The Poverello

St. Bonaventure Secular Franciscans ✠ Detroit, Michigan

Vol. 77, no. 12— December 2017

Minister's Letter

My dear sisters and brothers,

May the Lord grant you peace!

On Sunday, November 5th, **Mary Krempasky**, **Sharon Krill** and **Bernadette Mikowski** publicly proclaimed their permanent commitment to live the Gospel Way of Life and to participate actively in the life of our fraternity. *Congratulations Mary, Sharon and Bernadette!*

I am grateful to **Sylvia Snigier** and **Eileen Smith** for planning an outstanding profession retreat and to everyone who brought a food item or beverage for the luncheon following the retreat on November 4th; to **Br. Pat McSherry, OFM Cap** for preparing the worship aids for the profession Mass and for providing us with an inspiring homily; to **Joe Sapian** and **Doris Allen** for making the event even more memorable through photography.

To everyone who donated food items for the **Regina High School Food Drive** and clothing items for **Franciscan Ministries**, I thank you on behalf of all those who will benefit from your kindness and generosity.

Our fraternity's tradition of providing goodies in the Social Hall following the **Secular Franciscan-sponsored Christmas Concert** will continue again this year on **Sunday, December** 17th at **1:30 p.m. Eileen Smith** has arranged for the Children's Choir and Praise Dancers from St. Charles Borromeo Parish to perform at our Christmas Concert. Please bring Christmas cookies, finger food or beverages for the reception. Please call **313-579-2100, ext. 136** and leave a message indicating what food items you plan to bring for the reception. The Solanus Center is also sponsoring a "Jazzy Christmas Concert" on Sunday, December 10th at 3 PM, for those who might be interested in some added Christmas festivity.

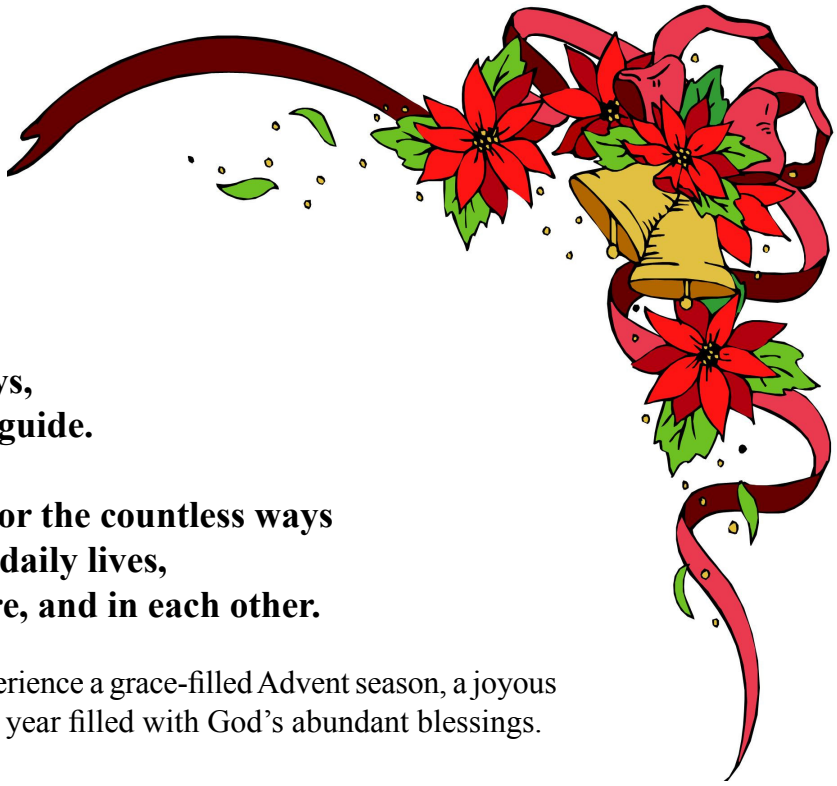
REFLECTION

> "Keep your eyes open for God, watch for his works; be alert for signs of his presence" (Ps 105:4 - *The Message* translation).
>
> Jesus said to his disciples: Keep a sharp lookout, for you don't know the timetable. It's like a man who takes a trip, leaving home and putting his servants in charge, each assigned a task, and commanding the gatekeeper to stand watch. So, stay at your post, watching. You have no idea when the homeowner is returning, whether at evening, midnight, cockcrow, or morning. You don't want him showing up unannounced, with you asleep on the job. I say it to you, and I'm saying it to all: Stay at your post. Keep watch. (Mark 13:33-37 - *The Message* translation).

Advent is a most counter-cultural season for us as followers of Christ. The hectic pace of life becomes even more frantic with the added responsibilities of planning family gatherings, attending parish Christmas activities, shopping, cooking, etc. Yet, in the midst of all of our busy-ness in preparing for the celebration of Christmas with family and friends, the Church gifts us with the season of Advent.

As we begin our Advent journey, we hear Jesus say to his disciples and to us, **be prepared**, **be watchful**, **be alert**, **stay awake**, **be vigilant**. Advent is a sacred time to:

- Slow down to prepare our hearts to celebrate and remember the gift of the Father's love for us in giving his Son to be with us and to experience anew the Incarnation, the birth of Jesus at Christmas.
- Wake up and become more watchful and alert to the ways in which the Spirit of the living God is present to us in the Eucharist, the people we interact with in our daily lives, and in all of the events of our lives. Let us commit ourselves to a time of quiet reflection of the Word of God and allow Jesus' words to transform our mind, our heart, and our way of being.
- Examine our life to see where we have fallen short in our attempts to live the Gospel message of peace, joy, love, mercy and forgiveness and to seek forgiveness and reconciliation with our God and with one another in order to bring about the kingdom of God and prepare for his second coming.



Advent Prayer:

God-with-us,
in the midst of busy days,
you are our stronghold and guide.
Slow us down,
make us alert and grateful for the countless ways
you are present to us in our daily lives,
in the Eucharist, in Scripture, and in each other.

I pray that you and your family will experience a grace-filled Advent season, a joyous and peaceful Christmas season, and a new year filled with God's abundant blessings.

Your sister in Ss. Francis and Clare,
Maryann

Our Deceased

Bonilee Holler ✞ November 4, 2017 (step-niece of Jo Marie)

Relatives needing prayers

Mary Ann Bridge, daughter of Connie Musial
Kate Comizio, Br. Pat's sister (progressive Multiple Sclerosis)
Alice Greene, sister of Hank Forys
Denise Joseph, daughter of Louis
David Kaminski, son of Joyce
Patricia MCleary, mother of Therese Joseph
Jean Nozewski, wife of Thomas
Christine Papageorgiou, aunt of Janet Bodell
Monica Parada, sister-in-law of Janet Bodell
Theresa Poole, mother of Mary
Barbara Sienkiewicz, daughter of Connie Musial
Patricia Smith, daughter of Claire Boutain
Nellie Westbrook, mother of Theresa
Sandra Woods Family

Members of our Fraternity

Dan and Jan Atkinson
Janet and John Bodell
Joe Boland
Claire Boutain
Joyce Brouillette and her mother
Pat Cardellio
Mary Gillen
James Heymes
Caroline and Ted Hojna
Anna May Jezak
Gary Johnson
Donna Marie Johnston
Louis Joseph
Joyce Kaminski
Esther Kelley
Ron Kessler
Rosalie Liccardello
Patricia Long
Ilene Manning & Family
Joseph Marra
Mabel Michaels
Hugh Montpetit
Mary Ann Montpetit
Stella Mordarski
Ray Mylenek
Barbara Pardington
Bob Peckham
George Pelyak
Diane Raymond
Marilyn Ricard
Mary Saber
Bridget Schultz
Ben Stapel
Ruby Thompson
Anna Tyler
Terry Westbrook-Lienert
Joseph Wisk

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

Jo Marie Nardi

3..... Dorothy Stapel
6 ..... Mary Saber
7..... Mary Ann Kristensen
11..... Ralph Mason
12..... Irene Mecha
14..... Jacqueline Hale
17..... Hank Forys
Leticia Aguilar
20..... Chuck Sapian
25..... Patricia Meldrum
25..... María Soledad Goatley
29..... Lorna Brock
31..... Sylvia Snigier

Gospel Happenings

Gospel & Community Events

Mark your Calendars

Dec. 16: Conner Soup Kitchen in Detroit. 10:30 start.
Jan. 20: Gleaners in Warren (9:00-11:30)
Feb. 25: Luncheon for St. Charles (11:30-3:00)
Mar. 10: Gleaners in Warren (9:00-11:30)
Apr. 21: Capuchin Warehouse (9:00-12:00)
May 19: Capuchin Warehouse (9:00-12:00)
Sept. 23: Luncheon for St. Charles (11:30-3:00)
Oct. 20: Capuchin Warehouse (9:00-12:00)
Nov. 10: Capuchin Warehouse (9:00-12:00)
Dec. 15: Capuchin Warehouse (9:00-12:00)

Profession Homily

by Br. Pat McSherry, OFM Cap

Whenever we're about to read the Word of God, we begin with an attitude, if not a prayer, for enlightenment. Why? Because we believe that Scripture is personal; it speaks to me personally; and as I take it in, I have to ask myself: "how does this apply to me"? — not to the pope or bishops, or to priests and preachers, or to politicians, or to other people, but to me. At times, like today, Scripture asks us to be brutally honest with ourselves.

During the lifetime of St. Francis, one of the greatest struggles in the Church was the fact that ordinary people wanted to live the Gospel but felt burdened by the structures, strictures and scandals of the Church. Many of them left the Church and this gave rise to a number of heretical groups. You might remember how, during Francis' lifetime, the Dominicans came into being to address this crisis head-on.

In the first reading today, the Prophet Malachi reminds us that the same thing was happening in his day and age. And if we read the newspapers or get our news online, it's obvious that the same thing continues in our day and age. So many people face the dilemma of either abandoning religion or of going "outside the system" in order to discover God. Too often "religious people" condemn them as having lost the way, when in fact they never found the way as long as they were in our company.

When we turn to today's Gospel from St. Matthew, we have to keep in mind that the Gospel is not simply an historical remembrance of how things were back in Jesus' day. Events and sayings that happened during Jesus' ministry were remembered because the same issues were creeping into the early Church. In today's Gospel, Jesus names three of those issues:

- There's the perennial problem of "religious people" not practicing what they preach. They look good without being good. So, in keeping with our prayer for enlightenment, I have to ask myself: do I practice what I preach?
- For many people, life itself is a struggle. Often, instead of offering hope, compassion and consolation, "religious people" add to the burden instead of lightening the load. So, I have to ask myself: "what do people experience when they encounter me?" Not what do ***I*** think they experience, or what do I ***hope*** they experience, but what is their **ACTUAL** experience of me? Do they perceive me as **a companion** or **a court**?
- "Religious people" sometimes talk about goodness as if it were a ***personal*** achievement. They appear strong, self-disciplined, self-determined, composed, with all their "stuff" together – having little in common with the ordinary sinner. So I have to ask myself: "What do people see in me?" "What type of Christian do I project?"

In these final weeks of the Church year, the readings are intended to have us think about how we will be judged. Perhaps the image of judgment that we're most familiar with is the one where goats are separated from sheep, symbolizing the separation of the unrighteous from the righteous. Jesus was not the first to use this image. In fact, he probably used it because his Jewish audience was already familiar with it. The Prophets Ezekiel and Zechariah used the image of separating goats from sheep.

It's important, though, to know the reason why the prophets used this image. It was not to condemn people, but to offer them hope. Fundamental to the image of separating goats from sheep, the unjust from the just, the condemned from the saved, was that, if you were to take a good, honest look at your life and see that you are behaving badly, you could come to your senses, and change your ways. You could move from the category of the damned to the category of the saved by changing your ways. Conversion. "Stop doing evil, learn to do good" — we read in Isaiah (1:16-17). But both St. Paul and Jesus have tweaked our understanding of what conversion and metanoia mean, and how to go about it.

During the Easter Vigil Service, after the Paschal Candle is lit, the deacon sings the *Exsultet* — a beautiful ancient melody — during which he proclaims: "***O Happy Fault! O necessary sin of Adam!***" If sheer determination and self-discipline could turn us from evil to goodness, we really wouldn't need a savior; we could do it ourselves – as the Stoics believed. If following all the laws and rules, or inflicting ourselves with harsh penitential practices were enough to gain salvation, then we really wouldn't need God. Sometimes "religious people" adopt the attitude that conversion means that if I would just "buckle down", take control of my life, I would be counted among the blessed. Sometimes we adopt that attitude for ourselves and inflict it on others as well. "Try harder!," we say. "If

I can do it, you can do it!"

In Chapter 7 (v. 19) of Romans, St. Paul makes a very personal confession. He says: "The fact is that I fail to do the good I really want to do, and I keep doing the evil I don't want to do." He can't move himself from the side of the unjust to the just, the bad to the good, the damned to the saved. And he raises his voice saying (v. 24-25): "Who can save me from this dilemma? — Jesus Christ!"

Conversion is not about the things that I myself can change, but about the things that by myself I cannot change — things over which I am powerless.

Paul, who has admitted that, left to himself, he ***cannot*** be good, today, with incredible audacity or chutzpah, proposes himself as a model of conversion. He says: "we preach not only the gospel of God, but [we preach] ***our very selves*** as well (1 Thes. 2:8)." And in the Gospel Jesus seems to be saying the same thing — tell the world: live as we do, say what we do.

So, without being hypocrites, how can we preach ourselves as models, when we ourselves fall short? If, before preaching to others we had to remain quiet until we were perfect, there would be a whole lot of silence in our churches! And sermons would be much shorter! Perhaps, as followers of the Gospel way and preachers, we've been focusing on the wrong thing. Perhaps instead of preaching Christ's Gospel, we've been exalting our American value of self-reliance, self-discipline, self-reliance, rugged individualism, independence and being self-made people to the detriment of humbly accepting our human reality and reliance on God's grace. Ordinary people can relate to human weakness and continual struggle ...

We live and preach the Gospel best when we share with others the story of how God has treated us in our own less-than-glorious human reality. We are able to preach limitless forgiveness because we ourselves have undeservedly been forgiven ... not once or twice, but time and time again, and God is not exhausted by us. We can preach unconditional acceptance and respect because God cherishes us just the way we are ... whether we change or not. We can preach faith as a journey rather than a goal because, by choice, God has been our constant companion even when we have made mistakes — big mistakes!

By our Baptism and by our Profession we offer our lives – in their entirety – for the salvation of others — not as shining examples of unwavering virtue, but as sinners who fall, get up, learn a lesson, dust ourselves off, entrust ourselves to God and continue on. It is precisely in our weakness, as St. Paul tells us [2 Cor 12:10], that we are strong. We are people who claim God's saving grace and who cling to it as the anchor upon which we rely. Sometimes we are strong, sometimes we are weak. But always, we are saved by God's grace without which we could not find the strength.

For our part, we try to cooperate with that grace, not by the use of titles: "Father" or "Brother" or "Sister", but by choosing to do good: feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, welcoming foreigners, comforting the sick and helping those for whom living feels like a burden. We do good, not to mask our human weaknesses, shortcomings and sins, but because love covers the multitude of [our] sins (see 1 Peter 4:8). The Gospel we profess to live is not a theory; it's not an abstract notion; it's not a bunch of laws and regulations. The Gospel is a person — Jesus Christ, our Savior, who touched people's lives – physically touched people; he encountered others through direct contact; he looked them in the eye and accepted them just as they were; he embraced them, faults and all, and served them on bended knee. And to the last, he gave his life for them — ***for us***. And all St. Francis of Assisi ever desired to do was to have and show to others the same love with which he himself felt loved.

2018 FRATERNITY CALENDAR

JANUARY

3 (Wed).....1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m..... Reception after Healing Service
6 (Sat) .....9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m..... Leadership Council Meeting
10 (Wed.).....1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m..... Reception after Healing Service
12 (Fri) .....10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m..... Meldrum Soup Kitchen
17 (Wed.).....1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m..... Reception after Healing Service
20 (Sat.) .....10:00 a.m.-12 Noon ..... Formation Team Meeting
20 (Sat.).....9:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. ..... Gospel Happening: Gleaners in Warren
21 (Sun.) .....1:30 p.m. ..... Fraternity Gathering – Welcoming, Admission & Affiliation Ceremony
24 (Wed.).....1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m..... Reception after Healing Service
26 (Fri.)-28 (Sun.) ..... Married Couples Retreat at Capuchin Retreat, Washington, MI
31 (Wed.).....1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m..... Reception after Healing Service

FEBRUARY

3 (Sat.) .....9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m..... Leadership Council Meeting
7 (Wed.).....1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m..... Reception after Healing Service
9 (Fri.) .....10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m..... Meldrum Soup Kitchen
9 (Fri.)-11 (Sun.) ..... Women's Retreat at Capuchin Retreat, Washington, MI
14 (Wed.).....1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m..... Reception after Healing Service (Ash Wednesday)
18 (Sun.) .....1:30 p.m. ..... Fraternity Gathering
21 (Wed.).....1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m..... Reception after Healing Service
25 (Sun.).....11:30 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. .... Luncheon for St. Charles Parish
28 (Wed.).....1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m..... Reception after Healing Service

MARCH

3 (Sat.) .....9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m..... Leadership Council Meeting
7 (Wed.).....1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m..... Reception after Healing Service
9 (Fri.) .....10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m..... Meldrum Soup Kitchen
10 (Sat.).....9:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. ..... Gospel Happening: Gleaners in Warren
14 (Wed.).....1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m..... Reception after Healing Service
18 (Sun.) .....1:30 p.m. ..... Fraternity Gathering – JUBILARIAN MASS
21 (Wed.).....1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m..... Reception after Healing Service
24 (Sat.) .....10:00 a.m..... Mass for Deceased Members
28 (Wed.).....1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m..... Reception after Healing Service

APRIL

4 (Wed.).....1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m..... Reception after Healing Service
7 (Sat.) .....9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m..... Leadership Council Meeting
11 (Wed.).....1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m..... Reception after Healing Service
13 (Fri.) .....10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m..... Meldrum Soup Kitchen
15 (Sun.) .....11:00 a.m..... Fraternity Gathering – DAY OF REFLECTION
18 (Wed.).....1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m..... Reception after Healing Service
20 (Fri.)-23 (Sun.) ..... Men's Retreat at Capuchin Retreat, Washington, MI
21 (Sat.).....9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m..... Capuchin Warehouse on Medbury
25 (Wed.).....1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m..... Reception after Healing Service
28 (Sat.) .....10:00 a.m.-12 Noon ..... Formation Team Meeting
28 (Sat.)..... Ministers' Spring Gathering in Saginaw

MAY

2 (Wed.).....1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m..... Reception after Healing Service
5 (Sat.) .....9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m..... Leadership Council Meeting
9 (Wed.).....1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m..... Reception after Healing Service
11 (Fri.) .....10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m..... Meldrum Soup Kitchen
16 (Wed.).....1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m..... Reception after Healing Service
19 (Sat.).....9:00 a.m.-12 Noon ..... Capuchin Warehouse on Medbury
20 (Sun.) .....1:30 p.m. ..... Fraternity Gathering – Discussion of Fraternity Goals for 2019-2022
23 (Wed.).....1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m..... Reception after Healing Service
30 (Wed.).....1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m..... Reception after Healing Service

JUNE

2 (Sat.) .....9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m..... Leadership Council Meeting
6 (Wed.).....1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m..... Reception after Healing Service
8 (Fri.) .....10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m..... Meldrum Soup Kitchen
10 (Sun.) .....1:30 p.m. ..... Fraternity Gathering – Chapter *(2nd Sunday due to Father's Day)*
13 (Wed.).....1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m..... Reception after Healing Service
20 (Wed.).....1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m..... Reception after Healing Service
27 (Wed.).....1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m..... Reception after Healing Service

JULY

7 (Sat.) .....9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m..... Leadership Council Meeting
11 (Wed.).....1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m..... Reception after Healing Service
13 (Fri.) .....10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m..... Meldrum Soup Kitchen
15 (Sun.) .....1:30 p.m. ..... Fraternity Picnic at Belle Isle Shelter #2
18 (Wed.).....1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m..... Reception after Healing Service
21 (Sat.) .....10:00 a.m.-12 Noon ..... Formation Team Meeting
25 (Wed.).....1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m..... Reception after Healing Service

AUGUST

1 Wed.) .....1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m..... Reception after Healing Service
4 (Sat.) .....9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m..... Leadership Council Meeting
8 (Wed.).....1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m..... Reception after Healing Service
10 (Fri.) .....10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m..... Meldrum Soup Kitchen
10 (Fri.)-12 (Sun.) ..... Annual Ministers' Gathering in DeWitt
15 (Wed.).....1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m..... Reception after Healing Service
19 (Sun.) .....1:30 p.m. ..... Fraternity Gathering –
Welcome, Admissions & 1st Call for Council Nominations
22 (Wed.).....1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m..... Reception after Healing Service
29 (Wed.).....1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m..... Reception after Healing Service

SEPTEMBER

5 (Wed.).....1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m..... Reception after Healing Service
7 (Fri.) .....10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m..... Meldrum Soup Kitchen
8 (Sat.) .....9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m..... Leadership Council Meeting
12 (Wed.).....1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m..... Reception after Healing Service
16 (Sun.) .....11:00 a.m. ..... Fraternity Gathering – Day of Reflection
19 (Wed.).....1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m..... Reception after Healing Service
22 (Sat.) .....10:00 a.m.-12 Noon ..... Formation Team Meeting
23 (Sun.) .....11:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m..... Luncheon for St. Charles Parish
26 (Wed.).....1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m..... Reception after Healing Service

OCTOBER

3 (Wed.).....1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m..... Reception after Healing Service
3 (Wed.).....7:00 p.m. ..... Transitus
4 (Thurs.).....7:00 p.m. ..... Mass in honor of St. Francis and reception
6 (Sat.) .....9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. .... Leadership Council Meeting
10 (Wed.).....1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m..... Reception after Healing Service
12 (Fri.) .....10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. ..... Meldrum Soup Kitchen
17 (Wed.).....1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m..... Reception after Healing Service
20 (Sat.).....9:00 a.m.-12 Noon ..... Capuchin Warehouse on Medbury
21 (Sun.) .....11:00 a.m. ..... Fraternity Gathering – Chapter of Elections
24 (Wed.).....1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m..... Reception after Healing Service
27 (Sat.)..... Regional Formation Day in Saginaw
31 (Wed.).....1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m..... Reception after Healing Service

NOVEMBER

3 (Sat.) .....9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. .... Joint (New and Former) Leadership Council Meeting
7 (Wed.).....1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m..... Reception after Healing Service
9 (Fri.) .....10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. ..... Meldrum Soup Kitchen
10 (Sat.).....9:00 a.m.-12 Noon ..... Gospel Happening: Capuchin Warehouse on Medbury
14 (Wed.).....1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m..... Reception after Healing Service
17 (Sat.) .....10:30 a.m. ..... Profession Retreat and lunch
18 (Sun.) .....1:30 p.m. ..... Fraternity Gathering - Profession Mass and dinner
21 (Wed.).....1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m..... Reception after Healing Service
24 (Sat.) .....10:00 a.m. ..... Mass for All Deceased Franciscans, Parents, Benefactors & Affiliates
28 (Wed.).....1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m..... Reception after Healing Service

DECEMBER

1 (Sat.) .....9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. .... Leadership Council Meeting
5 (Wed.).....1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m..... Reception after Healing Service
7 (Fri.) .....10:00 a.m.-12 Noon ..... Meldrum Soup Kitchen
12 (Wed.).....1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m..... Reception after Healing Service
15 (Sat.).....9:00 a.m.-12 Noon ..... Gospel Happening at Capuchin Warehouse on Medbury
16 (Sun.) .....1:30 p.m. ..... Fraternity Gathering – Christmas concert and reception
19 (Wed.).....1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m..... Reception after Healing Service
26 (Wed.).....1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m..... Reception after Healing Service

NEW ADDRESS

Joseph Boland

Fraser, MI 48026

We often seek spectacular events and miraculous interventions by which we hope to strengthen our faith. When major calamities occur, many jump to the conclusion that they are acts of divine retribution, God's sordid way of correcting misguided and evil human behavior. At other times, we wait for miracles to happen. Miracles happen in human history. They represent powerful signs of God's permanent love and closeness to his people. But we cannot base our faith on an occasional outburst of amazing, miraculous grace. In the Gospel, Jesus invites us to open our eyes to God's presence everywhere and at all times challenges us to look beyond spectacular and miraculous events in order to perceive the deeper message that he is trying to convey. Jesus invites us into a friendship with God which opens within us the path towards a greater sensitivity to the Spirit of God dwelling in human history, present in each and every moment and event, even those events that would normally be declared evil and not worthy of God's love and mercy. Even in the midst of such confusion and lack of good will, the Kingdom of God is present. When we accept and place our trust in God's promise that he is with us – Emmanuel – all things become possible; all closed doors become temporary obstacles awaiting the movement of God's Spirit in the world, a movement of mercy and love capable of opening new avenues of hope, love, mercy and peace.

♦ *reflections of Br. Michael Perry, OFM General Minister*

DECEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 	**2** 9:30 am - 11:30 am Council Meeting
3 ADVENT I *Pss Wk 1* BD: Dorothy Stapel	**4**	**5**	**6** BD: Mary Saber 1-4 pm: Social after Healing Service	**7** BD: Mary Ann Kristensen	**8** Immaculate Conception *(Holy Day of Obligation)* Meldrum Soup Kitchen: 10:00-1:00	**9**
10 ADVENT II *Pss Wk 2*	**11** BD: Ralph Mason	**12** BD: Irene Mecha 	**13** 1-4 pm: Social after Healing Service	**14** BD: Jacqueline Hale	**15**	**16** CONNOR Soup Kitchen: 10:30 am
17 ADVENT III *Pss Wk 3* BD: Hank Forys & Letty Aguilar FRATERNITY GATHERING 1:30 P.M.	**18**	**19**	**20** BD: Chuck Sapian 1-4 pm: Social after Healing Service	**21**	**22**	**23**
24 ADVENT IV *Pss Wk 4*	**25** CHRISTMAS BD: Pat Meldrum María Goatley	**26**	**27** 1-4 pm: Social after Healing Service	**28**	**29** BD: Lorna Brock	**30**
31 HOLY FAMILY *Proper* BD: Sylvia Snigier	**1** MARY, MOTHER OF GOD *(NOT a Holy Day of Obligation)*	**2**	**3** HOLY NAME OF JESUS 1-4 pm: Social after Healing Service	**4**	**5**	**6** 9:30 am - 11:30 am Council Meeting

Fax et Phonum

Minister
Maryann Kummer
Vice Minister
Eileen Smith
Treasurer
Laura Sapian
Secretary
Ray Mylenek
Formation Minister
Sylvia Snigier5
Councilors:
Joyce Brouilette
Ona Moore
Mary Myler
Brittney Walendzik

Spiritual Assistant:
Br. Patrick McSherry

APPOINTMENTS
Continuing Formation Coordinator:
Eileen Smith
Gospel Happenings Coordinator:
Brittney Walendzik
Healing Service Social Coordinators:
Ron Kessler
Hospitality co-Coordinators:
Ona Moore
Julia Ertzbischoff-Donohue
Infirmarian:
Jo Marie Nardi
JPIC Coordinator:
Joyce Brouillette
Soup Kitchen Coordinator:
TBA .....
Annual Picnic Coordinator:
Ona Moore

***The Poverello* is published by the**
St. Bonaventure Secular Franciscan Fraternity
1780 Mt. Elliott St.
Detroit, Michigan 48207
***Phone*: 313-579-2100, ext. 136**
***e-mail:* OFSDetroit@gmail.com**
http://www.sfostbonaventure-detroit.org
***editor:* Br. Pat McSherry, OFM Cap**

MAKING FRATERNITY HAPPEN

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

FRATERNITY MINISTRY OUTREACH:
HEALING PRAYER SERVICE SOCIAL
Wednesdays at 2 PM
&
Meldrum Soup Kitchen
2nd Friday of each month.

FRANCISCAN MINISTRIES
2nd Saturday of each month
10 a.m. - 11 a.m.
Franciscan Ministries Office next to St. Aloysius
Contact Joyce Brouilette

SOUP KITCHEN VOLUNTEERS

DECEMBER 8, 2017
Mary Myler
Jacqueline Hale
Marguerite Brannigan
Bernadette Mikowski
Paula Jerzy
Gerald Borycz

JANUARY 12, 2018
Mary Myler
Marguerite Brannigan

St. Bonaventure
Secular Franciscan Fraternity
1820 Mount Elliott Street
Detroit, Michigan 48207