

The Poverello

St. Bonaventure Secular Franciscans ✡ Detroit, Michigan

Vol. 77, no. 9—September 2017



Minister's Letter

My sisters and brothers,

RELATIONSHIP BUILDING – BRIDGE BUILDING – SERVICE

My heartfelt thanks to you for your overwhelming outpouring of love, kindness and prayerful support that you extended to me and my family at the time of passing of my beloved Mom. Your presence at the visitation and funeral Mass for my Mom touched my heart. I am deeply grateful for your phone calls, Mass cards, and thinking-of-you notes which continue to carry me through this journey.

At our fraternity gathering on August 20th, we held welcoming and admissions ceremonies. **Susan Barna Ayoub** and **Gerald Borycz** formally began the Inquiry Phase of our Initial Formation Program. **Sidney Davis II**, **Douglas Gordon** and **Margaret (Peggy Sue) Steele** were admitted into the Candidacy Phase. Congratulations **Susan, Gerald, Sidney, Doug, and Peggy Sue**.

On behalf of the entire fraternity I want to express our gratitude to **Doris Allen** for the presentation she gave on *Laudato Si'* at our fraternity gathering on August 20th. Great job, **Doris!**

PLEASE NOTE ON YOUR CALENDAR

- **Sunday, Sept. 10th – 3:00 p.m.** — All fraternity members are invited to attend the Mass during which the **LUMEN CHRISTI OFS FRATERNITY** will be canonically established. The Mass will take place at St. Vincent Pallotti Parish, 334 Elm, Wyandotte, MI 48192, with a reception to follow. If you plan to attend the Mass and reception, please RSVP to **Linda Solis** or **Dave Fry**.
- **Sunday, September 17th – 11:00 a.m.** — **DAY OF REFLECTION**: Our speaker will be **Michael Hovey** of the Archdiocese of Detroit's Office of Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations. Please remember to bring a brown bag lunch and, if you are able to do so, a dish to share. There will not be a Mass on our Day of Reflection.
- **Thursday, September 21st – 7:00 p.m.** — All fraternity members are invited to join the Capuchin Soup Kitchen and Solanus Center staffs for an **INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER FOR PEACE SERVICE** in the Monastery chapel. Keynote speaker will be Rochelle Riley, Detroit Free Press writer. We will pray for world peace, Detroit peace, and peace in our own hearts.
- **Tuesday, October 3rd – 7:00 p.m.** — **TRANSITUS SERVICE** in the Monastery chapel. The Transitus is more than a remembrance of the death of the poor man from Assisi, it is also a celebration of the Franciscan spirit alive today in us.
- **Wednesday, October 4th – 7:00 p.m.** — **MASS IN HONOR OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI** in the Monastery chapel, followed by a reception hosted by our fraternity in the social hall.
- **Sunday, October 15th – 1:30 p.m.** — **FRATERNAL and PASTORAL VISITATION** conducted by Regional Minister **David Sietz, OFS** and Regional Spiritual Assistant **Br. Loren Connell, OFM**.
- **Sunday, November 5th – 1:30 p.m.** — **PROFESSION MASS** — Because of the crowds expected throughout the Beatification weekend, our Profession Mass has been moved to Sunday, November 5th.
- **Saturday, November 18th – 4:00 p.m.** - **BEATIFICATION OF FR. SOLANUS CASEY, OFM CAP** at Ford Field.

REFLECTION

“Mindful that they are bearers of peace which must be built up unceasingly, they should seek out ways of unity and fraternal harmony through dialogue, trusting in the presence of the divine seed in everyone and in the transforming power of love and pardon. Messengers of perfect joy in every circumstance, they should strive to bring joy and hope to others.” (OFS Rule, 19)

“My peace I leave with you; not the peace that the world gives, but my peace.” (John 14:27)

What an amazing gift God has bestowed upon us – the gift of his peace. How do we experience this gift of peace? We experience it by resting in the presence of the Lord and developing that intimate relationship with him. Once we have experienced his peace which surpasses all understanding in our hearts, then we able to go forth as bearers of peace and share this gift with our family, our coworkers, our neighbors, our church members, and all those we encounter in our daily lives. As bearers of peace, we are to seek out ways of unity and harmony through dialogue, to respect the dignity of all people, and to build bridges in forming right relationships with others.

“An important element of the Franciscan spirit of peace is our readiness to recognize the transforming power of love and pardon. When people/nations are in conflict they are often overwhelmed by feelings of animosity, anger, hatred and ‘getting even.’ It will take time to tame these feelings. But experience shows us that clinging to them keeps us controlled by negative feelings. We are NOT free! When we allow the transforming power of love and pardon to enter our lives we will be moving toward freedom. We will also create a place of peace for others.”

- from *The Franciscan Journey* by Lester Bach, OFM Cap, 291

Please pray for all of our persecuted Christian brothers and sisters throughout the world, for peace and unity in our country and in the world, and for vocations to the Secular Franciscan Order. Have a safe and relaxing Labor Day weekend!

Your sister in Ss. Francis and Clare, Maryann



Mark your Calendars

September 16: Gleaners in Warren; 9:30 am - 11:30 am.
October 21: Capuchin Warehouse; 9:00 am - 12:00 pm.
November 11: Capuchin Warehouse; 9:00 am - 12:00 pm.
December 16: Conner Soup Kitchen in Detroit. 10:30 start.

“COME AND REST IN ME” RETREAT

October 2-4, 2017: Capuchin Retreat, Washington, Michigan

This year’s mid-week retreat will look at this theme from a Franciscan perspective. If we are going to rest in Christ, we need first of all to recognize his presence in all the circumstances of our lives. Part of that resting is to slow down and be quiet and pay attention to that constant presence. We don’t have to come or go anywhere; Christ is with us always. In this retreat we are invited to pay attention to that presence, to welcome that presence, to see what hinders us from being more aware of the presence of Christ. We need to have our eyes opened so that we can recognize him on the journey. Everyone is invited to attend the mid-week retreat from Monday, October 2-Wednesday, October 4, 2017 at the Capuchin Retreat Center, 62460 Mt. Vernon Road, Washington, MI 48094. The cost of the retreat is \$170.

For more information, contact JoMarie Nardi



2.....Rita Collins
4.....Joyce Brouillette
5.....Sidney Davis II
8.....Mary Burghardt
15.....Ray Mylenek
18.....George Pelyak
24.....Sheryl Ann Nordstrom
Br. Pat McSherry, OFM Cap
25.....Joe Gentile



Our Deceased

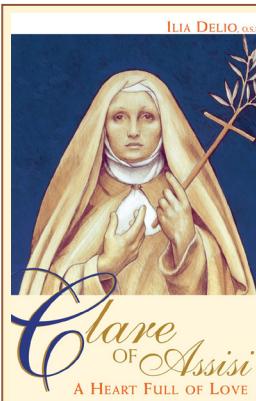
Fr. Michael Crosby, OFM Cap † August 5, 2017

Members of our Fraternity

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

COME AND SEE

On Sunday, September 17th, the St. Bonaventure Secular Franciscan Fraternity is hosting a new class of orientees. The gathering begins at 12 Noon in the second floor conference room of the Solanus Casey Center. Orientees are invited to remain for the fraternity gathering and social, if they wish. Please consider inviting even just one person to come and see what we are about. We are looking for practicing, dedicated Catholics. Invite them, and let them decide if they want to pursue the Gospel way of life for themselves.



NEXT BOOK DISCUSSION

October 15, 2017

*Clare of Assisi,
A Heart Full of Love*
by Ilia Delio, OSF
Chapters 1 and 2

→ **Solanus Center Library** ←
10:45am to 11:45 am

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
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

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

Jo Marie Nardi



Capuchin Soup Kitchen

Volunteers Needed

Please consider volunteering to serve at the Meldrum Capuchin Soup Kitchen. We have four (4) members signed up for September 8th and three (3) for October 13th. **Six (6) volunteers (at a minimum) are requested by the CSK Volunteer Coordinator to adequately staff the serving line.** We have never had six people sign up for any single date, and as a consequence have needed to use food prep volunteers to fill in the vacancies. Thank you for your kind consideration!

Pay your bill online.

Fast.

Easy.

Secure.



Bill Pay for Donations

You can now use Bill Pay to send your donations, Fair Share, etc. automatically from your bank to the fraternity. No more writing checks; it's all automatic and secure. I (Laura) have already set mine up and it works great.

The following information is needed to use Bill Pay for our Fraternity donations.

**St. Bonaventure Secular Franciscan Fraternity
1820 Mt. Elliott Street
Detroit, MI 48207**

Comerica Bank

Account number 1840035362

Routing number 072000096

If you have any questions about how to set this up at your banking institution, feel free to call your **Laura Sapián**.

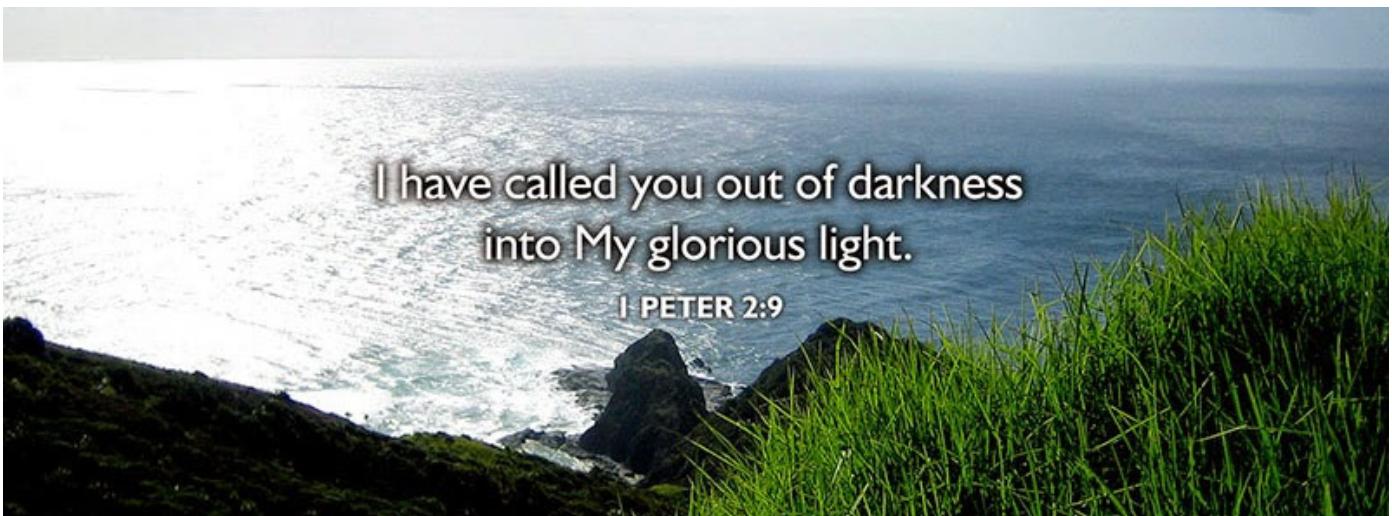
800 Years since the Birth of St. Bonaventure

The eighth centenary of the birth of St. Bonaventure is celebrated this year. Bonaventure, a central figure in the Franciscan Family, was born around 1217 in Bagnoregio, close to Orvieto (Italy). He joined the Order in 1245, having already graduated with an Arts degree. In doing so he was influenced by Alexander of Hales who, because of his attraction to Franciscan spirituality, had previously made the transition from the world of academics to that of the cloister. Bonaventure was a Master of Theology in Paris in 1255; in 1257 he was elected Minister General; and the year 1272 saw him as Cardinal Bishop of Albano with responsibility for the preparation of the Council of Lyon, during which he died on July 15, 1274. His complete works, the *Opera Omnia*, were published in 9 volumes between 1882 and 1902 by the friars of Quaracchi.

**“If you do not know your own dignity and condition,
you cannot value anything at its proper worth.”**



– Saint Bonaventure, *Holiness of Life*



Man In the Middle

by Doug Gordon

There was a time when all was so very simple - it was just me and my dreams. A young boy playing football in the front yard - dreaming of scoring the last second touchdown - leaping over the pile of lineman like Barry Sanders or Tony Dorsett. Oh how simple and marvelous were those days!!

Family and friends and all the world seemed so kind, loyal and beautiful. Hope and opportunity abundantly in my present and future. There was nothing I could imagine as impossible.

But, I was not aware that I was a man caught in the middle. A man caught between the world and heaven. In this position I was standing unarmed on a battlefield between the devil and God, between sin and righteousness.

Being unarmed, it did not take long for me to become wounded. One action leading to permanent consequences. A compounding series of consequences that distorted the path toward gaining and sustaining love, joy and peace.

Accolades, partying, intimacy and greed where the pillars of my being. Pleasing others and fearing rejection were primary goals. Leading a life seen as the “normal” or “right way” was the dream. If I did this - then I would have “peace in my house.”

In the end there was no peace in my house.

You are loved, but you reject it. You reject it for a love that is not pure. You reject it for love that comes from only a few directions but most always one that is sought for yourself and your benefit.

Where has this source of love led you? It has led you to remain a man in the middle. Therefore, it has led you to ruin. Yes, ruin. For when these sources of love run empty, you seek it out like an addiction.

An addiction that causes you to move from one thing, one substance, one relationship, one drink to another. It moves you toward jealousy, distrust, contempt, judgment and hostility. It moves to a state of ruin.

Your life exists in two domains. In the world you walk as others and seem “normal.” On the inside, however, you walk in the netherworld. Your mind is dark, your heart thirsts and you walk in the catacombs below the dirt. There, wondering in the depths of loneliness, you can imagine no hope. You just feel defeated, ashamed, small and unworthy.

There is no peace in this house.

In the darkness you stay. Every so often surfacing to the light, but then by a sudden and forceful pull you are thrown back into the aimless corridors of the catacombs. You have lost your way and back to ruin!

In desperation you call out. The tears flow from your eyes. In desperation you seek a flashlight to find a path out of your pain and to a place of love.

But when the darkness does not leave, you become desperate even more to start to seek love within the darkness. Deeper and deeper you fall into the abyss of false love and the lies that are the weapons on the battlefield on which you stand unarmed.

Fully deranged by the beatings of the world, you seek to be saved. You want it all to end. For there is no peace in this house.

So, you try to destroy the house! You can see no way off the battlefield. The devil has you in chains and you are starving and weak due to the scavenging of your mind and body while you stood unarmed in the middle.

But the house is too strong. Love of another kind is present. The love of God. A love that sends out the helping hands of disciples. Your wife, friends, priests, doctors, employers and strangers. Disciples who hand you a flashlight so you can find the path out of the world and beyond the tyranny of the devil. Disciples who bring you back to God.

Now the house is being reconstructed. Now the ruins are being restored — one stone, one prayer, one action, one conversion moment at a time.

Peace is building within the walls of this house once again!!

Thanks be to God. Thanks be to my neighbors. Thanks to those who are fighting God's battle and "loving one another."

BUILDING A FRATERNAL AND EVANGELICAL WORLD

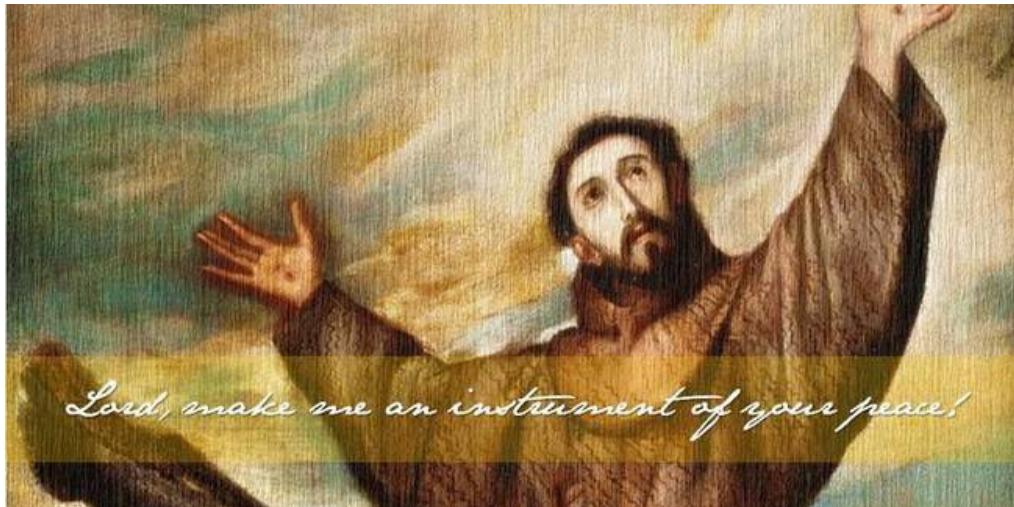
The Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order calls Secular Franciscans to observe the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ by following the example of St. Francis of Assisi, who made Christ the inspiration and the centre of his life with God and people (Rule, Art. 4). Similar to the life of St. Francis himself, the life of Secular Franciscans tends to oscillate between developing an internal spiritual life while also developing an external life which reaches out to others with concrete actions. Secular Franciscans do not live their lives for themselves, but rather live it in an outwardly direction towards people in need. The OFS Rule is clear on this point. "Secular Franciscans, together with all people of good will, are called to build a more fraternal and evangelical world so that the kingdom of God may be brought about more effectively" (Rule, Art. 14). Individually and collectively, Secular Franciscans are to be in the forefront in promoting justice by the testimony of their human lives and their courageous initiatives (Rule, Art. 15). In this regard, initiatives that promote justice, peace-making and care of creation are central to living out the Franciscan charism. For this reason, fraternal life should include a specific focus on JPIC (Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation) and its works.

However, while concrete actions in the area of justice, peace and integrity of creation are essential, developing an internal disposition through prayer is also a prerequisite to any initiatives that are directed towards building a more fraternal and evangelical world. "As Jesus was the true worshipper of the Father, so let prayer and contemplation be the soul of all they are and do" (Rule, Art. 8).

From the National Minister OFS-USA

August 14, 2017

May the peace and love of Christ fill our hearts!



Dear Sisters and Brothers,

This past week set us on our knees asking God's mercy on our own country, on North Korea and on the whole world. Now our country is again shaken and saddened by violence and hatred, this time by the events in Charlottesville, Virginia. Again we are on our knees, asking our loving God to bring peace and healing.

Something that has been on my heart for many weeks is a renewed call to prayer before the Cross — more specifically, I have been pondering St. Francis' time of prayer during the *Lent of St. Michael*.

As you know, Francis observed the days from the Feast of the Assumption, August 15th, to the Feast of St. Michael, September 29th, at least in 1224, by retreating to La Verna. In my experience as a Franciscan, this "second Lent" has not been widely practiced, but perhaps as Brothers and Sisters of Penance we should seriously consider its merits.

My own resolve to enter this Lent has deepened, and so for me a 40+ day journey starts tomorrow. I'm already trying to get my mind around the fact of Lent right here in the midst of Ordinary Time. I know I will be led, but it will be interesting to see just how this works out in practice.

I invite you to consider this Lent, too, as a way to be united in prayer and action — but, of course, it is only one way among many. Always, in the various ways that the Holy Spirit leads each of us, we remain united — one in our prayer and in our actions, one in our common Franciscan journey and one in our call to live the Gospel. For these bonds of fraternity we are can be ever thankful!

May the Cross which spoke to Francis continue to speak to us and, in fact, be our very way of life (see Luke 9:23)!

St. Maximilian Kolbe, and all holy Franciscan saints, pray for us! Holy Mary, Mother of God, protectress of our Order and of the Americas, pray for our country, and for us, that we might bear your Son to the world!

Peace and love, (and Happy Lent!)
Your sister, Jan Parker OFS, Minister
Secular Franciscan Order, U.S.A.



Catholic concern for the environment was solidified by (St.) Pope John Paul II's World Day of Peace Message for 1990. So great was the impact of this document that it effectively ended debate about *whether* Catholics should be concerned about the environment and shifted the discussion to *how* Catholics should express their care for creation. While most conventional environmentalists point to unbridled industrial growth and flawed public policy as agents of our ecological crises, John Paul II challenged all people to recognize an even deeper cause of these ills: our sin, selfishness and lack of respect for life. He argued that it is from our disordered understanding of what it means to be human—in relationship to God, to our fellow human beings and to creation—that so many of our ecological crises flow.

John Paul II urged greater openness to Gospel values as one means of making ecologically-wise choices. He also outlined ethical duties of human individuals and institutions on all levels: for the nations of the world to cooperate internationally in the management of the earth's goods; for individual nations to care for their citizens; and for individuals to undertake an education in ecological responsibility for themselves, for others and for the earth. Finally, he reminded Catholics of "their serious obligation to care for all creation," expressing the "hope that the inspiration of Saint Francis will help us to keep ever alive a sense of 'fraternity' with all those good and beautiful things that Almighty God has created."

In the last years of his life, John Paul II more explicitly linked ecological concern with the principles of Catholic Social Teaching. Human flourishing was as vitally important as the biological and physical flourishing of creation. The "cry of the earth" could not be separated from the "cry of the poor". His life-long affirmation of the importance of the principle of "solidarity," with its recognition of inescapable human interdependence, proved quite compatible both with St. Francis' vision and with a wider ecological consciousness.

september.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Ordinary Time Week 21 Pss Wk 1					1 World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation	2 9:30 am - 11:30 am Leadership Council Meeting
3 Ordinary Time Week 22 Pss Wk 2	4 LABOR DAY	5	6	7	8 Meldrum Soup Kitchen: 10:00-1:00	9
10 BD: Janet Atkinson	11 	12	13 1-4 pm: Social after Healing Service	14	15	16 Gleaners in Warren 9:30-11:30 am
17 Ordinary Time Week 24 Pss Wk 4 Fraternity Day of Reflection 11:00 AM	18	19	20 1-4 pm: Social after Healing Service	21 International Day of Prayer for Peace 7:00 pm Monastery chapel	22	23 St. Pio, ofm cap
24 BD: Br. Pat	25	26	27 1-4 pm: Social after Healing Service	28	29	30

Fax et Phonum

Minister

Maryann Kummer

Vice Minister

Eileen Smith

Treasurer

Laura Sapian

Secretary

Ray Mylenek

Formation Minister

Sylvia Snigier

Councilors:

Joyce Brouillette

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 Coordinator:

Ona Moore

Infirmarian:

Jo Marie Nardi

JPIC Coordinator:

Joyce Brouillette

Soup Kitchen Coordinator:

Ray Mylenek

Annual Picnic Coordinator:

Ona Moore

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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

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

Mary Ann and Hugh Montpetit

**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 Brouillette

SOUP KITCHEN VOLUNTEERS**SEPTEMBER 8, 2017**

Mary Myler

Jacqueline Hale

Bernadette Mikowski

Paula Jerzy

OCTOBER 13, 2017

Mary Myler

Bernadette Mikowski

Paula Jerzy

For more information,
call Ray Mylenek

OFSDetroit@gmail.com
<http://www.sfostbonaventure-detroit.org>

Join us on FACEBOOK:
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