

SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER - FIVE FRANCISCAN MARTYRS REGION
www.franciscan-sfo.org

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI FRATERNITY - DUNEDIN, FL



SIMPLICITY

Next Meeting: February 11, 2012 @ 12:00 pm
Formation Groups Meet at 10:30 am

Message from our Spiritual Assistant, Br. Mark Brown, OFM

From now thru November we will be inundated with media from the candidates and the news and TV. Half truths, lies, promises and slander will be all around us. When one looks at the way the Secular Franciscans elect leaders, one is struck with the profound difference. It begins with prayer, followed by discernment as done by the Apostles when they elected the first Deacons. Ours is an orderly, loving transfer of positions with openness to all Professed Members of a fraternity.

My brothers and sisters, we may not change the secular political process but we can pray for them and use our discernment as we vote in the primaries and in November.



February 2012

MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER:

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

February brings us to the midpoint of winter and the time to prepare for our upcoming Lenten Journey. Now is the time to decide how we will attempt to make a difference in the lives of those we will come in contact with during this season of prayer. We should challenge ourselves to step out of our comfort zone to help someone in need even though that person may not be one we normally would associate with.

At the last International Chapter, held this past October in Brazil, it was voted to change the official name of our order to **Ordo Franciscanus Sæcularis** or **OFS**. In the English speaking world, we will still be known as members of the **Secular Franciscan Order**. Nothing has changed as relates to who we are: we are still **Secular Franciscans**. The only thing that has changed is the acronym we place after our names, which is **OFS**. Now the entire order will be using the same acronym, which should be a good thing, once the newness of this change has become second nature, much like the the new Mass language will be, once we get used to it.

Pax et Bonum,

Jim Grant, OFS

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Spiritual Asst: Br. Mark Brown, OFM
Minister: Jim Grant, OFS
Vice Minister: Violet Saldua, OFS
Secretary: Jeannette Grant, OFS
Treasurer: Cindy Housley, OFS
Formation Dir. Ed Belliveau, OFS

Councilors Emeritus:

Rosalee Prewett, OFS
Connie Quatrano, OFS

Councilors - at- Large:

Carmen Garcia, OFS
Cathy Ippolito, OFS
Rich Ippolito, OFS

Newsletter Editors:

Jim & Jeannette Grant, OFS
(727-712-3645)

(Thanks to Alain Poulin & Leilani at CIS World Services for our printing.)

February Birthdays: Cathy Ippolito- Feb. 4 ~ John Probert- Feb. 16
Anniversaries: Frank Averill- Feb. 4 (11 yrs.) ~ Rose Averill- Feb. 4 (11 yrs.)
Necrology: Howard Lammermier- Feb. 10, 1998 (51 yrs.)
Frances Desaulniers- Feb. 21, 2008 (12 yrs.)

NOTICE:

Fair Share Contribution checks to be sent to :

CINDY HOUSLEY, 876 Jackson Court, Palm Harbor, Florida, 34683 (727) 772-7932

The Franciscan Family Fund: This fund exists to assist any member needing financial assistance. Please feel free to contact any Council member when help is needed. Your request will be handled in the strictest confidence.

MESSAGE FROM THE FORMATION DIRECTOR:

Dear sisters & brothers in Francis & Clare,

Here it is, February already. Is it just me or is time flying faster? We have three special occasions this month. First, we have Valentine's Day on the 14th. St. Valentine offered his life for another as an act of love. Your "hero" letter would be a fitting Valentine.

Second and third are related as Ash Wednesday signals the beginning of Lent. The symbol of ashes is to remind us of our beginning and end. Well worth meditating over.

Next is the 40 days of Lent. It is a period of sacrifice, of giving up something, especially when we were younger. Instead, I would propose adding something; more alms giving, more prayer, concentrated good deeds. We can always do more prayer. How about the prayer of St. Gertrude, which when recited releases a thousand souls from Purgatory. By the end of Lent you could have released 40,000 souls. We'll save a few minutes at the end of on-going to hear some of your ideas.

Love & Peace, Ed, OFS

DURING THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY, LET US REMEMBER ALL OUR MEMBERS, RELATIVES AND FRIENDS IN OUR PRAYERS.



St. Francis of Assisi Fraternity Meeting Jan. 14, 2012

1. Call to order at 12:15 p.m.

Opening Prayer - Ritual Pg 35 Jim

2. **Liturgy of the Hours-** Br. Mark

Scripture Reading: Luke 4 Jesus is filled with the spirit and goes to the desert and is tempted..... Man does not live on bread alone.....

3. A Hail Mary was said for our sick members and friends.

4. Welcomed John Lowe back for a visit and Susan Rose who had her first meeting today with Jim and Jeannette.

5. Jim presented Rich Ippolito his 25th Profession Certificate.

6. Connie Quatrano and Carmen Garcia-Carrion talked about the Seventh Clearwater Divine Will Conference on Feb. 25th, 2012.

7. **Homily-** Br. Mark

In former days it was believed that monks were Holy and the world was evil. We do not think that today as we are all called to be Holy as Our Heavenly Father is Holy. Like Jesus we must take time to pray.... have quiet time.... and then go and do our ministry. Our formation time is to transform us so we can go out in the world and bring Jesus to all we meet. Br. ended by saying "Live the Gospel with all your heart and soul". Amen

8. **On-going Formation**

Ed asked for prayers for Stanica Mech who has decided to terminate her formation due to family problems and personal health issues.

Ed took up the reading of Luke 4 and reminded us that Jesus preferred service to God than to service to himself. We must resist any thought or action that is contrary to God's will ,or takes us away from the presence of God.

He ended by asking the question "What are you not ready to surrender to God?" On a positive note.... **EVERY DAY WE HAVE A CHANCE TO START OVER.**

Meeting ended at 2:30 p.m.

Humbly submitted by Jeannette Grant, OFS Secretary



THE HOODED MAN

I went to Calvary to see what was happening there
A man hung on a tree, why should I care?
Did I know this man called Jesus
They said he was dying to save all of us.
I had heard Him preach once before
He was saying He wanted to knock on everyone's door.
Another time He said come follow me
Should I give everything up to come and see?
Last week He entered the city as a king
Now He is hanging from a tree with absolutely not a thing.
Is this the end of the story, or must I wait a bit longer
Tonight they will put Him in the tomb to stay there forever.
I heard that He rose from the dead after three days
That story could be taken many various ways.
As I was pondering on this, a Hooded man came to my side

*Come follow me if you want to be His bride.
I will show you exactly what to do
Take the message of His Good News, He wrote it just for you.
I have followed Him for a while now
Jesus is His name and He will show you how.*
I decided to follow this man in the Hood
He explained why Jesus had to be nailed to the wood.
*It was for love of us that He did it
And now He was sending us His Holy Spirit.*
The man in the Hood became very quiet
He was very thin, he must have been on a strict diet.
He told me of his love for the crucified
And because of Him he was ready to live or die.
I felt a peace I had never known before
Now I was ready for Jesus to come through my door.
How can I live such a life as you my Hooded friend?
Just follow the crucified, He will be faithful to the very end.
It is very easy to say
Will you stay with me awhile, I pray.
*Yes of course my little sister
To your need I will minister.*
Why do you hide behind that Hood?



I would like to see your face if I could.
In time you will see my face
Right now it is not the time or the place.
Now let me talk more about Jesus and what He did for us
By dying on the cross He overcame death, which was due for all of us.
We are now reconciled to His Holy Father
Now we are all His brothers and sisters.
This gift was freely given and it is called grace
Through grace we are members of the Trinity, yes the whole human race.
If you live His life day by day
With you He will always want to stay.
I call this life – Gospel to life and life to Gospel
You can live it without being under a spell.
 OK, I will do it, now may I see your face?
I will show you my face but don't feel any disgrace.
I have been hard on myself and my body is spent
I have fasted all my life even if it wasn't Lent.
However I was so in love with Jesus – I had to be like Him in all aspects.
 As he removed the Hood from his face – I thought is this special effects?
 The Hooded man looked like the Crucified
 Even his hands and feet were wounded and a hole in his side.
My name is Francis and I come from Assisi
I followed Jesus the Christ, now will you comfort me?
 If I follow Jesus in your way Francis
 What will this really mean for me – will I cease to exist?
In a way yes – but your life will have such divine
graces now and forever
 Does this mean He and I will be together?
 My little Poor Hooded man I will follow you
 Please hold my hand as I do.
 In time I will also be crucified
 Even though it might not show on the outside.
 Come Francis show me the way
 To Jesus whom I will love more and more each day.

Sr. Jeannette Grant, OFS

