



The Herald of St. Francis

January 2017 • Vol. XXXVII, No. 1 • Next Meeting: January 8TH @ 12:30 PM

Our January Gathering

We will hold our monthly gathering on Sunday, January 8TH at 12:30 PM in Conway Hall. We will participate in ongoing formation, recite the Franciscan Crown Rosary and, after our regular meeting and prayers, we will proceed to St. Francis Church for Benediction.

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.”

~ The Lay Franciscan Monthly Pledge

Prayer Petitions

Please contact Mrs. Fran Urso at francesurs@aol.com or 610-202-8965 if you would like to include a petition in the newsletter. A new list will be generated each month.

- Rich - able to walk again
- Frank and Carol - breathing problems
- Marylou - overall health
- The Benner family
- Anne F. and her son - health problems

- Barbara - heal mental and physical health
- Larry - congestive heart failure
- Jaime - heal her addiction
- Cynthia - heal family
- Hobough family to deal with loss
- The Viola family
- Mike, Deborah, Trish, Liz and Sandy - job seeking
- Jill - speedy recovery broken ankle
- Debbie – vertigo

Christmas Gathering

Once again this Christmas at our Gathering, we were blessed to host several adults, residents and children from our apostolates: the Mother's Home in Darby and the Emmaus Home in Essington. Thank You Brothers and Sisters for your generosity.

~ Frank

St. Francis Inn Needs

- Men's & Women's Underwear
- Men's Shoes
- Dinner-size Forks

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- Deodorant & Toothpaste
- Paper Towels
- Prayers

Formation Information

During our January ongoing formation session, we will continue looking at the Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order with a discussion of Article 13. Please ponder the article, the passages below, as well as the questions that follow.

When the Son of man comes in his glory, escorted by all the angels, then he will take his seat on his throne of glory. All nations will be assembled before him and he will separate people one from another as the shepherd separates sheep from goats. He will place the sheep on his right hand and the goats on his left. Then the King will say to those on his right hand, "Come, you whom my Father has blessed, take as your heritage the kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you made me welcome, lacking clothes and you clothed me, sick and you visited me, in prison and you came to see me. Then the upright will say to him in reply, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and make you welcome, lacking clothes and clothe you? When did we find you sick or in prison and go to see you?" And the King will answer, "In truth I tell you, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me.

~ Matthew 25: 31-40

It is a tall order to be requested to accept all people, there being so many differences

among people. It takes a great deal of grace and an openness to the love of God and others in the spirit of Christ. But we all must try to see how far we can extend ourselves. The thought to remember is that Christ is the firstborn of many brothers and sisters. We are all related in Christ.

St. Francis surely brought this home to us as he embraced all as his brothers and sisters. It was no easy lesson for him to learn as we know when we think of the very fearful and human way he approached the leper. A real grounding in mortification is necessary. We must put aside our personal likes and dislikes.

~ *Called to Live the Dynamic Power of the Gospel*, Philip Marquard, OFM

They should deepen the true foundations of universal kinship and create a spirit of welcome and an atmosphere of fraternity everywhere. They should firmly commit themselves to oppose every form of exploitation, discrimination, and exclusion and against every attitude of indifference in relation to others.

~ *The General Constitutions of the Secular Franciscan Order* (18.2)

Questions to ponder (by Karol Morton, SFO)

- 1) Lepers were the untouchables and outcasts of the society in which St. Francis lived, yet he overcame his revulsion and, for the love of Christ, embraced the leper. Who are the outcasts of our society and how can we embrace them?
- 2) Often in our service to others, we seek to please man rather than please God. How can we avoid this self-deception?