

## Divine Mercy Fraternity • Secular Franciscan Order

Vero Beach, Florida  
www.franciscan-sfo.org

**Regular Meeting: Sunday, April 19, 2009, at 2:00 PM - North Room of St. Helen's Parish Center, followed by Council Meeting.**

### Agenda and Schedule for Meeting:

- 2.00 Opening Prayer, Reports, Old/New Business
- 2:20 Blessing of the donations to the Food Pantry
- 2:25 Ongoing Formation: Article 3 of the Secular Franciscan Order Rule Book.  
Discussion will be lead by Sarah Hardy
- 3:10 Refreshments and break
- 3:30 Liturgy of the Hours
- 4:00 Closing Prayer and dismissal
- 4:15 Council Meeting



### Refreshment Committee:

Snacks: Fred Schaeffer and Elizabeth Smith  
Beverages: Eugene Caldarone

**Remember in your prayer:** Julia McHugh, John Matthews, Fred Schaeffer, Marie Fee, Jack Solloway, and all professed Franciscans in our Florida region who are ill, as well as those members of our Fraternity who cannot attend our meetings regularly.

Meetings for April and May will be changed to the third Sunday because Easter is on the second Sunday and Mother's Day is on the second Sunday. April meeting will be April 19<sup>th</sup> - Divine Mercy Sunday, and May meeting will be May 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Upcoming Events:** June 5<sup>th</sup> will be a Day of Recollection. Please arrange your calendar so that you will be able to participate. In January we'll be having the new elections. Please

pray to the Holy Spirit to see if He is calling you to serve Him as an officer.

**From the Minister's Desk:** April 19 is the Divine Mercy Sunday. Jesus has set aside this day to make us aware of His mercy. He loves us so much that He is willing to forgive us anything. On this Sunday we can even be forgiven our punishment due to sin. He offers us a Plenary Indulgence. Let us humble ourselves before Him and ask His forgiveness for the times that we have hurt Him.

**Happy Easter!**

**Minister:** Peggy Rysdyke, SFO  
**Vice-Minister:** Donna M. Haro, SFO  
**Secretary:** Elizabeth Smith, SFO  
**Treasurer:** Sarah Hardy, SFO  
**Formation Director:** Helen Caldarone, SFO  
**Councillors-at-Large:** Ed O'Donnell, SFO,  
Fred Schaeffer, SFO, and Kathleen Van Buskirk, SFO  
**Spir. Assitant:** *vacant*  
**Vocation Director:** Kathleen Van Buskirk, SFO  
**Commissioners**  
Work: Donna M. Haro, SFO  
Family: Eugene Caldarone, SFO  
Peace and Justice: John Matthews, SFO  
Youth: Pauline Pavlick, SFO  
Ecology: Fred Schaeffer, SFO

**Divine Mercy Sunday**

Divine Mercy Sunday occurs on the Sunday after Easter, and it is dedicated to the Divine Mercy, made significant by Saint Faustina. She wrote in her Diary, *“On that day the very depths of My tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of My mercy. The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment. On that day all the divine floodgates through which grace flow are opened. Let no soul fear to draw near to Me, even though its sins be as scarlet. My mercy is so great that no mind, be it of man or of angel, will be able to fathom it throughout all eternity.”* (Diary of Saint Faustina, 699)

We cannot comprehend the depth of God’s Mercy; we can only thank Him for His love and care for us (the Faithful, maybe even everybody). With His Mercy, perhaps more will be saved from the eternal fires of Hell. We do not know this, but we trust in Him. That’s what Divine Mercy Sunday is all about: **Trust**. The proper dispositions for one who prays the Our Father, is “simple and faithful trust, humble and joyous assurance” (see par. 2797, Catechism of the Catholic Church.) We put our trust in Jesus because our Faith tells us that he will come through when we pray for healing or some other favor, for ourselves or others.

And, in par. 322 (CCC), “Christ invites us to filial trust in the providence of our heavenly Father (cf. Mt 6:26-34), and St. Peter the apostle repeats: “Cast all your anxieties on him, for he cares about you” (I Pt 5:7; cf. Ps 55:23).” Jesus’ love is so great that he wants for us only that which is good, that which benefits us, that which brings us closer to His Heart.

His love for us, and the Grace He sustains us with, to help us along the way of life, a path strewn with boulders and rocks, with temptations and distractions away from God, is so great that we only need to believe and love Him, and all will be well. We know that when we love God, we do our very best to obey His commands, to sin no more. Sin is a cessation, a break, in our love for God, and sin cripples us. If we love God we do not sin, and if we still sin, we do not love Him enough!

So on this special Sunday, which the Church has put aside especially to emphasize God’s infinite mercy, let us really try hard to curtail sin, the big stuff as well as the little, to go to confession and receive Him in the Holy Eucharist, and to put Our Trust in Him. The Divine Mercy image, which Our Lord told Saint Faustina to create for all to see, bears the inscription: “Jesus, I trust in you.”

What a special way to celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday in communion with our sisters and brothers of our fraternity, which bears the name: Divine Mercy Fraternity, Secular Franciscan Order, Vero Beach, Florida. We are blest, indeed.

Fred S. Schaeffer, SFO

4-1-09

# The Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order Workbook and Discussion Guide

## Chapter One - The Secular Franciscan Order

### Article 3 - A Member of the Church

*The present rule, succeeding "Memoriale Propositi" (1221) and the rules approved by the Supreme Pontiffs Nicholas IV and Leo XIII, adapts the Secular Franciscan Order to the needs and expectations of the Holy Church in the conditions of changing times. Its interpretation belongs to the Holy See and its application will be made by the General Constitutions and particular statutes.*

### Discussion

St Francis believed that the Orders were founded ("rebuild my church") by God. Why then did he want the approval and protection of the Catholic Church?

In the course of the past 800 years, starting with "The Earlier Rule" (The Rule Without a Papal Seal) 1209 /1210 - 1221, the SFO Rule has undergone several approved revisions; do you know the years and the Popes involved in approval for those texts of our Rule?

A Secular Franciscan requires a strength of moral conviction to let the Church discern God's will with you? Can you describe that conviction? In what ways can you say the Church is "human/divine"?

The Secular Franciscan Order is under the guidance of the Catholic Church; what does that mean and how is it manifested?

List and explain some of the types of action or opinions a SFO's takes to demonstrate our support of the Magisterium?

How would you describe the organization of the Secular Franciscan Order in the world, and in your Region?