

DIVINE MERCY FRATERNITY · SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER

Vero Beach, Florida

www.franciscan-sfo.org

Regular Meeting: Sunday, July 11, 2010, at 2:00 PM, North Room of St. Helen’s Parish Center. The Council Meeting to follow.

Agenda and Schedule for the Regular Meeting

- 2:00 Opening Prayer, Reports, Old/New Business
- 2:20 Blessing of the Donations to the Food Pantry
- 2:25 Regional Leaders Report from San Pedro: Fred Schaeffer
- 2:30 Ongoing Formation: The Gifts of the Holy Spirit: Virginia Davis
- 3:10 Refreshments and Break
- 3:30 Liturgy of Hours
- 3:50 Closing prayer and dismissal
- 4:15 Council Meeting

Remember in your prayers: Fred Schaeffer, Marie Fee, Jack Solloway, Pat Riordan 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.

From the Minister’s Desk:

The Hymn that has been going through my mind today is, “Take the Love of God With You as You Go;” and I was thinking how important that is. People are looking for love when they’re up against it. Some have lost their jobs; some have lost their homes. They’re in despair. It’s up to us to bring light to them. They need physical help. They need financial help, but most of all, they need hope that they can only find thru God. I don’t know exactly how to go about this; but, I do know that God will give us opportunities to help in some way. We just have to be open to it. God bless you.

From the S.F.O. General Constitutions **Messengers of Joy and Hope**

Article 26

1. Even in suffering, Francis experienced confidence and joy from:

- the experience of the fatherhood of God;
- the invincible faith of rising with Christ to eternal life;
- the experience of being able to meet and praise the Creator in the universal fraternity of all creatures [23] .

Rule 19 Following the Gospel, secular Franciscans therefore affirm their hope and their joy in living. They make a contribution to counter widespread distress and pessimism, preparing a better future.

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<p>Fraternity Officers</p>	<p>Minister: Peggy Rysdyke, SFO Vice-Minister: Donna M. Haro, SFO Secretary: Helen Caldarone, SFO Treasurer: Sarah Hardy, SFO</p>	<p>Formation Director: Eugene Caldarone, SFO Councillors-at-Large: Kathleen Van Buskirk, SFO, Adele Lamour, SFO, Fred Schaeffer, SFO Spir. Assisitant: <i>vacant</i></p>
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Stop running away from Me!

Someday, maybe very soon, God will ask us to "Stop Running away from Me!" God wants to talk to us as a Father, a Brother or a Mother (whomever you need you reach deep inside of you and make that connection.) His love is simply overwhelming. It knows no bounds, and the more we suffer, the more He wants to tell us: "I will help you through this difficult time!"

It is always a good time to begin looking at our inner self, to see why we keep running away. Hey, I do it too... when I am deeply engrossed in writing a reflection or designing a webpage, I have, in effect, run away because I am not always paying attention to His lovely and consoling message. I'm doing my own thing. And, at the end of the day, I realize with sadness that I haven't allowed the Lord to be a part of my day. That's what He wishes us to do - allow Him to be a part of our life! Why? Because He loves us more than we can ever realize.

There is a simple solution here - at the beginning of each day, please tell Our Lord that anything He allows us to do, during that day, will be for the intentions of His Mother, Mary. (unless you have some intentions of your own for which it would be appropriate to offer your work and prayer of any given day). There is always someone who needs prayer! The need is so great! Maybe you do not know anyone in particular who needs His help at that given point, so it is perfectly all right to ask Jesus to use your prayer for the purpose of helping up someone who has fallen! Jesus accepts prayer offered for those who need it the most. God will sort out who - do not concern yourself with that, just pray!

I used to think - 'Jesus has better things to do than to keep track of who needs help' - but people get healed, every day. That is a fact. We do not know, when someone close to us is healed, maybe after a bitter illness bringing much pain, if it was our prayer that did the healing, or the prayer of a good soul half-way across the world, and that isn't even important. God heals! He alone; we just bring the need to His attention through prayer.

Some people do not pray for others or for themselves because they think God knows everything, (which is perfectly true), so it would be insulting to Him if we asked for anything. Jesus was quoted in Holy Scriptures where He said: "Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them." (Mt. 18:19-20). So God is present where two or more people pray in the name of His Son, Jesus. He wants to be there. He is there. We need to acknowledge His Presence among us! We should say "Thank You, Lord, for being with us as we pray."

In numerous documented instances, in Scripture, God makes sure that we know how much He loves us all, and to assure us He will be with us throughout our difficult lives. So allow Him into our soul, into our head also by thanking Him for his loyal and caring presence. And despite the fact that God knows everything, communicate with Him. That is what He wishes us to do.

Stop running away. Instead, swiftly run toward the Lord, first thing in the morning - in your prayer of thanksgiving as you realized you're alive and kicking for another day, say "Thank You." And as you are facing Jesus in the Tabernacle or on the Altar, breathe a silent prayer in your soul: "O Sacrament Most Holy, O Sacrament Divine, All praise and all thanksgiving be every moment thine."

F. Schaeffer, SFO

The Beatitudes - Mt. 5:1-12

1. Blessed are the poor in spirit; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
2. Blessed are the meek; for they shall possess the land.
3. Blessed are they that mourn; for they shall be comforted.
4. Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after justice; for they shall be filled.
5. Blessed are the merciful; for they shall obtain mercy.
6. Blessed are the clean of heart; for they shall see God.
7. Blessed are the peacemakers ; for they shall be called the children of God.
8. Blessed are they that suffer persecution for justice' sake; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

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2. In the fraternity, the brothers and sisters should promote mutual understanding and they should see to it that the atmosphere of their meetings is welcoming and that it reflects joy. They should encourage one another for the good.

Article 27

1. Rule 19 The brothers and sisters, progressing in age, should learn to accept illness and increasing difficulties and to give a deeper sense to their life. This should be undertaken with increasing detachment as they set out for the promised Land. They should be firmly convinced that the community of those who believe in Christ and who love one another in him will go forward into eternal life as the "communion of saints".
2. Secular Franciscans should commit themselves to create in their environment and, above all, in their fraternities, a climate of faith and hope so that "Sister Death" may be regarded as a passage to the Father, and all may prepare themselves with serenity.