



# The Herald of St. Francis

Mar. 2009  
Vol. XXIX, No. 3

**Next Meeting:**  
Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup>  
@ 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](http://www.stfrancisfraternity.org) • [info@stfrancisfraternity.org](mailto: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

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As I write this, Lent is just 24 hours old and I feel like I have been sitting in the Garden of Gethsemane forever.

The real problem is, the Garden is very crowded this year. Even in the midst of misery, there is no peace and quiet!

Mary Ellen Gontaryk is having surgery on Monday for a recurrence of cancer. Adele Malloy had a stroke last Saturday. My own beloved, Bernie, is now on Palliative Care. Marian McCole's daughter, Bernadette, continues her fight for life and a very long battle to recover. The list goes on and on.

So many problems, so many real tragedies all around. So many requests for prayers. It is overwhelming, disheartening. And isn't that exactly where the Evil One wants us? I can see him standing at the Gate to the Garden of Gethsemane with his straw hat and megaphone saying "Hurry, hurry, hurry. Step right up, folks".

But, we are in good company. Our Lord sat in this very Garden with a very heavy heart, feeling lost and abandoned by those closest to Him - including His own Father. There is nothing wrong with being in the Garden. After all, Jesus Himself, spent time there.

The difference is, Jesus got up and continued the will of His Father. What a beautiful example for us. This

Lent we can offer up whatever has us sitting in the Garden - struggling with finances, adjusting to a new job or losing the old one, and certainly all the health issues that are attaching so many of us.

The only good thing about the Garden being so crowded - you don't have far to go to grasp the hand of someone who understands what you are going through.

May your journey through Lent bring you closer to the glory of Easter morning!

Blessings,  
Kate

## PLEASE NOTE:

**Our April meeting will take place one week earlier.** Easter falls on the second Sunday this year so we will meet on Palm Sunday, April 5, in Conway Hall at the usual time. If there are not enough people interested in changing the date, we will cancel our April meeting.

## Our March Meeting

We will hold our monthly meeting on Sunday, March 8, 2009 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.

We will be having the "Rite of Admission" for Stella Viola, Francis Urso and Frances Urso as well as the "Welcoming In" for Patricia Simon.

*"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

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## Liturgy of the Hours

Evening prayer for the Second Sunday of Lent and are found on page 787 and 294

## 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.

## 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, Jean Burns (if you would like to send Jean a card her address is St. Martha's Manor, Rm. 202; 470 Manor Ave., Downingtown, PA 1933).

## Francis Inn Needs:

- Mens' and Womens' thermals
- Scarves, hats and gloves
- Tuna fish
- Hot Cocoa mix

## March Profession Anniversaries

- Betty Downey (1994)

## Formation

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

- Professed will be reviewing Chapter D4 -- "Fraternity for Franciscans"
- Inquirers: Come & See, Chapters 1 and 2
- Candidates: Catch Me a Rainbow Too, Chapters 2 and 3

## March Franciscan Saints and Blessed

- 2 Bl Agnes of Prague
- 9 St Frances of Rome
- 24 Bl Didacus Joseph of Cadiz

## Reminder

The 2009 Guides for The Liturgy of the Hours are available. The price is \$3.50. Just a reminder to please pay for the Guides that were distributed at the December meeting.

## Our Council

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