

The Poverello

St. Bonaventure Secular Franciscans ✠ Detroit, Michigan

Vol. 79, no. 4 & 5 — July & August 2020



Minister's Letter

Brothers and Sisters,

Lots has happened since March 2020. As I'm writing my article on my patio, I just learned the 249-year-old St. Junipero Serra mission church in San Gabriel, in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles was devastated by a massive fire. The mission was undergoing renovations so it is unclear what caused the fire. Luckily a good portion of the historical artwork was removed prior to the renovation. I'm praying the fire was not arson related. In either case, it saddened my heart.

The ongoing suffering due to COVID, immigration, economic and the unrest in our cities gives me pause. As a Franciscan I am challenged to do more than pray, but also to take action and support my sisters and brothers in Christ in meaningful ways. This includes being your minister and servant leading our fraternity in God's will for us. So, my first question is to you my sisters and brothers: What are your needs? How can we help you? Let me know or a member of the Leadership Council on ways we can assist you during these challenging times? Not having our in-person gatherings makes it more of a challenge to connect. Our Leadership Team has been making monthly calls to connect with you. I am happy to do home visits. I will wear a mask. Also, I'm a Eucharistic Minister. I would be glad to bring you communion. It is important we keep in touch to support each of us on our journey to holiness. Again, you are all a precious gift from God and we want to be there for you.

Our country's recent events have had me re-read and ponder the writings of **St. Francis** and **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.** I've included some of these texts in the meditation below. Dr. King's texts are from the letter he wrote while in the Birmingham jail in 1963. Even though both men lived during different centuries their wisdom can be a source of contemplation for us all. For as much as things change, they still stay the same. These writings are still relevant today and allow us to search our hearts and ponder how can we grow in virtue while seeking the greatest good in all the chaos. Let us all strive for humility and empty ourselves of our ego so we can be filled with God's divine life and wisdom and pursue the whisperings of our heart just like St. Francis and Dr. King.

The full text of Dr. King's letter can be found at https://www.africa.upenn.edu/Articles_Gen/Letter_Birmingham.html. On pages 4 and 5, are highlights of his letter for anyone who may be interested in reading it.

Earlier this month we formed a group and began exploring racial justice and how to reach out to the community. There are seven of us in the group so far: **Doris Allen, Susan Ayoub, Paula Jerzy, Kathy Murphy, Laura Sapien, Eileen Smith** and **Steve Wasko**. Our next meeting is **Tuesday July 21 at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom**. We will have a guest speaker **Vickie Figueroa**, from the Archdiocese of Detroit-Office of Black Catholic Ministry. I will be sending out an email with the Zoom meeting information. If you want to call in via your home or cell phone and don't have email contact me for the information. I hope you can join us.

Mary Myler is active with **Strangers No Longer** through the Agape Center and actively drives Hispanic immigrants to their court hearings in Detroit. She has befriended Claudia whose husband was deported 2 years ago leaving Claudia to support their five school age children. I encourage you to reach out to Mary to learn about SNL and her experiences. She often says it has changed her life and made her more aware of "the other" and living out her Franciscan charism. I urge you to sign up for the SNL event below. It is on Zoom. This makes it easier to join the conversation without having to leave your home space.

We are busy with our archiving project. **Sylvia Snigier** is leading the effort with **Ruby Thompson** and me assisting. We are making great progress.

We have formed an **Intercessory Prayer Team using Zoom** to pray for the intentions of **Fr. David Preuss, his leadership team and the Solanus Casey Expansion Project**. The members of the team are: **Julia E-Donahue, Mary Krempasky, Bernie Mikowski, Joe Quesnelle, Eileen Smith and Diane Turcotte**. We are following the format outlined by the AOD. They recommend 6 participants to a team. Is the spirit calling you to intercessory prayer? If so, you may want to start a team. Let me know and I will be glad to help get you going.

I want to bring to your attention that our **monthly contributions** are very low. We have had a very minimal response to the request for mailing in monthly contributions. We rely on your support to cover our monthly expenses. Your contributions are very much appreciated. Should your finances allow, send in your monthly donations to:

St. Bonaventure Secular Fraternity
1820 Mt. Elliott, Detroit, MI 48207
Attention: Ona Moore, Treasurer.

When will we meet again in person at the Solanus Casey Center?

I am hoping for our September gathering on the 20th. We are scheduled to have **David Seitz** as our guest speaker. We are planning to have both an in-person option at the Center and also continue to Zoom it too. In August we will Zoom/conference call our gathering.

Our Minister's Meeting in August and our National Meeting in October in person events have been cancelled. The National Meeting may be held via Zoom. I am waiting to hear back from our National Executive Council. I will forward any information as I receive it.

Our **Mid-Week Franciscan Retreat** for both men and women is scheduled for **September 28-30** at the Capuchin Retreat Center. **Mary Myler** is the captain for this retreat. Space is limited so if you plan to attend please contact Mary.

I miss seeing you all in person. Please continue to pray for our Fraternity, our families, our country and our world.

Peace and Blessings,
Eileen

FINAL EVENT IN OUR SUMMER OF EDUCATION: CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

Strangers No Longer invites you to join **Father Dave Buersmeyer** on **Tuesday, August 25th at 7 PM on Zoom** for a presentation regarding Catholic Social Teaching and our role in the transformational times in which we live. This presentation will include an opportunity for community prayer.

Fr. Buersmeyer is the pastor of St. Regis in Bloomfield Hills and a founding member of Strangers No Longer.

Once you register, the Zoom link will be emailed to you prior to the session.

Problem Registering? Send a request to: strangersnolonger11@gmail.com and we will register for you!

Meditation

from “Francis of Assisi - The Essential Writings” by Jon M. Sweeney pages 58-60 (Prologue of OFS Rule)

To those who do not do penance who don't receive the Body and Blood of our Lord, who allow themselves to sin and walk after their evil desires and concupiscence, who don't practice what they have promised to Christ, and who serve the concerns of the world and are most interested in the cares of this life, they are in the devil's grip. It is the devil's work that they do.

They are blind. They are unable to see the true light, our Lord Jesus. They live without any spiritual wisdom because they don't have the Son of God or the true wisdom that comes only from the Father. It is said that such people that their wisdom has been swallowed up, “accursed are the ones, who wander from your commandments.” (Ps. 119:21) They see and recognize, they understand and do wrong, and they knowingly lose their souls.

See, you are blind and deceived, your enemies are the flesh, the world, and the devil, because the body sins and feels sweet doing so, and it can feel bitter to serve God, but “it is from within, from the human heart, that You believe that you will gain this world's vain prizes, but you are deceived because the day will come when death comes, and even though you may not give this a moment's thought, you will die a death most bitter-tasting. Wherever, whenever, and however a person dies in the guilt of sin without penance, the devil snatches his soul from his body, and the anguish you feel cannot be described except by one to whom it has happened.

Every talent and skill and knowledge that they think they have will be taken from them. They leave their wealth behind to friends and family, who take it only to say, “His soul should be cursed because he could have given me more.” Their bodies are devoured by worms, and so nothing remains of it – or the soul – as they die from this world, heading to hell where they will only find eternal torment.

We beg all of you, with the love that comes only from God, to hear these words, offered by Jesus Christ in the Gospel, and allow them to reach you with their love and gentleness. If someone cannot read for himself, may someone else read this to him often. “The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.” Keep and observe them, together with active spiritual practice, to the end. Whoever had not done these things will be accountable before Jesus Christ, for “I tell you, on the day of judgment you will have to give an account.” (Mt 12:36)

Highlight's from Dr. King's Letter

While confined here in the Birmingham city jail, I came across your recent statement calling my present activities “unwise and untimely.” Seldom do I pause to answer criticism of my work and ideas. If I sought to answer all the criticisms that cross my desk, my secretaries would have little time for anything other than such correspondence in the course of the day, and I would have no time for constructive work. But since I feel that you are men of genuine good will and that your criticisms are sincerely set forth, I want to try to answer your statement in what I hope will be patient and reasonable terms.

You deplore the demonstrations taking place in Birmingham. But your statement, I am sorry to say, fails to express a similar concern for the conditions that brought about the demonstrations. I am sure that none of you would want to rest content with the superficial kind of social analysis that deals merely with effects and does not

grapple with underlying causes. It is unfortunate that demonstrations are taking place in Birmingham, but it is even more unfortunate that the city's white power structure left the Negro community with no alternative.

In any nonviolent campaign there are four basic steps: collection of the facts to determine whether injustices exist; negotiation; self-purification; and direct action. We have gone through all these steps in Birmingham. There can be no gainsaying the fact that racial injustice engulfs this community. Birmingham is probably the most thoroughly segregated city in the United States. Its ugly record of brutality is widely known. Negroes have experienced grossly unjust treatment in the courts. There have been more unsolved bombings of Negro homes and churches in Birmingham than in any other city in the nation. These are the hard, brutal facts of the case. On the basis of these conditions, Negro leaders sought to negotiate with the city fathers. But the latter consistently refused to engage in good faith negotiation.

We know through painful experience that freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor; it must be demanded by the oppressed. Frankly, I have yet to engage in a direct-action campaign that was "well timed" in the view of those who have not suffered unduly from the disease of segregation. For years now I have heard the word "Wait!" It rings in the ear of every Negro with piercing familiarity. This "Wait" has almost always meant "Never." We must come to see, with one of our distinguished jurists, that "justice too long delayed is justice denied."

How does one determine whether a law is just or unjust? A just law is a man-made code that squares with the moral law or the law of God. An unjust law is a code that is out of harmony with the moral law. To put it in the terms of St. Thomas Aquinas: An unjust law is a human law that is not rooted in eternal law and natural law. Any law that uplifts human personality is just. Any law that degrades human personality is unjust. All segregation statutes are unjust because segregation distorts the soul and damages the personality. It gives the segregator a false sense of superiority and the segregated a false sense of inferiority. Segregation, to use the terminology of the Jewish philosopher Martin Buber, substitutes an "I it" relationship for an "I thou" relationship and ends up relegating persons to the status of things.

Sometimes a law is just on its face and unjust in its application. For instance, I have been arrested on a charge of parading without a permit. Now, there is nothing wrong in having an ordinance which requires a permit for a parade. But such an ordinance becomes unjust when it is used to maintain segregation and to deny citizens the First-Amendment privilege of peaceful assembly and protest.

It is true that the police have exercised a degree of discipline in handling the demonstrators. In this sense they have conducted themselves rather "nonviolently" in public. But for what purpose? To preserve the evil system of segregation. Over the past few years, I have consistently preached that nonviolence demands that the means we use must be as pure as the ends we seek. I have tried to make clear that it is wrong to use immoral means to attain moral ends. But now I must affirm that it is just as wrong, or perhaps even more so, to use moral means to preserve immoral ends. Perhaps Mr. Connor and his policemen have been rather nonviolent in public, as was Chief Pritchett in Albany, Georgia, but they have used the moral means of nonviolence to maintain the immoral end of racial injustice. As T. S. Eliot has said: "The last temptation is the greatest treason: To do the right deed for the wrong reason."

July 2020
The Monthly Prayer Request for Priests
ARCHDIOCESE OF DETROIT, MI

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Rev. S. Taube, Rev. G. Tokarski	2 Rev. D. Terrien, Rev. M. Tetreault	3 Rev. D. Theroux, Rev. S. Thiboudeau	4 Rev. N. Thomas, Rev. K. Thomas
5 Rev. G. Tierney, Msgr. W. Tindall	6 Msgr. A. Tocco, Rev. S. Tokarski	7 Rev. B. Teklemariam O.F.M. Cap.	8 Rev. M. Tibai, Rev. A. Tomasko	9 Rev. D. Tomaszycki	10 Msgr. D. Trapp, Rev. R. Tremi	11 Rev. T. Treppa, Rev. J. Tuskiewicz
12 Rev. R. Twohig, S.J.	13 Rev. C. Udoh M.S.P., Rev. S. Ullman	14 Rev. T. Urban, Rev. W. Ureel	15 Rev. J. Vanassche	16 Rev. J. Vandenakker C.C.	17 Rev. D. Vanin, P.I.M.E.	18 Rev. C. M. Verschaeve
19 Rev. D. Vettese, S.J., Rev. R. Victor	20 Most Rev. Allen Vigneron	21 Msg. C. Vasko, Rev. H. Voga n	22 Rev. G. Von Kaenel, S.J.	23 Rev. R. Wainwright M.C.	24 Rev. D. Walsh, S.O.L.T., Rev. D. Walker	25 Rev. J. Walsh, Rev. P. Ward
26 Rev. D. Watson, S.J.	27 Rev. F. Weingartz, Rev. C. Welsh	28 Rev. M. Wendling, S.O.L.T.	29 Rev. S. Wertanen, Rev. A. Wesley	30 Rev. T. Wezner, Rev. C. White IV	31 Rev. J. Wheeler, C.S.B.	

Please pray for the newly ordained priests: **Rev. C. Fricke, Rev. D. Pellican, Rev. J. Carlin, Rev. M. Ribal,** and **Rev. A. Mabee.**

Please pray for the men who have been accepted into the **Postulancy Program for The Province of St. Joseph for Capuchins: Francisco Cux, Jaico George, and Kenny Howard.**

August 2020
The Monthly Prayer Request for Priests
ARCHDIOCESE OF DETROIT, MI

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Rev. C. Whitaker, S.J.
2 Rev. W.J. Wicks, S.J.	3 Rev. J. Wieging, Rev. M. Wilkes	4 Rev. T. Wilisowski, C.S.M.A.	5 Rev. R. Williams	6 Rev. R. Witkowski	7 Rev. W. Wojcicki	8 Rev. R. Wojslaw, S. Chr.
9 Rev. M. Woroniewicz	10 Rev. D. Worthy	11 Rev. J. Wynnycky	12 Rev. G. Wright, S.J.	13 Rev. T. Wysocki, L.C.	14 Rev. R. Yost, O.S.F.S.	15 Rev. R. Ytsen, S.J.
16 Rev. R. Zablocki	17 Rev. D. Zaleski Rev. E. Zaorski	18 Rev. R. Zelinski, O.F.M Cap	19 Msgr. J. Zenz	20 Rev. F. Zielinski	21 Rev. A. Zobler, O.S.F.S.	22 Rev. Z. Zomerfield
23 Rev. M. Zuelch	24 Rev. N. Zukowski	25 Rev. L. Zurawski	26 Rev. S. Aaron, L.C.	27 Rev. L. Acervo, Rev. R. Adams	28 Rev. E. Addari, S.D.C.	29 Rev. D. Ahern, S.J.
30 Rev. J. Allan, Rev. R. Albright, S.J.	31 Rev. F. Alsola, Rev. M. Amore					

Portiuncula Indulgence - August 2

Anyone who visits a Catholic church with the intention of honoring Our Lady of the Angels and recites the Creed, the Our Father, and prays for the Pope's intentions, may receive a plenary indulgence on August 2, 2020.





July

- 1 Daniel Atkinson
- 6 Sophia Cisneros
- 7 Ona Harris-Wilson
- 9 Joyce Kaminski
- 11 Anthony Cerroni
- 15 John Gillen
- 22 Beverly Sapien
- 24 Barbara Pardington

August

- 9 Anna Tyler
- 13 Janet Atkinson
- 22 Mary Poole
- 25 Patricia Munafa
- 27 Mary Gillen
- 30 Marilyn Ricard
- 30 Susan Barna Ayoub

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

Jackie Hale at



Our Deceased Members

- Elizabeth Greenia
- Patricia White

Our Deceased Relatives

- Eugene Allen, brother of Doris Allen
- Jesse Stuart, grandson of Norm and Loretta Chmielarczyk
- Bill Nordstrom, husband of Sheryl Nordstrom

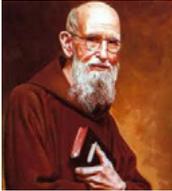
Members of our Fraternity

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Lettie Aguilar | Hugh Montpetit |
| Dan and Jan Atkinson | Mary Ann Montpetit |
| Claire Boutain | Stella Mordarski |
| Joyce Brouillette | Ray Mylenek |
| Pat Cardellio | Jo Marie Nardi |
| Sophia Cisneros | Barbara Pardington |
| Julia Ertzbischoff-Donahue | George Pelyak |
| Daniel Gabriel | Joe Quesnelle |
| Mary Gillen | Diane Raymond |
| Stephen Haycox | Marilyn Ricard |
| James Heymes | Mary Saber |
| Gary Johnson | Joe Sapien |
| Joyce Kaminski | Bridget Schultz |
| Esther Kelley | Ben Stapel |
| Ron Kessler | Ruby Thompson |
| Sharon Krill | Anna Tyler |
| Patricia Long | Terry Westbrook-Lienert |
| Ilene Manning & Family | Joseph Wisk |

Relatives needing prayers

- 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
- Sherry Snigier, sister-in-law of Sylvia Snigier
- Natasha Walker, daughter of Anna Taylor
- Louis Gorgdn, son of Doug Gorgon & all of their family
- Melinda Collins, daughter of Julia Donahue-Ertzbischoff
- Celeste Mikowski, grand-daughter of Bernie Mikowski
- Melanie Corcoran, sister of Brittney Walendzik
- Rita Walendzik, mother-in-law of Brittney Walendzik

July

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 ST. JUNIPERO SERRA BD: Daniel Atkinson	2	3	4
5 <i>Pss Proper II</i>	6 BD: Sophia Cisneros	7 BD: Ona Harris- Wilson	8	9 BD: Joyce Kaminski	10	11 10:00 am - 11:30 am Council Meeting BD:Anthony Cerroni
12 <i>Pss Proper III</i>	13	14	15 ST. BONAVENTURE BD:John Gillen	16	17	18
19 FRATERNITY GATHERING 1:30 P.M. ZOOM <i>Pss Proper IV</i>	20	21	22 BD: Beverly Sapian	23	24 BD: Barbara Pardington	25
26 <i>Pss Prover I</i>	27	28	29	30  BLESSED SOLANUS CASEY	31	



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 10:00 am - 11:30 am Council Meeting
2 FEAST OF OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS OF THE PORTIUNCULA <i>Pss Proper II</i>	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 BD: Anna Tyler <i>Pss Proper III</i>	10	11 ST. CLARE OF ASSISI	12	13 BD: Janet Atkinson	14	15 ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED MOTHER
16 FRATERNITY GATHERING 1:30 P.M. ZOOM <i>Pss Proper IV</i>	17	18	19	20	21	22 BD: Mary Poole
23 <i>Pss Wk 1</i> 30 BD: Sue Barna Ayoub BD: Marilyn Ricard <i>Pss Proper II</i>	24 31	25 BD: Patricia Munafo	26	27 BD: Mary Goillen	28	29

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:

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 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm, 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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