



The Herald of St. Francis

Dec. 2008
Vol. XXVIII, No. 12

Next Meeting:
Sunday, December 14th
@ 1:30 p.m.

12:30 p.m.
for Inquirers,
Candidates and
Professed Formation

Newsletter of the St. Francis Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order, St. Katharine Drexel Region
Meeting at St. Francis of Assisi Church, Saxer Ave. & Rolling Rd., Springfield Delaware County, Pennsylvania 19064
www.stfrancisfraternity.org • info@stfrancisfraternity.org

If you are unable to fulfill your obligation to attend the monthly meeting, please call Rita Dourdoufis at 610-352-2413.

Minister's Notes

May the joy and peace of this beautiful season settle into your heart and nest there.

Are you looking for the perfect gift? Look no further. Our loving Father has shown us the ultimate in gift giving.

God gives Himself to us over and over. And because we didn't quite get that concept, He gave Himself to us in the form of His Son.

He gave Himself. He didn't give us an expensive gadget or sweater or throw money away on something we will never use and don't even like. He gave Himself. A simple thought. But what does it really mean to give yourself?

It's a tough time of year - so much to do - so little time, and in these days, so little money! Is there a grandparent or elderly aunt or uncle in your life who sits in a nursing home longing for an hour of your time? A child or grandchild who would be thrilled to sit over a soda and have some one-on-one time with you?

It's the greatest gift you can give. But give it fully - don't be there physically, but mentally you are already planning the next task or chore on your list or wondering how quickly can you cut the visit short.

In these very hard times when money just isn't available for all the things you want to do for the holidays, stop for just a moment and remember - He gave Himself. **And it was enough!**

That one gift has sustained us for more than 2000 years. Surely this is an example we can follow!

Happy holidays to you and to all you hold dear.

Kate

Our December Meeting

We will hold our monthly meeting on Sunday, September 14, 2008 at 1:30 p.m. in Conway hall. We will recite the Franciscan Crown Rosary and after our regular meeting and prayers, we will proceed to St. Francis Church for Benediction.

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Our Annual Christmas Pot Luck will be held at the December gathering. Please bring something for the buffet table - a true Franciscan Feast of feeding one another!

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"And we will be involved in the monthly meeting as an act of worship and a building of community."

--from The Lay Franciscan Monthly Pledge

Per Capita / Fair Share

There is an extra small envelope with your newsletter again this month. As far as we know right now, the Per Capita / Fair Share is \$25 again this year. The extra small envelope with your newsletter for November, December and January is so that you may pay in installments if that is better for you.

The Per Capita / Fair Share is never meant to be a hardship on you. Only you know your financial circumstances and whether you can afford \$25.00.

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Don't Forget

- To sign the attendance log
- Petition slips
- Pennies for the missions, cancelled stamps and caps off of aluminum cans should be given to Rose Marie Gantz.
- Please save any free religious articles you receive in the mail for Mary Ellen Gontaryk.

Liturgy of the Hours

Third Sunday of Advent, page 861 (91).

Prayer Requests

"You are to help your brothers until the Lord gives them rest."

-- The Book of Joshua

Please remember in prayer: Santa Ricci, Grace Holley and her granddaughter Michelle Davis; Frances Bellew, Kimberly Gilligan (Niece of Marie Gilligan); Marie Frantini's daughter (Marie Dolores); Christine Truitt; Antoinette Iorio; Jean Cannon; Betty Downey, JoAnne Troup and her family, Bernie Kleinert (Kate Kleinert's Husband), Mary Ann Palmer, Jeanette Anderson (Rose Marie Anderson's daughter-in-law), Mary Betancourt, Lisa Davis (Marie Gilligan's daughter-in-laws mother); Cyrilla Pine, Marian McCole, Christine Somers, Father Paul Stenson, Mary Stenson, 4 yr old Evan Nickel.

Formation

Formation sessions begin at 12:30 p.m. in Conway Hall.

- **Professed** will be reviewing Chapter D4 -- "Fraternity for Franciscans"
- **Inquiry:** *Come & See*, Chapter 6
- **Orientation:** *Come & See*, Chapter 6

December Profession Anniversaries

Helen Balderston (65), Mary Betancourt (71), Regina McGarry (71), Claire Quinn (75), Mary Smarowsky (82), Marie Bair (86), Veda Dugan (86), Teresa McHugh (86), Shirley Finegan (89).

December Franciscan Saints and Blesseds

- 8 Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- 12 Our Lady of Guadalupe
- 15 Bl Mary Frances Schervier

St. Francis Inn Needs:

- Powdered juice or iced tea mix
- Any individual toiletries (soap, deodorant, powder, toothpaste)
- Toothbrushes
- New Tee shirts any size

Our Council

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