

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 May 14, 2016 @ 1:00 pm
Formation Groups Meet at 11:30 am

Message from the Minister:

As we prepare to celebrate Mother's Day let us ask God's blessings on all our mothers, living and those who have departed for the Heavenly Homeland.

Let us meditate on Mary's great F I A T . When asked if she would agree to become the mother of Jesus. Her answer should be a great inspiration for all of us Secular Franciscans. "Behold the handmaid of the Lord, be it done to me according to your word'. She might not have totally understood what this really meant but she trusted in God.

Our holy Father Francis had the same attitude of submission when he prayed that God would use him as His instrument of peace, love, pardon, true faith, hope, light and joy. Let us hope and pray that we can do the same in trusting what the Holy Spirit inspires us to be.

Spirit of love Divine
Enter this poor heart of mine.
Let me be opened to thy voice
Sweet Jesus you are my only choice.

Like Blessed Mary let me say
Thy will be done
Until your kingdom in me
Has begun. Amen

In Christ Jesus, my Beloved,
Sr. Jeannette Grant, OFS

Message from Our Spiritual Assistant Bro. Mark Brown, OFM

SOLITUDE: Alone, uninterrupted, no distractions, no radio, no phones, no TV. Nothing!

Did you ever see a body of water so clear you could see all the way to its bottom, clearly seeing every plant, fish and rock. Then have a rock tossed into the water and all that was clear now has become blurred. Seeking solitude is like finding a clear pond with no disturbance.

St. Francis was drawn to solitude all through his life. A great conflict of his was should he remain in a hermitage somewhere or should he go about preaching. St. Clare urged him to do both; to pray and go forth to witness to the Gospel was truly his calling according to his sister Clare.

When one reads about the life of St. Francis, one always sees him returning from preaching to seek out a remote place where he will not be disturbed and where he can pray and listen to the Lord. When you read about some of the places he chose for solitude they were often on the side of a mountain and always had a companion at a distance to make sure he was not disturbed.

One of St. Francis' writings was a rule for hermits. In his plan a group of friars would be split into two groups. One group was to be called Martha and the other Mary. This rule was based on the teachings of Jesus when He was preaching to the apostles and Mary the sister of Martha was sitting at his feet, while Martha was busy doing all the food preparations. Martha complained to Jesus to have Mary help her, and the Master replied "Martha, Martha, Mary has chosen the better part".

The part Mary chose was to listen to the words of Jesus. St. Francis wanted all of us to have that same opportunity and so he wrote that after a time the two groups should swap places so all could have time in solitude.

We as Franciscans need to have that same balance in our lives, i.e. prayer in solitude and gospel outreach. As a weekend retreat, the rule for hermits works very well, and with some modifications, it serves the individual as well.

- 1: Find a quiet place. A church, the beach, a library, (they like it quiet there) or any other place that will work for you.
- 2: Set aside time on a regular basis to visit your place of solitude.
- 3: Pray or just be quiet and listen.

One way to view our spiritual life is to see our body as a hermit's cell and our soul as the hermit who dwells within.

This is our Franciscan calling, to be a people of prayer and witnesses to the gospel. Like our holy father St. Francis, we go forth into the world preaching the Good News and return to give thanks in prayer for all God was able to do through us.

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Spiritual Asst: Br. Mark Brown, OFM
Minister: Jeannette Grant, OFS
Vice Minister: Michael Winoski, OFS
Secretary: Kim Winoski, OFS
Treasurer: Rachel Ahern, OFS
Formation Dir. Jim Grant, OFS

Councilors Emeritus:

Rosalee Prewett, OFS
Connie Quatrano, OFS

Councilors - at- Large:

Ed Belliveau, OFS
Susan Reece, OFS

Newsletter Editors:

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

May Birthdays: Kim Winoski, May 12 ~ Alice Joan McCann - May 23
Jeannette Grant - May 24

Anniversaries: Francis Arnold - May 5 (60 yrs.) ~Kim & Michael Winoski-May 11 (3yrs.)
Bernice Grum - (58 yrs.) ~ Rebecca Dymock - May 16 (17 yrs.)

Necrology: Christine Nadolny-May 1, 1989 (30 yrs.)~Rita Calkin - May 5, 1999 (12 yrs.)
Cristina Hanley - May 12, 2015 (33 yrs.) ~ Emily Warren - May 17, 2001 (34 yrs.)
Dodi Grchan - May 23, 2011 (26 yrs.)

NOTICE: Fair Share Contribution checks to be sent to :
Rachel Ahern, OFS, 2006 Nugget Dr., Clearwater, FL 33755

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

St. Francis of Assisi Fraternity Meeting April 9, 2016

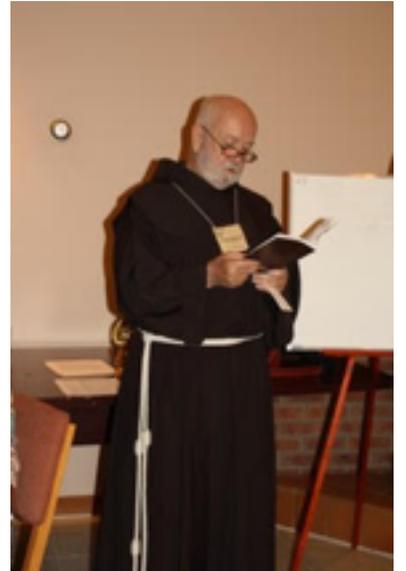
A Chapter of Elections was held in the chapel of St. Vincent de Paul Soup Kitchen. Mark Banschbach, OFS was the Presider, assisted by Joy Niklas, OFS, and Bro. Mark Brown the Ecclesial Witness. Annette Urbanik, OFS served as secretary, Gloria Condit and Kathy Dee, Inquirers, as tellers and Kathryn Garlock, Orientee, as tally board operator.

The newly elected Council for St. Francis of Assisi Fraternity is:

Minister: Jeannette Grant
Vice-Minister: Michael Winoski
Secretary: Kim Winoski
Treasurer: Rachel Ahern
Formation Director: Jim Grant

Councilors-at-Large:
Ed Belliveau
Susan Reece

(photos on page 4)



What do you want of me?

By Sr. Jeannette Grant

Fr. Francis what do you want of me?
There is nothing in my future I want to see.

What do you mean sister
I need you as my minister.

You are to be a servant to your brothers and sisters
Teach them to love and live as possible leaders.

But Father I am a poor instrument
Yes your are but one I can implement.

Do you have a vision for the future?
Yes Father one that I can nurture.

Like you I want followers of penitence
Near or in the far distance.

Like you we all want to be transformed this day
To resemble Christ in His Holy part in the Redemption play

He can no longer do it alone, no in deed
He now needs us to continue His work in all our deeds.

So what are we to do day by day
Holy Father help me is all I can say.

Look to the crucified, Clare always said
Yes, but what a price to be paid.

Must I be nailed to the tree?
Will that truly set me free?

Yes sister that is the only way to go
Jesus did it and you must do it also.

Yes Fr. Francis I will serve
Even though it rubs my nerves. (continues on page 6)



I will try to promote peace and harmony
With those living all around me.

Help me to spread your vision of Brotherhood
Just because it will bring peace to the neighborhood.

Yes Francis I will accept the role of leadership
As long as it does not interfere with my private worship.

Do with me as you want now and forever more
I am your faithful servant who lives just next door.

Fr. Francis inspire me to do God's will
Whether I am active or lying still.



Servant of the Lord **By Sr. Jeannette Grant**

I am poor and sinful as can be
Yet you are very pleased with me.
Mary was full of grace
I have nothing but a dirty face.
An angel came to her door
I can do nothing but lay on the floor.
When will a heavenly creature come to me
Child, you too have been chosen come and see.
Like Mary you must bring Christ to the world
Even if you are nothing but a girl.
Mary carried me in her womb
Stayed faithful until I was laid in the tomb.
You must carry Me in your heart
Remember you and I must never be apart.
In time give Me to everyone you meet
In the stores and on the streets.
Like Mary you will be a mother
That would be very pleasing to my Father.
Say your FIAT every day
Then you will be part of the great salvation play. Amen.

