

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

Council meeting: Sat., Apr.22th at 9 am.- Arby's on west side of Rte. #1 at 16<sup>th</sup> 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; Pauline Pavlick will tell us about Bl. James of Strepar and Fred Schaeffer will give a report on St. Felix of Cantalice. 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.

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

3:10 - Refreshments and break

3:25 - Liturgy of the Hours for Passion (Palm) Sunday; Divine Mercy Chaplet

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: Sarah Hardy and Elaine Matthews

Beverages: John Matthews

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 NYC until 4/25 spending time with my sister, Maryellen, and with my daughter Ann and her husband who are expecting a baby, a little girl to be named Lucia Maryellen. Also, please continue your prayers for my sister, Maryellen, who is undergoing a new series of a different chemotherapy; for Fr. Tom's brother and sister; for Andrea's special intention; for Jennie who continues to be very weak; for Marie Fee who may need a pacemaker; for Pauline our newest professed member; our inquirer- Joseph whose Admission Rite is scheduled for our May meeting; our candidates, Elizabeth and Adele, whose Professions will take place before the end of the year and for a resolution to the many problems Mary Bell is faced with (she has had to withdraw from the Inquiry period - temporarily, we hope). We thank God for His bountiful love and mercy!!

From the Minister's Desk: As Brothers and Sisters of Penance, we see Lent as an intense period of time during which we strive to deepen an already serious commitment to growing in holiness, to leading a virtuous life especially marked by prayer, humility, charity, and a love of "Lady Poverty" in all we do. If we keep our gaze fixed on Christ and remain in close communion with Him and with the Sacraments through which He longs to meet us, we will be able to more faithfully and joyfully follow in the footsteps of St. Francis who, together with our departed members (Jean, Trudy and Marcella), cheers us on and waits to welcome us, his little ones, into eternity. In order to experience the joy and promise of the Resurrection we must, first, humbly place ourselves with great love and gratitude, at the foot of the Cross in the company of St. Francis and all the Franciscan Saints and Blesseds.

N.B. The Council meeting for April will be delayed until 4/22 to avoid a conflict with preparations for Easter. And, altho' Gene and I won't see you until the May meeting, please be assured that you and your loved ones will be in our daily prayers during these last few weeks of Lent and at Easter . . . we ask for your prayers as well. Pax et bonum!!

**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

**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;  
Jennie Donlin, SFO; Marguerite Rysdyke, SFO;  
Andrea Cardoza, SFO.

**Webmaster/Editor:** Fred Schaeffer, SFO

## Family Commission Report by Susan Solloway, SFO

Our "Family Commissioner," Susan Solloway, SFO, asked us to include the following text from the March-April newsletter, of Father Pavone, "Priests for Life." Fr. Pavone urges Catholics to contact his office right away if you're interested in ordering "Life that Matters" the newest book on Terri Schiavo. This book was written by her own parents and siblings. The book takes you through their personal thoughts and feelings as the battle for Terri's life unfolded. It is written, in fact, in a first-person narrative of her Mom, Mary Schindler. Her Dad Bob, her siblings Bobby and Suzanne, also relate their inmost thoughts and feelings in a first-person narrative throughout the book. It is easy to read, but profoundly moving. The faith and courage of this family will inspire you to love your own children and other loved ones even more. Email: [orders@priestsforlife.org](mailto:orders@priestsforlife.org) - or call, toll-free, 1-888-735-3448 to order a copy.

### **The Road to Ending Abortion...**

**By Father Pavone**

The road to ending abortion is clearly open in front of us. Simply take the evidence above (see "Priests for Life" website) and put it before the conscience of everyone you can.

#### **Politicians, Communion, and the Unborn**

The debate about whether public officials and candidates who support legal abortion should be given Holy Communion will not go away any time soon. While it is not the role of Priests for Life to set policy about this in any particular diocese, we would like to offer the following consideration, which is a dimension of this discussion that is rarely brought forward.

Many debate this topic from the perspective of the politician's "beliefs" or "moral convictions" about abortion, and how the Church should treat him or her in the light of those beliefs. But it seems to us that the more relevant framework in which to consider one's position on abortion is not beliefs, but relationships.

Our Lord teaches, "Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift (Matthew 5:23-24)."

To partake in the sacrifice of the altar, we must seek right relationships with God and all our neighbors. The altar is no place to bring hatred, unforgiveness, or prejudice. Those who allow abortion are not reconciled with their unborn brothers and sisters. To fail to see the equal dignity of children in the womb with children outside the womb is prejudice. To consider the unborn as "non-persons" and unworthy of Constitutional protection is an insult. And to consider one's unborn brothers and sisters as "tissue" or "parasites" is name-calling of the worst kind.

Those who do this have to go first and be reconciled with their unborn brothers and sisters before they can present their gift at the altar.

Communion is bestowed in the context of the Sacrifice of the Mass. That sacrifice is not only the sacrifice of Jesus, but of each of us along with Jesus. We offer him everything - our thoughts, our opinions, our relationships, our choices. We bring our gift to the altar, because we want to be reconciled to God. But those who want to be one with God must be one with their neighbors - all of them.

To be reconciled with our neighbors, we first have to recognize them. The command "Love your neighbor as yourself" actually means "Love your neighbor as a person like yourself." Recognize that no matter how different your neighbor may seem, he or she has equal dignity to you, and therefore demands your respect and love. Failure to protect the unborn is rooted in the failure to recognize them, which is the most fundamental kind of failure to love. The abortion controversy then becomes a matter of expressing beliefs rather than stopping bloodshed.

To be reconciled with our neighbors, furthermore, we have to respond appropriately to their needs. "How can God's love survive in one who has enough of this world's goods but turns his back on his brother when he sees him in need?" (1 Jn. 3:17) Is there anyone more in need than the child in the womb? Is there any need greater than to have one's life saved from a lethal threat?

To be reconciled to our neighbors, we must avoid false witness. To hold, in word or action, that the unborn are of less value than the rest of us, is to "bear false witness against your neighbor." If we are doing that, we are not ready to present our gift at the altar.

Communion means union, and union requires reconciliation. This applies to every citizen. How much more does it apply to those who, as public officials, have the opportunity to pass laws that either grant or remove protection from their most vulnerable neighbors?

Senator Brownback Points out how Unsettled "Roe" is. On January 11, 2006, Senator Sam Brownback of Kansas said the following in his questioning of Judge Samuel Alito at his confirmation hearings. Senator Brownback's words deliberately challenge those who so easily speak of "Roe vs. Wade" as "settled law," and show that even pro-abortion legal experts have problems with it. (Note: In January, Fr. Frank presented Senator Brownback with the Pro-life Recognition Award on behalf of the National Pro-life Religious Council, of which Fr. Frank serves as President.)

Senator Brownback: "Roe v. Wade: you have had every question on that. But I want to point out its difficulty. My colleagues on the other side look at this as completely settled law, but let's see what the legal experts say about how settled it is.

Lawrence Tribe, who will be here to testify, I believe probably against you, in a little bit. Let's see what he says, professor of law at Harvard. Quote, "One of the most curious things about Roe is that behind its own verbal smokescreen, the substantive judgment on which it rests is nowhere to be found." Settled law? Super-duper precedents? Lawrence Tribe asked some questions about it.

Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg: "Roe, I believe, would have been more acceptable as a judicial decision if it had not gone beyond a ruling on the extreme statute before the court. Heavy-handed judicial intervention was difficult to justify and appears to have provoked, not resolved, conflict." "Provoked, not resolved, conflict" one of your potential colleagues says.

Edward Lazarus, former clerk to Chief Justice Harry Blackmun, who wrote Roe: "As a matter of constitutional interpretation and judicial method, Roe borders on the indefensible. I say this as someone utterly committed to the right to choose, as someone who believes such a right was granted elsewhere in the Constitution instead of where Roe placed it, and as someone who loved Roe's author like a grandfather." Settled law? Edward Lazarus has some questions about it being settled.

Let's look at John Hart Ely, former dean of Stanford Law School. Excellent law school in the country -- one of the top law schools in the country. Roe v. Wade, quote, "is not constitutional law and gives almost no sense of an obligation to try to be. What is frightening about Roe is that this superprotected right is not inferred from the language of the Constitution framers' thinking respecting the specific problem at issue, any general value derivable from the provisions they included or the nation's governmental structure." John Hart Ely -- think he thinks Roe is settled law? Not constitutional and gives no sense of an obligation to try to be.

Alan Dershowitz, professor of law, Harvard Law School, one of the top law schools in the country. It's not Princeton, but -- Roe v. Wade and Bush v. Gore, quote, "represent opposite sides of the same currency of judicial activism in areas more appropriately left to the political process. "Judges have no special competency, qualifications or mandate to decide between equally compelling moral claims, as in the abortion controversy. Clear governing constitutional principles are not present in either case." Settled law, super-duper precedents? I think there's places where the court gets it wrong, and hopefully they will continue to be willing to revisit it."

*During this Holy Week, please  
pray for an end to Abortion.*

