Joyce Kaminski	James Schoenherr
Esther Kelley	Mike & Bridget Schultz
Liz and Ron Kessler	Gene Snyders
Mary Klein	Linda Solis
Lorraine Korte	Ben Stapel
Josie Lafata	Joseph Wisk
Frank & Rosalie Liccardello	

### Relatives needing prayers:

Mary Ann Bridge, daughter of Connie Musial  
 Kate Comizio, Br. Pat's sister (Multiple Sclerosis)  
 Fr. Edward Ertzbischoff, brother of Julia  
 Alice Greene, sister of Hank Forsy  
 Denise Joseph, daughter of Louis  
 David Kaminski, son of Joyce  
 Stephanie Kummer, mother of Maryann Manning Family  
 Michael McSherry, Br. Pat's brother (cancer, stage 4)  
 Jean Nozewski, wife of Thomas  
 Teresa Poole, mother of Mary  
 Barbara Sienkiewicz, daughter of Connie Musial  
 Nellie Westbrook, mother of Theresa  
 Sandra Woods Family

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

**Jo Marie Nardi**



3....Jeanine Ward	15..Natalie Grabowski
5....Daniel McBride	25..Tom Nozewski
7....Gary Johnson	Paul Catrow
8....John Bodell	28..Beverly Hanus
10..Mary Lou Catino	30..Patricia Vail
Bridget Schultz	31..Stephen Garcia

## CELEBRATING LENO POLI



Leno was born to John and Johanna (nee Patti) Poli on February 14, 1944 at Delray Hospital in southwest Detroit. Leno has one sister, Judith, and three brothers: Angelo, Antonio and Mario. Leno earned a G.E.D. while in the U.S. Navy, attended Henry Ford College and graduated from Sacred Heart Seminary with a Certificate in Pastoral Ministry. Now retired, he was employed as a superintendent at Carbide Corporation, and as a Tool and Die Designer at the Ford Motor Company.

Leno married Rochelle Marie Fontaine on May 1, 1965 at St. Francis de Sales Church in Detroit. They are blessed with two sons: Andrea Angelo and Theodore John, and a daughter: Angela Johanna (Lepper) and four grandchildren: Matthew, Grace, Hannah and Gabrielle Rochelle.

Leno belongs to St. Kateri Tekakwitha Church in Dearborn, and has been involved in Prison Ministry for 30 years, serving at the Huron Valley Women's Prison and at the Wayne County Jail (Dickerson Facility).

Leno learned about the Secular Franciscana from his grandmother, Johanna, who was a Secular Franciscan and more recently from Pat Long.

Playing the violin, drawing and painting are among his favorite pastimes. The Charismatic Renewal, Cursillo and Marriage Encounter were important milestones in Leno's spiritual growth, as well as his connection with the Carmelites whom he greatly admires. Leno looks forward to following the path his grandmother took on her spiritual journey.

We love you, Leno!



# ABORTION: TOO HIGH A PRICE

## Panel Discussion Series

Free of Charge ♦ Open to All



**Theresa Sitto**  
Medical Student and  
Pro-life Activist



**Maria Granados**  
RLM Multicultural  
Outreach Advisory  
Committee



**Le'yandria Murray**  
Pro-life Speaker



**Florida Williams**  
Board Member, Detroit  
Pregnancy Test & Help  
Center

**SATURDAY,  
FEBRUARY 13, 2016  
1-3 P.M.**

**SOLANUS CASEY CENTER**  
1780 MT. ELLIOTT ST.  
DETROIT, MI 48207

In Collaboration with St. Bonaventure Secular Franciscan Fraternity.  
Secured parking available.



**MODERATOR:**  
**Dom Pastore**  
Deacon, St. Isaac  
Jogues Catholic Church -  
Roseville

### OTHER PANEL DISCUSSIONS IN THIS SERIES:

Mon., Feb. 1..... 12-2 P.M. *Abortion=Choice?*.....Oakland Univ. (Fireside Lounge), Rochester, MI  
Thurs., Feb. 11 .. 7-9 P.M. ... *Unborn Black Lives Matter* .....Wayne State U, Student Ctr Bldg, 2nd Fl. Ballroom  
Tue., Feb. 23 ..... 7-9 P.M. ... *Abortion: Terminating God's Creation* ...Gilead Baptist Church, Taylor MI



♦ Be the Merciful Presence of God ♦ The Spirit Will Guide Us and Open Our Hearts

♦ The gift of Fear of the Lord opens our hearts to recognize and accept forgiveness, love and mercy.

*Opening eyes* helps us to see objectively what lies before us. But *opening our hearts* calls for a response, a reaching out, a gathering in of those who are suffering, who are difficult, or who are downright unpleasant. But when we accept the gift of *Fear of the Lord* – the gift of awe at all God is and does – we are also asked to see others as God sees them, as people as much beloved by our all-loving and merciful God as we are. Learning this lesson, says Pope Francis, will fill us with grace and strength so that we may shower others with the grace we receive.

### Ponder

Do I love unconditionally? Do I know how? Am I ready to accept this gift of *Fear of the Lord* so that I may learn?

### Pray

Lord, fill me with your Spirit. Help me to open myself and embrace your will.

– from *What Pope Francis Says About Mercy*

# January 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					<b>1</b> Mary, Mother of God <i>Proper</i> Holy day of Obligation	<b>2</b> 10 am - 11:30 am Leadership Council Meeting
<b>3</b> EPIPHANY <i>Proper</i>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> BAPTISM of the LORD <i>Proper</i>	<b>11</b> Ordinary Time Week 1 <i>Pss Wk 1</i>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Capuchin Service Center: 9 am-Noon
<b>17</b> Ordinary Time Week 2 <i>Pss Wk 2</i> FRATERNITY GATHERING (Welcoming & Admissions) 1:30 P.M.	<b>18</b> Christian Unity Week begins	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of the Unborn (USA)	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> Ordinary Time Week 3 <i>Pss Wk 3</i>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> Capuchin Service Center: 9 am-Noon
<b>31</b> Ord. Time Wk 4 <i>Pss Wk 4</i>						

# Fax et Phorum

**Minister**

Maryann Kummer

**Vice Minister**

Eileen Smith

**Treasurer**

Laura Sapien

**Secretary**

Ray Mylenek

**Formation Minister**

Sylvia Snigier

**Councilors:**

Javier Aguilar

Joyce Brouillette

Onakapoma Moore

Mary Myler

**Spiritual Assistant:**

Br. Patrick McSherry

**MAKING FRATERNITY HAPPEN**

**Our Fraternity gathers on the Third Sunday of every month. For more information, contact:**

Maryann Kummer

**In addition to our monthly Fraternity gathering, some members also gather in a small group:**

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

Mary Ann and Hugh Montpetit

**FRATERNITY MINISTRY OUTREACH:**

**Meldrum Soup Kitchen**

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

**&**

**Healing Service Reception**

**Wednesdays at 2 PM**

**APPOINTMENTS****Continuing Formation Coordinator:**

Eileen Smith

**Gospel Happenings Coordinator:**

Brittney Walenzik

**Healing Service Reception Coordinators:**

Ron and Liz Kessler

**Hospitality Coordinator:**

Jeanine Ward

**Infirmarian:**

Jo Marie Nardi

**Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation Coordinator:**

Joyce Brouillette

**Soup Kitchen Volunteers Coordinator:**

Ray Mylenek

**Annual Picnic Coordinator:**

Onakapoma Moore

**Pray Daily  
for Vocations to the  
Secular Franciscan  
Order**

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