

SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER - FIVE FRANCISCAN MARTYRS REGION  
[www.franciscan-sfo.org](http://www.franciscan-sfo.org)

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI FRATERNITY - DUNEDIN, FL



# SIMPLICITY

**Next Meeting: January 14, 2012 @ 12:00 pm**  
**Formation Groups Meet at 10:30 am**

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

For centuries prophets have been telling the world of the coming of the Messiah. Over and over we read, in the Old Testament, how God would come and raise up all the good people and reward them for their constant faithfulness to this promise. Their imagination went to extremes to guess how this was to happen. Would He come through the clouds with power and slay all the non-believers or, perhaps, as the head of a powerful army, to restore all the good people to positions of authority? If this was the expectation, why come as a little baby? How does this relate to the prophetic messages?

Our God came as a poor child, helpless, homeless and in simple surroundings. Perhaps there is another reason. Have you ever been in a group when a young mother enters with a little baby? Everyone starts to smile and talk to the child with love. Women beg to hold the child and they express their love for the baby, as does the rest of the group. Perhaps God came to us as a baby because He knew how well He would be received

## MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER:

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

HAPPY NEW YEAR! We welcome 2012 and pray that the new year will bring us God's blessing of good health or the strength to deal with any challenges that we may have to face. Please offer prayers for the success of this year's Quinquennial 2012 "Why Francis? Claim the Gift" to be held in Skokie, IL July 3-8. If you are interested in attending, please contact me for registration materials.

Congratulations to Richard Ippolito, SFO who celebrates the 25th anniversary of his Profession this month. At this month's meeting, Jeannette and I will show a video of our recent trip to the Holy Land. Photos of that pilgrimage will also be on display.

Pax et Bonum,  
Jim Grant, SFO

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### COUNCIL MEMBERS:

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

### Councilors Emeritus:

Rosalee Prewett, SFO  
Connie Quatrano, SFO

### Councilors - at- Large:

Carmen Garcia, SFO  
Cathy Ippolito, SFO  
Rich Ippolito, SFO

### Newsletter Editors:

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

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

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**January Birthdays:** Cindy Housley - Jan. 2 ~ Connie Quatrano - Jan 18  
Frank Averill - Jan. 20 ~ Kathleen Regnier- Jan. 25

**Anniversaries:** Cindy Housley - Jan. 2 (12 yrs.) ~ Violet Saldua - Jan. 4 (8 yrs.)  
Rich Ippolito - Jan. 18 (25 yrs.)

### Necrology:

James Foley - Jan. 5, 2000 (13 yrs.) ~ Rosalie Foley - Jan. 12, 2004 (25 yrs.)  
Alice Russell - Jan. 19, 1995 (82 yrs.) ~ Alfred Geisler - Jan. 23, 2001 (50 yrs.)

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### NOTICE:

Fair Share Contribution checks to be sent to :  
CINDY HOUSLEY, 876 Jackson Court, Palm Harbor, Florida, 34683 (727) 772-7932

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**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.

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**MESSAGE FROM THE FORMATION DIRECTOR:**

Dear sisters & brothers in Francis & Clare,

I wish you a happy, blessed and healthy New Year. It's that time when we make lists of things to do and often few get carried out for longer than a week or two. Resolutions they are called. For us, it's called conversion and it should be a daily event in our lives. As we adjust our minds and hearts to follow more perfectly in the footsteps of Francis and Clare the journey should give us great joy. Please be prepared to share some of your efforts with others at a future meeting.  
Love & Peace, ed

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

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# Christmas Party

December 10, 2011

Formation took place at 10:30 with the new Formation Format.

> Festivities opened with lighting the Advent Wreath and singing “O come O come Emmanuel.

> We had a wonderful festive dinner. Unfortunately we had several members absent due to family illness or personal reasons. We remembered all our missing members with a prayer to our Blessed Mother.

>The CHINESE auction was really fun as several gifts were swapped many times.

> Rose and Frank Averill along with Kathleen McNeil, presented all members present with Tau pins from Assisi.

> Rose and Frank then gave all of us a picture of DIVINE MERCY from the people of Belize, provided by Fr. Jim Blount.

Humbly submitted by

Jeannette B. Grant, SFO, Secretary



## THE STABLE

As I make my way to the stable in Bethlehem  
I wonder if I am going to be a bother to them.  
Will Joseph, Mary and the holy child  
Welcome me, a sinner still rough and wild?  
As I ponder along the way  
I am practicing the words I am going to say.  
This child is the Son of God most High  
The angels announced His birth, it is not a lie.  
I have nothing to give Him on this day  
Will He be asleep or want to play?  
How can I comprehend such a mystery  
That God came to earth for me, what a story.  
Will I be able to tell just by looking  
That this child is surely the King of Kings?  
Will He be different from any other child?  
Will He be crying or laying there meek and mild?  
Why is He in a stable anyway  
If He is a king why be born in this way?  
Mary and Joseph are very poor  
They came to Bethlehem and knocked on many doors.  
There was no room in the inn  
Only strangers, not even one kin.  
So to the stable they would go  
I learned this from the shepherds, they should know.  
An angel came to them at night  
Everything was surrounded by a heavenly light.  
I met them in the morning and was told of the heavenly birth  
Go see for yourself, God has come to earth.  
I soon arrived at the stable door  
And found the little family doing their daily chores.  
Joseph was cleaning the stalls  
Mary was answering the baby's call.  
Everything as plain as could be  
Nothing of royalty I could see.  
However in that little stable there was love  
Two ordinary people loving a child that came from above.  
Mary told me about the Annunciation  
How she agreed to carry this child, son of the Lord of creation.



She told me of her great Fiat, God's will be done.  
By doing this each and every day, heaven will be won.  
This visit to the stable has taught me one thing  
The praises of God I will forever sing.  
Thank you for sending a Savior  
You have granted me a super favor.  
Who knows how this Child will save the world  
I will have to wait and see how this story will unfurl.  
Before I left I gave the Child a little kiss  
Just touching Him filled me with such bliss.  
Then Joseph asked if I would like to hold the baby  
Mary nodded yes, she was such a lady.  
As I received the Child in my arms  
He woke up quietly, without much alarm.  
Mary then said to me; His name is Jesus  
He has left His heaven to live among us.  
Thank You dear Jesus- the Holy Child  
I will try to reform and not be so wild.  
Like Mary and Joseph I must ponder all this in my heart  
Because, for now, I must depart. Amen



Sr. Jeannette B. Grant , SFO

