



The Herald of St. Francis

Mar. 2013
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Next Meeting:
Sunday, Mar. 10th
@ 12:30 p.m.

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

Our March Gathering

We will hold our monthly gathering on Sunday, March 10th, 2012 in Conway Hall.

IMPORTANT: Please remember that we now gather at 12:30. And please try to get there a little early so we can begin on time.

If you are unable to fulfill your obligation to attend the monthly meeting, please call Pat Simon at 610-352-5390

"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

Don't Forget

- To sign the attendance log
- Petition slips
- Pennies for missions and flip tops off aluminum cans

St. Francis Inn Needs:

- Laundry Soap
- Liquid Dish Soap
- Coffee
- Sugar
- Travel-Size Toiletries

- Disposable Razors
- 13 gal. & 30 gal.
- Trash Bags

March Franciscan Saints and Blessed

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

Thanks!

Rose Benner was kind enough to take the responsibility of keeping our members list updated. Thanks Rose!

Communion Breakfast

Don't forget, May will be our annual communion breakfast and it will be the first Sunday of the month instead of the usual second. We will, of course, attend Mass before a potluck breakfast. Details to follow in the newsletter and at the April Meeting.

Regional Elections

Please keep the Saint Katharine Drexel Region in your prayers as regional elections are taking place on March 16th.

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Formation Information

Our March ongoing formation session will focus on Part 6 of the Cangelosi paper (*Profession in the SFO: Gift and Commitment*), "Profession and Eucharist." You should already have the Cangelosi paper and if you were at the February meeting you should have gotten a copy of the handout with all the information you need to prepare. If you don't have the handout or the paper but have web access, you can download them from this page on the fraternity's website: <http://www.stfrancisfraternity.org/ongoing-formation>.

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From: *St. Francis of Assisi and Eucharistic Adoration* by Gordon Plumb

For Francis, then, the Eucharist is the major way in which he sees Christ in this world. It is the sign of the presence of Christ with the Church in the world. This explains the veneration in which he held the sacrament, and the fact that in his early ministry he would make sure that the sacrament was not left lying inadequately housed in churches. Later he wrote to the Guardians in his order to ensure that they housed the sacrament properly. And whenever the sacrament was being carried anywhere he would have his friars "glorify and honour on bended knee Lord God living and true." Clearly Francis had an intense reverence for the Blessed Sacrament – to him it represented Christ himself.

And for Francis the sacrament was a sign of the complete self-emptying of Christ. In the first of his Admonitions, which is about the Eucharist, Francis stresses that the sacrament is a symbol of the poverty and humility of Christ. He writes: ...Behold, each day he humbles Himself as when he came from the royal throne into the Virgin's womb;

each day He himself comes down to us, appearing humbly; each day He comes down from the bosom of the Father upon the altar in the hands of the priest. As he revealed himself to the holy apostles in true flesh, so He reveals himself to us now in sacred bread.

And in the Letter to the Entire Order Francis writes in poetic vein:

Priest with Chalice Let everyone be struck with fear, let the whole world tremble, and let the heavens exult when Christ, the Son of the living God, is present on the altar in the hands of a priest! O wonderful loftiness and stupendous dignity! O sublime humility! O humble sublimity! The lord of the universe, God and the Son of God, so humbles himself that for our salvation he hides himself under an ordinary piece of bread! Brothers, look at the humility of God, and pour out your hearts before him! Humble yourselves that you may be exalted by him! Hold nothing back of yourselves for yourselves, that he who gives himself totally to you may receive you totally!

The Latin words *sine proprio* in the writings of Francis are usually translated poverty, but that is a quite inadequate translation of them. They refer, rather, to a way of living without grasping (and are thus far more about attitudes and values than about intrinsic wealth or the lack of it).

For Francis the Eucharist is a sign of the *sine proprio* of Christ – he holds nothing of himself back for himself, but pours himself out totally in saving and redeeming grace to us in the Sacrament. And yet the Sacrament is also the means by which we may return all that we are and have to Christ, appropriating nothing of it to ourselves.