

The Poverello

St. Bonaventure Secular Franciscans ✠ Detroit, Michigan

Vol. 80, no. 2— February 2020



Brothers and Sisters,

The US Bishops Committee for Pro-Life Activities recently met with Pope Francis at Vatican City. I believe what was discussed is pertinent to us. I've included part of the article below. It was published by the Catholic News Service on January 16, 2020.

VATICAN CITY — Protecting human life is the “preeminent” social and political issue, Pope Francis said, and he asked the head of the U.S. bishops’ Committee for Pro-Life Activities to convey his support to the pro-life community.

Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann of Kansas City, Kansas, chairman of the bishops’ committee, told Catholic News Service Jan. 16 that the pope agreed with the U.S. bishops “identifying the protection of the unborn as a preeminent priority.”

“His response to that was, ‘Of course, it is. It’s the most fundamental right,’” Naumann recalled the pope saying. “He said, ‘This is not first a religious issue; it’s a human rights issue,’ which is so true.”

Naumann was one of 15 bishops from Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska making their “ad limina” visits to the Vatican in mid-January to report on the status of their dioceses. He and other bishops spoke to Catholic News Service Jan. 16 after meeting with the pope for more than two hours.

Naumann said he told the pope that since the Roe v. Wade court decision legalized abortion, an estimated 61 million abortions have taken place in the United States.

“I think the pope was truly kind of stunned by that number,” Naumann said. “Sadly, our abortion policies are one of the most liberal in the world. The fact is that it really is literally for all nine months of pregnancy. Most other nations don’t permit (abortions) at least at a certain point in the pregnancy.”

Naumann said that while Francis has “elevated issues like the care of refugees and migrants,” he also understands that the situation in the United States is different compared to other countries.

“I think sometimes as he elevates those things, people mistakenly think, ‘Well, that means that the abortion issue will become less important,’” he said.

Archbishop Robert J. Carlson of St. Louis told CNS it was “beautiful” when the pope explained why life was the number one, most important issue, “because if you’re not alive you can’t do anything else.”

Carlson said they also talked about the importance of supporting pregnant women and making sure they have the resources they need to support that life.

While Francis “certainly talked about abortion as a preeminent issue,” Carlson said, “at the same time he said there’s another significant issue and that would be ‘transgender’ — where we are trying to make all human beings the same, it makes no difference, you can be whoever you want to be.”

The pope, he said, brought the issue up as an example of “another significant issue in our day.”

Asked whether the pope then gave the bishops any advice on how to handle the transgender

debate, Carlson said the pope touched on the way proponents believe people are “all one and that there’s no difference, which would fly in the face of what (St.) John Paul II talked about on complementarity and it would fly in the face of the dignity of the woman and the dignity of the man, that we could just change into whatever we wanted.”

Of course, he said, a pope or a bishop or any religious leader must focus on a variety of issues and concerns, but “there are some people who are one-issue people and so they’re never satisfied if you don’t focus totally on that.”

The Catholic Church’s positions are not partisan political positions, he said, since both Democrats and Republicans may not agree with its position on different issues.

“But I am not a Republican and I’m not a Democrat,” Carlson said. “My job is to be a teacher of the faith and then to walk the talk.”

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight of Jefferson City, Missouri, said that on the issue of abortion, Francis “simply reiterated what he’s already said in many different ways,” which is that “without life, what other rights are there? So, you have to begin with that. It’s not the only issue — I don’t think anybody has ever said that. But when you’re looking at the core beliefs and the more essential rights, the right to life of the unborn is very important.”

The pope, he said, “put it in a very beautiful way: Do we always want to simply eliminate those who are inconvenient? And, unfortunately, that’s part of our culture in the United States — the practice, the habit, if you will, of just eliminating the uncomfortable, the unwanted, as the solution. And we’re called to be better than that. We as a country are better than that.”

When the U.S. bishops say, “the right to life is the ‘preeminent issue’” in Catholics’ political concerns, “that word is carefully chosen,” McKnight said. “Because we want to avoid the perspective or the understanding that it’s the only issue — because it is not.”

Catholic voters, he said, need to be aware of a more general tendency or temptation “to get rid of unwanted people,” whether they are the unborn or the aged, immigrants or the poor. “There is a certain consistency that is required of us as Catholics.”

What is your passion? Pro-Life, Migration/Refugees, Poverty, Sex Trafficking, Safe Water, the Elderly, the Youth etc. How are you called to serve? All of us are Christians and pursue holiness in hopes to become the best version of ourselves all while helping Jesus redeem the world. The beauty of Fraternity is that there is room for each of us to pursue various interests and ways to serve. Fraternity allows us to accept one and other for who we are and others for who they are in pursuit of holiness. As I look at February, I see many opportunities to serve around town.

The **40 Days for Life Prayer Vigils** kicks off on Ash Wednesday. Information on these vigils are as follows and more information can be found on their website:

<https://40daysforlife.com/local-campaigns/>

Ferndale (outside the Planned Parenthood abortion center on Woodward at 9 1/2 Mile Rd)

Macomb (outside the Women’s (abortion) Center on 15 Mile Rd & Dodge Park)

Southfield (outside the Northland Family Planning abortion center on Evergreen at Northwestern)

Sterling Heights (outside the Northland Family Planning abortion center on 17 Mile Rd & Ryan)

Westland (outside the Northland Family Planning abortion center on Ford Rd by Wayne Rd)

Stranger No Longer Holy Hours

Saturday, February 1 (and every first Saturday through June), 10:00 a.m., Blessed Sacrament Cathedral

Tuesday, February 25 7:00 - 8:00 p.m., St. Michael, 40501 Hayes, Sterling Heights 48313

Thursday, February 27, 5:45 p.m., Gesu Church, 17180 Oak Drive, Detroit 48221

Friday, February 28, St. Andre Bessette, 4250 W. Jefferson, Ecorse 48229

Monday, March 20, 6:30 p.m., Christ the Good Shepherd, 1540 Riverbank, Lincoln Park, 48146

Saturday, April 4, 10:00 a.m., Closing of Prayer and Fasting Campaign, Blessed Sacrament Cathedral, 9844 Woodward Ave, Detroit 48202

Knights of Columbus Monthly Rosary

Beginning **January 25 at 3:15 p.m.** at the Solanus Casey Center the Knights will pray the rosary with hospitality following. They will pray on the 4th Saturday of each month at 3:15. All are welcome.

Bulletin Board Opportunities – We have a portion of the bulletin board in the Solanus Center hallway leading to the kitchen. This is a very visible board and it is important to keep the information current and give a welcoming presence. Ona has signed up for February to update the board. I'm looking for a person each month to keep the board current. It doesn't take long and it definitely helps promote our fraternity among the Solanus Center visitors. Thank you ahead of time!!

Poverello – If you have not been getting your Poverello mailing please let me know. I want to make sure we have everyone on the list. Also, if you have a change of address, email address or phone please let me know. This helps keep our member roster current.

Gratitude Corner

I want to thank **Mary Myler, Ron Kessler, Charles Kotcher, Brittney Walendzik** and their friends for participating in the Strangers No Longer – Families in Flight on Saturday January 11 at Holy Trinity. (My apologies if I missed others in attendance). They were in the procession and held our banner showing support. There was music, poems, dance, prayer, scripture readings, and a talk by Luz Ramas. If you remember Luz visited our fraternity in 2019. I had a chance to speak with Luz. Luz is doing well. She moved last month to a home near Holy

Trinity. The neighborhood is more family friendly. She is happy and grateful for our support and the support of Strangers No Longer.

REFLECTIONS

--from Kathleen Carsten, Divine Mercy Region JPIC Animator and Carolyn Townes, National JPIC Animator

Blessings to all in 2020!

I forward to you the 2020 Newsletter from Carolyn Townes, our National Animator Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation Animator.

I hope in this year of 2020, we all will be lovers of and, therefore, activists for peace. Who we are in Jesus and our expression of love for him through Francis and Clare make it possible for us to be peacemakers and observers.

Article 19 of our Rule:

“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.

Since they are immersed in the resurrection of Christ, which gives true meaning to Sister Death, let them serenely tend toward the ultimate encounter with the Father.”

Love to you in 2020,
Pax et Bonum

Kathleen Carsten, OFS
DMR Councilor and JPIC Animator

Greetings of peace, dear Franciscan Family!

I pray this finds you well and filled with the peace of our loving Lord.

I wish you all a Blessed and Happy New Year as we not only move into this brand new year, but this brand new decade. Let us thank our Lord for the blessings and the grace to enter this new decade. Praise be!

In last year's World Day of Peace Message, our Holy Father, Pope Francis, began by stating that "Bringing peace is central to the mission of Christ's disciples." Peace is especially central to the mission of each and every one of us who professed the rule of the Franciscan way of life. Saint Francis epitomized peace and we are called to live as Francis lived. We live in violent times and our very lives and vocations call us to be bearers of peace in this world.

It is fitting that the World Day of Peace message for 2020 is entitled: **"Peace as a Journey of Hope: Dialogue, Reconciliation and Ecological Conversion."** Pope Francis begins this message with, *"Peace is a great and precious value, the object of our hope and the aspiration of the entire human family."* The Holy Father goes on to say, *"Our human community bears, in its memory and its flesh, the scars of ever more devastating wars and conflicts that affect especially the poor and the vulnerable."* Unfortunately, this is an all too familiar scenario in our world today. In our Christian and Franciscan journeys, we see the face of Christ in everyone we encounter, especially the poor and the vulnerable. To see Christ in every face, that is the beginning of hope. When we can see and acknowledge the face of love in others, it is difficult to have hate or fear in our hearts towards them.

This month is also Poverty Awareness Month, Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month as well as the Christian unity octave of prayer. What I love about January is not only a fresh new start, but the reminders to think and pray about those who are on the margins and pray with other Christians. Also, the poorest of the poor, the unborn – we are called to pray for them this month as well.

Thank you for your hearts, your minds and your hands that work for peace and justice. I pray that this new year bear much fruit and produce great works as live a faith that does justice. It is also my prayer that we continue the good work that God began in us with compassionate dialogue, reconciliation and ecological conversion. Imagine every conversation as a sacred moment with our Lord, who always listens with the ears of faith, hope and love. My heart is full because the greatest of these is love.

I wish you love, joy, peace, and a very blessed New Year!

Carolyn D. Townes, OFS National Animator, Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation

U.S. Secular Franciscan Order

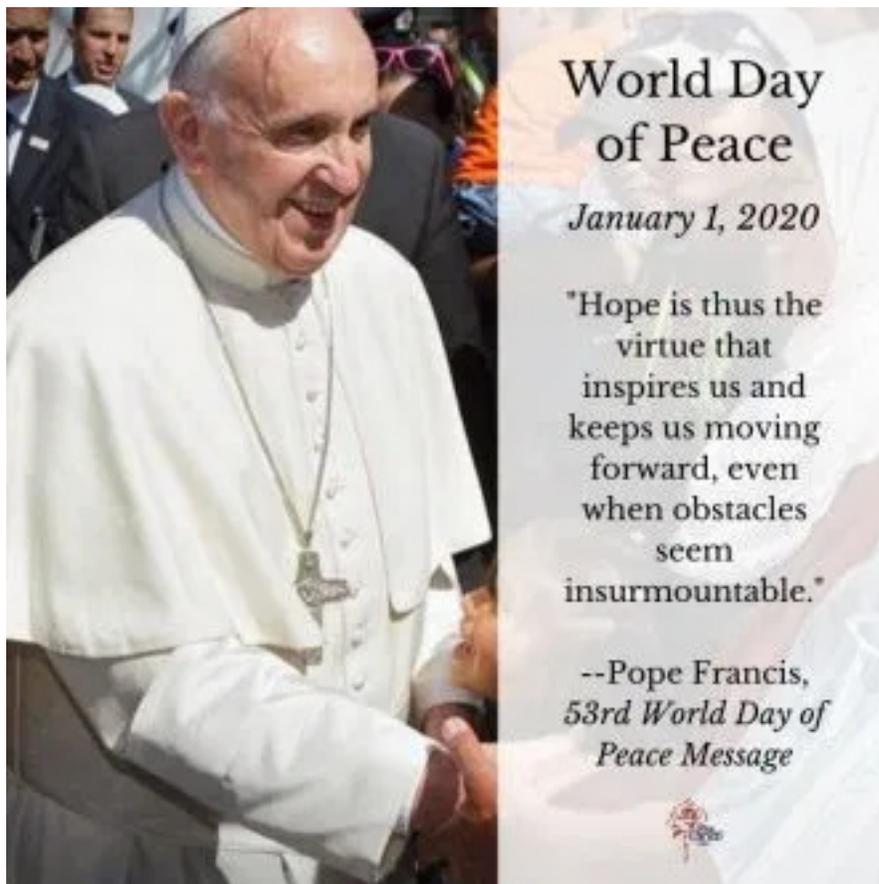
“Journey Together in Love and Compassion”

(OFS-USA 2020 Theme)

Let’s continue to raise each other in prayer and encouragement. We are brothers and sisters in Christ. No matter what your passion we all belong to God. He wants us to help him transform the world beginning with ourselves and then with our neighbor whoever that may be.

Peace and blessings,

Eileen



St. Charles Luncheon

We will be hosting our Corporate Communion Mass and Luncheon at St. Charles Borromeo on Sunday, March 8. Please contact **Sharon Krill** or **Mary Ann Kristensen**, to volunteer and serve. It is suggested that if donating food goods, to go to Gordon Food Services.

We are in need of the following items;

5 cans of Sloppy Joe

Canned green beans

Hamburger buns

Individual-sized bag of potato chips

We do have a picture below of the type of Sloppy Joe can that is needed. Thank you Mary Ann for being our model!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- 1.....Stephen Haycox
- 3.....Mary Ann Montpetit
- 28.....Teresa Westbrook-Lienert

Gospel Happenings Calendar

Saturday, February 22 from 1:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. at Gleaners Warren Distribution Center

Saturday, March 8 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 any information about donations and/or serving at the lucheon.

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



Members of our Fraternity

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Doris Allen | Hugh Montpetit |
| Lettie Aguilar | Mary Ann Montpetit |
| Dan and Jan Atkinson | Stella Mordarski |
| Claire Boutain | Ray Mylenek |
| Joyce Brouillette | Jo Marie Nardi. |
| Gerry Borycz | Thomas Nozewski |
| Sophia Cisneros | Barbara Pardington |
| Julia Ertzbischoff- Donahue | George Pelyak |
| Daniel Gabriel | Diane Raymond |
| Mary Gilles | Marilyn Ricard |
| Stephen Haycox | Mary Saber |
| James Heymes | Bridget Schultz |
| Ted Hoyna | Ben Stapel |
| Gary Johnson | Anna Tyler |
| Joyce Kaminiski | Terry Westbrook-Lienert |
| Ester Kelly | Joseph Wisk |
| Sharon Krill | Jerry Wolschon. |
| Patricia Long | |
| Ilene Manning and family | |

Our Deceased

- Benigno Torres Gara, brother of Terry Westbrook-Lienert
- Marilyn Boomer, sister of Gerry Borycz
- Dave Zywiec, Capuchin brother and bishop

Relatives needing prayers

- Eugene Allen, brother of Doris Allen
- Yuvon Cisneros, daughter of Sophia Cisneros
- Art Hugo, father of Fr. Bill Hugo
- Denise Joseph, daughter of Louis
- Frances Krempasky, daughter of Mary Krempasky
- Eileen Meyer, daughter of Marguerite Brannigan
- Lynn Mceachin, relative of Marguerite Brannigan
- 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 Sheffield, son-in-law of Claire Boutain
- Natasha Walker, daughter of Anna Taylor
- Louis Gorgon, son of Doug Gorgon & all of their family
- Melinda Collins, daughter of Julia Donahue-Ertzbischoff

February

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 10:0 am - 11:30 am Council Meeting BD: Stephen Haycox
2 PRESENTATION OF THE LORD <i>Pss Prop</i>	3 BD: Mary Ann Montpetit	4	5 1-4 pm: Social after Healing Service	6	7	8
9 <i>Pss Week 1</i>	10	11	12 1-4 pm: Social after Healing Service	13	14	15
16 <i>Pss Week 2</i> FRATERNITY GATHERING 1:30 P.M.	17	18	19 1-4 pm: Social after Healing Service	20	21	22 GOSPEL HAPPENING: WARREN GLAEANERS 1:00 P.M. - 3:30 P.M.
23 <i>Pss Week 3</i>	24	25	26 1-4 pm: Social after Healing Service	27	28 BD: Teresa Westbrook-Lienert	

Fax et Phonum

Minister

Eileen Smith

Vice Minister

Brittney Walendzik

Treasurer

Ona Moore

Secretary

Doris Allen

Formation Minister

Maryann Kummer

Councilors:

Melissa Lindow

Ron Kessler

Sharon Krill

Bernie Mikowski

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:

Jackie Hale

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 12:00 p.m.- 1:00 p.m., a Franciscan Book Discussion group gathers in the Solanus Center Library for anyone interested. For more information, contact:

Jacqueline Hale at

The Poverello is published by the
St. Bonaventure Secular Franciscan Fraternity
1780 Mt. Elliott St.
Detroit, Michigan 48207
Phone: 313-579-2100, ext. 1136
e-mail: OFSDetroit@gmail.com
<http://www.sfofstonaventure-detroit.org>
editor: Brittney Walendzik



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

