



The Herald of St. Francis

January 2018 • Vol. XXXVIII, No. 1 • Next Meeting: January 14TH @ 12:30 PM

Our January Gathering

We will hold our monthly gathering on Sunday, January 14TH at 12:30 PM in Conway Hall. We will participate in ongoing formation, have some social time with our fraternal family, and then recite the Franciscan Crown Rosary and the Liturgy of the Hours.

Please do your best to arrive on time (or even a little early) so we can begin our gathering promptly at 12:30.

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

St. Francis Inn Needs

- Sugar
- Diapers
- Large Cans of Coffee
- Men's & Women's Underwear
- Men's Shoes
- Toilet Paper
- Deodorant

- Travel and Regular Sized Shampoo
- Toothpaste
- Paper Towels
- Prayers

Prayer Petitions

Please contact 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.

- Casey Family - strength & survival
- J and C - spiritual strength & healing
- Terry - conversion of family
- Charles - scope test
- Marie - strength and grace to cope
- Carol - return to sacraments
- K - healing of infection
- Frank - healing
- Betty S.- health
- Terry - health - testing
- Stella - strength and healing
- Rose - health
- Patty - health and family healing
- Eileen Cannizzaro, repose of her soul
- Loretto Reilly - bad fall
- Mary and Tom Piccone - health

Continued on next page...

Newsletter of the St. Francis Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order, St. Katharine Drexel Region

Meeting at St. Francis of Assisi Church, Springfield, Delaware County, Pennsylvania

www.stfrancisfraternity.org • info@stfrancisfraternity.org

Formation Information

Marie Gilligan will be leading the formation session on the topic of "Call to Holiness." In preparation, please consider the following:

- How can we answer God's call to holiness?
- Franciscans are called to be good stewards of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit.
- Growth in holiness is not our accomplishment, but a pure gift of God.
- How do we grow in holiness? Daily prayer, Mass and the sacraments are the foundation that nourishes us so that we may be good, holy, happy and committed in our call to holiness.
- *And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, do; and the God of peace will be with you.*

~Phil. 4:7-9

Food for thought

For [St.] Francis, only God is truly pure. The person who desires friendship with God must strive to be free from all attachments and from all commitments that are exclusively human or in relation to earthly realities. This does not mean that we are to give up our friends or sacrifice our desire for a better job or position. Rather, we may understand attachment here as possessiveness. We are called to be dispossessed of earthly things so as to possess God. To possess means to "cling to," to hold on to something so tightly that

other possibilities are "squeezed out." Each of us is called to be poor, to empty ourselves of all that we cling to so that we may receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

~ Ilia Delio, *Franciscan Prayer*

Conversion has two elements for its completion. First, we need to rid ourselves of the things that hinder gospel living. That includes not only "stuff" but also habits, attitudes, mindsets, lifestyles etc. that hinder hearing and living the Gospel. Secondly, conversion calls us to commit our lives to Jesus and his gospel call. It calls for practicing charity, having hope, learning how to love all people. If we only clean out our lives, we create a vacuum into which all sorts of things can enter (cf. Luke 11:24-26). Our inner housecleaning ordinarily should open a path for the Holy Spirit to work in our lives.

~ Lester Bach OFM Cap, *Seeking a Gospel Life*



St. Francis, pray for us
