

The Poverello

St. Bonaventure Secular Franciscans ☩ Detroit, Michigan

Vol. 80, no. 6 — September 2020



Minister's Letter

Sisters and Brothers,

“Praise be to you, my Lord, through our Sister, Mother Earth, who sustains and governs us, and who produces various fruit with colored flowers and herbs” (Canticle of Creatures).

CARE for CREATION

At our August gathering **Brittney Walendzik** gave us an overview presentation of Laudato Si in celebration of its fifth anniversary. She gave a lot of information and encouraged us to read and study Laudato Si.

We continue our focus on creation with the Season of Creation, “*Jubilee of the Earth*” from **September 1 through October 4**. Pope Francis is unabating on this topic “we cannot live in harmony with creation if we are not at peace with the Creator who is the source and origin of all things”. The Jubilee is a time for thinking once again of our fellow human beings, especially the poor and the most vulnerable, to share the common heritage of creation in a “spirit of conviviality, in competitive scramble but in joyful fellowship, supporting and protecting one another”.

ANTI-RACISM EFFORTS

The Race Team has been busy. We held our first webinar with the AOD Black Catholic Ministry on **August 18** on Structural Racism in SE Michigan. It went very well. Professor Hammer provided data mapping and information on the history of racism and how we got to where we are today. The members of the team are **Doris Allen, Susan Ayoub, Yolanda Butcher, Kathy Murphy, Joe Quesnelle, Laura Sapien, Eileen Smith** and **Steve Wasko**. We hope you will take the time to watch it. We want to hear your thoughts.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yki18BgxmSM&feature=youtu.be>

We plan to visit Detroit Catholic churches. You are invited to join us.

Sunday, September 13 8:45 AM Mass - St. Suzanne Church, 9357 Westwood St, Detroit, MI 48228; (313) 838-6780

Sunday, October 4 11:00 AM Mass - Corpus Christi Church, 19800 Pembroke Ave, Detroit, MI 48219, (313) 537-5770

Sunday, October 25 11:30 AM Mass - St. Charles Borromeo Church, 1491 Baldwin St, Detroit, MI 48214, (313) 331-0253

Sunday, November 1 10:00 AM Mass - St. Augustine/St. Monica, 4151 Seminole St, Detroit, MI 48214 (313) 921-4107

We are in the process of drafting a letter to Archbishop Vigneron with proposed action items for his consideration. We will send the letter to the Archbishop in hopes of a meeting with him to discuss. We have reviewed these items with a person in the AOD who encouraged us to send the letter. Continue to keep our efforts in your prayers.

PROPOSED DRAFT ACTION ITEMS

1. Request prayer at all Masses, all the time, for the elimination of personal and structural racism and recognition of the dignity of all human beings as a key component of Unleashing the Gospel within all of God's creation in southeast Michigan
2. Request acknowledgment and the raising of awareness of personal and structural racism by/for the Archbishop/AOD/SE Michigan Catholics
3. Request creation of a plan for addressing and eliminating structural racism within each parish submitted by each parish in the AOD
4. Continue conversations with Vicki Figueroa and join her coalition and relationships. We can be an instrument of change. How do we fit? What actions would support the efforts of Vicki. What will make our actions worthwhile? Sponsor workshops, webinars? We want to bring real change. What are the bishops doing? Be part of the conversation and willing to speak for those who may not have a voice. This is our community. It will take work, but we are called to be healers with love and joy.
5. The Archdiocese of Detroit leadership should consider:
 - a. Unleash the Gospel by making a joyful, public and sacred commitment to support and sustain its Catholic parishes and schools serving families and children of color, predominantly within the City of Detroit and environs (Central Region). [Note: This does not mean that every institution will exist in its current configuration till the end of time; rather, that where there is energy and willingness to do the work, the AOD will be a contributing partner.]
 - b. Consciously appointing persons of color to leadership positions and within the Central Services functions (Chancery and related locations) to establish a level of understanding of the faith, spirituality, hopes, visions and aspirations of under-represented populations.

DID YOU KNOW? - AUGUSTINE TOLTON, was an ex-slave, and the first black catholic priest in the US positioned for sainthood. Augustine Tolton was born into slavery in Missouri in 1854. He escaped to freedom as a child during the Civil War and later became the first African-American priest in the Roman Catholic Church. Tolton is now set to become the first African American Saint.

UPCOMING DATES

GREAT NEWS!! --SEPTEMBER 20 GATHERING – LIVE and VIRTUAL at ST BONAVENTURE CHAPEL

Sunday, September 20 at 1:30 PM we will hold our gathering in the Chapel at the Solanus Center. You can come in person to the Solanus Center or you can participate from home through the Solanus Center website. Our guest speaker is **David Seitz**. His presentation will focus on St. Francis. We will follow the COVID-19 guidelines at the Solanus Center -- masks must be worn to enter, seating only in assigned seats, social distancing is required and no hospitality. We are unable to meet in the dining room due to the COVID 10-person limit in effect.

SEPTEMBER 20 – NEW ORIENTATION CLASS TO BEGIN AT NOON.

Sunday, September 20 at 12:00 PM Maryann Kummer will be hosting the class via Zoom or conference call. I will be at the Solanus Center dining room to greet those who want to come the Center for Orientation. I will have my computer set up for Zoom for the new orientees to use. **PASS THE WORD** to your friends and family. Send the name and phone number of interested persons to Maryann Kummer at email: mkummersfo@gmail.com.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3 AT 7:00 PM– TRANSITUS ADORATION AND VESPERS HOLY HOUR

Our Transitus will be held in the St. Bonaventure Chapel at the Solanus Casey Center. You can come in person or participate from home through the Solanus Center website. We will follow the same COVID-19 guidelines outlined above. Susan Ayoub and her husband Al will be providing the meditation music. I hope you can participate in our special evening.

SUNDAY OCTOBER 4 at 1:30pm – ST. FRANCIS FEAST DAY CELEBRATION – VIRTUAL GATHERING

The Leadership Council decided to do something different this year to celebrate our feast day. Since the feast day is a Sunday and combined with the COVID restrictions, we will celebrate St. Francis by sharing our insights of St. Francis in our lives. These insights may have come to us through books, movies, articles, art, music and poetry.

ZOOM Meeting ID: 313.574.4682; PASSCODE: 05172020; or
CONFERENCE CALL DIAL IN NUMBER: 929-205- 6099

I continue to work with **Sylvia Snigier** and **Ruby Thompson** on the archives. We are very close to completing this project. I also attended the Confirmation/First Eucharist Mass with **Mary Myler** and **Bernie Mikowski** to support Claudia and her daughters, Cindy and Amy. Claudia is the immigrant family in which Mary and Bernie help through Sister Val and the Agape Center.

Our country continues to need prayers, healings and God’s grace. Our Bishops are asking for prayer and fasting on September 9, the feast day of Peter Claver to end racism. Peter Claver was canonized in 1888, and Pope Leo XIII declared him the worldwide patron of missionary work among black slaves. St. Peter Claver is the patron saint of African Americans, African Missions, Colombia and Interracial justice. Let’s join the Bishops in this day of prayer and fasting!!

We are reminded by Dr. Martin Luther King, *“Violence is immoral because it thrives on hatred, rather than love. It destroys community and makes brotherhood impossible. It leaves society in monologue, rather than dialogue. Violence ends up defeating itself. It creates bitterness in the survivors and brutality in the destroyers.”*

May we be peaceful disruptors and accompany our brothers and sisters in love.

I am looking forward to our gathering at the Chapel on the 20th. It will be good to see you in person. It has been way too long. I continue to keep you all in my prayers. I am grateful for all of your prayers, friendship, encouragement and love.

Peace and Blessings,

Eileen

From our Treasurer, Ona Moore - Members please mail monthly contributions to:

St Bonaventure Secular Franciscans
Attention. Ona Moore, Treasurer
1780 Mt. Elliott
Detroit MI 48207

Meditation

Article 6 of Our Rule

They have been made living members of the Church by being buried and raised with Christ in baptism; they have been more intimately with the Church by profession/ Therefore, they should go forth as witnesses and instruments of her mission among all people, proclaiming Christ by their life and words.

Called like St. Francis to rebuild the Church and inspired by his example, let them devote themselves energetically to living in full communion with pope, bishop, and priests, fostering an open and trusting dialogue of apostolic effectiveness as creativity.

Scripture passages to reference: Matthew 10:5-10, Matthew 16:24-28, Luke 9:1-6 and Matthew 19:21

What commitment does my Baptism call to me?

As Secular Franciscans, how do we commit ourselves to “rebuild the Church”?

In what ways are we called today to be “witnesses”?

What reverence for the Church did Francis have?

How can the Secular Franciscan Order cooperate with the stated aims of the Church’s teaching on social justice? How do I do my part?

Francis had great love and respect, and showed obedience to the pope, bishops and priests. As Franciscans, we are called to do the same. We may not always agree with them; can you give examples of how these disagreements can be handled in a way that rebuilds the Church, rather than tears it down?

Franciscan Holy Days

September 4 - St. Rose of Viterbo

September 13-20 – International Eucharistic Congress

September 17 – Stigmata of Our Holy Father Francis

September 18 – St. Joseph of Cupertino

September 20 – St. Francis Mary of Camporosso

September 23 – Finding the Body of St. Clare

September 23 – St. Padre Pio of Pietrelcina

September 26 – St. Elzear of Saban & Bl Delphine

Strangers No Longer/Agape Center

by Bernie Mikowski

When Mary Myler learned about Strangers No Longer she was immediately inspired to get involved. She quickly learned of the extensive plight of immigrants. Driving immigrants to their court appearances at the downtown Federal Court Building was an enlightenment. Drivers are needed because immigrants can't drive, don't have drivers licenses, or have extreme difficulty getting licenses. The parking fee, no matter how long one stays at the courthouse, is \$20.

When Mary drove Manuel he didn't have paperwork so they only stayed two hours. However, when Mary drove Claudia, the stay was seven hours. Each time, while Mary was not allowed into the courtroom, a large group of immigrants would enter the courtroom represented by one attorney. Over time Mary learned of a woman who wanted to appeal. She needs \$500 just to be seen in the courtroom. If she wants representation by an attorney it's an additional \$2700 (more or less).

Early on, Mary became acquainted with Sr. Val who ministers to Spanish immigrants at the Agape Center in Romeo, MI. Sr. Val informed Mary of Claudia's plight since her husband was deported in 2018. Claudia, who has five American born children, is waiting her own court hearing. COVID put all court dates on hold. Once the lock down is ended, Claudia and many others will need transportation.

Fortunately, Claudia has a job at a small manufacturing facility. Unfortunately, the facility was closed during the pandemic. Mary mentioned Claudia's need for food early in the pandemic to fellow Franciscan, Bernie Mikowski. Once Bernie delivered food to Claudia there immediately came another donation. This happened four times. Each of four times that food was delivered to Claudia, the Holy Spirit immediately inspired someone else to make a donation of food or money. Claudia and her five children are very grateful each time. The five children are 14 year old Amy, 12 year old Wendy, ten year old Cindy, 7 year old Miguel, and 5 year old Ashley. Amy made her Confirmation and Cindy made her First Communion on August 28, 2020.

Claudia and others in the Hispanic community at Agape Center are in great need not just for legal, food, and financial support. They need sustainability that would enable them to live with dignity in this country. They need decent places to live, jobs, education, and daily support for all those things that present themselves on a regular basis. Claudia and her five children live in a singlewide mobile home that appears to be in poor repair. The children need space for study. Claudia leaves around 6:00 am for work and returns around 3:30 pm. The two older girls care for the younger children. Since all five children were born in America the family is in a very tenuous condition depending on what happens at Claudia's future court date.

The immigrants also need spiritual support, faith nourishment, Sacraments, Masses in their language. Spanish Masses were cancelled for six months because of the pandemic but will resume September 20.

Not only Claudia but many others at Agape Center need support. Usually it takes these immigrants ten years or longer to acquire a Visa. In the meantime they need much support.

Anyone who would like to make a financial donation could write a check out to Agape Center, on the memo line write **Hispanic Ministry**. If the donation should be for Claudia and her family on memo line write **Hispanic Ministry for Claudia**.

Send donation to:

Agape Center
Attention: Sr. Val
347 S. Main St.
Romeo, MI 48065

This is truly an honorable response to the plea of Pope Francis to do what we can for the least among us. Let us reflect on the impact this will have on their survival and, in particular, on the children's futures. Thank you in advance for your love, prayers, and generous spirit. God bless!

Sidney's Birthday Party



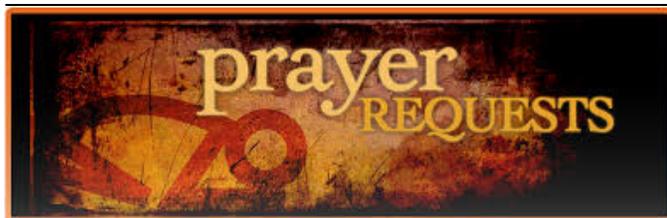
Members gathered on Saturday, September 5 at the Solanus Casey Center Dining Room to celebrate Sidney's birthday with cake and desserts.

September Monthly Prayer Request for Priests

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Rev. R. Anderson, Rev. C. <u>Altermatt</u>	2 Rev. J. Andrus, O.F.M Cap	3 Rev. S. <u>Anhur</u> , S. CHR, Rev. J. Arul, <u>M.S.F.S</u>	4 Rev. D. Archambault	5 Rev. J. <u>Arwady</u> , Rev. R. <u>Arwady</u>
6 Rev. R. <u>Babich</u> , Rev. J. Baker	7 Rev. E. <u>Balazy</u> , Rev. P. <u>Ballien</u>	8 Rev. K. <u>Arokiasamy</u>	9 Rev. Babic IVICA, Rev. A. Baranowski	10 Rev. R. <u>Bartoszek</u> , Rev. G. <u>Banazak</u>	11 Rev. J. <u>Bartunek</u> , L.C., Rev. Babic IVICA	12 Most. Rev. G. Battersby
13 Rev. K. Battu, S.A.C., Rev. R. Bauer	14 Rev. G. Bechard, Rev. D. <u>Bechill</u>	15 Rev. E. <u>Belczak</u> , Rev. T. <u>Belczak</u>	16 Rev. P. Berendt, C.P., Rev. J. <u>Bettin</u>	17 Rev. G. Berendt, P.I.M.E.	18 Rev. J. <u>Bertin</u> , M.C.	19 Rev. D. <u>Bignall</u> , Rev. J. <u>Bilot</u>
20 Rev. T. Birney, Rev. J. <u>Bjorum</u>	21 Rev. R. Blondell, Rev. S. Bonner	22 Rev. A. Blount, S.O.L.T.	23 Rev. A. <u>Blondy</u> , Rev. Bonk, S.J.	24 Rev. R. <u>Barkowski</u> , Rev. M. Borkowski	25 Rev. G. <u>Boyvine</u> , O.F.M. Cap	22 Rev. M. <u>Brauer</u> , Rev. D. Blazek
27 Rev. P. Brennan, C.P., Rev. M. Brown	28 Rev. S. <u>Briffa</u> , Msgr. R. Browne	29 Rev. J. Brooks, L.C.	30 Rev. J. Brzezinski			



- 2Rita Collins
- 4Joyce Brouillette
- 5Sidney Davis II
- 15Ray Mylenek
- 18George Pelyak
- 20 Edmund Bechard
- 21 Kathy Murphy
- 24Sheryl Ann Nordstrom
Br. Pat McSherry



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

COME AND SEE

On Sunday, September 20 at 12:00 PM Maryann Kummer will be hosting the class via Zoom or conference call. Eileen will be at the Solanus Center dining room to greet those who want to come the Center for Orientation.

PASS THE WORD to your friends and family. Send the name and phone number of interested persons to Maryann Kummer at email: mkummersfo@gmail.com

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

Jackie Hale at

Our Deceased Members

Our Deceased Relatives

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 Gordon, 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
- Denise Maltese, mother of Brittney Walendzik

September

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5 10:00 am - 11:30 am Council Meeting BD: Sidney Davis II
			BD: Rita Colins		BD: Joyce Brouillette	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
<i>Pss Wk III</i>						
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
<i>Pss Wk IV</i>		BD: Ray Mylenek			BD: George Pelyak	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
FRATERNAL GATHERING 1:30 P.M. BD: Edmund Bechard <i>Pss Wk I</i>	BD: Kathy Murphy			BD: Sheryl Ann Nordstrom BD: Br. Pat McSherry	BD: Joe Gentile	
27	28	29	30			
<i>Pss Wk II</i>						

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

FRANCISCAN BOOK DISCUSSION

Prior to each of our monthly meetings, from 12:00 p.m. until 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

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