

SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER - FIVE FRANCISCAN MARTYRS REGION

www.franciscan-sfo.org

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI FRATERNITY - CLEARWATER, FL

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



SIMPLICITY

Next Meeting: Saturday April 9, 2016 @ 1:00 pm

CHAPTER OF ELECTIONS

Formation Groups Meet at 11:30 am

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

Lent is over and the Easter Passover completed. The Easter Baskets are empty and now we wait for Pentecost to come once again. The lessons of Lent have not left us, they remain as a part of our spiritual life. Penance and self discipline, as well as acts of kindness, do not end with Easter. Those acts have prepared us for our continuing journey. We, as Franciscans, are penitents, as St. Francis called his first followers; "We are penitents from Assisi". These acts of charity and penance during lent have prepared us for the days ahead. No matter what comes our way, we are ready to spread the Gospel to all we meet and will be able to endure whatever difficulties we may encounter.

We should embrace the seasons of the church as they bring the Gospel to life in us. May the Spirit of the Lord be always with us.

Message From The Minister:

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Happy Easter Season! I trust you have enjoyed your Lenten Journey and were filled with the joy our Easter celebrations. Christ is risen! He is truly risen! Alleluia! We now look forward to Pentecost in mid May.

Our next meeting, Saturday April 9 will be a Chapter of Elections. Mark Banschbach will be the Presider assisted by Joy Niklas. The format of the meeting will be changed due to the election. We will open with the usual prayers and announcements then the meeting will be turned over to the Presider. Following the installation of officers, we will have our lunch. May the Holy Spirit guide us as we choose those who will lead us for the next three years.

The Annual Meeting at San Pedro is fast approaching, April 29 thru May1. If you wish to attend please call me and I will see that you receive a registration form. In the past the Annual Meeting fund raiser has been baskets to be raffled. This year a new fund raiser has been instituted, "\$5.00 Surprise Bags." These are to be large paper grocery bags containing an item you feel would be worth \$5.00. The item may be new or gently used. If you would like to donate such an item, please contact me at 727-712-3645 or see me at the April meeting for packaging instructions. Funds raised will go to pay for volunteer housing when the Region hosts the NAFRA annual meeting in November at San Pedro.

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)

April Birthday: Kathy Gartlan - April 28

Anniversaries: Karyn Reedman - April 6 (58yrs.) ~ Rosalee Prewett - April 18 (21yrs.)
John Probert - April 23 (51yrs.)

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 APRIL, LET US REMEMBER ALL OUR MEMBERS, RELATIVES, AND FRIENDS IN OUR PRAYERS.

St. Francis of Assisi Fraternity Meeting March 12, 2016

Call to order at 1:10 p.m

Opening Prayer - Ritual Pg 35 Jim

Liturgy of the Hours: Jim , Br. Mark Scripture Reading: Psalm 23

A Hail Mary was said for our sick members

We had 2 visitors - Ken Mixer and Anne Marie McCormik.

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

Homily : Brother read Psalm 23.... BE NOT AFRAID, no matter what happens in life we must trust the Good Shepherd. We all have a guardian angel given to us by the loving Father.

On going Formation: Rebecca Dymock used the booklet "Lent With St. Francis" by Diane M. Houdek. She read the reflection for the day "Limitations." Discussion Followed.

Humbly submitted by Jeannette B.Grant, OFS Secretary



Election Day by Sr. Jeannette B. Grant, OFS

Come Holy Spirit and enlighten us to choose the right ones
To lead our Fraternity in simplicity in times to come.

The meditation and study of our holy rule is essential
For all of us to really become penitential.

Fr. Francis wants us to do so
So let us not loose any time and go.

Let us all be opened to new ideas
The new format might create fears.

If we keep or goal and that of our Holy Father
In the corner of our eye, how can we falter?

We are to be people of gospel living
With our Beloved Jesus let us go forward singing.

We are to bring the Good news of mercy and
love
This has been inspired by the Father above.

Jesus, Francis and Clare did it
Now if we do it we can profit.

How hard is it to be a leaven
After all we are not yet in heaven?

Like Jesus we are all heading for the cross
But being like Him is not really a loss

Francis was so united with Him, he bore the stigmata in his being
We must be like him if only in singing.

The marks of the sacred wounds are with us always
Even though no one else sees it from day to day.



(continued on page 5)

Like Frances we must repair His Church now
One day at a time Jesus will show us how.

Brothers and Sisters we must pray
That the chosen ones may save the day.

We need new life and vigor in Fraternity
If we are to last for all eternity.

So let us proceed and elect the ones the Holy Spirit has chosen on this day
Thank you Francis, Clare and Jesus is all we can say.

Amen.



In Memoriam: Deacon Tom Bello. OFS
September 17, 1949 - March 29, 2016
Past National Minister, Secular Franciscan Order
To read his obituary go to this link:

<http://catholicherald.com/stories/Deacon-Thomas-M-Bello-dies-at-66,31351>

