



Our Lady of the Rosary Fraternity, SFO

Hampton Roads, Virginia

December, 2014

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www.olrsfo.weebly.com

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Minister

Chris Wells SFO

Vice Minister

Leo Wells SFO

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Ed Gerhard SFO

Formation Director

Glen Davis SFO

Spiritual Assistant

Sister Agnes Narocho LSOFS

The Incarnation was a most special feast for St. Francis. Certainly we can see this in the story of the first Christmas manger at Greccio. But more than that, Francis saw the great love God has for us in the Incarnation. In Jesus God became what He created. He became one with us in His love for us. What an overwhelming thought—that God would treasure us so much that He would become one of us and with us in spite of our weaknesses and failings! And to add to this love He leaves us the sacrament of Eucharist whereby each time we take Christ into ourselves He again becomes that which He created.

St. John speaks of this great love in his gospel when he states “to those who did accept Him He gave the power to become the children of God.” What an awesome gift! What a humbling gift to realize that our God has taken us as His children. The mandate to love our neighbor as ourselves becomes even more incumbent upon us as we reflect on God’s tremendous love for us and His quickness to overlook our faults.

And so as we gather once again with family and friends to celebrate the birth of the Divine Infant, let us reflect on the lesson of love in the gospel of John and also the joy and love that Francis felt in pondering the Incarnation and the Eucharist. In his first Admonition Francis states, “Behold, every day He humbles Himself (cf. Phil 2:8), just as when from royal thrones (Wisdom 18:15) He entered into the womb of the Virgin; every day He comes to us presenting Himself humbly; everyday He descends from the bosom of His Father to the altar ... just as to the holy Apostles in true flesh, so now He shows Himself to us in the Sacred Bread.”

Our world is in dire need of that joy and love which is most necessary to bring about peace on earth. Wouldn’t it be a fabulously joyful occurrence if all nations and all people in the spirit of Christ’s birth could be in harmony with each other on Christmas day?

May each of you have a blessed Christmas and New Year. May the joy and peace of Christ be yours.

God bless,

Chris Wells, Minister

December Meeting:

Our December meeting will be held on Sunday, December 21 at St. Michael's Place.

12:00 Candidates meet

1:30 Whole group meets

Opening prayers

Preparing gifts for Sister Agnes

2:00 Reflection from Sister Agnes and ongoing formation

2:45 Saint report - Glenda Hines

3:00 Break

3:15 Business meeting

3:45 Liturgy of the Hours Evening Prayer

Closing Prayers

4:00 Fellowship

Assignments:

Candidates: Group discussion will continue on Up To Now - Session: Understanding Franciscan Theology, Tradition, and Spirituality by Robert L Fitzsimmons, SFO. Read pages 3 of 30 to page 24 of 30 - up to the Visual Meditation.

Whole Group: To Be Announced

Christmas Gifts for Sister Agnes:

Please bring your gifts for Sister to the December meeting and we will fill the bags at that meeting.

Saint Report:

Glenda Hines will present the December saint report on Saint Elizabeth of Hungary. Thank you to Carol Murphy for last month's saint report.

Council Meeting:

Our next Council meeting will be January 10 at 9:30.

Catholic Men's Conference:

The Diocesan Catholic Men's Conference will be held in Richmond on Saturday, January 10. This is a wonderful opportunity to listen to dynamic speakers and to meet other Catholic men. Our fraternity will have a table at the conference. If you will be attending and can help Leo at the table, please let Chris know. The website for the conference is <<http://www.cdrcmfl.org>>

Fraternity Website:

Don't forget to check the fraternity website during the month for SFO news. Rather than sending lots of email info to you, it will be posted on our website <www.olrsfo.weebly.com> However, things of immediate importance will continue to be emailed to you.

St. Olaf Food Pantry:

Thank you for your continued generosity to the St. Olaf Food Pantry. Last month lots of paper products were brought in which cannot be purchased with food stamps. Thank you again!

From His Hands:

Thank you for your generosity to the Pineapple Inn last month. They are deeply appreciative of our donations. Currently there are families in residence with a combined population of 50 children. If you are able to donate an item for these children to eat as an after school snack please bring it to the November meeting. Pudding cups and juice boxes are popular snacks as well as fresh fruits. Cindy will take care of dropping the donations off at the Pineapple.

Amazon Project:

Please remember your change for the Amazon Relief and the Heifer International Project. Thank you, Carol Murphy for heading this up.

Peninsula Pet Pantry:

The Peninsula Pet Pantry is a nonprofit organization providing temporary pet food, supplies, and veterinarian care to owners who are facing financial difficulties. Many of these pet owners are elderly or disabled and their pet is an emotional support to them. If you are interested in donating or volunteering, contact Carol Folsom <carolfolsom@cox

December Happy Birthdays:

2 Denny Thiel

6 Bea Sanford

28 Rick Churray

Prayer List:

Joan Buehler, SFO

Frances Warren, SFO

Sister of Glenn Davis, SFO

Greta Braswell and family

Michael Wilson

Carol Folsom's sister-in-law

Youth Ministry at St. Jerome

Our Anniversarians

Persecuted people of faith in the Middle East

World peace especially in the Middle East

Victims of Ebola

Families at the Pineapple Inn and St. Olaf Pantry Ministries

Our Fraternity and our Franciscan Family

Those who have no one to pray for them

The unspoken intentions of our hearts

Deceased:

Marlin Massey - husband of Barbara Massey, SFO

Walter Tucker - father of Bea Sanford

Jack Wells - brother of Leo Wells, SFO

Wyn McPhee - fiancé of Annie Pepper, SFO

Dates to Remember:

8 Feast of the Immaculate Conception

12 Our Lady of Guadalupe

15 Bl. Mary Frances Schervier

25 Christmas Day

26 St. Stephen, First Martyr

27 St. John the Apostle

28 Feast of the Holy Family and the Holy Innocents

St. Francis and the Christmas Crib

The gifts of the Almighty were multiplied there, and a wonderful vision was seen by a certain virtuous man. For he saw a little child lying in the manger lifeless, and he saw the holy man of God go up to it and rouse the child as from a deep sleep. This vision was not unfitting, for the Child Jesus had been forgotten in the hearts of many; but, by the working of his grace, he was brought to life again through his servant St. Francis and stamped upon their fervent memory. At length the solemn night celebration was brought to a close, and each one returned to his home with holy joy.

~Thomas of Celano, Vita prima ~

A Blessed and Peaceful Christmas to All

