

The Poverello

St. Bonaventure Secular Franciscans ✠ Detroit, Michigan

Vol. 80 no. 3— March 2020



Minister's Letter

Brothers and Sisters,

Our Lenten Journey has begun. Now is a good time to reflect and look at our inner temple. Do we need a light cleaning or a deep cleaning? We are called to be perfect, to be holy. Perfect in Greek means complete. It is within our reach to be holy. We are meant to struggle on to perfection until the end of our journey on earth. Many may think it is impossible for us to reach perfection or holiness. However, with our loving God and his grace perfection is possible. God would not mislead us. He wants us with him in heaven.

We are called to live every moment with and for God. Three points to remember this lent: 1) We are a temple of the Holy Spirit. Our God dwells within us. 2) Act like God dwells within us even when we don't feel like it and 3) Treat others with love. Yes, we are called to get out of our comfort zone. It is not all about us. I pray we all grow in faith, hope and love this Lent.

AWARENESS EVENTS

Last month I attended with **Sylvia Snigier**, **Brittney Walendzik** and **Ruby Thompson** the Tap into Life event on Immigration. Two young ladies shared their stories on how they immigrated at 2 years old with their parents to the US from Mexico and then they were deported back to Mexico at 16 years old (Dreamers). Today they are working as activists with the Mexican and US governments on behalf of the Dreamers. They are bringing awareness to the plight of these young adults.

Many Dreamers suffer from mental health issues and many families are separated. There are families where children were deported and living in Mexico while younger children from the same family were born in the US and stayed in the US often times living alone. As I listened to their stories my heart went out to them. I admired their strength and courage as they tirelessly work for changes in the Mexican and US laws to improve life for these families. From a humanitarian perspective I believe these are God's children and pray hearts will be enlightened and all will find hope, compassion and peace.

I attended with **Doris Allen** the premier of the documentary movie NO-Defense on PFAS pollution in Michigan waters. I don't know how many of you may have heard of PFAS pollution, but I didn't know much about it until I saw this movie. I was stunned. This pollution is impacting our waters in a big way here in Michigan (globally as well). PFAS pollutants are man-made chemicals used in many industries throughout the world. In Michigan, it was in the firefighting foam used extensively for training exercises at the decommissioned Wurtsmith Air Force base near Oscoda. These chemicals build up in the environment and in humans and don't break down. I was told its effects are similar to Agent Orange that impacted our veterans in the Vietnam War.

The Department of Defense has known for many decades the danger of these chemicals and have never warned the veterans and their families of them. Luckily a whistleblower brought attention to this contamination and has the reports to prove it. These reports were used in this documentary. The chemicals are still in the environment and have not been cleaned up. The movie focuses on the impact of the PFAS pollution continuing to run off from the air base and dumping into Lake Huron, Van Etten Lake and the Au Sable River. In fact, Van Etten Lake has signs posted the foam on the beach is not safe.

To date the government has tested the water, fish, animals and environment and all tested with high level of PFAS contamination. Yet the government has not tested the veterans and residents living in the area. There are higher than normal incidences of cancer, sterility, birth defects and other illnesses correlating to PFAS among this population. However, without human testing it cannot be proven that these health issues are related to PFAS and limit the availability of resources for the veterans and their families to get proper treatments.

In the meantime, our government continues to deny there is an issue. How can we help bring awareness? We should write our State Representatives and State Senators and demand the cleanup of Wurtsmith Air Base

and the testing of the veterans before they all succumb to the effects of PFAS and are no longer available for testing. I am hoping the documentary airs on PBS. It is worth seeing. Links of interest:

<https://www.epa.gov/pfas/basic-information-pfas>

<https://www.amazon.com/OVERWHELMED-Mitchells-Craig-Lynn-Minor/dp/1792982569>

GRATITUDE CORNER

Grateful for **Bro. Faris Najor** leading us at our February gathering in a discussion on Exegesis-Simple Reminders When Reading Sacred Scripture. He walked us through the process using Luke 12-14. The process includes: Read – Summary and Explanation, Literal and Historic Context – Translation and Meaning, and Perspective and Personal Interpretation. Thank you Bro. Faris!

We have bookshelves for our library thanks to the Felician Sisters in Livonia. They gave us bookshelves from the now closed Ladywood High School. **Doris Allen, Charlie Kotcher** and **Ona Moore** we helpful in getting the bookcases, and unloading and setting them up in the library. We still have work to do before we can open the library. Hopefully, it won't take too long to get it completed. Our library is located in the St. Joseph portion of the Solanus Center near our existing Secular office and storage room. Thank you Doris, Charlie and Ona!!

The St. Joseph Province has a Provincial Archivist named **Junia Yasenov**. **Sylvia Snigier** and I met with Junia to discuss the opportunity for archiving our Secular artifacts in the Province of St. Joseph archive vault. It was a good meeting. There is room availability in the vault to store our artifacts. The vault is temperature controlled and located on the second floor of the St. Joseph portion of the Solanus Center building. The vault will keep our artifacts in good condition for years to come.

I am happy to report that **Sylvia Snigier** has agreed to be our archivist and lead this effort with Junia. Junia has very specific requirements for artifact storage that Sylvia is following. **Ruby Thompson** and I are also part of Sylvia's team. Thank you both, Sylvia and Ruby!!

Peace and Blessings,
Eileen

MEDITATION

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

Greetings of peace, my dear Franciscan Family! I pray this finds you well and filled with the peace of the Lord!

Well, it is that glorious time of year again! Our Seraphic Father Francis said that for us, Lent is all year round. And for these six weeks, Holy Mother Church will share it with us!

During Lent, we are asked to devote ourselves to doing three things: to seek the Lord in prayer and Scripture reading, to serve by giving alms, and to sacrifice self-control through fasting (USCCB). I humbly invite us to faithfully and mindfully observe all three.

The Holy Father, Pope Francis tells us, "the celebration of the Paschal Triduum of Christ's passion, death and resurrection, the culmination of the liturgical year, calls us yearly to undertake a journey of preparation, in the knowledge that our being conformed to Christ is a priceless gift of God's mercy."

Article 15 of our Holy Rule states: "Let them individually and collectively be in the forefront in promoting justice by the testimony of their human lives and their courageous initiatives. Especially in the field of public life, they should make definite choices in harmony with their faith."

Our Holy Father exhorts: "Almsgiving, whereby we escape from the insanity of hoarding everything for ourselves in the illusory belief that we can secure a future that does not belong to us. And thus to rediscover the joy of God's plan for creation and for each of us, which is to love him, our brothers and sisters, and the entire world, and to find in this love our true happiness."

One such courageous initiative where we can give alms is our annual Lenten H2O Project, an international project to promote Christian solidarity, advocacy and financial support for poor communities in developing and under-developed nations who have no access to clean drinking water.

For two weeks in Lent, abstain from drinking any beverage except water – preferably tap water, and set aside any money normally spent on sodas and Starbucks. In solidarity with our brothers and sisters who do not even have clean water to drink, we increase our connections, awareness and responsibility to poor communities and God’s Creation. You can choose to give individually or collectively with your families, fraternities or faith communities.

Please send all contributions to the H2O Lenten Project 2020, c/o Claudia Kauzlarich, 2007 Maverick Trail Harrisonville, MO 64701-1545. Make the check payable to OFS-USA; with H2O Project in the memo line. And thank you for your generous contributions.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Sunday, March 15** Day of Reflection Begins at 11:00 a.m. **Ben Staple, OFS** will present the “Motivational Gifts of the Holy Spirit”. Our day begins at 11:00 a.m.. **Remember to bring a bagged lunch and a dish to pass.** All are invited. We have gifts of the Holy Spirit for our own holiness, charisms are our gifts for others and we have motivational gifts. Come listen and learn from Ben. It will be worth your time!
- **Wednesday, March 25** **Saint David Fraternity, in Washington, MI** invites all our surrounding **Fraternities to our second annual gathering at St. Joseph Shrine and Shrine of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in Pontiac, MI** to celebrate its purchase on March 25th, 2015, the Feast of The Annunciation. Confession is offered at 11:00 a.m., the rosary at 11:30 a.m., Mass at noon with fellowship to follow. RSVP for food count - Please text, or call **Cherry Ludiciani** at.
- **Saturday, March 28** **Mass for the Deceased at 10:00 a.m. at the Solanus Center Friars Chapel** followed by hospitality in the Dining Room. Give your memorial offerings in remembrance of loved ones, family and friends to our Infirmarian **Jackie Hale**. She is available to answer any questions.
- **Solanus Casey Center Wednesday Lenten Series: How to be a Peacemaker.** 12:00 p.m. Mass, followed by a simple meal of soup, bread and beverage (\$5) during our Lenten reflection in the Solanus Casey Center Dining Hall.

March 4: O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console

March 11: To be understood as to understand

March 18: To be loved as to love

March 25: For it is in giving that we receive

April 1: It is in pardoning that we are pardoned

April 8: It is in dying that we are born into eternal life

- **April 18 – Regional Meeting All Day**-Saginaw Center for Ministry 5802 Weiss Street, Saginaw 48603
- **April 24 and 25 – David Haas Concert and Day of Reflection.** We are co-sponsoring this event with the Solanus Casey Center. Cost: Concert only \$25.00, Retreat only \$30.00 or Weekend package for both concert and retreat- \$50.00

Friday, April 24 “Take nothing for the Journey: Singing with Francis & Clare” Concert with doors opening at 6:00 p.m, seating at 6:30 p.m., and the concert begins at 7:00 p.m. With a meet and greet immediately following the concert (autograph and photo op with David Haas). David Haas books and music available for sale in the gift shop

Saturday, April 25 “Make me an Instrument of your Peace: The Prayer of St. Francis as a path for Hope and Renewal” Half Day Retreat. Check-in and continental breakfast 9:00 a.m. and includes a light lunch.

- **Friday- Sunday, April 24-26 – Women’s Weekend Retreat at the Capuchin Retreat Center in Washington.** To sign-up contact our captain **Mary Myler** at

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

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

Gospel Happenings Calendar

Sunday, March 8 Corporate Communion Mass and Luncheon at St. Charles Borromeo at: 1491 Baldwin, Detroit, 48214

- **Set-up begins at 10:30**
- **Mass begins at 11:30**
- **Lunch Service begins after 11:30 Mass**

To sign-up to serve please contact Sharon Krill at

A big thank you to all who have signed up to serve and/or donate food items!



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

Our Deceased Relatives

Lucille Ivers, mother of Susan Barna Ayoub

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 | |

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
- 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
- Melanie Corcoran, sister of Brittney Walendzik



March

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

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

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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



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

