

# The Poverello

St. Bonaventure Secular Franciscans ✠ Detroit, Michigan

Vol. 81 no. 3— March 2021



THE GREATNESS OF SAINT JOSEPH IS THAT HE WAS THE SPOUSE OF MARY AND THE FATHER OF JESUS. IN THIS WAY, HE PLACED HIMSELF, IN THE WORDS OF SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM, “AT THE SERVICE OF THE ENTIRE PLAN OF SALVATION.”

POPE FRANCIS, PATRIS CORDE

# Minister's Letter

Sisters and Brothers,

LENT \* METANOIA \* TRANSFORMATION \* PRAYER \* ALMSGIVING \* FASTING

*“Lent is a time for reconsidering our feelings, for letting our eyes be opened to injustice, to open our eyes to those suffering.” Pope Francis*

Here we are in Lent 2021 and for most of us the last year has been one continuous Lenten journey. Reflecting back to Easter 2020 when churches were closed and mass was watched from our homes through TV or social media -- COVID had gripped our country. There was much fear and uncertainty. Life as we knew it had changed. Some might have thought God had abandoned us.

However, as Franciscans we know better. Just like the Paschal Mystery (suffering, death and resurrection) God is faithful and allows suffering to make us more like his son Jesus Christ. We also know we are to hope in the resurrection and to trust in God's mercy. We are beginning to see signs of this eternal hope - COVID vaccinations, churches and restaurants are opening up and students are returning to the classrooms. We have good reasons to hope and prepare ourselves for the joy of Easter. Remember we are Easter people and let's do all in our power to bring hope and joy to our neighbor even when we don't feel like it or dislike them. God has not abandoned us. We must not abandon our neighbor.

I pray as you continue your Lenten journey you will find yourself closer to God and neighbor. It is a time for metanoia and new beginnings. I have included two reflections for your meditation. One from Richard Rohr and the other is the prayer Doris Allen authored and prayed at our February Gathering. Both are good opportunities for self-reflection to help us identify those thoughts and feelings keeping us from a closer relationship with Jesus. Let's prune the tree this Lent and journey toward our authentic self in God. “Thank God Ahead of Time” for a very blessed and grateful 2021.

Peace and Blessings,

Eileen

## February Gathering Recap – Anti-Racism Team Presentation

I am grateful to the anti-racism team and the powerful presentation they gave at our Gathering. Doris Allen, Kathy Murphy, Joe Quesnelle and Steve Wasko provided an update on the team's efforts and engaged us in small group discussions with thought provoking questions. As we know, it is not easy to discuss racism. I'm glad we are beginning to open up and have the difficult conversations – the discussion groups helped us do this. I've included the questions below from our discussion groups. I encourage you to continue considering them and perhaps are helpful when approaching your neighbor on racism. It begins with an encounter one person at a time and it first starts with us -- contemplating our own thoughts, beliefs and feelings. We can only give authentically when we know what is in our own heart.

### SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

When a Black, Brown and White child are Baptized, each one is named a Priest, a Prophet and a King. In God's eye they are all equal. Are you complacent in knowing that in our society the Black and Brown child for the rest of their lives they will be treated as "less than?" They will have less access to clean water, less access to a quality education, less access to health care, less access to jobs, and the list goes on. Are you okay with this? If not, what are you willing to do about it?

Pope Francis and Bishops have labeled racism as a sin and even call it an abomination. Do you agree that racism is a sin?

How do you feel about the way our government treats families fleeing from oppression and life-threatening conditions in their countries? According to the Bishop of El Paso, Texas, the US government treats children in US custody worse than animals. Has your heart been hardened to the treatment of Brown people at the US-Mexico border?

Do you feel that prejudice, intolerance and racism are problems of the past? Evaluate this statement: White people say that they had nothing to do with the enslavement of Black people, yet they enjoy all the benefits and privileges of being White, while Black people still bear the scars of slavery.

Despite an avowed stance against racism and in favor of human dignity for all, years upon years of sustained disinvestment in churches, parishes and schools serving the most vulnerable populations makes the Catholic Church complicit, at minimum, in creating and sustaining a structural and systemic racism affecting persons of color, the poor, and the marginalized. Do you agree? Why or why not? What concrete steps can be taken to change this course now?

Where is your parish located? What is its racial makeup? Are issues of racism in our country or society discussed within your local church?

Can you think of examples of racism, overt or underlying, within your own parish or other Catholic organization you affiliate with? Has this even been discussed in that setting?

What would it take for the Archdiocese of Detroit to take not only a stance of non-racism, but to become leaders as Anti-Racism Warriors in all respects?

### **March 19 Gathering Begins at 1:30 pm**

We will be meeting via Zoom, therefore our day of reflection will be shortened and begin at 1:30 pm and our guest speaker is Br. Fred Cabras. I'm anticipating as more people are vaccinated, the restrictions will be lifted and we can once again meet in person. Let's pray this will happen soon.

Join Zoom Meeting Link:

<https://zoom.us/j/8765411335?pwd=YsS0VksXR3RWT2VlaTV3V2RsZzM5dz09>

Meeting ID: 876 541 1335

Passcode: 694109

#### **Conference Call Information**

Dial In Number: 1-929-205-6099

Meeting ID: 876 541 1335

Passcode: 694109

### **Leadership Council Changes**

We have changes to our Council. **Ona Moore**, has stepped down from the Leadership Council and the Treasurer position. I want to personally thank Ona for all her time and effort over the years as a member of our leadership team and most recently as our Treasurer. Replacing Ona is **Doris Allen** and Doris' replacement as Secretary is **Bernadette Mikowski**. We will not replace Bernadette's open councilor position at this time. We have elections in October and it will be addressed then.

## Fraternity News

We are beginning a new Orientation class on **April 18** at Noon. Most of our vocations have come from our members. It is important to promote our fraternity within your professional and social circles. Please encourage anybody interested in the OFS to check us out. The contact person is **Maryann Kummer** (mkummersfo@gmail.com) our Formation Minister.

**The Women's Retreat is taking place April 23 (Friday), April 24 (Saturday), and April 25 (Sunday) at Capuchin Retreat in Washington.** The retreat theme is, *Blessed Be God in All His Designs*. If you are interested in making this retreat, please contact the Retreat Captain **Bernie Mikowski**.

Also, the construction has begun at the Solanus Casey Center for the new gift shop and offices. Its anticipated completion is scheduled for Fall 2022. Let's keep this project in our prayers for its success.

### **REFLECTION – The Song of the True Self – “Immortal Diamond” pages 56-57 by Richard Rohr, OFM**

“Within us there is an inner, natural dignity. (Often seen in older folks.)

An inherent worthiness that already knows and enjoys. (You see it in children.)

It is an immortal diamond waiting to be mined and is never discovered undesired.

It is a reverence humming within you that must be honored. Call it the soul, the unconscious, deep consciousness or the indwelling Holy Spirit.

Call it nothing.

It does not need the right name or right religion to show itself.

It does not even need to be understood. It is usually wordless.

It just is, and shows itself best when we are silent, or in love, or both.

I will call it the True Self here.

It is God-in-All-Things yet not circumscribed by any one thing.

It is enjoyed only when each part is in union with all other parts, because only then does it stand in the full truth.

Once in a while, this True Self becomes radiant and highly visible in one lovely place or person.

Superbly so, and for all to see, in the body of the Risen Christ.

And note that I did say “body.” It begins here and now in our embodied state in this world. Thus, the Christ Mystery travels the roads of time.

Once you have encountered this True Self – and once is more than enough – the False Self will begin to fall away on its own.

This will take most of your life, however, just as it did in Jesus.”

## A REFLECTION PRAYER – author Doris Allen, OFS

Holy Father we approach your throne of grace with a humble heart. We praise your Holy name and thank you for this opportunity to reflect on a very important matter. We ask that you provide us with the grace to discuss this difficult topic with an open mind, heart and spirit. Show favor on us as we tackle the topic of racism in our community, in our country, and in our Church. Help us to heed the words of the Catholic Bishops and Pope Francis that tell us that according to the Gospel and Catholic Social Teaching, racism is a sin. As Franciscans we are called to treat others as our brothers and sisters and not treat some minorities as “less than.” We pray for your help in being able to see Christ in everyone.

Forgive those who sin by thinking that they are superior to others based on the color of their skin. Help us to remember that in your eyes all are your beloved children. As we reflect today, give us the moral strength to speak honestly and openly and to listen without being judgmental. We are called to be the light of the world. We ask that you will be our light to lead us on the path before us as we discern how to respond to the racism present in the Church. Help us to honestly examine our own hearts and recognize our own shortcomings. Teach us your way, O Lord, that we may walk in your truth.

May the Lord, Our God, bless us in all that we undertake and strengthen us to follow Christ. May God bless us with listening hearts, that we may heed the voice of the Lord and follow His word, His wisdom, His counsel, and His love. As always, we ask these blessings in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.


Amen





David Seitz will be the MC for a fundraising event for the Crisis Pregnancy Center fundraising event Friday, April 23.

**LAUGH 4 HOPE**  
a family-friendly comedy night to support  
the life-saving work of



**April 23, 2021**  
**7:00 p.m.**  
*Doors open at 6:15*  
**Ward Church**  
**40000 Six Mile Rd,**  
**Northville, MI 48168**

*Featuring Robert G. Lee*

**Tickets \$25 or 2 for \$40**

**Ticket sales begin February 15th. Purchase tickets at [awpcfriendeds.org/events](http://awpcfriendeds.org/events) or call 248-939-5900**

## March 2021 Prayer Request for Priests

### ARCHDIOCESE OF DETROIT, MI

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Rev. J. Kopson	2 MSGR. C. Kosanke	3 Rev. A. Kote-Witah, O.F.M. CAP	4 Rev. R. Kotlarz	5 Rev. A. Kowalczyk, C.S.M.A.	6 Rev. G. Kowalski.
7 Rev. T. Kramer, Rev. A. Kratz, O.F.M.	8 Rev. L. Krotkiewicz	9 Rev. H.T. Kuehnemund	10 Rev. R. Kurzawa, Rev. T. Laboe	11 Rev. R. Lacroix, Rev. D. LaCuesta	12 Rev. J. Ladd, MSGR. T. Lajiness	13 Rev. J. Lam, Rev. J. Lang
14 Rev. L. Lapeyre, Rev. G Leboeuf	15 MSGR. M. Lefevre, Rev. R. Leliaert	16 Rev. M. Lenz, O.F.M.	17 Rev. D. Lesniak	18 Rev. R. Lewandowski	19 Rev. J. Libens, S.J.	20 Rev. D. Liderbach, S.J.
21 Rev. Friar A. Ligeti, O.F.M.	22 Rev. S.J. Lim, Rev. J. Livingston	23 Rev. M. Livingston	24 Rev. A. Logan, O.C.S.O.	25 Rev. J. Lopez	26 Rev. B. Louzon, O.F.M. CAP	27 Rev. J. Lowe, C.C., Rev. M. Loyson
28 Rev. R. Lucasinsky, C.M.M.	29 Rev. T. Lumpkin, Rev. A. Mabee	30 Rev. N. Maciejewski	31 Rev. D. Macioce, Rev. D. MacLennan			

### FRANCISCAN HOLY DAYS

March 2 – St. Agnes of Prague

March 9 – St. Frances of Rome

March 24 – Bl. Didacus Joseph of Cidaz



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

6.....Ilene Manning  
 7.....Patricia Cardellio  
 11.....Laura Sopian  
 26.....Doug Gordon  
 27.....Maryann Kummer  
 28 .....Joshua Gibson  
 29.....Brittney Walendzik  
 31.....Charlotte Heymes



## Members of our Fraternity

Lettie Aguilar	Ilene Manning & Family
Dan and Jan Atkinson	Stella Mordarski
Claire Boutain	Connie Musial
Joyce Brouillette	Ray Mylenek
Jerry Borycz	Jo Marie Nardi
Pat Cardellio	Mary Poole
Sophia Cisneros	Barbara Pardington
Salina De La Rosa	Joe Quesnelle
Julia Ertzbischoff-Donahue	Diane Raymond
Daniel Gabriel	Marilyn Ricard
Mary Gillen	Mary Saber
Stephen Haycox	Joe Sopian
James Heymes	Bridget Schultz
Gary Johnson	Ben Stapel
Joyce Kaminski	Eileen Smith
Esther Kelley	Ruby Thompson
Ron Kessler	Anna Tyler
Sharon Krill	Terry Westbrook-Lienert
Patricia Long	

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

**Jackie Hale**

## Our Deceased Members

Joseph Wisk

## Our Deceased Relatives

Michael Cain, brother-in-law of Laura Sopian  
 Marco Cerroni, cousin of Anthony Cerroni  
 Sherry Snigier, sister-in-law of Sylvia Snigier

## Relatives needing prayers

Tiffany Fogg, niece of Daniel Gabriel  
 Alice Greene, sister of Hank Forys  
 Marie Hollerud, mother of Greg Johnson  
 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  
 Kathy Olehowski, relative of Marguerite Brannigan  
 Kathleen Penridge, cousin of Julia Ertzbischoff-Donahue  
 Theresa Poole, mother of Mary  
 Donald Schrotenboer, son-in-law of Marguerite Brannigan  
 Matthew Smith, son of Eileen Smith  
 Jim Smith, grandson of Claire Boutain  
 Tom Sherfield, son-in-law of Claire Boutain  
 Sandra Woods Family  
 Denise Maltese, mother of Brittney Walendzik

# March

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6 <b>LEADERSHIP COUNCIL</b> 10:00 - 11:30 AM  BD: Ilene Manning
7  BD: Patricia Cardello <i>Pss Week 3</i>	8	9	10	11  BD: Laura Sopian	12	13
14  <i>Pss Week 4</i>	15	16	17 	18	19 	20
21 <b>FRATERNITY GATHERING ON ZOOM</b> 1:30 P.M.  <i>Pss Week 1</i>	22	23	24	25 <b>ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD</b>	26  BD: Doug Gordon	27  BD: Maryann Kummer
28  <b>PALM SUNDAY</b> BD: Joshua Gibson <i>Pss Week 2</i>	29  BD: Brittney Walenzik	30	31  BD: Charlotte Heymes			

# Fax et Phonum

## Minister

Eileen Smith .....

## Vice Minister

Brittney Walendzik .....

## Treasurer

Doris Allen .....

## Secretary

Bernie Mikowski .....

## Formation Minister

Maryann Kummer.....

## Councilors:

Melissa Lindow .....

Ron Kessler .....

Sharon Krill .....

## 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:

Julia Ertzbischoff-Donohue

### Infirmarian:

Jackie Hale .....

### Caring Hearts

Melissa Lindow .....

### JPIC Coordinator:

Doris Allen .....

## 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

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