

Our Mother of Sorrows Fraternity Ordo Franciscanus Secularis (OFS)

A Member of Divine Mercy Regional Fraternity



NEWSLETTER

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Happy New Year

January 14, 2014

Next Meeting: January 29, 2014—Renewal of Promises

Mark your calendars for our first 2014 Fraternity Meeting.

We will gather on Wednesday, January 29, 7:00 PM at Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish (beginning in the Church).

We will have the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and at Mass the professed members will renew their profession promises.

Fr. Jim Chelich, Pastor of Saint Thomas, will be our celebrant for this special occasion.

We decided awhile

ago that since members were professed in almost every month, that we would single out one month and renew our promises together as a community.

It is a time to review in our hearts with the Lord and Francis (and maybe Clare too) how we are living our Franciscan Charism. Am I going from Gospel to Life and Life to Gospel each day? Am I helping the poor and marginalized? Am I living life in the church in participation of

Liturgies and the Sacramental Life?

These are the questions we could use in meditation to prepare our hearts for renewal. Come let us renew our hearts and minds and the promises we made to God on our day of our profession.

We will have our social time following Mass, so please bring a treat to pass. See you there.



February 26, 2014: Lessons from Sr. Ileo Delio, OSF

This coming February we will continue watching the tapes from Sr. Delio's presentation at the 2011 Quinquennial Celebration in Chicago.

Sr. Delio has a remarkable way of

taking the lessons and teachings of Saint Francis and making them understandable and bringing them into our times and places.

As always, Michelle will have questions prepared for us to

discuss and we will do both small group and large group sharing following the presentation.

The meeting will be held at Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish, Lower Level (our usual space) on February 26, 2014 at 7:00 PM....with our social time to follow.

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Our sympathies to Marilyn Hawkins, ofs on the death of her father...



Charles H. Wirth from Westphalia Age 87, passed away with his family by his side on Friday, November 29, 2013. He was born on December 7, 1925 in Clinton County, MI the son of Arthur and Clara (Wieber) Wirth. Mr. Wirth was a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church, and a member of the Catholic Order of Foresters. Charles was a dairy and crop farmer for years, and also spent many years as Custodian at Pewamo-Westphalia High School. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on December 3rd in Westphalia. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society , or the charity of one's choice. Marilyn may you and your family be comforted in the loving consolation of our Lord and in the sure hope of the Resurrection. Eternal rest grant to him Lord and let perpetual light shine upon him forever.

Remember When....last year you all helped me by praying for my grand babies who were in utero and were in danger because they were only in one sack instead of two. God heard your prayers and these two beautiful twins are the answer to your prayers. Kaelyn Marie Kathryn (left) and LaRae Patrica Lee (right) are my son and daughter-in-law's pride and joy. Thought you might want an update. THANKS!



Let them love one another, as the Lord says: *This is my commandment: love one another as I have loved you.* Let them express the love they have for one another by their deeds, as the Apostle says: *Let us not love in word or speech, but in deed and truth.* Saint Francis of Assisi, The Earlier Rule



***Joy to the World
the Lord has
Come!***

We're you there at our last meeting?

People came hungry and looking forward to our community Advent/Christmas family gathering. It was a good thing as there was more than enough food to go around and Paul even brought two pies...not a piece left

I think.

Michelle put together a beautiful prayer service with scripture, story and song (we sounded pretty good I thought).

We have such a nice time seeing family members that come

along to the evening. It was renewing past friends and meeting some new ones. We attempted to join the St. Thomas live nativity, however, there were so many attending, most could not get close enough (live and learn we do).



We wish a very happy January birthday to...
Blair Laackman (1-2)
Michelle Mier (1-2)
Rose Hickey (1-5)
Marilyn Hawkins (1-19)
Lois Flickinger (1-23)
 No Profession Anniversaries this month

Most High, glorious God, enlighten the darkness of my heart and give me true faith, certain hope, and perfect charity, sense and knowledge, Lord, that I may carry out Your holy and true command.

Saint Francis of Assisi

The Prayer before the Crucifix



Divine Mercy Region asks us to fill out a Demographic Survey...If you have not filled one out, please fill out the survey below and send it to Ray Boisvenue (see your directory for his address) as soon as possible. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

	CATEGORY				
Check Only 1	Age	Under 35 _____	36-50 _____	51-65 _____	66+ over _____
Check Only 1	Gender	Male _____	Female _____		
Check Only 1	Civil Status	Single _____	Married _____	Widow/ Widower _____	Separated or Divorced _____
Check Only 1	Education	No Formal Education _____	Elementary _____	High School _____	College _____
Check Only 1	Residence	Urban or Suburban _____	Rural _____		
Check Only 1	Income (Economic-Household)	Under \$29,999 _____	\$30,000 - \$64,999 _____	\$65,000 and Over _____	(Based on US Census 2011 National Median \$50,100)

Farewell Lynn Dubridge, Our Franciscan Friend and Brother... until we meet again.

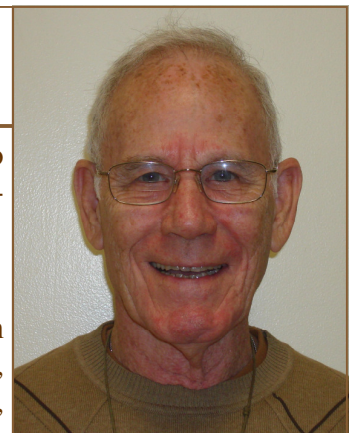
At the time of this writing we just received word of Lynn Dubridge’s passing into God’s eternal glory and plan for Lynn. Before he died Lynn sent me the following letter to the Fraternity (most likely not knowing how close he was to heaven).

“Dear Ray and all my Fraternity Brothers and Sisters,

I miss you all very much, and I miss being with you. But rest assured you are all in my prayers. I want to thank all who are praying for me, I know the prayers will work, they are very powerful. I also want to thank all who have sent cards and Mass cards, the Lord hears them all. I am now receiving chemo and radiation both, they seem to be working so far, but too early yet to tell. The cancer I have is the lung cancer I had 9 years ago, and has returned me an unpleasant visit. The cancer sent out cells that attached themselves to my hips and pelvic bone, and started to eat holes in the bones. I can’t walk, so am in a wheelchair, but I can still get around. I have a very good and blessed wife who sees to that, thanks be to God. Love you all, wishing you a Blessed New Year.

Your brother in Christ,
Lynn Dubridge”

Editor’s Note: I have fond memories of Lynn. What a special man he was and is. I was his Formation Minister. He and my dad, Vernon Dean, along with their pals, Paul Wojtas and Frank Borgia were inseparable. I would encourage them to sit with others to no avail. They were like the four musketeers’. I like to imagine that he and my dad (Vern) are together again...probably still talking religion, maybe even with Francis....and from a much better place. Eternal Rest grant to him Lord and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in eternal peace.



Lynn Dubridge 1935-2014

This year is the 41st Anniversary of Roe Vs Wade.....Join Bishop Walkowiak in prayer....

On Jan. 22, **Bishop David Walkowiak** encourages all people of the diocese to observe the **day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children**. As part of this observance, he will preside at a **Mass for Life** at the [Cathedral of Saint Andrew](#) 7:00 PM to reaffirm our commitment to the Gospel of life and to the protection of all human life from conception to natural death. All are welcome!

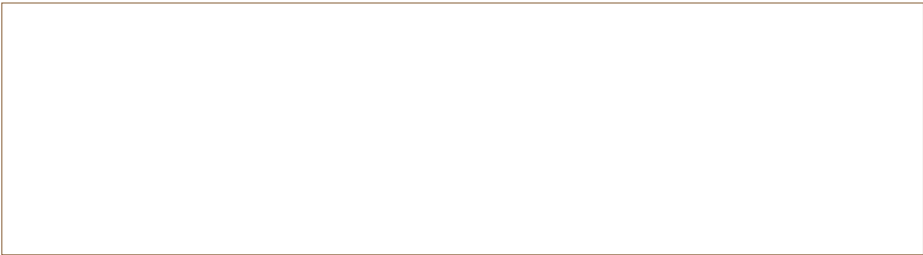
A great prayer for life is urgently needed, a prayer which will rise up throughout the world. Through special initiatives and in daily prayer, may an impassioned plea rise to God. . . . Let us therefore discover anew the humility and the courage to pray and fast so that the power from on high will break down the walls of lies and deceit: the walls which conceal from the sight of so many . . . the evil of practices and laws which are hostile to life. — P o p e John Paul II.



DEFEND LIFE.....GOING FROM GOSPEL TO LIFE.....AND LIFE TO GOSPEL - Pray for those attending the March for Life this year in Washington, D.C.—January 22, 2014. May the Lord protect them all.



Bulletin Editor
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“Additional Events of Interest—Around the area

- ◆ Sat., January 25*: Encountering Christ in the Steps of St. Francis
- ◆ Sat., February 15*: St. Clare: First Franciscan Woman
*(Call Barb at the Franciscan Life Process Center (616) 897-7842 or email bporter@lifeprocesscenter.org)
- ◆ **Ongoing:** *Openings for Hourly Adoration at St. Isidore Chapel (sign up at the Chapel)*
- ◆ **Ongoing:** *Holy Hour at St. Ann’s home on Sunday nights at 7:00 PM (Adoration, Rosary and Benediction)*
- ◆ **ATTENTION WOMEN OF THE FRATERNITY:** *Mark your calendars* for this year’s Diocesan Women’s Conference. This year’s conference is Saturday, March 29, 2014 at Cathedral Square (2nd Floor) and goes from 8:45 AM—3:30 PM. The Keynote speaker is Sister Mary Timothy Prokes, FSE, a Franciscan Sister of the Eucharist from Lowell. Wouldn’t it be wonderful if we could have a whole table of Secular Franciscan Woman. Cost is \$25 (includes morning hospitality and lunch). You can register online at www.dioceseofgrandrapids.org.



You can read the newsletter on line in color at: <http://www.ourmotherofsorrowsofs.org>.