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

Council meeting: Sat., Oct. 15th - 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.

2:20 - A Blessing of our donations to the Food Pantry

2:25 - Welcoming Ceremony for Mary S. Bell and Joseph Assam who will be starting Initial Formation.  
God is good!!

2:35 - Ongoing Formation: Adele and Elizabeth, two of our Candidates, will share their study of and reflections on John R.H. Moorman's book, "St. Francis of Assisi". Everyone who has read this book has been very impressed with its depth and insights into the life of our Seraphic Father.

3:00 - Refreshments and break

3:15 - Fred, our Vice-Minister, will conduct a lesson on the history and usage of the Liturgy of the Hours and the Franciscan Crown Rosary.

3:30 - Liturgy of the Hours for 28<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time; Franciscan Crown Rosary

4:00 - Closing Prayer and Dismissal

Refreshment Committee for Sept.: Julia McHugh and Mary Bell - Snacks

Ed O'Donnell - 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 for Mary and Joseph, our new Inquirers.

- Please pray for all our members who find it difficult (for health or family reasons) to attend

our monthly meetings regularly especially Maureen O'Hare who has had two strokes recently and faces many stressful changes in her life.. 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: - Our thanks to all who attended the wonderful Day of Recollection conducted for us by Fr. Richard on Sept. 20<sup>th</sup>. Good things come in bunches it seems - Fr. Richard will celebrate a special evening Mass at 5:45 PM for us on the Feast of St. Francis (Tuesday, October 4<sup>th</sup>) at his parish in Vero Beach, St. John of the Cross. Please put it on your calendar and make every effort to attend. Following Mass, all are invited back to the Caldarone's for a celebration of the day and fellowship. DIRECTIONS to Church: Take Rte. 60 to the traffic light at 74<sup>th</sup> Av. Turn north (for the directionally challenged, that is left if you are coming from I-95; right if you are coming from Rte. 1). Drive to the next intersection (74<sup>th</sup> Av. & 26<sup>th</sup> St.). The church will be right on the corner in front. Turn left to enter the parking lot. Maps to my house will be distributed after Mass.

- As we announced at the June meeting, an increase in the amount of our annual "per capita" dues from \$35 to \$45 was debated and approved at the Regional Meeting in May. The Five Franciscan Martyrs Region has, over the past few years, been absorbing increases approved on the National and International fraternity levels but can no longer continue to do so. We ask that our professed members, who have not already done so, to give an additional \$10 to Sarah so that it can be forwarded to the Regional Treasurer.

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

## ORIGIN OF THE FRANCISCAN CROWN

Do not fear, Mary, for you have favor with God. Behold, you will conceive and bear a son, and shall name him Jesus. Luke 1:30-31

From the very beginning, Christians continued the Jewish tradition of praying and singing the 150 psalms as part of their sacred routine of daily prayer.

By the Middle Ages, however, a largely illiterate population could neither appreciate the historical events to which the psalms referred, nor could they memorize and recite the psalms in Latin.

Therefore, in the early 13th century a scriptural meditation was thoughtfully adapted for those who desired to participate in the sanctification of daily life through a cycle of prayer meant to complement the Divine Office chanted by the more educated monks and nuns.

What became known as the rosary was the recitation of the Aves and Paters (the Our Father and Hail Mary) that were counted off on a ring of beads numbering 150. The mysteries of the New Testament were meditated upon within this "mirror" of the 150 Old Testament psalms. Hence, Salvation History itself permeated this simple method of prayer. The repetition allowed for a rhythmic breathing, leading the participant to an inner realm of peace and calm. The rosary eventually became a favored personal devotion among many people, including the learned laity and religious.

The name rosary was derived from the rose, a flower having a great depth of symbolism. One of the spiritual titles given to the Virgin Mary, Mystical Rose, referred to her womb as the developing flower of Christ the Savior. Moreover, the patient unfolding of the five concentric petals of the rose was likened to our own patient mastery of the five senses, the integration of all the creative and life-communicating energies of a human person. Yet the blossoming of the spiritual life could only be achieved and maintained by the defensive "thorn" of daily perseverance.

Through the centuries the Dominican Order has been very influential in the promotion of the rosary as we know it today. Other religious communities also developed and practiced their own particular form of this prayer.

The Franciscan rosary, or as it is properly called, The Franciscan Crown, dates to the early part of the 15th century. At that time a young man who found spiritual joy in weaving a crown of wild flowers for a beautiful statue of Mary decided to enter the Franciscan Order. After entering the community, however, he was saddened when he no longer found the time to gather flowers for his personal devotion. One evening, while feeling tempted to abandon his vocation, he received a vision of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Virgin Mother encouraged the young novice to persevere by reminding him of the joyfulness of the Franciscan spirit. She also instructed him to meditate daily on seven joyful events from her own life as a new form of the rosary. Instead of a crown of flowers, the novice would now weave a crown of prayers. Before long, many other Franciscans began to pray the Crown and soon it spread to the entire Order, becoming officially established in 1422.

In addition to developing this Marian devotion, the Franciscans are credited with adding the final words to the Hail Mary, Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. In 1263, Saint Bonaventure, Minister General of the Order, encouraged liturgical devotion honoring the mystery of the Visitation. Saint Bonaventure also popularized the daily triple recitation of the Angelus which it is believed Saint Francis initiated after visiting the Holy Land. Francis was deeply impressed by the Muslim practice of stopping to pray several times a day, and desired to Christianize this pious custom. A Franciscan pope, Sixtus IV (1471-1485), introduced the feast of the Immaculate Conception and the feast of Saint Joseph as husband of Mary. He also issued the first papal pronouncement encouraging the rosary as an invaluable instrument of personal and societal conversion.

Quoted from "The Franciscan Crown," a beautiful booklet available by The Franciscan Friars of Marytown (From a T.O.R. website)

## How to say the Crown Rosary

### A Journey of Faith: The Seven Joys of Mary

By Father Thomas Bourque, T.O.R.  
Most Sacred Heart of Jesus Province, USA - Loretto, PA.

1. The Franciscan Crown consists of seven decades of Hail Mary's, each preceded by an Our Father and followed by a Glory Be.
2. The Crown recalls the seven joys of Mary and how she responded to the grace of God in her life.
3. It begins with the sign of the cross which is then followed by seven decades, each consisting of one Our Father, ten Hail Mary's and one Glory Be.
4. At the end of the seven decades, there are two additional Hail Mary's, bringing the total of Hail Mary's to 72 years.
5. The Crown is concluded by praying one Our Father and one Hail Mary for the intentions of the Pope.

### The Traditional Mysteries of the Franciscan Crown

1. Annunciation (Luke 1:31-32)
2. Visitation (Luke 1:42, 45 )
3. Nativity (Luke 2:6-7)
4. Adoration by the Magi (Matthew 2:1-6)
5. Finding in the Temple (Luke 2:46-47)
6. Resurrection (Matthew 28:5-6)
7. Assumption of Mary and Coronation (Judith 13:18 and Revelation 12)