



WE ARE FRANCISCANS

Stigmata of St. Francis Fraternity
Secular Franciscan Order
Five Franciscan Martyrs Region

Meetings 3rd Saturday of each month @8:30AM @
the Spirit Center at St Thomas More Church, 2506
Gulf Gate Dr., Sarasota.

!!! NEXT MEETING IS SAT, January 21, 2012 !!!

Minister : Sue Jacobs
Vice Minister : Gracia Garrido
Secretary : Kathy Peters
Treasurer : Dody Martin
Formation: Dale Eppig

December Meeting Notes –

Fr. Joe Stearns was able to join us as was feeling better, Praise God! After leading Morning Prayer he shared a revelation he had about the need for living simply! Since he had been having pain, he decided to forego the usual frantic effort to decorate his home with Christmas ornaments and other decorations. His surprised reaction was one of **peace and joy in the simplicity** of just the Crèche with the Holy Family to mark the season! He realized that “things” do not make the season! It is what is in our hearts! Father Francis tries to encourage this attitude in **all** we do! ☺

In a festive mood, we exchanged some cards with each other and Dale’s artistic creations were distributed to all. We have some very talented members! The Spirit Center where we meet is used for overflow Masses on Sundays and the construction to enlarge the Church is coming along quickly. We are very blessed!

We gathered all the collected items for J.H. Floyd’s [now Cross Breeze] Nursing Home’s Christmas gifts as we listened to Holiday music and enjoyed snacking on sweets and fruit. We loaded up two carloads of sorted gifts of clothing and hand-made bags for wheel chairs and walkers [donated by the Crafty Ladies of STM]. Three cars drove to the NH and helped the staff unload. We arranged to be there again on the 22nd for their Christmas Party.

Several of us went to meet the Residents and helped to distribute their wrapped gifts at this party and helped fill plates of food and helped feed those unable to help themselves. Many of the residents are profoundly handicapped and it was sad to find that only a few are Catholic. Our plan to initiate some activity including a monthly Rosary and singing might not be possible. We will continue to keep in touch with the Activity Director and see how else we can be of assistance to the clients. PRAY!

NEWS FROM INACTIVE SFO MEMBERS: We were pleasantly surprised by a Christmas card from Rosina Di Diego who was a member of our Fraternity but had moved to Canada. She sent greetings and a donation to our Fraternity. We also received cards from Jane & Lou Baker, Isabel Cintron, Gloria De Franco, and Inez Vannuci [who now lives in Ohio near her daughter.] Dr. Nadia Amato, as always, at Christmas sent \$\$ to buy socks for everyone at the NH! Her husband is very ill, please keep him and all our inactive members in your prayers.

May you have a blessed Year 2012

Question: Do you know somebody who is suffering from a fractured funny bone? You can help him or her by sharpening and sharing your own sense of humor. To bring the gift of joy to others is no small accomplishment, and **you** can enjoy that accomplishment in your daily life. This very day – or hour – might be a pivotal moment in the life of someone you either know or will encounter. A bit of humor, delivered by you, could brighten, and even sanctify, that life. I’m serious, Gentle Reader. Note how the humor of G. K. Chesterton has been such an immense blessing right down to the present day. How about embarking upon a mission of mirth? Write that mirth-tinctured letter, or make that visit, or pick up that telephone. You will find that a humorous encounter with most people reduces stress and at the same time creates positive energy, makes it easier to approach and talk about difficult or sensitive topics...makes it easier to deal with difficult people and with children... illustrates or underscores a point you want to make. by Joe OHalloran

Jesus is the Thirsty—to be satiated.
Jesus is the Naked—to be clothed.
Jesus is the Homeless—to be taken in.
Jesus is the Drunkard—to listen to him.
Jesus is the Sick—to be healed.
Jesus is the beggar—to give him a smile.
Jesus is the Old—to be served.
Jesus is he lonely—to be loved.

PAX ET BONUM