

Regular Meeting: Sun., July 9th at 2 pm - South Rm., St. Helen's Christian Living Ctr.

Council meeting: Sat., July 15th at 9 am.- Arby's on west side of Rte. #1 at 16th Pl. in Vero.

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.

2:10 - A Blessing of our donations to the Food Pantry

2:15 - Ongoing Formation and Discussion: We continue our focus on the lives and charisms of Franciscan saints and blessed. At our July meeting, Donna Haro has prepared a talk on St. Veronica Giuliano. (Did I get that name right, Donna?)

As we learn more about our franciscan brothers and sisters in heaven, we hope to emulate them in holiness here on earth

PLEASE NOTE: In addition to a biographical report about each saint, please add your own comments on how learning about this saint would be of value on your own franciscan journey. And, as much as possible, present your report in your own words.

2:45 - Refreshments and break

3:00 - Video Presentation: NO TURNING BACK; The Confessions of a Catholic Priest. This powerful video, narrated by Fr. Donald Calloway, is the story of his childhood, his rebellious and turbulent youth, his desperation, his conversion and his call to the priesthood.

3:35 - Liturgy of the Hours for the 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time.

4:00 - Closing Prayer and Dismissal (If you have time, please assist us in straightening out the South Room before you leave for home. Thanks!)

Refreshment Committee for this meeting -- Snacks: George Thomas and Kathleen Van Buskirk

Beverages: Maureen O'Hare was so generous last month, we have enough for this month too.

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 continue praying for Jennie whose condition has improved somewhat, for George Thomas, who will need dialysis, for Marie Fee whose family continues to experience many difficulties, for an improvement in Fred's health and for those members of our fraternity who are not attending our meetings regularly.

From the Minister's Desk: In my heart of hearts, I am deeply grateful for the privilege of being Minister of our fraternity. Despite that, there are times when it seems to be too hard, too complicated, too many things to think of . . . you know the feeling! We all yearn, at times, for simplicity, for less "stuff" to do, for a world where it's just me and God. And that's precisely where we begin to go wrong!

As Franciscans, whether in the First, Second or Third Order, we are part of something much larger than ourselves; i.e., a community of like-minded individuals who have surrendered, at least in part, their individuality in order to join their own works, prayers, duties to those of every other member of the

Minister: Helen Caldarone, SFO
Vice-Minister: Fred Schaeffer, SFO
Secretary: Elizabeth Smith (repl. Jennie Donlin)
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

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

Formation Team: Caroline DiGennaro, SFO;
Marguerite Rysdyke, SFO; Andrea Cardoza, SFO.

Webmaster/Editor: Fred Schaeffer, SFO

community. We are united by our Rule, our meetings, our apostolates (whether done in community with each other or alone), our faithful recitation of the Liturgy of the Hours every morning and evening, our attendance at daily Mass, our rosaries, novenas, our daily devotions, our works of charity, our Scripture study, our obedience to the Church and the Vicar of Christ in Rome.

Far from being an unnecessary complication to our lives, our Franciscan professions had gifted us with an eternal link to every other Franciscan who has ever lived. It enlarges us, connects us in a very real way to the spirituality of all other fraternities striving to be holy - to be perfect "as the Father is perfect". Thus, our prayers, our penances, our acts of charity and love, are more powerful than they could ever be as a single voice. As members of the SFO, we share in the spiritual goods of the entire fraternity - local, regional, national, and international. And that, my Franciscan brothers and sisters is a very wonderful gift, indeed. Peace and All Good!!

Mary's Role

In the Magnificat (*Lk. 1:46-55*), Mary's Hymn of Praise, she makes a prophecy "From this day all generations will call me blessed." This was at the Annunciation where the Angel Gabriel came to bring her the good news that she was to be the Mother of Jesus and that He would be the Messiah. There is no question that her prophecy is being fulfilled. Throughout history, Mary, the Mother of God and our Mother (by Jesus' own words from the Cross), has been revered from as early as the second Century by Christians. St. Ignatius, Bishop of Antioch who was reputed to have heard St. John the Apostle preach (martyred in 110 AD) stressed Mary's role as the virginal mother of Jesus. Then, St. Justin Martyr, the first Christian philosopher (100-165 AD) saw a parallel between the role of Eve and that of Mary, a fundamental theological insight.

St. Irenaeus, Bishop of Lyons (140-202 AD) preached much on Mary. He wrote that "as Jesus parallels Adam, so Mary parallels Eve. Mary is the new Eve in God's new creation." (from: *All Generations Will Call Me Blessed*," © 1999, Jim McManus, C.Ss.R., Crossroads Publishing Co.) Another intellectual who lived between 185-254 AD, Origen, understood the word "Behold your Son," to be significant. "Origen is saying that since Jesus was the only Son of Mary, if Jesus says John is her son he is saying that John in some way has become Jesus. Jesus and John are one; Jesus and his disciples are one." Because of this unity and identification Mary sees just her own Son in each of the disciples." (*Ibid.*)

St. Athanasius of Alexandria (295-373 AD) had a deep devotion to the Blessed Virgin and called her "*Theotokos*," the God bearer. St. Ambrose (339-397 AD) learned that he was not able to defend the divinity of Christ without at the same time preaching that Mary, the Mother of Christ, is truly the Mother of God. Ambrose saw Mary as the "Mother of the Church."

St. Jerome (347-420 AD) another great father of the Church, a renowned Scripture scholar staunchly defended the perpetual virginity of the Blessed Mary. At about the same time, 353-430 AD, St. Augustine of Hippo was a great defender of Mary's virginity. There are others, throughout history, particularly the early history of the Church, who defended the special status of Mary in the life of Jesus and, indeed, in the life of the Church. Mary is the mother of the redeemer and of the redeemed. Slowly, the belief that Mary was conceived without Original Sin was circulated among the faithful and because of this grassroots groundswell the Magisterium began to study this idea. The Franciscan, Blessed Duns Scotus who died in 1308, found Mary "to have been preserved free from Original Sin" and that it was "a greater grace than to be set free from sin." On 8 December, 1854, Pope Pius IX, proclaimed the Dogma of the Immaculate Conception.

Let us honor Mary, Queen of the Franciscan Order, and Mother of the Church, in our prayers.

Written by Fred Schaeffer, SFO