
Regular Meeting: Sun., Sept. 10th at 2 pm - South Rm., St. Helen's Christian Living Ctr.

Council meeting: Sat., Sept. 17th at 9 am.- Arby's on west side of Rte. #1 at 16th Pl. in Vero.

Agenda and Schedule for 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:** At this meeting, we will introduce several topics for discussion - topics which will ask us to reflect upon our Franciscan vocation, how it is to be lived, how it must change us interiorly and exteriorly, how our fraternity is different from other groups we belong to. What do we offer our fraternity and what does it offer us. Is the Rule changing your life? Is your life different today from what it was before being an SFO? How often should we read scripture or the SFO Rule? Is Gospel living easy or difficult for you? Why? Have our reports on Franciscan Saints and Blesseds or the video about Fr. Calloway been helpful? Please take some time to think and pray about how you would answer these questions before our September meeting. You might even come up with other topics you would like to have discussed.

2:55 - Refreshments and break

3:15 - Divine Mercy Chaplet. Liturgy of the Hours for the 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time.

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: Jim Catrambone and Caroline De Gennaro

Beverages: Marie Fee

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: Please pray for our candidates, Elizabeth and Adele, who are soon to be professed. And continue praying for Jennie, for George Thomas, Jerry Carey, John Matthews for Fred, for all professed Franciscans in our Florida region who are ill as well for the members of our fraternity who cannot attending our meetings regularly.

Upcoming Dates to Mark on your calendar:

- Sunday, September 3, 2006 - Rite of Profession for Elizabeth Smith. Elizabeth will be professed at the 11:00 Mass at St. John of the Cross Church in Vero Beach with Fr. Richard LaCorte presiding. Reception will follow at the Caldarone's house. We ask that you bring something for the refreshment table - finger sandwiches, cookies, snacks, dips, etc. The fraternity will provide the cake.
- Sunday, November 26, 2006 (Feast of Christ the King) - Rite of Profession for Adele Lamour at St. Bernardette Church in St. Lucie West at the 10:45 Mass.
- September 29-31 - Weekend Retreat in honor of St. Elizabeth of Hungary (spouse, mother, princess) at San Pedro Center, Winter Park FL. It will be led by Fr. Vianney Cunningham TOR. To register: call (407)671-6322.
- Sunday, January 14, 2007 - Chapter of Elections at our regular fraternity meeting with Fr. Tom Murphy presiding.

Minister: Helen Caldarone, SFO
Vice-Minister: Fred Schaeffer, SFO
Secretary: Elizabeth Smith
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;

Marguerite Rysdyke, SFO; Andrea Cardoza, SFO.

Webmaster/Editor: Fred Schaeffer, SFO

From the Minister's Desk: Are you ready for this busy Fall schedule. Plan to attend the professions of Elizabeth and Adele and please help by bringing food donations for the reception at my house. Your generosity never fails.

Speaking of generosity, Jesus is always waiting for each of us to give Him more of our time. Devote some time and prayer in order to discern what we need to eliminate from our daily lives - some attachment which is not in itself a bad thing but which is keeping us from a deeper prayer life, or preventing us from seeking His Will in our lives. Isn't this an attitude which clearly marks the lives of the saints we so admire? Ask your "favorite" Franciscan saint to help you in this effort. The saints want to do this!

Heavenly Help

There is an untapped reservoir of intercessory help available in Heaven. Many people think of a Saint or two, perhaps St. Francis of Assisi or St. Anthony of Padua, or maybe St. Augustine. That's because in CCD or RCIA, the suggestion was made to ask the Saints or Blesseds for intercession. How many times have we asked St. Anthony to help us find something, or Saint Joseph to help sell a house? Probably thousands of times. But there is another group of Holy Souls in Heaven whom we do not so readily think of... those are, members of our family who have passed on, perhaps our parents, brothers and sisters, or people who were our friends and still are!

I've begun to think about this last group of dear ones more often. Take for example, my aunt, who spent 37 years as a Discalced Carmelite nun (cloistered - contemplative) in South Africa. Many wonderful and very spiritual letters passed between us, some of them went straight over my head. Surely, Sr. Benedicta of St. Joseph, ODC, now with Jesus, is a tremendous source of intercessory assistance. Then, there were my parents, my Dad, Anthony, who had a legendary sense of humor, a wonderful and devout Catholic, and, my Mom, Nellie, who was a convert from Judaism, and went to Holy Mass every Sunday, rain or shine until she was no longer physically able to do so.

There was our family friend, Truus (Gertrude) Jansen who helped a great deal while we still lived in the Netherlands. Truus was a very special soul, I've often thought of her as a 'victim soul,' because there was so much suffering in her life. As a young woman, she contracted tuberculosis, which ultimately led to the amputation of both her legs below the knee. She wore prostheses, but with the poor wartime quality of these, she was always in a lot of pain. Yet she suffered silently, even making light of it by asking us to bring her slippers because her feet were cold. Truus was married but her husband was an alcoholic and eventually just walked out. He left her stranded without funds. At that time she was working for my Dad who made custom dress shirts. We offered her to stay with us in a guest room we had available. She helped us a lot, mostly by helping to take care of me, as a 4-5 year old, when Mom was sick. She planted a seed... as a devout member of the Third Order of Saint Francis... and years later, long after Truus' death I discerned the vocation to become a member of the Secular Franciscan Order. Don't tell me that was by coincidence... I am sure Truus was still praying for me, and I do not know how to thank her adequately except by praising God in all His wisdom and love.

Many people over the years have passed on, and some in more recent times come to mind. A Capuchin-Franciscan priest, Father Paul Steffan, who had been my friend for over 35 years, with whom I was privileged to have a monthly correspondence throughout much of that time, he's surely still helping me. Just because a person passes on, that does not mean that his or her love for you stops. No, it means that this person's relation with you continues, now not physically or humanly, but spiritually. I think of him often. I'm sure he remembers me, too.

The Saints and Blesseds are great intercessors, as we have seen in our reviews of those of the Franciscan Order who went before us. I've had people ask me "Why pray to Saints and Blesseds when I can direct my prayer to Jesus?" Well, yes, Jesus hears us. He heals. But asking for intercession from the Mother of God, Queen of the Franciscan family, and from Canonized and Beatified holy people, who are all much closer to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, then we are, makes this humble prayer more efficacious.

Ask them to help you love God more. Praise God for his love and grace. So that one day, too, you may become a Heavenly intercessor for somebody else. God bless you!

Fred Schaeffer, SFO