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# Our Mother of Sorrows Fraternity Ordo Franciscanus Secularis (OFS) A Member of Divine Mercy Regional Fraternity

Newsletter

Volume 8, 10

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## Christmas Potluck

Wednesday, December 27 6:00 pm

ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE MINISTRY CENTER

1449 WILCOX PARK DR SE

GRAND RAPIDS MI 49506

YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES ARE INVITED TO OUR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY! WE WILL HAVE TRIVIA & CAROLING. PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN BEVERAGES AND PLACE SETTINGS. ALSO, PLEASE BRING A DISH TO PASS AS LISTED BELOW.

THE COUNCIL WILL BE PROVIDING THE MAIN DISHES.

LAST NAME A–K: BRING DESSERTS

LAST NAME L–Z: BRING SALADS

THERE WILL NOT BE A ZOOM OPTION

### **Fair Share Contributions**

Mail: MARK MANN, OFS

1007 DIAMOND AVE NE

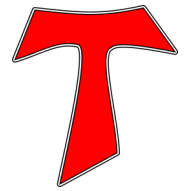
GRAND RAPIDS MI 49503

Electronic: Venmo @OMS-Franciscan-GR

### **Mark Your Calendars**

Jan 31 Gathering	7:00 pm	St. Thomas Church Basement
Feb 28 Gathering	7:00 pm	St. Thomas Church Ministry Ctr
Mar 20 Professions	7:00 pm	St. Thomas Church Ministry Ctr

# Celebrating the Milestones



## Memorials

Rose Sejat, OFS..... Dec 04  
Alan Hartwick, OFS..... Dec 21  
David Prominski, OFS.....Dec 25  
Lynn Dubridge, OFS..... Jan 09  
Anne Checkack, OFS..... Jan 11  
Rose Checkack, OFS.....Jan 13  
Howard McLaughlin, OFS.....Jan 26  
Carol Jean Crawford, OFS.....Jan 28  
Blair Laackman, OFS.....Jan 30

## Birthdays

Cami Mann, OFS..... Dec 01  
Sue Southerton, OFS..... Dec 18  
Keith Southerton, OFS..... Dec 23  
Verona Dunn, OFS.....Dec 24  
Virginia Champion, OFS..... Dec 31  
Rose Hickey, OFS..... Jan 05  
Marilyn Hawkins, OFS..... Jan 19  
Lois Flickinger, OFS..... Jan 23

## Professions

None

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## Message from the Minister

Brothers & Sisters,

As you know, with the Advent Season, we have turned the page on our Liturgical Calendar and started a New Year. The pastor at my parish has challenged us to ponder what it is we are going to undertake so that by this time next year, we may be able to say we have definitely drawn closer to Christ. I pass along that challenge to you as well but ask that you also consider how you may offer your talents to the service of our brothers and sisters in the Fraternity. I do not have anything particularly pressing to ask of any of you other than to please give it some prayerful consideration. If you feel moved about something, reach out to me or the council with your ideas of how you can serve.

The end of the year, allows me to reflect on where I can improve. With that, I want to thank you all for your patience as I have personally struggled in balancing home, work and Franciscan duties — you have been most impacted by that with the sporadic nature of this newsletter this last year. I resolve to be better about that going forward.

One way keep that resolution is to move to the simple from the complex. With the newsletter, that means a small change; it is time to retire the published prayer partner listing. It was introduced with the June 2020 newsletter as part of our COVID response. We have continued it long after returning to meeting in person. That list takes much more effort than one would think. I found myself often spending more time editing the list than compiling remainder of the newsletter. Speaking only for myself, I do not recall once receiving a call from my designated partner. That's 0 for 40. When I would make calls, most times my partner would say it was the first time they had ever received a call themselves. So in returning to simpler ways, I would ask that you remember to pray for the Fraternity as a whole, especially those intentions passed along on the email prayer line, those members mentioned in the Milestones Section above and of course the current Council. Thank you for your understanding.

With that, let me end on a brighter note. Last month, Dcn Dean Vernon stopped by to bless our personal nativity sets then Beth Price led us in reflections on the significance of the 800th anniversary of the first Christmas Creche at Greccio. I thought it would be most appropriate then to end this newsletter by sharing the story as told by St. Bonaventure in his Life of St. Francis.

Pax et bonum,

Chris

# Life of St Francis

by St. Bonaventure

## Chapter 10 "Of his Zeal and Efficacy in Prayer" Part 7

It happened in the third year before his death, that in order to excite the inhabitants of Greccio to commemorate the nativity of the Infant Jesus with great devotion, [St. Francis] determined to keep it with all possible solemnity; and lest he should be accused of lightness or novelty, he asked and obtained the permission of the sovereign Pontiff. Then he prepared a manger, and brought hay, and an ox and an ass to the place appointed. The brethren were summoned, the people ran together, the forest resounded with their voices, and that venerable night was made glorious by many and brilliant lights and sonorous psalms of praise. The man of God [St. Francis] stood before the manger, full of devotion and piety, bathed in tears and radiant with joy; the Holy Gospel was chanted by Francis, the Levite of Christ. Then he preached to the people around the nativity of the poor King; and being unable to utter His name for the tenderness of His love, He called Him the Babe of Bethlehem. A certain valiant and veracious soldier, Master John of Greccio, who, for the love of Christ, had left the warfare of this world, and become a dear friend of this holy man, affirmed that he beheld an Infant marvelously beautiful, sleeping in the manger, Whom the blessed Father Francis embraced with both his arms, as if he would awake Him from sleep. This vision of the devout soldier is credible, not only by reason of the sanctity of him that saw it, but by reason of the miracles which afterwards confirmed its truth. For example of Francis, if it be considered by the world, is doubtless sufficient to excite all hearts which are negligent in the faith of Christ; and the hay of that manger, being preserved by the people, miraculously cured all diseases of cattle, and many other pestilences; God thus in all things glorifying his servant, and witnessing to the great efficacy of his holy prayers by manifest prodigies and miracles.

## Fair Share Update

If you are excused from attending the fraternity gatherings and would like to send your fair share amount, please make check payable to "Our Mother of Sorrows" and send to:

Our Mother of Sorrows  
c/o Mark Mann, OFS  
1007 Diamond NE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

OR Venmo to:


**@OMS-Franciscan-GR**

## To Be Excused

If you are unable to attend a fraternity gathering due to health or other hardship reasons, please email:

Carol Dills OMSGRsecretary@gmail.com  
Chris Bueche OMSGRminister@gmail.com

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