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NOVEMBER 2011

# THE POWELL

ST. BONAVENTURE SECULAR FRANCISCANS ✦ DETROIT, MICHIGAN



*St. Clare  
Franciscan Society  
of  
Regina High School*

# MINISTER'S LETTER

My dear brothers and sisters,

*May God's peace and joy be with you!*

## PLEASE NOTE ON YOUR CALENDARS

We will celebrate the Profession of Joe and Laura Sopian into the Secular Franciscan Order on Sunday, November 20. The Profession Mass will begin at 1:30 p.m. in the Main Chapel with a reception immediately following.

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

In a week or two, you will receive a letter asking you to pay your part of the Fair Share and *Poverello* expenses. We would appreciate receiving your payment by the end of December.

Thanks to the hard work of **Pat Meldrum, Br. Pat and Bev Sopian** [*editor's note: and the countless hours Maryann herself spent on this project*], I am pleased to report that our fraternity member directory is completed. Copies of the directory will be available during the reception after Profession. Please remember that the purpose of the Directory is for urgent fraternity communication among ourselves only (e.g., the cancellation of a meeting, death notices, etc.). Therefore, only those members listed in the Directory will receive a copy of the Directory. Please respect people's desire not to give out their addresses, e-mail addresses or phone numbers beyond our Fraternity. Please do not add this information to personal prayer lists, etc. without first explicitly asking the individual if he or she wants to be included. Thank you!

## REFLECTION

By the grace of God, I renew my baptismal promises and consecrate myself to the service of God's kingdom. Therefore, in my secular state, I promise to live all the days of my life the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Secular Franciscan Order by observing its Rule of Life. May the grace of the Holy Spirit, the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary and our holy father, St. Francis, and the fraternal bonds of community always be my help, so that I may reach the goal of perfect Christian love.

– from the SFO Rite of Profession

Profession is a grace and a gift of the Holy Spirit. Our vocations as Secular Franciscans began as a call, initiated by the Spirit of God, to a deeper relationship with God and a more meaningful way of Gospel life. By the grace of God, we were called to the Franciscan way of life. God's grace was with us throughout our formation and discernment process, and his grace continues to guide and strengthen us as we strive to live the Gospel in our daily lives.

At our Profession into the Secular Franciscan Order, we formed a sacred bond with our SFO brothers and sisters and publicly proclaimed our permanent commitment to faithfully follow the SFO Rule of Life and the General Constitutions of the Secular Franciscan Order. We committed ourselves to:

**Observe the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ by following the example of St. Francis of Assisi, who made Christ the inspiration and the center of his life with God and people.** As followers of St. Francis, we, too, are to make Christ the center of our lives. As Secular Franciscans we commit ourselves to reading Scripture, to meditating upon it, and to observing the Gospel which means that the teachings become a part of who we are and our decisions are made and influenced according to Gospel values. Our Franciscan vocation is a call to a deeper knowledge of and encounter with the living Spirit of God. Besides taking the time to read the Word, we must take time to listen to him and to experience his unconditional love for us. Once we encounter the living Christ, our ways of relating to others, our view of the world, the way in which we live our lives continue to change.

**Conversion/Radical interior change** – As our relationship with Christ grows deeper, the more clearly we see things that need to change in our lives. We see areas where we fall short of not living up to Jesus’ teachings, our failure to love others especially those who are different from us, our lack of concern for the poor, our habits and attitudes that need to change. Conversion is not easy but, by the grace of the Holy Spirit and the support of our brothers and sisters, change is possible. Our Rule calls us to a radical interior change, not a superficial change of behavior, but a total change of heart and attitude.

**The brothers and sisters are co-responsible for the life of the fraternity to which they belong and for the SFO as an organic union of all fraternities throughout the world. The sense of co-responsibility of the members requires personal presence, witness, prayer and active collaboration, in accordance with each one’s situation and possible obligations for the animation of the fraternity.**

– SFO Constitutions, art. 30.1 and 30.2.

Our Profession establishes a permanent relationship with our Franciscan brothers and sisters. Your presence at fraternity gatherings and active participation in discussions is vitally important to the life of our fraternity. Your generous sharing of your talent and skills is important to the common good of our fraternity. Your generous monthly financial contribution is needed to provide for the normal business operations of the fraternity.

Remember to pray daily for vocations to the Secular Franciscan Order.

I wish you and your family a blessed and joyous Thanksgiving.

Your sister in Ss. Francis and Clare,  
maryann

## From the Friars' Choir



**BE THE CHANGE  
YOU WANT TO SEE  
IN THE WORLD.**

**- GANDHI**

## Webpage Note

Our webpage is temporarily down. We are aware of this and are working to get it back up and running. Thank you for your patience.



- 1..... Mary Williams
- 4 ..... James Heymes
- 7 ..... Rose Longo
- 8 ..... Robert Peckham  
Connie Musial
- 9 ..... Evelyn Olden
- 12 ..... Caroline Hojna
- 15 ..... Mary Klein  
Shirley Ivan
- 22 ..... Caroline Florescu
- 23 ..... Norbert Chmielarczyk
- 24 ..... Stella Mordarski
- 25 ..... Julia Ertzbischoff-Donohue
- 26 ..... Gertrude Beattie



**Deceased:**

Marie Urban († Aug. 13, 2011), mother of Joe Portugal  
 Elizabeth Savage († Feb. 21, 2011)

**Members needing prayers:**

- |                             |                       |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Wilhelmina Adkins           | Rose Longo            |
| Peter Aluzzo                | Ilene Manning         |
| Kay Balas                   | Joseph Marra          |
| Gertrude Beattie            | Sophie Martin         |
| Mary Lou Catino             | Maria McNally         |
| Rocco Cesaro                | Mabel Michaels        |
| Mary Gillen                 | Barbara Pardington    |
| Natalie Grabowski & Family  | Eleanor Pulido        |
| James Heymes                | Rosie Patin           |
| Caroline Hojna              | Bob Peckham           |
| Anna May Jezak              | Terry Pfaendtner      |
| Donna Marie Johnston        | Joseph Pierce         |
| Beverly & Louis Joseph      | Eleanore Pulido       |
| Mary Klein                  | Mary Saber            |
| Lorraine Korte              | Francis Scallion      |
| Jerry & Helen Koslowski     | Gene Snyders          |
| Mary LaBudie                | Alice Vier            |
| Les and Josie Lafata        | Helen Wardowski       |
| Frank & Rosalie Liccardello | Joseph Wisk           |
| Tony Lienert                | Steve & Ronnie Yuhase |

**Relatives needing prayers:**

- Theresa Brannigan, daughter-in-law of Marguerite  
 George Ertzbischoff, uncle of Julia  
 Ted and Judy Hojna  
 William Pierce Hunter, great-grandson of Mary Hebert  
 Denise Joseph, daughters of Beverly & Louis  
 Esther Mae Kelly, wife of Charles  
 Fred LaChance, brother of Donna Marie Johnston  
 Albert P. Long, Sr., husband of Patricia  
 Albert P. Long, Jr., son of Patricia  
 Jerome & Tristan Manning, grandsons of Ilene  
 Rosemary Marson, sister of Ralph

- Steven Matusin  
 Janet Nassen  
 Jean Nozewski, wife of Thomas  
 Teresa Poole, mother of Mary  
 Family of Joanne Schumacher  
 Victoria Snigier, mother of Sylvia  
 Chester Wisk, brother of Joe

**Memorials**

Fred Winnicki by Pauline Fitzsimons  
 Bob Paille, Barbara Jaworski, Lucille Olf, Kristofer Paluch  
 by Jo Marie Nardi

**Those serving in the Armed Forces:**

- |                         |                   |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Andrew Arcznski         | Thomas Greenia    |
| Christopher Beattie     | Michael Manning   |
| James Anthony Brannigan | John Marra III    |
| Thomas Chmielarczyk     | Joseph Marra, Jr. |

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

**Jo Marie Nardi at 586-978-2335**



**HAYDEN**

**6 YEARS OLD**

Shortly after Hayden’s fifth birthday, doctors discovered a type of brain tumor called medulloblastoma. Hayden’s parents had heard about St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital and immediately asked their doctor for a referral. Hayden underwent 31 rounds of radiation treatment, followed by four rounds of chemotherapy to help shrink the tumor. Physical therapy and speech therapy were also a part of his ongoing treatment.

Hayden’s parents found comfort at St. Jude. “Everything here is positive. You feel like everything is going to be fine,” said Hayden’s mom. “The hospital is really geared towards children.”

Hayden is a happy child who loves to go fishing at the lake, watch Scooby Doo, and play the Wii®. He recently finished his treatment and returns to St. Jude regularly for checkups. To his family’s delight, Hayden’s most recent sets of scans were stable.



## Celebrating Hank Forys



Hank Forys was born on December 17, 1954 in Highland Park, Michigan, but grew up in Warren. His mother, Ann [who is now 92], was a widow with two children when she married Henry J. Forys in 1951. Hank's dad's birthday was on the feast of St. Anthony of Padua (June 13) and he died on the feast of St. Francis (October 4, 1993). Hank's grandmother was a member of the Third Order of St. Francis, and his grandfather and uncle were both named Francis. Hank has one brother, Andrew Siedzik, and one sister, Alice Greene.

Hank attended St. Anne Grade School in Warren and graduated from Warren High School in 1973. He earned a Bachelor's Degree in Religious Education from St. Mary's College, Orchard Lake, in 1980. He returned to Orchard Lake this year to begin work on a Master's Degree in Liturgical Theology from SS. Cyril and Methodius Seminary.

From 1980-1984, Hank taught at St. Anne High School in Warren, and has been teaching at Regina High School since 1984. Hank is the head of the Religious Studies Department and moderator of the Freshman Class.

Hank and Karen were married at St. Anne Church in 1981 and will celebrate their 30<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on November 6. Karen is an Assistant Principal at Regina, and their daughter, Corinne, (who is an alumna of Regina and married to Brian Robert) recently became a guidance counselor at Regina. Regina has become "their family business!"

Hank and Karen are members of St. Peter's Parish in Mt. Clemens, but since they love to travel, they have attended Mass in many of the churches and great cathedrals of North America and Europe, including St. Peter's Basilica, the Basilica of St. Francis, and the Porziuncola. Since Hank is a big hockey fan, many of their trips have been to attend on the road games of the Red Wings. In 2009, the Sisters of St. Joseph, Third Order of St. Francis (who sponsor Regina HS) sent Karen and Hank on a leadership pilgrimage to Assisi and Rome. This was the beginning of Hank's calling to the SFO. Hank wanted to begin a Franciscan youth group at Regina, and by searching the internet, found the St. Bonaventure Secular Franciscan Fraternity. Hank then called and spoke with Maryann Kummer, who invited him to inquire about becoming a Secular Franciscan. Hank has been a candidate for a year, and is looking forward to being professed in November of 2012. Hank is a member of our fraternity Dream 2 Committee and served as a reader at our recent Transitus service.

Hank began the St. Clare Franciscan Society at Regina this year. So far, 28 students have joined the group. The first members were welcomed by Fr. Alex Kratz, OFM, at the opening school liturgy in August. Partially because of the new Franciscan youth group, the school theme this year is from St. Francis, "Preach the Gospel at all times and when necessary use words." The St. Clare Society has already sponsored many events at Regina, including liturgies, prayer services, Franciscan saints' days, the blessing of animals, and the Franciscan Crown rosary. A few members helped out at our St. Bonaventure Transitus ceremony. In addition, Hank hopes to educate the members about St. Francis, St. Clare, Franciscanism, and to have a Franciscan retreat at the Solanus Casey Center. Members will also be able to accumulate required Christian Community Service hours through volunteering.

Becoming a candidate of the SFO and starting the St. Clare Franciscan Society at Regina has re-energized Hank's vocation and ministry as a Catholic educator. He is very grateful to all the members of the St. Bonaventure Secular Franciscans and to the Capuchins for their hospitality and support! May God continue to bless you all!

We love you, Hank!



# St. Clare Society of Regina High School

As you know, our SFO Fraternity has partnered with the newly-established St. Clare Franciscan Society of Regina High School. Under the direction of SFO candidate Hank Forys, twenty-eight students of have joined the St. Clare Society this year. The purpose of the society is:

- To introduce students to St. Francis, St. Clare, and other Franciscans in the history of the Church,
- To show the connection between the Gospel and the lives of Francis and Clare in the reality of everyday living,
- To plan and coordinate the celebration of Franciscan feast days,
- To be of service to the St. Bonaventure Secular Franciscan Fraternity and other Franciscan groups,
- To offer its members Christian service opportunities,
- To support and cooperate with other Regina organizations and clubs which promote Franciscan values,
- To be a prayerful, welcoming and supportive group for all Regina students,
- To promote Catholic-Christian virtues and to encourage full, active participation in the Church,
- To follow a Franciscan Youth Rule of Life.

This year alone the St. Clare Society:

- has helped promote the school's 2011-2012 theme: "Preach the Gospel at all times, and when necessary use words",
- has led school-wide prayer and read biographies of Franciscan saints on their feast days,
- had Franciscan Sr. Ann Bremmer speak to the Regina faculty and St. Clare Society members about Francis and Clare,
- celebrated the feast of St. Francis with a before-school liturgy and school-wide prayer service,
- encouraged Regina students to take the "St. Francis Pledge" to care for creation and the poor,
- hosted a Blessing of Animals service on October 8,
- prayed the Franciscan Crown rosary during October,
- will be including a Litany of Franciscan saints during our All Saints Day liturgy, and
- are planning a Franciscan Retreat at the Solanus Casey Center and Capuchin Soup Kitchen.

Congratulations to Hank and to all the members of the St. Clare Society at Regina HS!



The Blessing of Animals

# *Transitus 2011*



*(l-r)* Luiza Wasilewski, Kelly and Sarah Weingartz, Mary Grahame Hunter, Robyn Sprock, Hank Forsys, Br. LeoWollenweber and Fr. Larry Webber.



## Reflections on the Feast of St. Francis

Br. Pat McSherry

There's an interesting dynamic that took place after Francis' death. He died in 1226 and two years later he was declared a saint. Almost immediately, with memories of him still fresh in their minds, his early companions composed prayers for the Liturgy of the Hours in honor of St. Francis. As if bragging, it included antiphons about his wayward youth, his misguided dreams, his wandering almost aimlessly through a good portion of his life. It was almost as if the Francis they knew best was the one about whom St. Paul wrote: "when I am weak, then God is strong" (2 Corinthians 12:7-10).

St. Dominic, who was a friend of St. Francis, died five years before Francis. But the Dominican Office in honor of St. Dominic wasn't composed until after the Franciscans had written the Office in honor of St. Francis. There was a striking difference between the two. Where the Franciscan Office used Francis' real life experience of weakness and failure to exalt God's greatness, the Dominicans accented Dominic's real life experience of strength and success, especially in terms of purity. And as a result, the Franciscans were embarrassed. What did they do? The first Office was shelved and a new Office was written in which they praised Francis' success in being humble, simple and poor, accenting his being an image of Christ, especially because he bore the stigmata.

The charism that St. Dominic left his followers involved seeking lofty things like Truth, Beauty and Goodness. The charism that St. Francis left us was more down-to-earth. Just live the Gospel. That's all. No special education or training needed. No need for a library, or lots of stuff, or lots of words. Just *live* the Gospel. Something everyone could do.

Whether we're religious or seculars, when we live the Gospel, we're not shouting: "Look at me, how great I am!" We're whispering, "I was lost and now I'm found."

When we live the Gospel, it's not with pride in our personal accomplishments. We're confessing that we stumble and need help.

When we live the Gospel, it's not because we're strong. We're professing that we're weak and need a Higher Power to carry on.

When we live the Gospel, we're not bragging about *our* successes. We're admitting that we fail — sometimes miserably, but that God's grace can make even our failures work for our good.

When we live the Gospel, we're not claiming to be perfect. Our faults are far too obvious to anyone who knows us! We're claiming that God believes we're worth it.

When we live the Gospel, we still feel anger and pain, disillusionment and heartbreak. We face challenges — at every stage of our lives — challenges that invite us to change ourselves — to take new risks, to be converted over and over, and over and over again — and so we call upon God's name.

When we live the Gospel, it's not because we think we're "holier than thou". We're just simple sinners who received and continue to rely on God's good grace.

That's the Good News we bring to others. That's *OUR* gift to the church and to the world.





## NEW SFO SAINT



Born in 1842 at Campodolcino in northern Italy, Luigi Guanella was the ninth of the 13 children of Lorenzo and Maria Guanella. The family was poor but respected. He entered the seminary when he was 12 years old, and joined the Secular Franciscan Order as a seminarian. He was ordained in 1866. After joining the Salesians, from 1875 until 1878 he assisted St. John Bosco, famous for his care of homeless children. Guanella continued his works of ministering to the homeless, poor, orphans and handicapped. He was a friend and a contemporary of Pope Pius X often appealing to him for help. To continue his works he founded two religious congregations, the Servants of Charity and the Daughters of St. Mary of Providence. Both groups are still at work in Italy, the United States and other countries. Fr. Guanella came to Chicago in 1912 to investigate the plight of the Italian immigrants. Fr. Guanella died in 1915. His lifelong devotion to charity and good works were recognized by the church and he was beatified in 1964. On October 23, 2011, in Rome, Pope Benedict XVI canonized St. Luigi Guanella, who shares a feastday with another Secular Franciscan, **St. Anthony Mary Claret**, missionary bishop and founder of the Missionary Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

## FRANCISCAN SPIRITUALITY FOR THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY

There is an excellent series on Franciscan Spirituality being offered at Capuchin Retreat in Washington, Michigan.

- Nov. 5 ..... Fr. Bill Cieslak on **The ABC's of Franciscan Spirituality**
- Dec. 3 ..... Fr. Bill Cieslak on **The Franciscan Understanding of Christmas**
- Jan. 7 ..... Fr. Bill Hugo on **Sister-/Brotherhood: The Foundation of Franciscanism**
- Feb. 4 ..... Sr. Joann Schatzlein on **The Role of Clare of Assisi in Franciscan Spirituality**
- Mar. 3 ..... Fr. Jerry Kessel on **The Timeliness of St. Francis in Our Day**
- Apr. 14 ..... Fr. Ron Smith on **Francis and Healing**
- May 5 ..... Fr. Mike Crosby on **What is the House that Needs Repair?**

The requested donation per session is \$35. For more information, call the office at 248-651-4826.

**Please note:**  
**Our e-mail address has changed:**  
**SFODetroit@gmail.com**

# NOVEMBER 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b> ALL SAINTS  HOLY DAY  IN THE USA	<b>2</b> ALL SOULS	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> 32 WEEK ORD. TIME Pss. Wk. IV Daylight Savings Time ends (back 1 hour)	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Election Day	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> MELDRUM KITCHEN 10:30 AM - 1:00 PM	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> 33 WEEK ORD. TIME Pss. Wk. I	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> ST. ELIZABETH OF HUNGARY SFO PATRON	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Fraternity Council 1:30
<b>20</b> CHRIST THE KING Pss. Proper SFO PROFESSION Formation: Noon Mass: 1:30 PM	<b>21</b> 34 WEEK ORD. TIME Pss. Wk. II	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Thanksgiving	<b>25</b> Bl. Luchesio: 7:30 PM	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> ADVENT I Pss. Wk. I	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>			

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Pray for Vocations  
to the SFO  
Daily

## FAX ET PHONUM

### Minister

Maryann Kummer

### Vice Minister

Teresa Westbrook-Lienert

### Treasurer pro tem

Eugene Snyders

### Secretary

Patricia Meldrum

### Initial Formation

John Bodell

### Councillors-at-Large:

Stephen Haycox

Tony Lienert

Beverly Sopian

Chuck Sopian

### Spiritual Assistant:

Br. Patrick McSherry

### APPOINTMENTS

#### Infirmarian:

Jo Marie Nardi

#### Continuing Formation Commission:

Chuck & Bev Sopian (chairs)

#### Christian Service Commission:

(call for information)

#### Hospitality Commission:

Teresa Westbrook-Lienert

& Tony Lienert (chairs)

#### Vocations Ministry Commission:

To be announced (chair)

#### Eucharistic Mission Band (EMB):

To be announced

### MAKING FRATERNITY HAPPEN

The entire St. Bonaventure Secular Franciscan Fraternity gathers on the Third Sunday of every month. For more information, contact:

Chuck & Bev Sopian

In addition to our monthly Fraternity gathering, some members also gather in small groups:

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

Mary Ann and Hugh Montpetit

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

Connie Musial

### FRATERNITY MINISTRY OUTREACH:

Meldrum Soup Kitchen

Usually on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of each month.

&

Healing Service Social

(call for information)

*The Poverello* is published by the  
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