

Regular Meeting: Sun., Mar. 12th at 2 pm - South Rm., St. Helen's Christian Living Ctr.

Council meeting: Sat., Mar. 18th 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.

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

2:20 - Ongoing Formation and Discussion: We continue our focus on the lives and charisms of Franciscan saints and blessed; Andrea Cardoza will tell us about St. Leopold Mandic, a Franciscan saint of the 20th century and Sarah Hardy will give a report also (to be advised). As we learn more about those who have preceded us in living a Gospel-based life, we hope to renew our commitment and to find a particular saint or blessed who, through prayer, will help us on our journey in the footsteps of St. Francis of Assisi during Lent and all year long.

3:10 - Refreshments and break

3:25 - Liturgy of the Hours for the Second Sunday of Lent; Franciscan Crown Rosary

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: Jennie Donlin and Marie Fee.

Beverages: Donna Haro

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: As you read this Canticle, I will be in Ohio with my son's family. His oldest child, Angelina (age 5), is in the hospital with pancreatitis. I will be making myself useful tending to Maria (age 3) and assisting Judi, my daughter-in-law, in any way I can. Please keep little Angelina in your prayers.

Also, please continue your prayers for my sister, Maryellen, Fr. Tom's brother and sister, Andrea's special intention, Jennie's speedy recovery; Marie; for Pauline's profession, our inquirer- Joseph as well as Mary Varvaro and her newly-emerging fraternity and for all the members of our fraternity and their needs.

Pauline Pavlick's Profession: Fr. Horgan has agreed to schedule Pauline's profession on Sunday, March 19, within the 11:30 Mass at St. Lucie Church with a simple reception in the church hall following Mass (we will be responsible for this). Fr. Richard will concelebrate.

From the Minister's Desk: Ash Wednesday falls on March 1st this year. As "brothers and sisters of penance" we are called to prepare ourselves for the penitential season of Lent in a special way. A priest once told me that the human condition involves so much hardship, pain and suffering that we don't have to go looking for special works of penance. Perhaps I misinterpreted him, but, the more that I think about his remark, the more I believe he was wrong. Certainly it is true that we all have problems, sickness, suffering, etc. in life but the call to penance must go far beyond dealing in a practical way with these things. As I struggle to live a Gospel-based life and meditate upon the holiness to which we are all called, it seems to me that the great saints of our Order and of our Church have sanctified penance (in their daily hardships and trials) seeing it as something beautiful to give to God in atonement for their own sins and for those of the whole world. Indeed, St. Francis sought out ways to tame his body and its incessant wants. While, at the end of his life, St. Francis warned his followers against the drastic penances he had performed, his attitude toward penance can be emulated by seeing it as a privilege only the living can enjoy. Whether we are fasting or feasting, let your life be filled with joy!!

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Formation

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Jennie Donlin, SFO; Marguerite Rysdyke, SFO;

Andrea Cardoza, SFO.

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