



VOL. 68, NO. 1  
JANUARY 2008

# THE DOVERELLO

ST. BONAVENTURE SECULAR FRANCISCANS ✕ DETROIT, MICHIGAN



– detail of a 6th-century mosaic of the Magi Kings in S. Apollinare Nuovo, Ravenna, Italy

## Chapter

*A Privileged Moment in the Life of our Fraternity*

*Sunday, January 20, 2008*

*1:30 p.m. (no Mass)*

*All active members are expected to attend.*

*Cell meetings this month may or may not meet;  
check beforehand with the cell leader.*

Visit our website: <http://www.sfofbonaventure-detroit.org>

# MINISTER'S LETTER

Dear brothers and sisters,

***May our Lord's peace and all good be with you!***

Chapter marks a new year for our fraternity, and as the new year begins, your Council must give an accounting of its service to you. You will be receiving our reports before our Third Sunday meeting. As minister, I can assure you that my responsibility for the fraternity is ever in my consciousness. "When the Master comes," I hope, in JOY that I am able to present him with work not only completed to satisfaction, but done in a spirit of love and total self-giving to the best of my ability. This being said, I am also very aware of my own limitations and the overwhelming fragility of this situation. I trust that it is the Lord who is *running the show*. In my weakness, his strength and presence prevails!

This past year has witnessed quite a whirlwind of events, made possible through the hard work and efforts of many brothers and sisters. Your Council has been vigilant, seeking to meet goals for the good of the fraternity with all its many needs. Among the highlights was certainly the celebration of our 120<sup>th</sup> Jubilee; however, as awesome as this was, we cannot rest on this momentous occasion, but rather we must continue to forge ahead with even greater energy and perseverance doing the Lord's work. We have many brothers and sisters involved in various commissions, apostolates, office work, council, appointments, etc., but there is so much more to do.

We need more of you to come forward with your gifts and talents to do the ever-demanding *work of the Lord*. We need more help with Christian Service projects, the Healing Service social, the Third Sunday social set-up and clean-up. Can you help? Let me know.

While we're always open to suggestions you might have for how to do things, such as setting up committees like the Scone Committee for the Transitus, a social set-up and clean-up committee for St. Francis' feast day, etc., the fact is, we have a plethora of good ideas, what we need is your help, your involvement, your commitment. All of these events do not just happen. They don't happen because people have good ideas. They happen because people are committed and willing to roll up their sleeves and get involved in a common effort. This year I would like you to ask me or Maryann Kummer, our Continuing Education Director, "What can I do for Third Sunday?" **COME FORWARD WITH YOUR COMMITMENT TO ASSIST.** The active involvement of every brother and sister of this Fraternity is essential to making St. Bonaventure Fraternity a wonderful Franciscan family — ALL working together! This is how we grow in love and holiness. **See you at Chapter! [There is no Mass.]**

Peace and Good!

Janet

## Formation Reflections for January 2008

**Article 2:** The Secular Franciscan Order holds a special place in this family circle. It is an organic union of all Catholic fraternities scattered throughout the world and open to every group of the faithful. In fraternities, the brothers and sisters, led by the Spirit, strive for perfect charity in their own secular state. By their profession they pledge themselves to live the gospel in the manner of Saint Francis by means of this Rule approved by the Church.

**Scripture:** Mt 5:43-48; Acts 2:36-42, 10:9-48; Gal. 6:1-10

**Questions:**

1. What is perfect charity?
2. What does it mean to live the gospel in the manner of St. Francis?
3. What expectations do you have about profession? Is it the end of your journey?

# SOME THOUGHTS ON FRANCISCAN POVERTY

by Br. Pat McSherry, OFM Cap

It seems to me that there are two fundamental aspects of Franciscan poverty: 1) **being satisfied with less** and, 2) **keeping nothing back for yourself** (as the First Chapter of the friars' Later Rule puts it: living "sine proprio").

## BEING SATISFIED WITH LESS

Franciscan poverty starts with living a more simple lifestyle, being satisfied with less, not falling prey to the double whammy of individualism and consumerism so rampant in our day and age in which we no longer possess things, they possess us. Franciscan poverty is first and foremost person-centered, not thing-centered. The goal of a simplified lifestyle is the creation of a healthy dependence — on God and others. It builds communion and solidarity among people. For Capuchins, our Constitutions (67,3) give us the following rule of thumb when it comes to things: "The minimum necessary, not the maximum allowed." The spirituality of Secular Franciscans is remarkably similar in that the Rule and Constitutions and the Secular Franciscan heritage lived through the centuries call for simplicity of lifestyle, being satisfied with less.

Poverty chosen as a personal lifestyle is not the same as "being frugal or cheap". Although it's very tempting to focus on material things (the "less"), the focus of Franciscan poverty is properly placed on the "being satisfied" part of the equation. We're called to be "cheap dates" — not needing a lot in order to be happy, satisfied, fulfilled.

## KEEPING NOTHING BACK FOR YOURSELF

The second aspect of Franciscan poverty is not just about sharing and being generous with what is ours, but also about our attitudes toward the things which are ours, by God's grace. It is the principle of **kenosis** (emptying oneself) which is at the heart and core of Christ's Incarnation. While it is true that we have worked hard all our lives to have the things we now have — from a relatively high level of education, to our jobs and opportunities, our skills, our clothing, possessions and financial resources, it is also true that none of us can claim to be "self-made". Whatever we think we "have", we have been gifted with, that is, others — not the least of whom God — have made it possible for us to claim and enjoy. We are in debt — we owe it all to others. "But I worked [studied] hard to get to where I am today!" you may protest. True enough, but you wouldn't even know how to study or work hard had someone else not taught you and instilled in you the value, ethics and work ethic that enabled and motivated you to study and work. Pride is so inappropriate for one who is gifted; and the more gifted you are, the more humble you ought to be, because the greater is your indebtedness to others. Therefore, whatever I may be gifted with is given to me not for my personal gain or to be enjoyed as a personal prerogative, but is meant to be given openhandedly as a gift to others, and specifically to those who have less. In that way, we pay back our own indebtedness. This is true of our time as well as our talents and possessions. I am not the owner of what I have, only the steward, called not to bury, but to invest, and especially to invest my life in the lives of others.

## From the Friars' Choir

The task ahead of us is never as great  
as the power behind us.

— [www.weavings.org](http://www.weavings.org)





## Friends are God's way of taking care of us

by a metro-Denver hospice physician

I was driving home from a meeting this evening about 5, stuck in traffic on Colorado Blvd., and the car started to choke and sputter and die – I barely managed to coast, cursing, into a gas station, glad only that I would not be blocking traffic and would have a somewhat warm spot to wait for the tow truck. It wouldn't even turn over. Before I could make the call, I saw a woman walking out of the quickie mart building, and it looked like she slipped on some ice and fell into a gas pump, so I got out to see if she was okay. When I got there, it looked more like she had been overcome by sobs than that she had fallen; she was a young woman who looked really haggard with dark circles under her eyes. She dropped something as I helped her up, and I picked it up to give it to her. It was a nickel. At that moment, everything came into focus for me: the crying woman, the ancient Suburban crammed full of stuff with 3 kids in the back (1 in a car seat), and the gas pump reading \$4.95. I asked her if she was okay and if she needed help, and she just kept saying "I don't want my kids to see me crying," so we stood on the other side of the pump from her car. She said she was driving to California and that things were very hard for her right now. So I asked, "And you were praying?" That made her back away from me a little, but I assured her I was not a crazy person and said, "He heard you, and He sent me." I took out my card

and swiped it through the card reader on the pump so she could fill up her car completely, and while it was fueling, walked to the next door McDonald's and bought two big bags of food, some gift certificates for more, and a big cup of coffee. She gave the food to the kids in the car, who attacked it like wolves, and we stood by the pump eating fries and talking a little. She told me her name, and that she lived in Kansas City. Her boyfriend left two months ago and she had not been able to make ends meet. She knew she wouldn't have money to pay rent January 1<sup>st</sup>, and in desperation, had finally called her parents, with whom she had not spoken in about 5 years. They lived in California and said she could come live with them and try to get on her feet there. So she packed up everything she owned in the car. She told the kids they were going to California for Christmas, but not that they were going to live there. I gave her my gloves, a little hug and said a quick prayer with her for safety on the road. As I was walking over to my car, she said, "So, are you like an angel or something?" This definitely made me cry. I said, "Sweetie, at this time of year angels are really busy, so sometimes God uses regular people." It was so incredible to be a part of someone else's miracle. And, of course, you guessed it, when I got in my car it started right away and got me home with no problem. I'll put it in the shop tomorrow to check, but I suspect the mechanic won't find anything wrong.

Sometimes angels fly close enough to you that you can hear the flutter of their wings. Be an angel: reach out to someone in need.



January 3 ..... Alice Vier  
January 4 ..... Joseph Driessen  
January 5 ..... Thomas Nozewski  
   Paul Catrow  
January 7 ..... Gary Johnson  
January 8 ..... John Bodell  
   Anthony Lienert  
January 10 ... Mary Lou Catino  
January 15 ... Natalie Grabowski

January 16 ... Sylvia Stanik  
January 17 ... Janice Litch  
January 19 ... Gloria Longueuil  
January 21 ... Marie Fontanive  
January 28 ... Beverly Hanus  
January 30 ... Kathleen Lang  
   Patricia Vail  
January 31 ... Anne Samulak



**DECEASED RELATIVES AND FRIENDS:**

Andrew John Ridley  
Lillian Simoney  
Angie Kay  
Teresa Maltese  
Maria Chirco  
Michael Czczerba  
John Balduck, brother of Fr. Wally, OFM Cap.

**MEMBERS OF OUR FRATERNITY IN NEED OF PRAYER:**

Wilhelmina Adkins  
Kay Balas  
Irma Barlage  
Fred Dinverno  
Natalie Grabowski  
Virginia Hale  
James Heymes  
Gary Johnson  
Donna Marie Johnston  
Joseph Marra  
Sophie Martin  
Dorothy Mataragas  
Maria McNally  
Ray Morehead  
Dolores and Bob Peckham  
Theresa Pfaendtner  
Maxine Piaseczny  
Mary Saber  
Joseph Wisk

**RELATIVES SERVING OUR COUNTRY:**

Andrew Arcznski  
Christopher Beattie  
Francisco Biber  
Tom Chmielarczyk  
John Marra III  
Joseph Marra, Jr.

**For prayers, call Jo Marie Nardi at 586-978-2335.**



**TORI HOPKINS**  
**2 years old**  
**Diagnosis: Neuroblastoma**

Tori received chemotherapy and underwent surgery to remove the tumor. After surgery, she continued to receive chemotherapy followed by a bone marrow transplant and radiation treatment. Today, Tori is off treatment and at home with her parents and her older sister. An active 2-year-old, she learned how to swim this summer. Tori currently returns to the hospital every three months for regular checkups. St. Jude far exceeded the family's expectations. Tori's mother, Jessica, is eternally grateful to the donors who help support St. Jude. "We thank God every day that there are people who care as much as they do," she said. Once the family returned home, they signed up to become Partners In Hope, to help give back to the hospital that saved their daughter's life.

**Financial Statements Available**

If you want a statement of your monetary contributions to the SFO, please contact the SFO Office either by mail, e-mail, or voice mail. Thanks!



**Third Order  
Feasts  
of  
January**

- 3 ... Holy Name of Jesus
- 7 ... Bl. Angela of Foligno, III Order, religious
- 8 ... Bl. Eurosia Fabris, SFO, spouse & parent
- 27 .. St. Angela Merici, III Order, religious
- 28 .. St. Hyacinth Mariscotti, III Order, religious
- 31 .. St. John Bosco, SFO

# JANUARY 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b> MARY, MOTHER OF GOD Proper  HOLY DAY IN THE USA	<b>2</b> Pss: Wk I	<b>3</b> Thursday Meeting: 1 PM	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> EPIPHANY Proper	<b>7</b> Pss: Wk II	<b>8</b> St. Joan of Arc: 1 PM	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Fr. Solanus Cell: 7:30 PM	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> BAPTISM OF THE LORD Proper	<b>14</b> ORD. TIME: Week 1 Pss: Wk I	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> SFO COUNCIL: 6:30 PM	<b>17</b> St. Alfred's: 7 PM EMB Board: 10 AM	<b>18</b> WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY BEGINS (IN THE USA)  Interfaith Meeting: 7 PM	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> ORD. TIME SUNDAY 2 Pss. Wk. II  SFO CHAPTER	<b>21</b> Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	<b>22</b> 1973 Ruling: Roe v Wade DAY OF PENANCE in USA	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> CHRISTIAN SERVICE: Conner Kitchen 11 am – 1:00 pm	<b>25</b> Bl. Luchesio: 7:30 PM CHRISTIAN SERVICE: Meldrum Kitchen 10:30 am - 1 pm	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> ORD. TIME SUNDAY 3 Pss. Wk. III	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>		

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## FAX ET PHONUM

### Minister

Janet Bodell

### Vice Minister

Ona Harris

### Treasurer

Eugene Snyders

### Secretary

Patricia Meldrum

### Formation

John Bodell

### Councillors:

Clara Falzone

Caroline Florescu

Gary Johnson

Frank Kraimer

Maryann Kummer

Maxine Piaseczny

### Spiritual Assistant:

Br. Patrick McSherry

### Family:

### Peace and Justice:

Jo Marie Nardi

Maxine Piaseczny

### Eucharistic Mission Band (EMB):

Caroline Florescu

### MEETING CONTACTS

(for Locations and Times of Meetings)

### Fr. Solanus Cell (2<sup>nd</sup> Friday, 7:30 pm):

Faye Boland

### St. Joan of Arc Satellite (2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday, 1 pm):

Frank Liccardello

### First Thursday Meeting (1 pm):

Raymond Morehead

### Third Sunday General SFO Meeting:

Maryann Kummer

### St. Alfred Cell (3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday, 7:00 pm):

Gertrude Beatty

### Bl. Luchesio Cell (4<sup>th</sup> Friday, 7:30 pm):

Janice E. Litch

### APPOINTMENTS

### Infirmarians:

Jo Marie Nardi

Sylvia Stanik

### Continuing Formation:

Maryann Kummer

### Christian Service:

Frank Kraimer

### Ecology:

Clara Falzone

### Work:

Gary Johnson

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Deadline for articles is 3:30 PM  
of the 3rd Sunday of each month.



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