

SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER - FIVE FRANCISCAN MARTYRS REGION

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ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI FRATERNITY - CLEARWATER, FL

2ND SATURDAYS @ St. Vincent de Paul Soup Kitchen & Chapel, 1345 Park St., Clearwater



SIMPLICITY

Next Meeting: Saturday March 12, 2016 @ 1:00 pm
St. Vincent de Paul Soup Kitchen & Chapel 1345 Park St., Clearwater
Lenten Luncheon: Soups, Bread, and Beverages

Message from our Spiritual Assistant, Br. Mark Brown, OFM

As we continue our journey through Lent it may be time to look around and see what else we can do for our Brothers and Sisters. Not that we should stop our committed resolution to help those in need, but after a while some resolutions get too easy and if that is the case then perhaps the Lord is saying: Oh good and faithful servant what else will you do for your neighbor? We all know how much Jesus did to show His love for us and how He instructed us to follow Him in all He taught. Lent is the time to shine as a true follower of our Lord and do all we can to imitate Him. When Easter comes this year, it wont be a basket of candy at our door step but the promise of eternal life as demonstrated at the resurrection of our Lord on Easter Morning.



Message From The Minister:

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As we continue our Lenten Journey, may we focus on the needs of others less fortunate than ourselves and keep in mind what we can do to better serve our brothers and sisters. Our service to others can take many forms, no one thing more important than another, but doing something that fits the gifts we have been given by God to share with others. May the blessings of Easter be with you and your loved ones.

Please keep Violet Saldua in your prayers. She is now living at an ALF, Ranmar Gardens II, 10431 N. W. 36th St., Coral Springs, FL 33065. Please send her a card, to let her know she is still in thoughts and prayers.

In keeping with the Lenten theme of doing more for others by taking less for ourselves, the luncheon at our meeting on Saturday March 12 will consist of soup, bread and beverages only.

Our Chapter of Elections is scheduled for our April 9 meeting. Please see the meditation and prayer by Michael Winoski on page four.

Pax et Bonum,
Jim Grant, OFS

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Spiritual Asst: Br. Mark Brown, OFM
Minister: Jim Grant, OFS
Vice Minister: Maureen Collins, OFS
Secretary: Jeannette Grant, OFS
Treasurer: Cindy Housley, OFS
Formation Dir. Rebecca Dymock, OFS

Councilors Emeritus:
Rosalee Prewett, OFS
Connie Quatrano, OFS

Councilors - at- Large:
Michael Winoski, OFS
Violet Saldua, OFS

Newsletter Editors:
Jim & Jeannette Grant, OFS
(727-712-3645)

March Birthdays:Rebecca Dymock - March 1 ~ Joe Grchan - March 4
Maureen Collins - March 6 ~ Francis Arnold - March 11 ~ Violet Saldua - March 24

Anniversaries:
Maureen Collins - March 14 (10 yrs.) ~ James and Jeannette Grant - March 15 (8 yrs.)

Necrology:Naomi O’Connell - March 17, 2013 (39 yrs.)
Margaret Roache - March 24, 2000 (35 yrs.) ~ Dorothy Legler - March 29,2003 (40 yrs.)

NOTICE: Fair Share Contribution checks to be sent to :
CINDY HOUSLEY, 876 Jackson Court, Palm Harbor, Florida, 34683

The Franciscan Family Fund: This fund exists to assist any member needing financial assistance. Please feel free to contact any Council member when assistance is needed. Your request will be handled in the strictest confidence.

DURING THE MONTH OF MARCH, LET US REMEMBER ALL OUR MEMBERS, RELATIVES, AND FRIENDS IN OUR PRAYERS.

St. Francis of Assisi Fraternity Meeting Feb.13, 2016

Call to order at 1:05 p.m

Opening Prayer - Ritual Pg 35 Jim

Liturgy of the Hours: Jim , Br. Mark Scripture Reading: Matthew 6, dealing with fasting and praying out in the open just to be noticed.

A Hail Mary was said for our sick members

We had 2 visitors - Julie and Carl Hebinck from Our Lady of Lourdes.

Irene Cascione, OFS was presented a fifteen year Profession certificate.

Our Social hour was enjoyed by everyone. Three kinds of soups and bread.

Homily: Br. Mark stressed the fact that we are all on a pilgrimage. We go from point A to point B. In between we must travel with God. Three popular places for a pilgrimage, THE HOLY LAND, ROME, ST. JAMES THE APOSTLE IN SPAIN. Our promised land is heaven.

On going Formation: Rebecca Dymock stressed the positive side of Lent. A Lenten quiz followed. Rachel Ahern shared a thought from the cartoon, Holy Mole; 'What you do today, will be how you live the rest of your life.'

Meeting ended at 3:30 Humbly submitted by Jeannette B.Grant, OFS, Sec.



Meditation and Prayer for Our Upcoming Chapter of Elections 4/9/16
Submitted By Michael Winoski

With the national election process under way in all the news and everyone caught up in deciding on which candidate to vote for, most do so by watching debates and researching which issues matter most to us and then making the best compromise seems to be the norm.

But how often do we turn to the Holy Spirit in prayer for guidance in our decisions?

In Acts of the Apostles, chapter 1, in choosing Judas's successor, the apostles proposed two candidates, Justus and Matthias and prayed to the holy spirit; "You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this apostolic ministry from which Judas turned away to go to his own place." Then they gave lots to them, and the lot fell upon Matthias, and he was counted with the eleven apostles.

Brothers and sisters, as our own fraternity elections are approaching, let us make our decision only after prayerful discernment.

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful. Enkindle in them the fire of Your Love. Send forth Your Spirit, and they will be created. And You will renew the face of the earth.

Let us pray: Lord, by the light of the Holy spirit, You have taught the hearts of the faithful. In that same spirit, help us relish what is right and always rejoice in your consolation. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen



JOSEPH , THE FORGOTTEN MAN By Sr. Jeannette B. Grant, OFS

Joseph I came to you today
To hear what you have to say.
Your fiancée is now with child
The one girl you thought was meek and mild.
Did you love her, or was it a marriage of convenience?
Will you accept her story or is it against your conscience?
To tell you the truth I was filled with doubt
A good wife I did not want to be without.
I went home and searched the holy scriptures
If she was carrying the holy one, it could be quite an adventure.
I was so tired I just went to bed
All these things were going around in my head.
Then an angel came to me in a dream
Told me the whole story, I accepted it without a scream.
I was to be the father of one who came from God
I accepted it, did not even need a prod.
Joyfully I went to Mary, my beloved wife
Gave her a hug and told her we would have a new life.
From Nazareth we both must go
A census was being taken as you well know.
How could we be the chosen souls
Mary to carry and I this child to mold.
I would love Him as my own
Even if the truth would never be known.
We were going to a new town
Our spirits were high, no frown to be found.
No place for us to live in Bethlehem
Mary's condition did not seem to bother them.
To the stable we did go, no time to waste
I had to help Mary deliver, oh what haste.
Fresh hay was put in the manger
The child would not be in any danger.

(continues on page 6)



Mary did a good job, one push and the baby was born
He was so beautiful, like a fresh spring morn.
Mary and I looked at the God child
Who lay in the manger so meek and mild.
Soon my little family had to travel again
To Egypt we did go with much discomfort and pain.
It would give our relatives a chance to forget
That Mary was with child before the wedding date was set.
Mary and I did not care anymore about small things
We had each other and the child under our wings.
I loved my child, Jesus was his name
So very proud I could give the Son of God my very own name.
I was called to heaven before Jesus began his public life
I am sure He will always remember me without much strife.
Don't be afraid of the impossible in your life
By saying yes to God I took Mary as my wife. Amen.

