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MARCH 2008

THE DOVERELLO

ST. BONAVENTURE SECULAR FRANCISCANS ✦ DETROIT, MICHIGAN



Crucifix by Laura Bartolini, Le Celle di Cortona

**"May I may feel in my heart...
that *excessive* love with which you,
O Son of God, were inflamed
in willingly enduring such suffering
for us sinners."**

- from The Third Consideration on the Stigmata,
see St. Francis of Assisi Writings and Early Biographies:
English Omnibus of the Sources for the Life of St. Francis,
ed. Marion A. Habig, Chicago, Franciscan Herald Press, 1973, p. 1448.

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MINISTER'S LETTER

Dear brothers and sisters,

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

This year, for my Lenten experience, I am trying to avoid the "attitudes" which, as Br. Pat told us in his article last month, "are guaranteed *not* to deliver a good Lent." This focus has certainly been a change for me! What has come to my mind through prayer and introspection has been what the Tertiary Franciscan mystic, Bl. Angela of Foligno, called "the struggle between humility and pride, and which has effects on the irascible power of the soul" (**Angela of Foligno: The Complete Works** by Paul LaChance, OFM. Paulist Press, New York, 1993).

I have heard and read many Franciscan teachers say that in St. Francis' example of loving Lady Poverty we are ultimately being shown the example of **Gospel humility**. This is the example of our Lord, Jesus. This God-made-flesh, who reaches out to others and, in fact, gives his very life for others! This Lent I have been particularly focused on seeing others do this...my husband, John, and his medical team that give themselves totally to the poorest of the poor in our hemisphere – the people of Haiti. Our beloved suffering sister in Francis, Maxine Piaceszny, being admitted to a nursing home, began a Franciscan interfaith peace and justice prayer group for all the nursing home residents! Then, I saw a man last Friday in a restaurant pay for a dinner for a young American soldier and his family...but left the restaurant before the soldier knew about it and could thank him! These humble acts of kindness are very humbling to me! I could, as Bl. Angela experienced, "perceive myself as fallen from every good and devoid of every virtue and grace" (p. 200). I know my limitations so well, my weaknesses "weigh heavily on me to have fallen so low" (p. 201).

Do you ever feel this struggle? First, you think you are living the greatest life in the Spirit by being in the SFO, following the Rule, and doing what you think is God's will; you are doing everything *right*. Then, you see others doing even greater things, kinder things, more loving acts for others. Perhaps then you may become, as did Bl. Angela, "full of anger, sadness, bitterness, and conceit" (p. 201). This is *pride* raising its ugly head! Oh, and it is a struggle!!! Lord, save us!

Sometimes, at least with me, we may experience a great temptation to *chuck it all*. "I can't do this any longer; this is too frustrating! Is it really worth it?" Blessed Angela went through this herself and gives us a bit of spiritual counsel: "...through this struggle with...humility and pride extreme purgation and purification...take place in [your] soul...Caught in this struggle between humility and pride, the soul has passed through fire and undergone martyrdom...The more a soul is laid low, abased, impoverished, and thoroughly humiliated, the more it is prepared, purged, and purified for a greater elevation. For the extent of the soul's elevation corresponds to the extent of its humiliation and abasement" (p. 202).

I have a great hope that this struggle between *humility and pride* will lead to Franciscan virtue found through *joy in suffering*. After all, Easter is ever before us. Alleluia! Christ is risen; he is risen indeed!

Happy Easter, dear ones!

Janet

REMINDER:

March's "Third Sunday Meeting"
will actually be held on the **second Sunday** of the month

— **March 9th** —

This is our Day of Reflection, which begins at 11 AM.

There will *not* be a Mass.

Please bring a bag lunch.

Rule Reflections for March 2008

SFO Constitutions, Article 4

The Rule and life of the Secular Franciscans is this: to observe the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ by following the example of Saint Francis of Assisi, who made Christ the inspiration and the center of his life with God and people.

Christ, the gift of the Father's love, is the way to him, the truth into which the Holy Spirit leads us, and the life which he has come to give abundantly.

Secular Franciscans should devote themselves especially to careful reading of the Gospel, going from Gospel to life and life to Gospel.

The Way of Life is a life to be lived more fully in conformity to Christ. Secular Franciscans have been called to observe the Gospel.

Scripture suggestions:

Matthew 19:16-30; Luke 2:51-52; 6:46-49; 11:28; John 5:26, 36-47; 10:10; 14:6-17; 16:13
Acts of the Apostles 17:2-4, 11-12.

Meditation:

1. What does "Gospel to life and life to Gospel" mean?
2. How is Christ the gift of the Father's love?
3. Explain how Jesus is the Way, the Life, and the Truth?



TJ Goodrich
3 years old
Neuroblastoma

Within days of TJ's arrival, the medical professionals at St. Jude found he suffered from neuroblastoma, a common solid tumor of childhood. Treatment has been tough on TJ, but his mother, Kelly, is amazed by his spirit. "He's a fighter," she said. The family is overwhelmed at how caring and supportive everyone at the hospital is. About the donors who help support St. Jude, they are especially grateful. "I don't know how we'd have done it without their help," Kelly said. Not having to worry about medical bills is a relief for the family. "Because of the donors, TJ is getting the treatment he needs. St. Jude is the best place he could be. We're very lucky."

CAR NEEDED



Do you have a car that you could donate to the fraternity for one of our members? It needs to be in good working condition. Since the fraternity is a 501 C3 [charitable institution], we could give you a receipt for the car's worth that you could use as a tax deduction. **Please contact Frank Kraimer, our Christian Service director, at (248) 408-3651.** God bless you!



Deceased Members

Agnes Perna (†Feb. 9, 2008)
Anna (Edgeworth) Paglia (†Feb. 13, 2008)

Deceased Family Members



Marirose Carillo,
daughter of Natalie Grabowski

Members needing Prayer

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Wilhelmina Adkins | Joseph Marra |
| Kay Balas | Sophie Martin |
| Gertrude Beattie | Dorothy Mataragas |
| Anthony Brodeur | Maria McNally |
| Fred Dinverno | Genevieve Ochenkowski |
| Joe Doeren | Dolores and Bob Peckham |
| Marie Fontanive | Theresa Pfaendtner |
| Natalie Grabowski | Maxine Piaseczny |
| Virginia Hale | Francis Rettig |
| James Heymes | Mary Saber |
| Donna Marie Johnston | Helen Wardowski |
| Louis Joseph | Joseph Wisk |
| Beverly Joseph | |

Relatives needing Prayer

- Angel Bettin, niece of Jan Atkinson
- Dawn Bodell, daughter of John & Janet Bodell
- Barbara Erzbischoff, mother of Julia E-Donahue
- Rose Driesson, wife of Joseph
- Marcella Carter, mother of Ona Harris
- Claudia Carter, Ona Harris' sister
- Beverly Falzone, mother of Clara
- Stefan Florescu, husband of Caroline
- Bob Fontanive, husband of Marie
- Fred LaChance, brother of Donna Marie Johnston
- Don McKinnon, Donna's nephew

Marilyn Nichols, daughter of Anthony Brodeur
Jean Nozewski, wife of Thomas
Donna Mitchell, niece of Jan Atkinson
Lawrence Poole, father of Mary

Those serving our Country

- Andrew Arcznski
- Christopher Beattie
- Francisco Biber
- Thomas Chmielarczyk
- Thomas Greenia
- John Kristensen
- John Marra III
- Joseph Marra, Jr.

Pray for all those who have asked for our prayers.

To add or change prayer requests, please call:
Jo Marie Nardi at 586-978-2335.

Updates:

As many of you know, in December, Gert Beattie had some health problems. She's in good spirits, but still weak. She's now living with her son, Bill. She misses you all very much, and has you covered in her prayers. Her grandson, Chris, is currently serving in the Armed Forces in Iraq. His wife, Jessica, recently gave birth to twin boys, Zachary and Matthew. Please remember them all in your prayers.

**Gertrude Beattie
12972 West Shore Dr.
Houghton Lake, MI 48629**



Many thanks for your prayers for Br. Pat's niece, Deven, during her pregnancy. On February 24th, she gave birth to her firstborn son, Olin Lilburn.

From the Friars' Choir

Underpromise;
overdeliver.

– Tom Peters



Mark Your 2008 Calendars

- March 9Day of Reflection (11 AM) Bring a bag lunch; no Mass
- April 20Mass and Renewal of Profession of SFO Jubilarians
- April 26Mass for SFO Deceased (10 am)
- May 18Regular 3rd Sunday Meeting
- June 8Regular 3rd Sunday Meeting
- July 20Annual Picnic
- August 17Regular 3rd Sunday Meeting
- August 23Mass for SFO Deceased (10 am)
- September 21Day of Reflection (11 AM) Bring a bag lunch; no Mass
- October 19Regular 3rd Sunday Meeting
- November 16Mass and Profession
- November 22Mass for SFO Deceased (10 am)
- December 21Christmas Concert



- March 2 Barbara Sokol
- March 13 Joseph Henn
- March 27 Maryann Kummer
- March 31 Charlotte Heymes



Happy St.Patrick's Day !

VICE MINISTER'S LETTER

Dear sisters and brothers:

I just want to bring you up-to-date on the **2008 Towel Campaign**. The **Towel Campaign** kicked off on Ash Wednesday and will last through the season of Lent. We are asking for your support in collecting new white towels and washcloths. You may bring them to our March 9th Meeting and Day of Reflection, or drop them off at the Solanus Casey Center at any time. If you bring them to the Center, please ask the receptionist to contact Br. Pat McSherry (ext. 141).



Some members have asked why we are requesting *WHITE* towels. The reason is that white towels allow for laundering with chloride bleach which not only cleans but also sanitizes the articles.

The towels will be distributed from the Secular Franciscan Office of St. Bonaventure Fraternity during the week of March 31st to April 5th, 2008 (i.e., the week following Divine Mercy Sunday). We will need vans and cars for the delivery. If you are available at all during that week to assist in boxing up the towels or can help deliver them, please call the SFO Office (313-579-2100, ext. 136) or Ona Harris (evenings at 313-862-3297).

For the 2008 Towel Campaign, we are donating the towels to the Mercy Primary Care Center's (MPCC) Special Personal Assistance (SPA) Program. This program provides over 4,100 showers annually to the homeless population of our community. The program also provides resources to the homeless, including clothing, food and other personal services. I will be

touring the facility on Tuesday, March 18, 2008, at 9:00 A.M. If anyone wishes to go with me, just call the SFO Office.

Again, on behalf of our Minister and Council, I want to thank you for your continued support!

United in our Franciscan charism, I remain

Ona C. Harris

Vice Minister

St. Bonaventure Secular Franciscans'

2008 Towel Campaign



*Donate and Collect
new White towels and washcloths
to be distributed to area Shelters*

When: *Bring them to our Day of Reflection
on March 9th, or drop them off at the
Solanus Casey Center
(ask for Br. Pat McSherry).*

Delivery: *The week following
Divine Mercy Sunday
(March 31 - April 5)*

Where: *In select Fraternities and Cells
of the Divine Mercy Region*

Who: *All Secular Franciscans,
with their families and friends*

Purpose: *To answer a need in our community,
and to spread the Franciscan Charism*

For more information:

Call:

***St. Bonaventure's SFO Office:
313-579-2100, ext. 136***

or:

***Ona Harris:
313-862-3297 (evenings)***



Let "mercy" be a verb, not just a noun.

The Mayonnaise Jar



2 Cups of Coffee

When things in your life seem almost too much to handle, when 24 hours in a day is not enough, remember the mayonnaise jar and 2 cups of coffee.

A professor stood before his philosophy class and had some items in front of him. When the class began, wordlessly, he picked up a very large and empty mayonnaise jar and proceeded to fill it with golf balls. He then asked the students if the jar was full. They agreed that it was.

The professor then picked up a box of pebbles and poured them into the jar. He shook the jar lightly. The pebbles rolled into the open areas between the golf balls. He then asked the students again if the jar was full. They agreed it was.

The professor next picked up a box of sand and poured it into the jar. Of course, the sand filled up everything else. He asked once more if the jar was full. The students responded with a unanimous “yes!”

The professor then produced two cups of coffee from under the table and poured the entire contents into the jar, effectively filling the empty space between the sand. The students laughed. “Now,” said the professor, as the laughter subsided, “I want you to recognize that this jar represents your life. The golf balls are the important things — God, the Gospel, family, children, health, friends, and favorite passions — things that, if everything else was lost and only they remained, your life would still be full.

The pebbles are the other things that matter like your job, house, and car. The sand is everything else — the small stuff.

“If you put the sand into the jar first,” he continued, “there is no room for the pebbles or the golf balls. The same goes for life. If you spend all your time and energy on the small stuff, you will never have room for the things that are important to you. So, pay attention to the things that are critical to your happiness. Live the Gospel. Pray to God. Play with your children and grandchildren. Take time to get medical checkups. Take your spouse out to dinner. Play another 18. There will always be time to clean the house and fix the disposal. “Take care of the golf balls first — the things that really matter. Set your priorities. The rest is just sand.”

One of the students raised her hand and inquired what the coffee represented. The professor smiled. “I’m glad you asked.” It just goes to show you that no matter how full your life may seem, there’s always room for a couple of cups of coffee with a friend.”

Secular Franciscan Feasts of March



- detail of the Crucifix in the Choir of the Church of San Francesco in Arezzo

9 St. Frances of Rome (1384-1440) SFO, wife, mother, religious

12 Bl. Angela Salawa (1881-1922), SFO

23 St. Catherine of Genoa (1447-1510) SFO, wife

28 Bl. Jean Marie of Maillé (1331-1414) SFO, widow, recluse

Fair Share Policy Clarification from the Regional Minister

The **National Statutes** designate who is to be included in paying Fair Share, and who is responsible for the contribution. “The **Local Fraternity is responsible** for contributing to the Regional Fraternity on a fair share basis **from its common fund** to underwrite the costs of that fraternity” [see General Constitutions, Art. 30.3]. Note that payment of the Fair Share is the specific responsibility of the fraternity, *not* the individual member, and comes out of the fraternity’s Common Fund.

Again, the **National Statutes**: “A Fair Share contribution is made based on the number of active and excused brothers and sisters, but **not** for those who are deemed **lapsed**.”

The **Statutes** define the terms “**active**” and “**lapsed**”. Note that here the “**active**” category *includes* those whom the fraternity has “**excused**”.

- A. An **active** fraternity member is **one who participates** both by attending fraternity meetings and by providing financial support to the community, **or whom the fraternity has excused** from such obligations.
- B. Those brothers and sisters who neither attend meetings, support the community financially, nor have valid reasons due to health, family, work or distance, and who, after personal invitations to return to fraternity, consciously and deliberately reject or ignore the invitation, will be termed “lapsed,” and will not be carried on the fraternity membership roll, nor be reported as a member to higher fraternity Councils.”

Thus, for the purposes of *Fair Share*, there are only two categories of fraternity members: “active” or “lapsed”. *Those whom the fraternity has excused for valid reasons from attending fraternity meetings and/or contributing to the Common Fund, belong to the “active” category, and the fraternity should pay Fair Share for them.*

If you have questions about how the policy should be applied in your fraternity, please feel free to contact either the Regional Minister, Mary Bittner, SFO at 734-483-1956 or at mbittner@umich.edu; or the Regional Treasurer, Rosemary Hannaford, SFO at Rosemhnrfd@aol.com.

New Inquiry Class begins in April

If you know anyone who would make a good Secular Franciscan, invite them to the new Inquiry Class which will be held on April 20th at 12 Noon in the second floor conference room of the Solanus Casey Center.

MARCH 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 LENT IV Pss: Wk 4	3	4	5	6 First Thursday Meeting: 1 PM	7 Abstinence	8
9 LENT V Pss: Wk 1 3 RD SUNDAY SFO Day of Reflection 11 AM	10	11 St. Joan of Arc: 1 PM	12	13	14 Abstinence Fr. Solanus Cell: 7:30 PM	15 St. Joseph, Solemnity
16 PALM SUNDAY Pss: Wk 2	17 	18	19 SFO COUNCIL: 6:30 PM	20 Holy Thursday EMB Board: 10 AM	21 Good Friday Day of Fast & Abstinence	22 Holy Saturday Paschal Fast
23 EASTER Proper	24 EASTER OCTAVE Pss as on Easter	25	26	27 CHRISTIAN SERVICE: Conner Kitchen 11 am – 1:00 pm	28 Bl. Luchesio: 7:30 PM Interfaith Meeting: 7 PM - 9 PM CHRISTIAN SERVICE: Meldrum Kitchen 10:30 am - 1 pm	29
30 Mercy Sunday Proper	31 Annunciation Solemnity					

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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

APPOINTMENTS

Infirmarians:

Jo Marie Nardi

Sylvia Stanik

Continuing Formation:

Maryann Kummer

Christian Service:

Frank Kraimer

Ecology:

Clara Falzone

Work:

Gary Johnson

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 (2nd Friday, 7:30 pm):

Faye Boland

St. Joan of Arc Satellite (2nd Tuesday, 1 pm):

Frank Liccardello

First Thursday Meeting (1 pm):

Raymond Morehead

Third Sunday General SFO Meeting:

Maryann Kummer

Bl. Luchesio Cell (4th Friday, 7:30 pm):

Janice E. Litch

OTHER SFO-AFFILIATED GROUPS:

Interfaith Justice & Peace Group (4th Friday, 7-9 PM):

Maxine Piaseczny

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