St. mbrose Parish

JULY 12, 2020 BEEHIVE

Last month marked the five-year anniversary of the document's release, which reinvigorated the Catholic Church's longstanding efforts to protect and care for creation. The anniversary presents an opportunity for Catholics, as the Church in Michigan encourages all to reflect upon what it means to live out this teaching.

In the beginning pages of *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis states his hope that the document "can help [humanity] to acknowledge the appeal, immensity and urgency of the challenge

we face." The encyclical covers significant ground while addressing the Church's teaching on the caring for creation. It brings together topics that may seem unrelated but are in fact intricately linked to the health of the environment and society, such as the dignity of work, the importance of the family, and need for technology and the economy to be focused on people. Woven throughout is a consistent concern for the poor, who experience the worst impacts of environmental deterioration and exclusion. While *Laudato Si'* shares many important insights, the lesson that shines most brightly is that each living creature has value and purpose.

The people of the state can simply look around them to understand this concept, as Michigan is home to scores of natural treasures that rival those of any other state. These features contribute to the splendor of the state, such as Mackinac Island, Pictured Rocks, the Porcupine Mountains, Sleeping Bear Dunes, Tahquamenon Falls, numerous federally protected national forests, and thousands of inland lakes—the list goes on and on. The greatest examples are the Great Lakes themselves. In looking out at the many shades of blue and green lining the sandy beaches in the summer or the frozen shores in the winter, residents and visitors alike can feel a sense of beauty and peace. Without even knowing that the Great Lakes are the largest bodies of fresh water on the planet, anyone who sees them can understand intuitively their value and can understand

why policymakers at all levels of government are constantly working to protect them.

While Michiganders may recognize the goodness of the state's natural beauty, discussions about protecting the environment too often fall into

> partisan bickering rather than honest engagement. The Church teaches that the Earth is a gift for all; thus, all have a role in its use and its protection.

In light of this understanding, Michigan Catholics are encouraged to discern the lessons the document provides, especially in response to the following questions: What should

our responsibility be to one another and to the environment? What kind of world do we want to leave to future generations?

Humanity's Place in Creation

Backyards and public spaces frequently provide a setting for children playing with their friends. Michigan parks and trails offer a respite from the indoors, as well as an opportunity for adventure and exercise. For so many, the fresh air and natural landscapes help Michiganders feel a sense of peace and restoration, marveling in the beautiful world God created for all to enjoy. In Laudato Si', Pope Francis recognizes the ability to discover God within nature and in other creatures, whether it be "in a leaf, in a mountain trail, in a dewdrop, in a poor person's face." Unfortunately, the Holy Father writes, people have misunderstood their role in the world, which has led to painful consequences. God gave humans unique worth that separated them from the animals. At the same time, alongside that special worth also came greater responsibility. Called to cultivate and care for the world, Pope Francis describes human beings as the "instruments used by God to bring out the potential he inscribed in things." Michigan farmers have a unique calling in this regard, as they prepare, grow, and harvest crops and livestock that are essential for society.

Unfortunately, humanity too often acts as if the environment has and will dole out a never-ending supply of re-

Reflecting on Laudato Si'

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sources: as if trees will always grow and provide the materials for large homes, as if water will always keep flowing to nurture lawns and carry away waste, and as if the wind will always clear the pollution from the air people breathe. It has become too easy for humans to exploit natural resources, "giving priority to [their own] immediate convenience" rather than exercising responsible stewardship.

Environmental Concerns

In *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis critically assesses the real difficulties the world is facing before encouraging conversation about potential next steps. He specifically names the following issues:

- · Pollution and waste
- Climate change
- Water contamination and access
- The depletion of natural resources
- The loss of animal and plant life
- The breakdown of society
- · Information overload from social media
- Global inequality

In recent years, the State of Michigan has experienced numerous environmentally based concerns that have drawn parallels to the thoughts articulated by Pope Francis. The Flint water crisis, ongoing difficulties regarding access to clean and affordable drinking water in Detroit, the presence of PFAS contamination2, and lingering environmental questions around the distribution of oil and gas through the Straits of Mackinac are but a few of the many issues present today. Their impact on low-income and vulnerable populations—including many of whom are members of minority communities—are consistent with the concerns advanced by the Holy Father. In addition to these concerns, Michiganders have witnessed the connections between the environment and health care, agriculture, and other industries highlighted in *Laudato Si'*.

Consumerism, Consumption and the Poor

Many of the Earth's natural resources are used faster than they can be replaced, whether that is because of consumer desires, emerging technologies, or the design of the manufacturer. When resources are consumed in this way, the poor often suffer the most. Specifically, Pope Francis:

- Warns against excessive consumerism.
- Challenges Catholics to consider those in difficult economic circumstances.
- Dismisses the idea that a reduction in the birth rate is the solution, which only legitimizes the continuance of excessive consumption and waste.

The teaching on consumption in *Laudato Si'* is challeng ing and countercultural. Americans are encouraged to acquire newer and better goods, without considering if those things give "meaning and joy to the human heart."

Society espouses the idea that community needs are important, but only if they do not clash with personal desires, an attitude which leaves vulnerable neighbors behind. The Church, on the other hand, reminds Catholics that by reducing dependency on material goods, greater happiness may be achieved. Pope Francis emphasizes this point, saying "happiness means knowing how to limit some needs which only diminish us."

Ouestions for Reflection

Laudato Si' encourages discussion of the means to care for God's creation. The following questions have been adapted to assist in these discussions:

- What lifestyle changes can we make to combat the throwaway culture?
- Do we consume more than we need, and if so, how can we change this habit?
- Do we consider the needs of the poor in the way we live our lives and make decisions?

Centuries of Church teaching do not leave believers without ideas for renewing their care and respect for nature. Some of these include:

- Learning more about environmental responsibility and praying for the care of God's creation.
- Giving thanks for one's possessions.
- Engaging the vulnerable in environmental discussions and encouraging attention to their concerns.
- Buying and cooking only what can be reasonably consumed or donating surplus food to those in need.
- Reducing water consumption, turning off lights, turning down the heat or air, and buying energy efficient appliances
- Finding creative ways to reuse items, whenever possible and safe.
- Participating in a recycling program.
- Organizing cleanup events for rivers, streams, lakes, and shared spaces.
- Planting
- Supporting a community garden or farmer's market.
- Supporting policies that encourage renewable energy, wise management of natural resources, and sustainable agriculture.

Learn More About "Catholic Care of Creation"

- Michigan Catholic Conference micatholic.org/LaudatoSi
- Catholic Climate Covenant catholic climate covenant.org
- Catholic Rural Life catholic rurallife.org
- United States Conference of Catholic Bishops bit.ly/2Z1bM3h

Exerpted from the June 2020 issue of <u>Focus</u> newsletter published by the Michigan Catholic Conference, micatholic.org

All Chings Considered

Normally, July would see our parish office abuzz with activity related to OYSTERFEST. Not so this year. Covid-19 has forced everyone to make difficult decisions and learn to cope with an ever-changing social and civic landscape. And that's the unfortunate situation with Oysterfest this year. After considerable thought we've decided that the Oysterfest could not take place this year because of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic – at least not in its usual configuration.

The pandemic has wreaked havoc with restaurants everywhere – many closed during the state-mandated shut down and some may never return. Others are operating on the thinnest of fiscal margins. The idea of successfully recruit-

ing restaurants that have

suffered so many losses

over the last six months was daunting. In all charity, we could not ask them to support us this year, when they need supporting.

A complete cancellation of the event, however, seemed too severe. After all, this is the 30th Anniversary of the Oysterfest. It is a community building power house that reaches farther than just our parish – it truly is one of the signature events of late Summer here on Kercheval in The Park.

So,we took a cue from a some non-profits and came up with "The 30th Annual and 1st Virtual Oysterfest!

Working in cooperation with Mark Reith at Atwater's, we will endeavor put together some of the best elements of Oysterfest reaching out *electronically* to bring people together. The setting for the virtual event will be the outdoor patio of Atwater's in the Park on the scheduled date – September 28th – the last Monday in September from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.

The Bob Mervak trio will play, and fresh oysters will be shucked.

In addition to oysters, we will offer a carry-out menu of some of your favorites, including the seafood-chowder that has been with us since the start, along with fresh shrimp and a few other items that we can rustle up - like the pulled pork sandwiches from our ARK kitchen.

It wouldn't be Oysterfest without the beverages, so in addition to soft drinks, there will be a selection of beers and wines by the bottle.

All of these will be ordered for drive- or walk- through pick-up

during the Oysterfest. These will be done via While the objective is to keep building community during these stressful times, it needs to be done in such a way that keeps everyone safe. It also does need to make a profit, since our budget factors in earnings of approximately \$35,000.

We think that is do-able if our corporate sponsors stay with us in this virtual endeavor and you and your friends support us by buying food, and all those Oysterfest tchotchkies like the T shirt and souvenir beverage glasses.

We're going to need a new and different kind of volunteer for this project. In addition to on-site help, we will need some advance planners helping with digital communications. An expanded web page, an auction page and on-line donations need to happen.

With a hefty \$10,000 in raffle prize money, we'll need you to push ticket sales like never before. A group of people dedicated solely to that is essential.

If there is to be a live auction, a few really nice prizes need to be solicited.

And we will certainly need lots of assistance

from the tech-savvy people in the parish who will be there handling the cameras, the uploads and interfacing with our virtual partiers.

I know there are companies that do this work, but I would prefer to get these services donated. As complex as the past 30 Oysterfests have been, my guess is that this social-media component will be the most challenging. And I'd venture to say that this IS the the future. From here on, Oysterfests will most certainly have this kind of electronic interaction. It won't replace the old-fashioned face-to-face party, but it will certainly enhance it.

This parish has supported a lot of my crazy ideas in the past. I'm counting on you're coming along for the ride on this one.

While this will be a whole new, challenging endeavor for us, we're certain that you'll join us. Drop us an email and tell us how you want to be involved.

preordering; we will

also have a few more prepared for last minute customers. Where else can you get carry-out oysters?

The whole affair will go *live* via social media, so that people can share info on what they are drinking and eating while they watch via Facebook or Zoom. One lucky patron will win a wheelbarrow of cheer - a throwback to our earlier Oysterfest days.

If we can get some help, we might even offer an "online-auction."

We're even re-configured our Oysterfest Raffle. (No TVs this year – we'd only end up watching more sad Covid news anyway and who needs to see it on a big screen?)

The 2020 Oysterfest Raffle will be 10 prizes of \$1,000 each. Consider that a nice stimulus package. Tickets will be coming in the mail to you in a couple of weeks.



Thank you to Fran Degnan for sewing the masks which are used by the ministers at the Altar as well as musicians and sound and video technicians. Fran's generosity and work allows us to keep each other safe every weekend during mass.

Lay Down Your Burdens

Health care workers are invited to a morning of healing for health care workers with discussions, reflection, and fellowship

Have you been able to process your stress from the COVID crisis? Do you need some time to get away from all your responsibilities? Are you eager to feel hope again?

Presented from the Franciscan perspective by our friend, Fr. Tom Nguyen and Chaplain Bridget Theodoroff, M.A.P.S. (hospital chaplain during COVID-19) for a morning of releasing your burdens and reflection. All are welcome. All participants will have a chance to share their experiences and world views.

There will be two opportunities to attend. Thursday, July 16th at 8 a.m. and Thursday, August 3rd at 8 a.m. The retreats will be held outside (as long as weather premits) at the Capuchin Retreat Center at 62460 Mt. Vernon in Washington, MI. Face coverings will be required, social distancing will be observed.

The cost per person is \$25. To register call (248) 651-4826 or email info@capretreat.org.

The Buzz

As I'm writing this edition of the BUZZ (and I do thank both of you who read it!) our weather has certainly reminded us that summer is in full bloom. I keep logging on to the Weather Channel site to see if rain and cool relief might be on the way. Alas, the clear message is that relief is not in the immediate offing. Patience is on the agenda – right after sweating. When it comes to nature and the weather, what's the alternative?!

This weekend's Liturgy of the Word offers us a number of images about nature . . . and patience. The prophet Isaiah poetically compares the effects of God's Word to that of rain in bringing forth necessary and nourishing results for plants as well as for the body and spirit of humans. Cool! But not in an instant. If so . . . we would have floods.

To the Romans, Paul paints a verbal picture of all creation groaning and crying out in anticipation of the birth of God's full glory in our lives. This is hope that new life will come! Moms best understand good gestation.

And in the Gospel passage from Matthew, we have the famous parable/allegory of the seed sown on the path, in rocky soil, amid thorny plants, and on rich soil. It's about patient hope that steadily grows through all kinds of weather and produces a rich harvest because of its good and deep roots.

So what does any of this mean for us during a time of pandemic? Did you catch a possible scriptural theme this weekend of sowing-growing-blooming-harvesting . . . and the patience required during and between every stage? This year is a good time to remember that we are a part of nature. Coronavirus has challenged our patience. Conflicting authorities have suggested widely divergent forecasts along with corresponding actions and reactions. But grace builds on true nature, and the grace of God's Word leads us to some very important addenda to superficial responses.

Our faith suggests that patience all by itself can feel quite passive. "Passive" doesn't suit our human nature. So faith adds two more "P" words to the equation: "Perseverance" and "Prayer". Patience is transformed by hope, and please remember that hope is very different than wishing. Hope is solid surety about what will come to be . . . because of what has happened in the past . . . but also because of what we will do to bring it about. In this is the sowing and the tending/growing. Be active, not passive, in hope for what will bloom and offer itself to you as a harvest. Persevere, and yet along the way exercise necessary patience. How much? Pray . . . and carefully discern whom you are listening to for the answer.

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Speaking of the seeds of faith, this coming Thursday will mark the 34th anniversary of the arrival of our parish's chief spiritual farmer. On July 16, 1986 Farmer/Father Pelc was sent by Archbishop Szoka to continue to sow/spread God's Word in this corner of the Archdiocese. During these years, God has been very gracious to this community. Using certain criteria, the produce during these almost-31/2-decades has been more than thirtyfold, more than sixty, and even more than a hundredfold!

During this week, let's all pray 34 minutes (<5 min./day) of thanks to God for this rich parish harvest. Let's all pray that the Lord of Creation will continue to enrich this faith family with fertile spiritual soil. And let's all pray for the fullness of the Holy Spirit's blessings upon our head farmer, Fr. Tim. Ad multos annos, Pater Agricola!

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Leading up to Thursday, we celebrate two special feastdays and remembrances in the yearly Church calendar. Tuesday, July 14th, is not only Bastille Day (and in the Dropiewski Domestic Church the birthday of my wife, Sue, who has



During BOLT, we're going to play games, do origami, eat snacks and learn what it means to listen to, focus on and follow Jesus!

BOLT is designed to bring all of the fun and faith-formation of Vacation Bible School to the cozy confines of your home. Register on our website at **stambrosechurch.net/vacation-bible-school-2020** and we will email the password to the program media. Do all three days' worth of programming in succession, or break it up over a period of time.

Lessons for Each Day

Day 1: Parable of the Sower and the Seed (Luke 8:4-15) **Big Idea:** I can listen to Jesus • **Memory Verse:** Psalm 119:105 Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.

Day 2: Jesus Walks on Water (Matthew 14:22-36) Big Idea: I can focus on Jesus

 $\textbf{Memory Verse} : \textbf{Proverbs 3:5} \ -- \ \textbf{Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Do not depend on}$

your own understanding.

Day 3: Jesus Chooses His Disciples (Luke 5:1-11, 27-32)

Big Idea: I can follow Jesus

Memory Verse: Romans 8:39 — Nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Steps for Each Day

Step 1: Invite friends and neighbors. If guidelines permit and you feel comfortable gathering with other people.

Step 2: Gather a few materials. Everything has been designed to be performed with minimal materials that you will most likely have around the house or can easily and inexpensively purchase at a local store.

Step 3: Press play. When you're ready, gather the kids around and press play on the video. You can find all 3 videos on the BOLT Family Portal. Each video will lead you and the kids through the entire experience.

Step 4: Play the games. When the video prompts you to, press pause and lead the kids in playing the games.

Step 5: It's origami time. For the craft, kids will be doing origami. It's so simple, yet fun! The video will show them exactly what to do. Just have some square pieces of paper ready to go.

Register for Bold VBS now at stambrosechurch.net/vacation-bible-school-2020.

The Beehive

is the parish weekly bulletin of the St. Ambrose Catholic Community Detroit/Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan

Pastor: Rev. Timothy R. Pelc
Pastoral Minister: Charles Dropiewski
Religious Education: Kelly Anne Woolums
Minister of Music: Louise Veltri
Dr. Norah Duncan IV – on hiatus
Office Manager: Peggy O'Connor
Secretary: Mary Urbanski

Sacramental Celebrations

Masses: On the Lord's Day – Saturday Vigil - 4:00 p.m. Sunday - 10:00 a.m.

Baptism: Arrangements for both adults and infants to be made by contacting the rectory.

Penance: As announced and by appointment.

Marriage: Couples should contact the rectory office a minimum of six months in advance of the proposed date to make arrangements.

Funeral: Normally celebrated within one week

after the deceased's passing.

Directory Parish Office: 15020 Hampton

Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan 48230
Tel: (313) 822-2814 Fax: (313) 822-9838
Email address: stambrose@comcast.net
Religious Education: (313) 332-5633
Pastoral Ministry: (313) 332-5631
Ark Scheduling: (313) 822-2814
Parish Website: stambrosechurch.net

E-Donations

St. Ambrose Parish is equipped to make electronic transfers from your checking account or credit card on our website. Christian Financial Credit Union brings parishioners and friends the ability to make an electronic contribution to St. Ambrose on a regular or one-time basis.

Your checking account or credit card may be used to make a single donation; or you may set up automatic weekly, monthly or quarterly contributions on a schedule. This solution is not meant to replace the current envelope method of collection, but instead to provide an additional alternative for those who might prefer to make their contributions electronically.

We hope this additional financial service allows you another way to manage your stewardship to St. Ambrose. Visit stambrosechurch.net for more information on electronic giving.

Liturgy Schedule for the Coming Week

July 13

St. Henry

July 14

St. Kateri Tekakwitha, cirgin

July 15

St. Bonaventure, bishop & doctor

July 16

Our Lady of Mt. Carmek

July 17

Weekday 15th Week in Ordinary Time

July 18

St. Camillus de Lellis, priest 4:00 p.m. Mass – 16th Week in Ordinary Time

10:00 a.m. Mass -16th Week in Ordinary Time

•Web broadcast of Mass from St. Ambrose will begin at 8:00 a.m. and will be accessible throughout the day.

Spending Spotlight

We thought that we would be able to leave the church building open for prayer and unattended, but that was not such a wise idea. Guard services for those "open house Sundays" and personnel to screen those coming to mass ran us \$1,045 from the middle of May until last weekend.

Scriptures for the 15th Week in Ordinary Time

July 13

Is 1: 10-17

Ps 50: 8-9, 16b17, 21, 23

Mt 10: 34-11: 1

July 14

Is 7: 1-9

Ps 48: 2-8

Mt 11: 20-24

July 15

Is 19: 5-7, 13b-16

Ps 94: 5-10, 14-15

Mt 11: 25-27

July 16

Is 26: 7-9, 12, 16-19

Ps 102: 13-14b, 15-21

Mt 11: 28-30

July 17

Is 38: 1-6, 21-22

(Ps) Is 38: 10-12, 16

Mt 12: 1-8

July 18

Mi 2: 1-5

Ps 10: 1-4, 7-8, 14

Mt 12: 14-21

July 19

Wis 12: 13, 16-19

Ps 86: 5-6, 9-10, 15-16

Rom 8: 26-27

Mt 13: 24-43 or 13: 24-30

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

The ban on public masses is slowly being lifted. We will continue to tape the 4:00 masses for broadcast the next day. We will open that mass to a congregation of 25% of the building's capacity - roughly 150 persons.

Face masks and social distancing will be required.

For the forseeable future, there will be one Mass here on Sundays here at St. Ambrose which will be offered at 10:00 in the morning. Again, we can only allow 25% of the building's seating capacity - 150 persons - and face masks and social distancing will be required.

View Saturday's mass at facebook.com/stambroseparish or stambroselive on youtube. stambrosechurch.netstarting at 8:00 a.m. on Sunday.

Your Envelope Speaks ... the Inside Story



Our Sick

Please pray for those who are seriously ill or who are hospitalized: Sean O'Connor, Pat Blake, Karen Culver, Ann Sullivan Kay, Donald Miriani, Bonnie McKenna, Jeanne Noto, David Schumacker, Matthew Elias, George Bucec, Emilie Kasper, Darby O'Toole, Anna Noto Billings, Vilma Marone, Eileen O'Brien, Martha Luna, Liz Linne, Donna Barnes, Alexandra Cullen, Charmaine Kaptur, Frank Gregory, Alex Billiu, Wayne Wallrich, Jerry Hansen, Jackie Walkowski, Kristen Kingzett, Denise DiBiancha, Valerie Dryden, Angela Stack, Maria Simcina, Albina Checki, Brian Tague, the Capuchin friars under quarantine and those suffering and hospitalized worldwide with COVID-19.

Our Dead

A funeral liturgy was celebrated on July 6th for long-time parishioner, **Robert "Bob" Jogan**, age 74.

Bob was born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio. Before coming to Detroit, he became involved with the Marianist Brothers and taught in high schools in Cincinnati. He also served as the financial head for three schools and convents in Nashville, Tennessee. Bob then went on the work for the Federal Government in the Department of Labor of 30 years.

Bob was a devoted member of the St. Ambrose St. Vincent dePaul Society and served as their president for 6 years. He was a Eucharistic Minister and member of the choir. Bob also loved wood carving, playing cards and reading. He and Judy, his wife of over 50 years, raised their children in the shadow of St. Ambrose. Bob most of all loved spending time with his family.

Bob was predeceased by his parents and brother, Ron. He is survived by his wife, Judy, sons, Jeffrey and Timothy and daughter, Karen, and seven grandchildren, Brigit, Thomas, Riley, Jackson, Jeffrey, Dailey and Charlie. Also surviving are his brothers, Frank and Jimmy. He will be greatly missed by the rest of his family and friends. Please remember Bob in your prayers.

The Buzz

Continued from page 4

once again caught up to me in age, and I am no longer "old"), but it is also the memorial of St. Kateri Tekakwitha. In just 24 short years of her life, the faith of this "Lily of the Mohawks", in the face of misunderstanding and cultural strife, brought many on this continent to Christ in the later 1600s.

(In 2020, if you or someone you know is interested in learning more about Christ and His Church, call me at 313-332-5631 and I'll be happy to help with your inquiry - no cost, no obligation, no strings attached.) St. Kateri has also been declared by the universal Church to be a patroness of the environment and ecology (here's "nature" again!) along with St. Francis.

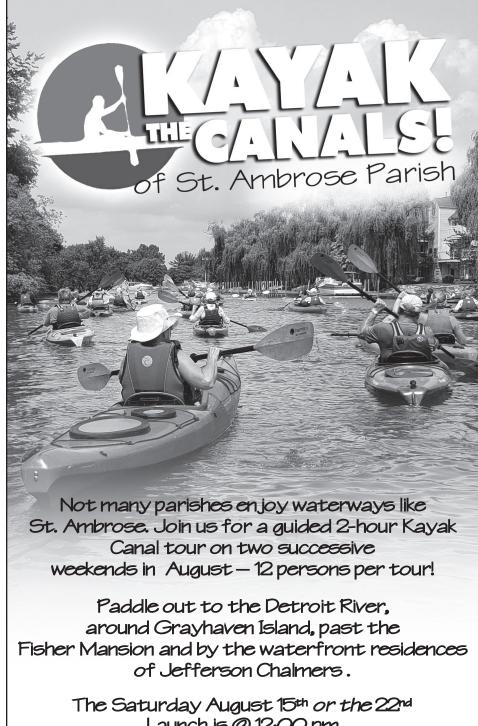
And speaking of Francis, on Wednesday we celebrate the memorial of St. Bonaventure, a great Franciscan bishop and theologian of the 1200s. His name is familiar to us because of the monastery and soup kitchen operated by our Capuchin Franciscan friends here in Detroit. Fr. Tim and I studied his works in college classes about scholastic philosophy. But what I best learned from him came years later in a story (legend?) about him.

Supposedly the pope at the time decided to name Bonaventure a cardinal and sent a delegation to bring him the special bright red hat marking the honor. When they arrived, Bonaventure was taking his turn doing the community's dishes.

The story goes that the delegation grew tired of waiting for him to finish and left the hat hanging in a tree outside the friary door. To this day, the seal on his complete theological works bears the image of a tree with a hat in it . . . which Bonaventure apparently considered less important than finishing the dishes for his brothers.

Patience - Perseverence -Prayer. May July find us continuing to learn and live the balance.

Chuck Dropiewski



Launch is @ 12:00 pm \$55 per kayaker -

This private tour is professionally conducted by Detroit River Sports and is great for beginners and experienced kayakers alike.

Kayak and safety equipment provided.

stambrose@comcast.net or 313-822-2814