

Regular Meeting: Sun., Aug. 13 th at 2 pm - South Rm., St. Helen's Christian Living Ctr.

Council meeting: Sat., Aug. 19th 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. We will welcome suggestions regarding ways in which our fraternity can celebrate the feast day in November of our patroness, St. Elizabeth of Hungary. We have been urged to develop such a program by the International SFO.
- 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. For our August meeting, Fred has prepared a talk on St. Francis Mary of Camporosso, a Capuchin lay brother. As we learn more about our franciscan brothers and sisters in heaven, we hope to emulate them in holiness here.

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 - Part 2; The Confessions of a Catholic Priest. We will see the second half of this powerful video. Fr. Donald Calloway, continues telling the story of his conversion and discerning his call to the priesthood.

3:35 - Liturgy of the Hours for the 19th 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: Eugene and Helen Caldarone

Beverages: Andrea Cardoza

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 continues to improve, for George Thomas, Jerry Carey, for an improvement in Fred's health and for those members of our fraternity who cannot attending our meetings regularly.

From the Minister's Desk: Recently, I have been reading a book of excerpts from the writings of Henri J.M.Nouwen and have been struck by the "franciscan" nature of his ideas. At one point, he employs the image of a wheel to clarify our journey toward holiness. With Christ as the center of our lives, the hub as it were, we unite in community with our fraternity brothers and sisters and, indeed, all Christians, to help each other become closer and closer to Christ, the center of the wheel of life. This is not easy to do as a solo. Rather, as we participate with our brothers and sisters in this journey toward Christ at the center of the wheel, our faith is enlivened, deepened and reinforced by our companions, conflict and misunderstanding are resolved and our life in Christ becomes more focused and intense. At the same time, just as the spokes of the wheel become closer to each other as they approach the center hub, so we, as members of our fraternity, become closer and closer to each other. And isn't that the SFO idea!!

This progress toward seeing Christ at the center of our life and striving to become closer to Him, is put very succinctly in the Doxology during the Liturgy of the Eucharist - "...through Him and with Him and in Him . . .". Nouwen explains this passage this way: In the Old Testament, God was a protector and a shield for His people. They lived *through* Him. When Jesus walked among us as our companion and friend, we walked *with* Him. And, after Pentecost when Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to us, God then was *within* us, our very breath and heartbeat. We are being drawn into the center of life with each other and with St. Francis and all the franciscans who have gone before us. Peace and All Good!!

Minister: Helen Caldarone, SFO
Vice-Minister: Fred Schaeffer, SFO
Secretary: Elizabeth Smith
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

The following is from the International SFO website: (www.ciofs.org)

“MESSAGE TO THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF LEBANON: In Our Thoughts and Prayers.

As we witness the hostilities taking place in your country, please know that your Secular Franciscan brothers and sisters around the world are united to you in thought and prayer. Words sometimes bear little weight during times of suffering such as those which you are currently enduring. We trust, however, that the Divine seed that is in all people will soon germinate so that everyone may once again live in peace and without the presence of violence.

United in prayer,
Doug Clorey, SFO
Co-ordinator, Presence in the World Commission
Secular Franciscan Order International Presidency”

Doug Clorey lives in Canada

Let's all pray for the people of Lebanon who are ordinary people like you and me. As clearly seen on television news, they are in a very dangerous situation, and there's not much they can do about it. But we can do something - we can pray. Please pray the Crown on the Rosary for peace in the world, especially in the Middle East.

Catholics in Lebanon = 36% of Population

Maronite Catholics 850,000; Melkite Catholics 400,000; Syrian Catholics 25,000; Armenian Catholics 20,000;
Roman Catholics 20,000; and, Chaldean Catholic 12,000.

Lebanon is the only country in the Middle East where there are Secular Franciscans.

Please keep them in your prayers daily

Adoration is a very special time to be with Jesus. You can visit with Jesus also. In Vero Beach, at St. Helen's Parish, once a month there is a day of Adoration. At Holy Cross Parish on the beach, there is a perpetual adoration chapel, as well as at St. Sebastian Parish, in Sebastian. I'm not sure about such arrangements in other areas. Jesus is, of course, equally present in the tabernacle of every Catholic Church. Please make time, maybe a half hour at first, to visit Jesus in Church. Better yet, plan to go to daily Mass and make that high priority. People who receive Jesus in the Holy Eucharist daily have the ultimate protection from evil and evil things.

There are days that I get fidgety, that I cannot concentrate for even short amount of time. If that happens, just look at Jesus, simply adore Him. He will do the rest. He will let you know who He is. He loves us beyond belief but we have to be open to Him too.

People tell me about their experiences at Holy Mass. They say they get nothing out of it. Well, the question really is "what do you bring to it?" Are you attentive and awake? Are you participating mentally or are you in dreamland? An Irish pastor I know used to say to the congregation "If there is anyone here who never gets distracted, come see me after Mass and I'll make an appointment with the psychiatrist." Well, we do get distracted but we snap out of it and then we participate.

Listen to the readings and to the Gospel. Well, Lector Jones has a lisp and I can't concentrate. So what? Concentrate! It is the Word of God and therefore worth listening to. Do you participate in sung responses? Well, I can't sing. Yes, you can! You can move your lips, can't you?

If you seek participation during Holy Mass you will feel that unity of the community around you. Then, when you get out in the parking lot after Mass is over you are more likely to meet with other parishioners and seek to participate in other apostolates in the parish.

Face-to-face with Jesus. If you give Him an half hour a day, it will be for you the beginning of your time in heaven! Then you will see Jesus as He really is!