

**THE CANTICLE**

DIVINE MERCY FRATERNITY – SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER – VERO BEACH, FLORIDA

**THE CANTICLE**

**SEP. 2011**

*Divine Mercy Fraternity  
Secular Franciscan Order*

Vero Beach, Florida  
www.franciscan-sfo.org

*Fraternity Officers*

Minister: Peggy Rysdyke, SFO  
Vice-Minister: Donna M. Haro, SFO  
Secretary: Helen Caldarone, SFO  
Treasurer: Sarah Hardy, SFO  
Formation Director: Eugene Caldarone, SFO  
Councillors-at-Large:  
Kathleen Van Buskirk, SFO,  
Adele Lamour, SFO,  
Fred Schaeffer, SFO  
Spir. Assitant: Rev.Mr. Richard Blake, SFO (when available)

**Regular Meeting:** SUNDAY, September 11, 2011, at 2:00 PM, in the South Room, Christian Living Center, St. Helen Church. The Council Meeting to follow.

**Agenda and Schedule - Regular Meeting**

- 2:00 Opening Prayer, Reports, Old/New Business
- 2:20 Blessing of the Donations to the Food Pantry
- 2:25 Ongoing Formation: The Admonitions of St. Francis XX-XXIV
- 3:05 Refreshments and Break
- 3:20 Franciscan Crown Rosary
- 3:40 Liturgy of Hours
- 3:55 Closing prayer and Dismissal
- 4:15 Council Meeting

**Refreshment Committee:**

Snacks: John Matthews, Elaine Matthews  
Beverages: Ed O'Donnell

**Remember in your prayers:** Ben Davis, Fred Schaeffer, Marie Fee, Jack Solloway, Pat Riordan, Father Tom Murphy, OFM, Stanley Widing, 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:** We've been studying the Admonitions of St. Francis, and Francis makes it clear to us exactly what we have to do to obtain eternal life. They are simple rules, but they require abandonment of self. He commands humility, obedience, care of one's neighbor. He sees love in everyone. Jesus has set the example for us as the ultimate sacrifice. He gives us so much. Can we not honor Him by our obedience?



## September 17 - Feast of the Stigmata of our holy father Francis

“The Feast of the Stigmata of Saint Francis, whom we will soon honor again on his feast of October 4th, is not only to glorify a Saint; it commemorates and signifies something which goes beyond the life of any single man, even one of the greatest of the Church. The God-Man never ceases to live on in His Church, and the reproduction of His own mysteries in this Spouse whom He wants to be similar to Himself, is the explanation of history.

“In the thirteenth century it seemed that charity, whose divine precept many no longer heeded, concentrated in a few souls the fires which had once sufficed to inflame multitudes. Sanctity shone as brilliantly as ever, but the hour for the cooling of the brazier had struck for the peoples. The Church itself says so today in its liturgy, at the Collect: ‘Lord Jesus Christ, when the world was growing cold, You reproduced the sacred marks of Your passion in the body of the most blessed Francis, in order that Your love might also set our hearts afire.’ The Spouse of Christ had already begun to experience the long series of social defections among the nations, with their denials, treasons, derision, slaps, spittings in the very praetorium, all of which conclude in the legalized separation of society from its Author. The era of the Passion is advanced; the exaltation of the Holy Cross, which for centuries was triumphant in the eyes of the nations, acquires in the sight of heaven, as the Angels look down upon it, the aspect of an ever closer resemblance with the Spouse to the sufferings of her crucified Beloved.

“Saint Francis, loved today by all who know of him — and few there are who do not — was like precious marble placed before an expert sculptor. The Holy Spirit chose the flesh of the seraph of Assisi to express His divine thought, thus manifesting to the world the very specific direction He intends to give to souls thereafter. This stigmatization offers a first example, a complete image, of the new labor the divine Spirit is meditating — total union, on the very Cross of Christ itself, of the mystical Body with the divine Head. Francis is the one honored by this primacy of choice; but after him the sacred sign will be received by others, who also personify the Church. From this time on, the Stigmata of the Lord Jesus will be at all times visible, here and there on this earth.”

Source: *L'Année liturgique*, by Dom Prosper Guéranger (Mame et Fils: Tours, 1919), “The Time after Pentecost V”, Vol. 14, translation O.D.M.



15th Century image of the Stigmatization of St. Francis of Assisi (painter unknown) in Franciscan Museum Rome