

Regular Meeting: Sun., Jan. 8th - South Rm., St. Helen's Christian Living Ctr., 2 pm.

Council meeting: Sat., Jan. 14th - 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.

2:25 - A Blessing of our donations to the Food Pantry

2:30 Ongoing Formation and Discussion: We continue our focus on the lives and charisms of Franciscan saints and blessed; Caroline DiGennaro will tell us about Bishop Grassi and Kathleen Van Buskirk will speak to us about Brother Giles, a companion of St. Francis of Assisi. 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.

3:00 - Refreshments and break and Christmas Carols

3:25 - Liturgy of the Hours for the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord; Franciscan Crown Rosary (time permitting)

4:00 - Closing Prayer and Dismissal

Refreshment Committee for Nov.: Helen and Gene Caldarone - Snacks

Peter Askin and Joseph Assam - 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 prayer: Please continue to pray for Helen's sister, Maryellen, who begins her third round of 'chemo' on January 9th; for Fr. Tom's brother and sister; for Andrea who has a special intention; for Jennie who is recovering from a serious knee injury; for Marie who returns to NYC for further medical treatment; for Pauline who will be professed soon and for Mary and Joseph, our inquirers and, last but not least, for Mary Varvaro and her efforts to form a new fraternity in Jensen Beach

- 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: My special thanks to Fred for taking over my duties as I spent several weeks in NYC while my sister, Maryellen, was hospitalized. It was, as are so many times in our lives, a mix of sorrow and joy. Stunned by my sister's sudden diagnosis of cancer so soon after Ann's, joy-filled wedding, it took us about a week to get our emotions under control and, as I helped my sister in lots of small ways (handling her mail, making business calls, seeing that laundry was taken care of, etc.) I realized that we were spending more time together than we had in, perhaps, 50 years. What a blessing!! And, since Ann and her new husband, Alessandro, live in the city, I was able to see more of them than would have been possible otherwise. In fact, we had a wonderful Thanksgiving together. And, possibly the greatest blessing of all, in those three weeks away from Gene (the longest we have ever been apart), I came to understand how much I miss him when he's not around. And I lost five pounds going up and down subway steps - city life is pretty strenuous!!

Note: PS: George Thomas couldn't find his Ritual book after the December meeting? Please check your copy to see if you picked up his Ritual by mistake (they all look alike!!)

PPS: Out heartfelt thanks to Pat Riordan's for her Christmas gift to our fraternity. We will be remembered in the masses, prayers and good works of a Franciscan Friary.

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