

Regular Meeting: Sun., Dec. 11th - South Rm., St. Helen's Christian Living Ctr., 2 pm.

Council meeting: Sat., Dec. 17th - Hibiscus Café in Vero Beach at 9 am.

Agenda and Schedule for meeting:

1:30 pm - Initial Formation sessions before the meeting.

2:00 - Meeting called to order. Opening Prayer, Reports, Old/New Business.

2:15 - A Blessing of our donations to the Food Pantry

2:20 - Our Blessed and Saint talks are continuing. We can learn a lot from these holy people.

George Thomas will speak on St. Joseph of Cupertino (FD Sep.18th); and, Fred Schaeffer will talk about Bl. Maria Angela Astorch, a Capuchin Poor Clare (FD Dec. 2nd).

2:50 - To celebrate the Advent Season, we will sing some hymns. Panis Angelicus, O Come, O Come Emmanuel, and Ave Maria (Schubert). So get your best singing voice ready!

3:10 - Refreshments and break

3:25 - Liturgy of the Hours for the 3rd Sunday of Advent; Franciscan Crown Rosary (time permitting)

4:00 - Closing Prayer and Dismissal

Refreshment Committee for Nov.: George Thomas & Kathleen Van Buskirk- Snacks

Adele Lamour - Soda and/or fruit drinks

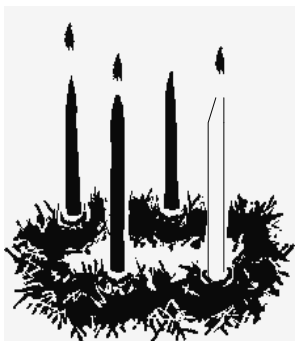
Fraternity Apostolate: Please place your donations to the Food Pantry on our meeting table when you arrive. Thank you for your faithfulness and generosity.

Remember in your prayers: Please pray Mary Ellen Flynn, Helen's sister, who was diagnosed with Cancer and was hospitalized on Nov. 27; Also, for Robert Caldarone, Gene's brother who is hospitalized. Please pray for Jack Solloway, and Susan.

- Please pray for all our members especially those who find it difficult (for health or family reasons) to attend our monthly meetings regularly. May God, in His goodness, grant them, and all of us, the grace to do His Will in spite of everything.

From the Minister's Desk: As Fred prepares this issue of the Canticle, our Minister is still in New York trying to help her sister Mary Ellen. Please pray for them.

From the Vice-Minister's Desk: In a Liturgical Seasons, such as Advent, it is customary to emphasize "Spiritual Reading." Spiritual reading is a way to deepen ourselves in the lives of Saints and Blesseds. Really use that time of study for your talk to examine the lives of these holy people, and discern as you read how you may improve your spirituality. They either gave their lives as martyrs, or, they lived many years in ascetical discipline, totally for Our Lord Jesus Christ, often in atonement for sins of self or mankind, and they stored great riches in heaven.



The Third Sunday of Advent

Today, amid preparations for Christmas, we light a white or pink candle. Everywhere we go, we're told it is the Christmas Season. But yet, it is still advent. But we celebrate anyway because today is Gaudete Sunday, the Sunday when we're getting closer to His birth. Gaudete means, "Rejoice!"

Minister: Helen Caldarone, SFO
Vice-Minister: Fred Schaeffer, SFO
Secretary: Jennie Donlin, SFO
Treasurer: Sarah Hardy, SFO
Formation Director: Gene Caldarone, SFO
Councillors-at-Large
George Thomas, SFO
Marguerite Rysdyke, SFO
Spiritual Assisitant
Fr. Richard P. LaCorte, SFO
Webmaster/Editor: Fred Schaeffer, SFO
Commissioners
Work: Jack Solloway, SFO
Family: Susan Solloway, SFO
Peace and Justice: Sarah Hardy, SFO
Youth: (vacant)
Ecology: Fred Schaeffer, SFO

Formation

Assistant Director: Donna M. Haro, SFO
Team Member: Caroline DiGennaro, SFO
Team Member: Carmela LaMartina SFO
Team Member: Jennie Donlin, SFO

Let us not forget, however, that *Jesus is the reason for the season*. Jesus was born in simplicity and poverty, in quietness and hiddenness. We love to celebrate, but the way we're going about it, all the way from Halloween onward, that is not compatible with the quiet of the inner way. St. John the Baptist tells us that we must repent and be converted. We have to put our priorities in order. Otherwise, we will not be ready to receive Him when He comes on Christmas day.

Materialism today, pulls us away from a meaningful celebration of Advent. Yet, today, we should be bringing glad tidings to the poor, and comfort to the broken-hearted, to help set people free from spiritual, economic and social bondage. Are we striving to live a holy life, and have we prayed ceaselessly as we are encouraged to do, in the 2nd Reading, today? In Advent, John the Baptist's message is central. He was a prophet in the wilderness, and that often is a barren, lonely place, where we go to retreat from a busy world. And that's the Third Sunday's message, to retreat, quietly celebrate His anticipated arrival, to prepare our inner selves to listen and to wait patiently.

Don't let Advent pass you by. Make time and space for it in your busy lives. Spend much time in prayer before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, take a walk away from spouse and children, or from the usual hyped season, to quietly say the Rosary. Sit in your easy chair, perhaps darkening the room so you can sit there and meditate on Mary, and what is about to happen to her. Find those little 'deserts' where you can be alone with Jesus and Mary. Stay away, just yet, from the Christmas lights, music, the shopping malls. The best gift you can give yourself this Christmas is a new heart and a renewed spirit that will last longer than the Christmas trees and greenery.

May all of you have a really spiritual Advent Season.



This picture was taken at the 2005 General Chapter of the Secular Franciscan Order. The building behind the clergy is the Portiuncola, that little roadside Chapel where it all began. We have this picture on our web site and also on the CIOFS website where it originated. I find it a very historic picture, because in the basket are crosses presented to the leaders of the SFO to “mission” them, that is, to send them on their way.

From left to right, Father Guardian of Assisi(TOR); Fr. Fermino Giacometti, OFMConv., Vicar Gen., of Conventuals, Fr. Martin Bitzer, OFM Conv., General Assistant SFO (USA), Fr. Ben Brevoort OFMCap, Juan Lescano SFO, Deacon, International Councillor of the USA, Fr. José Rodríguez Caraballo, OFM, General Minister (center); Lionel, SFO, Deacon, Fr. Irudaya Samy, OFM Cap. Gen'l. Asst to SFO; Fr. Ivan Matic' OFM General Asst. to SFO (walking toward chapel), Fr. Charles Serignat OFM Cap., translator; Francesco Maticocchi, SFO, Deacon, Rosalvo Mota, SFO, Vice General Minister.

Holding the basket with crosses: Left - Chelito de Nuñez, SFO, Presidency Councillor. Right: Encarnación Del Pozo, SFO, General Minister.