

# The Poverello

St. Bonaventure Secular Franciscans ☩ Detroit, Michigan

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Pope Francis praying in at the Portiuncola, inside the Basilica of Santa Maria degli Angeli in 2016

# Minister's Letter

Brothers and Sisters,

## The formation journey continues!

**Gregory Johnson** and **Charles Kotcher** have begun Inquiry. **Josh Gibson, Joseph Quesnelle** and **Steve Wasko** have been admitted to Candidacy. You have the fraternity's full support through our prayer and example as you discern your Franciscan vocation.

## Water is a Sacred Trust!

Our February gathering guest speaker **Mary Ellen Howard, RSM** gave an educational presentation on the human right to water and our responsibility to protect it. Mary Ellen is a member of the Peoples Water Board. She advocates at national and local levels for public health issues, including the human right to affordable safe water for all. We had several guests from the community attend making for good discussion on these issues. Mary Ellen brought to our attention the injustices of water issues impacting our neighborhoods. She encouraged each of us to understand the issues and shared with us how to help. Below are highlights from her presentation.

## WATER ISSUES IN MICHIGAN

- Weed-killer runoff from Ohio farms into Lake Erie causing algae
- Nestle's draining the groundwater
- Infrastructure Failure in urban water systems
- Industrial contamination
- Poisoning of Flint Water
- Lead pipes
- Threats of Privatization, e.g., Veoleo, etc.
- Extraction Industries, e.g. Fracking
- Oil spill in the Kalamazoo River
- Line 5 across the Straits of Mackinac
- PFAS contamination of soil and water
- MDEQ Failure to Protect, e.g., Flint, Mecosta County
- Affordability, e.g., Detroit shutoffs

## WHAT CAN YOU DO? LOTS!

- Find out what your municipality does when households cannot afford to pay their water bill. Do they shut off water?
- Help your neighbors who are without water.
- Boycott bottled water.
- Ask restaurants to make water (and straws) optional
- Support legislation to make clean, affordable water a human right, and to preserve water as a public trust
- Volunteer with/support a local NPO working on water
- Invite PWB to speak to your church or your neighborhood
- Participate in PWB meetings, 2nd Tues 5:30pm, Cass Commons at Cass and Forest, behind Cass UUC.
- Support the work of PWB by donating at [www.peopleswaterboard.org](http://www.peopleswaterboard.org)

## REFLECTION

“Hospitality means primarily the creation of a free space where the stranger can enter and become a friend

instead of an enemy. Hospitality is not to change people but to offer them space where change can take place. It is not to bring men and women over to our side, but to offer freedom not disturbed by dividing lines... The paradox of hospitality is that it wants to create emptiness, not a fearful emptiness, but a friendly emptiness where strangers can enter and discover themselves as created free; free to sing their own songs, speak their own languages, dance their own dances; free also to leave and follow their own vocations. Hospitality is not a subtle invitation to adore the lifestyle of the host, but the gift of a chance for the guest to find his own.” by Henri Nouwen, renowned priest and author.

Our Rule 13 challenges us to accept all people as a gift of the Lord and an image of Christ. As we begin our Lenten journey will we make room for the stranger to enter our heart as a friend? Will the Lord find a more hospitable heart where the mystery of the incarnation can take place in a greater way within us?

My prayer for you this Lent is a loving transformation into a deeper life in Christ. We are his body and we meet him in the mirror and in every face we encounter.

Your sister in Christ,  
Eileen

## FRATERNITY VISION: RELATIONSHIP BUILDING – BRIDGE BUILDING – SERVICE

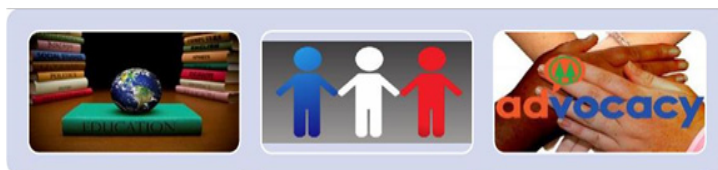
» **DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET**- Beginning this Lent, our fraternity will lead the Divine Mercy Chaplet on **Wednesdays and Fridays at 3pm at the Solanus Casey Center**. The chaplet will be recited in St. Bonaventure Chapel in front of the Sacred Heart Chapel. **Ron Kessler** will coordinate the leader for **Wednesdays** and **Sidney Davis** will lead the chaplet on **Fridays**. **Ron Kessler is asking for 3 members to work the Healing Services**. This will allow one person the lead the chaplet and 2 to remain in the kitchen/dining room. We are fulfilling a request from Fr. David Preuss (Solanus Center Director) who asked the Fraternity to lead this initiative.

» **March 17 Gathering** – Get Ready for our Day of Reflection with our very own spiritual assistant **Fr. Bill Hugo** presenting!! **The Gathering will begin at 11am**. Remember to bring a brown bag lunch and something to share. We will also be collecting white towels for **Regina High School’s white towel drive** for the veterans at Piquette Square. **Hank Forsys** is leading this effort.

## CIRCLES OF SUPPORT – A Humanitarian Response to Immigration

At our last fraternity meeting, I briefly and rather quickly introduced a humanitarian effort called Circles of Support. This article is intended to provide the membership with a slightly more in-depth understanding of this effort and where we are headed. It is my prayer that the fraternity will embrace this humanitarian endeavor.

Within the Circle of Support there is room for the expression of God’s gifts to all our Franciscan brothers and sisters. Each pillar may include a wide variety of activity.



The Circle of Support (CoS) is led by a group of parishioners/fraternity members who answer the call to receive migrants as our brothers and sisters. The CoS is charged with the goals of (1) Educating about immigrants and refugees; (2) Spiritual Works of Mercy; (3) Accompanying immigrants, and (4) Advocating for

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the implementation of the social teachings of the Catholic Church. immigrants and refugees; (2) Spiritual Works of Mercy; (3) Accompanying immigrants, and (4) Advocating for the implementation of the social teachings of the Catholic Church.

- **Education:** Invite Speakers (Immigrant families; immigration lawyers; and community/religious leaders and representatives from other Parishes that have formed a CoS). Visit other parishes to inform them of the issues and/or hold community informational events.
- **Spiritual Works of Mercy:** Offer prayers of the faithful at Mass. Conduct prayer events, such as Holy Hours, vigils, and adoration.
- **Accompaniment:** Accompanying is a personal and sacrificial act with migrants. Accompaniment entails a range of activities such as organizing celebrations, fundraisers, caring for an individual migrant family, and supporting migrant families going through legal challenges (i.e. imprisonment, deportation, homelessness and etc.).
- **Advocacy:** Supporting and advancing Catholic Social teaching on the proper response to immigration and refugees. Supporting the regional, national and international OSFs positions relevant to immigration, including phone calls and writing elected officials.

At its February meeting, our Leadership Council approved the following strategy for developing a Circle of Support:

1. Identify a group of fraternity members to lead the planning and presentation of the Circle of Support to the general fraternity.
2. Visit with representatives of Strangers No Longer, Freedom House, and Parishes to gain wisdom in how to fully implement the Circle of Support.
3. Request fraternity members to volunteer for roles within the Circle of Support.
4. Advocate support of other local fraternities and the regional council in our effort to create a Circle of Support.

Over the past two months, brothers and sisters within our fraternity and other brothers and sisters in Christ (**Doris Allen, Eileen Smith, Father Bill Hugo, Brittney Walendzik, Mary Myler, Mike Carsten, Kathleen Carsten, Sally McCuen, Sister Karen Donahue, and Bill O'Brien**) have been discussing ways in which we may advance the work being performed by others and raise the spiritual and physical offerings of our fraternity to foster the Holy Trinity's greater wisdom over the issue of immigration and migration. These efforts have had great outcomes.

First, following the February fraternity meeting, several members requested to be part of the CoS. Second, a few members met with the CoS formed at St. Regis (Bloomfield Hills) on Tuesday, February 19th. We have also met with representatives of Strangers No Longer and Sisters of Mercy.

The next step is to schedule meeting dates to continue exploring how to best implement CoS in our fraternity. This includes developing a mission statement and goals. While we are still in the exploration and development phases, it has been immensely encouraging to receive a very positive response from several fraternity members. If you are interested in supporting the CoS and attending upcoming meetings, please contact **Doug Gordon**, OFS.

May the peace of the Lord be with you and may your prayer and contemplation regarding this initiative lead to the fulfillment of the Lord's will.

Your Brother,  
Doug Gordon, OFS



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- 6.....Ilene Manning
- 7.....Patricia Cardello
- 11.....Laura Sopian
- 26.....Doug Gordon
- 27.....Maryann Kummer
- 29.....Brittney Walendzik
- 31.....Charlotte Heymes



### Members of our Fraternity

- |                            |                         |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Dan and Jan Atkinson       | Mabel Michaels          |
| Janet and John Bodell      | Hugh Montpetit          |
| Claire Boutain             | Mary Ann Montpetit      |
| Joyce Brouillette          | Stella Mordarski        |
| Pat Cardello               | Ray Mylenek             |
| Julia Ertzbischoff-Donahue | Barbara Pardington      |
| Mary Gillen                | George Pelyak           |
| James Heymes               | Joe Quesnelle           |
| Caroline and Ted Hojna     | Diane Raymond           |
| Anna May Jezak             | Marilyn Ricard          |
| Gary Johnson               | Mary Saber              |
| Louis Joseph               | Joe Sopian              |
| Joyce Kaminski             | Bridget Schultz         |
| Esther Kelley              | Eileen Smith            |
| Ron Kessler                | Ben Stapel              |
| Sharon Krill               | Ruby Thompson           |
| Patricia Long              | Anna Tyler              |
| Ilene Manning & Family     | Terry Westbrook-Lienert |
|                            | Joseph Wisk             |

## Gospel Happenings Calendar

There was a misprint last month for the upcoming luncheon at St. Charles.

**The correct date is Sunday, March 3 from 11:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at St. Charles Borromeo for the Corporate Communion Mass and Luncheon.**

Please contact **Sharon Krill** for volunteering.

**Saturday, April 20 from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm** at Capuchin Warehouse on Medbury.

*Please help to keep our prayer list up-to-date. Call: Jo Marie Nardi at*

### Our Deceased

Fr. Joe Maloney, OFM Cap., former spiritual assistant

### Our Deceased Relatives

Bernadette Marsh, cousin of Julia Ertzbischoff-Donahue  
 David Bushe, cousin of Jo Marie Nardi  
 Leroy Szarofinski, cousin of Jo Marie Nardi

### Relatives needing prayers

Yolando Bango, cousin of Melissa Lindow  
 Lee Borycz, wife of candidate Jerry Borycz  
 Alice Greene, sister of Hank Forys  
 Denise Joseph, daughter of Louis  
 David Kaminski, son of Joyce Joe Quesnelle  
 Frances Krempasky, daughter of Mary Krempasky  
 Patricia Mcleary, mother of Therese Joseph  
 Jean Nozewski, wife of Thomas Nozewski  
 Kathleen Penridge, cousin of Julia Ertzbischoff-Donahue  
 Theresa Poole, mother of Mary  
 Jim Smith, grandson of Claire Boutain  
 Tom Sherfield, son-in-law of Claire Boutain  
 Sandra Woods Family  
 Rita Walendzik, mother-in-law of Brittney Walendzik



# March

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 3 p.m. Divine Mercy	2 10:0 am - 11:30 am Council Meeting
3 ST. CHARLES BORROMEEO MASS & LUNCHEON 11:30 A.M. - 4:00 P.M. <i>Pss Week 4</i>	4	5	6 ASH WEDNESDAY 3 p.m. Divine Mercy BD: Ilène Manning 1-4 pm: Social after Healing Service	7 BD: Patricia Cardello	8 3 p.m. Divine Mercy	9
10 <i>Pss Week 1</i>	11 BD: Laura Sapien	12	13 3 p.m. Divine Mercy 1-4 pm: Social after Healing Service	14	15 3 p.m. Divine Mercy	16
 17 <i>Pss Week 2</i> FRATERNITY GATHERING 1:30 P.M.	18	19 	20 3 p.m. Divine Mercy 1-4 pm: Social after Healing Service	21	22 3 p.m. Divine Mercy	23
24 <i>Pss Week 3</i>	25	26 BD: Doug Gordon	27 3 p.m. Divine Mercy BD: Maryann Kummer 1-4 pm: Social after Healing Service	28	29 3 p.m. Divine Mercy BD: Brittney Walendzik	30
31 BD: Charlotte Heymes <i>Pss Week 4</i>						

# Fax et Phonum

## Minister

Eileen Smith .....

## Vice Minister

Brittney Walendzik .....

## Treasurer

Stephen Garcia .....

## Secretary

Doris Allen .....

## Formation Minister

Maryann Kummer.....

## Councilors:

Melissa Lindow .....

Ron Kessler .....

Sharon Krill .....

Ona Moore.....

## Spiritual Assistant:

Fr. Bill Hugo

## APPOINTMENTS

### Continuing Formation Coordinator:

Brittney Walendzik.....

### Gospel Happenings Coordinator:

Sharon Krill .....

### Healing Service Social Coordinators:

Ron Kessler .....

### Hospitality co-Coordinators:

Ona Moore.....

Julia Ertzbischoff-Donohue

### Infirmarian:

Jo Marie Nardi.....

### Caring Hearts

Melissa Lindow .....

### JPIC Coordinator:

Doris Allen .....

### Annual Picnic Coordinator:

Ona Moore.....

## MAKING FRATERNITY HAPPEN

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

Eileen Smith.....

## FRATERNITY MINISTRY OUTREACH:

### HEALING PRAYER SERVICE SOCIAL

Wednesdays at 2 PM

### FRANCISCAN MINISTRIES

2nd Saturday of each month

10 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Franciscan Ministries Office next to St. Aloysius  
Contact

## FRANCISCAN BOOK DISCUSSION

Prior to each of our monthly meetings, from 10:45 a.m. until Noon, a Franciscan Book Discussion group gathers in the Solanus Center Library for anyone interested. For more information, contact:

Jacqueline Hale at

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