



Fraternity of Mary, Queen of Peace Secular Franciscan Order Newsletter

December 2019 Issue

Meetings: located at Queen of Peace Friary
1289 Lafond Ave, St Paul, MN 55104

Regular Fraternity Meeting:

Friday, January 3rd

Business meeting – 6:30pm

Sharing of favorite St. Francis quote:

Chuck Roach

Franciscan Holy Hour for World Peace

– 7:00pm followed by refreshments and social time.

*Treats: Eileen and Will Moore, and
Jerry Giebel*

Ongoing Formation

8:30 – 9:30pm

Mass Readings for Sunday, January 3rd
(Epiphany)

First half of Ch 14
of The Perfect Joy of Saint Francis

January Council Meeting:

Sunday, January 12th, 7:00 – 9:00pm

At Queen of Peace Friary. All are welcome

The Council animates the Fraternity

Initial Formation:

Friday, January 24:

The Franciscan Journey,
chapter 14, “Rebuilding Task”

Jeannie and Br John Mary will facilitate.

Apostolates:

upcoming monthly nursing home visits:

The Estates at Lynnhurst

471 W. Lynnhurst Ave, St Paul, MN 55104

Third Wednesdays: January 15th 6:30pm

Little Sisters of the Poor

330 Exchange St. South, St Paul, MN 55102

Fourth Thursdays: January 23rd 6:30pm



Br. Antonio – 1/26

Our newsletter is published monthly by the

Fraternity of Mary, Queen of Peace

Secular Franciscan Order

c/o Franciscan Brothers of Peace

Queen of Peace Friary

1289 Lafond Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55104

Minister: Steve Smith, OFS (612-597-5556)

Vice Minister: Helen Rush, OFS (651-644-6147)

Formation Director: Jeannie Kratzer, OFS (651-636-8928)

Secretary: Anne Keller, OFS (651-335-8484)

Treasurer: Robin Donner, OFS (651-290-7753)

Councilor: Chuck Roach, OFS (612-801-8990)

Spiritual Assistant: Brother John Mary Kaspari, fbp (651-675-9286)

MEETING MINUTES – December 6th

The meeting was held in the lower level.

Professed: Brenda Berry, Robin Donner, Heidi Giebel, Jerry Giebel, Anne Keller, Jeannie Kratzer, Mary Marshall, Eileen Moore, Will Moore, Chuck Roach, John Rosensteel, Mike Ross, Helen Rush, Steve Smith, Marty Spicer.

Candidates: Karen Nelson.

Affiliates: Debbie Watson.

Spiritual Assistant: Br John Mary Kaspari.

Visitors: Br Pio King

(Members, thank you for notifying the Council if you are unable to attend, and please consider adding extra to the common fund when you return)

Opening: Steve lead us in opening prayer. (Beginning in January, we will have members share quotes from Saint Francis. A sign-up was passed around for this.)

The Minutes from the November meeting were approved.

Financial Report (Robin):

November Checking Starting Balance: \$1323.66
11/4 Common Fund contributions: +233.00
11/5 Queen of Peace Region (for election) -30.00
November Checking Ending Balance: \$1526.66
(We will owe at least \$500 for the first half of Fair Share in January.)

November Savings Balance: \$512.69
(Helen turned in \$19 for Can Recycling which will be deposited in savings.)

The financial report was approved.

Member news: Brenda shared updates and prayer requests from those who are unable to attend. (See Prayer Requests) Thank you to Brenda and Debbie for making Holy Hours of Adoration on behalf of all in the Fraternity and the Franciscan Brothers of Peace.

The Brothers' report (Brother John Mary):

The Brothers are appreciative of all the help for the Thanksgiving food drive. 250 families were served (approximately 1000 people).

Help is now needed for the Christmas food drive. (See Apostolates)

Please pray for vocations for the Franciscan Brothers of Peace.

Listen to the Rediscover hour on Relevant Radio this weekend – featuring John Rosensteel
Chuck Roach will be delivering the Bethlehem Peace Light to the Friary on Saturday, Dec 14th.

Formation Report (Jeannie): The Candidates did not meet in November, as they helped with bagging groceries at the Friary that evening. No Initial Formation in December. The next meeting will be January 24th at 7:00pm to study Ch 14 of The Franciscan Journey.

Jeannie passed out study questions for our January Ongoing Formation study of Ch 14, The Singing Wounds, of The Perfect Joy of Saint Francis.

Apostolates:

Food Shelf and Homeless ministry:

Donations of Hams are needed by Dec 16th. A food bagging event (originally scheduled for Friday, Dec 20th) has been **changed to Thursday, Dec 19th at 7:00pm.**

Nursing Home ministry: Join us for our monthly Nursing Home Visits and quarterly Bingo.

Christmas Caroling at Lynnhurst on Sunday, December 15th, at 2:00pm Bring your voices, family, friends and some treats!

Ongoing Formation: After the Holy Hour and social time, we reconvened downstairs for an eye-opening presentation by Mike Ross regarding his work in East Africa. Thank you so much, Mike!

Closing: Jeannie did a reading about the Creche at Greccio. We shared intercessory prayers. We closed by singing "O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

~ Anne Keller, Secretary

The Epiphany of the Lord

Reading 1 **IS 60:1-6**

Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon you. See, darkness covers the earth, and thick clouds cover the peoples; but upon you the LORD shines, and over you appears his glory. Nations shall walk by your light, and kings by your shining radiance. Raise your eyes and look about; they all gather and come to you: your sons come from afar, and your daughters in the arms of their nurses. Then you shall be radiant at what you see, your heart shall throb and overflow, for the riches of the sea shall be emptied out before you, the wealth of nations shall be brought to you. Caravans of camels shall fill you, dromedaries from Midian and Ephah; all from Sheba shall come bearing gold and frankincense, and proclaiming the praises of the LORD.

Gospel **MT 2:1-12**

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was greatly troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. Assembling all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, He inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it has been written through the prophet: *And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; since from you shall come a ruler, who is to shepherd my people Israel.*" Then Herod called the magi secretly and ascertained from them the time of the star's appearance. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search diligently for the child. When you have found him, bring me word, that I too may go and do him homage." After their audience with the king they set out. And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was. They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their country by another way.

THE PERFECT JOY OF ST. FRANCIS-CHP. 14, THE SINGING WOUNDS, pg. 246-257 Study Questions for 1/3/20 OFS Fraternity Meeting

In Chapter 13, Francis knew he wasn't going to live much longer, so he travels with 6 Brothers (Bros. Leo. Angelo, Masseo, Silvester, Rufino, Bonizio) in August, to the tiny hermitage on Mount LaVerna, to seek intense solitude and to commune with God. In an effort to seek total solitude, he meditates on a small rocky area across a 300 ft. chasm for several days. There Francis experiences great physical, emotional, and mental torment and suffering from the devil, incredible experiences of divine joy and ecstasy with angelic visitors. He receives two divine messages that God was going to do great things on this mountain that He had never done to anyone before, and that Francis was going to experience the suffering and torment of Christ's Passion. He accepted the suffering to be like Christ before death in order to feel God's love in his soul and body. Finally Francis receives the greatest miracle of all, he was pierced by the 5 wounds of Christ (the Stigmata) from a six winged Seraphim with the face of Jesus.

In Chapter 14, Bleeding and suffering in pain from the Stigmata, Francis is brought down from Mt. LaVerna, which he will never see again and very slowly travels 71.6 miles back to Our Lady of the Angels in Assisi. He arrives in mid-November struggling with his suffering, exhausted, weak, half blind, in constant pain, unable to walk, and poor in spirit. So, he spends a month recuperating in a small hut at San Domiano under the care of St. Clare. Under her care, his spirit is renewed and his health improved. He rejoices in his suffering expressing it through singing with the Canticle of the Sun, which he then shares with the world around him on his journey to Rieti for medical care.

1. Why was it so hard for Francis to leave Mt. LaVerna, and why was it so important to him? Pg.246-247
2. When news of the miracle of the Stigmata reached the towns between Mt. Laverna and Assisi, what affect did it have on the people, how did it affect St. Francis emotionally, physically, and his travel? Pg.247-249.
3. Why did Francis stop at San Damiano to visit Clare? How long did he stay and why? Pg. 250-251.
4. Why was Clare so important to Francis spiritually and what divine message did he receive while at San Damiano about his suffering? Pg. 251-253. Have you ever received divine messages while in deep meditation?
5. What inspired the Canticle of the Sun, and how did Francis and Clare use it? Pg.253-256.
6. While accepting medical care in Rieti, why did Francis cry a lot, and what was his definition of tears? Pg. 256-257.
7. Why were Cardinal Ugolino's doctors unable to help Francis medically? Pg. 255-257.

December Prayer requests:
(thanking God ahead of time)

- For the soul of Bertha Riedel, grandmother of Br Conrad, and the entire family as they grieve her loss
- That the Lord will provide for all the needs of the Franciscan Brothers of Peace and guide all their ministries; that the Lord will call whom He will to this vocation and guide those in discernment and formation
- For all Franciscans and the work they are called to do in the world
- In thanksgiving for Mike Ross' work in East Africa
- For the soul of Bishop Paul Sirba who died unexpectedly on December 1st
- For the needs of all those in the KaRen community
- For all those who are dying in the nursing homes where we minister
- For the needs of the unemployed
- For emergency responders and for those who plow our roads to keep us safe
- For the needs of all those who come to the Brothers' food shelf
- For protection for all those who are abused
- That those whose past is interfering with the present, will respond to the call of the Holy Spirit to participate in the next Grief to Grace retreat which begins the end of January
- For our children to find their vocation in life
- For the conversion of souls
- That everyone will have a safe and happy holiday
- In thanksgiving for the gift of growing older
- For Chuck's friends with difficult illnesses
- For Chuck's brother-in-law recovering from a brain injury
- For Brenda's cousin Scott who had a heart attack
- For Debbie – for physical healing, for healing of family relationships, and for peace
- In thanksgiving for a successful shoulder surgery for Mike Gross
- In thanksgiving for John's dad returning home to his family
- For Marlene who is having total knee replacement on December 20th
- For all those who were not able to be with us this evening
- For the health needs of Mike Bartel, Connie, Janie, Norma, Eugene, Janet
- In thanksgiving for the love and friendship of Fraternity
- That the Holy Spirit will guide our Council in animating our Fraternity
- That we will open our hearts to Jesus in this Advent / Christmas season to use us to bring peace to all the world

Christmas Caroling at Lynnhurst 12-15-19



Br Paschal, Matthew (Brenda's grandson), Helen, Bernadette (Brenda's daughter), Brenda, Debbie.

Not pictured: Anne and Br Pio (he had to leave early)