

# *Saint Francis of Assisi's prayerful community for healing*

In September 2009, four ladies at SFOA had the inspiration to try to fill some of the needs of victims of cancer through prayers and companionship. This effort has now expanded to over 22 members making hand-crocheted/hand-knitted, full-size, shawls to give to each patient. The ministry has now encompassed other victims suffering from ailments of body, mind, and spirit.

In the process of making a shawl, the group keeps a journal of each member's loving thoughts and best wishes, passing it on to the shawl as the yarn enfolds. The shawl's purpose is to be used by the patient, when needed, for warmth,

peace, comfort, a sense of assurance and certitude that others are praying for them, that they are not forgotten and that they are loved. The shawl is complimentary, customized, in a sense, with the crocheter's/knitter's creativity of pattern/design and, sometimes, with embellishment.

To date, 127 shawls have been given as group gifts to adults and children regardless of race and creed, living in different areas of CA, PA, NY, ID, NV. We welcome adults, ladies and men, to join in making shawls. (Fr. That Son, a priest at SFOA, is also a member.) Crocheting and knitting instructions are provided. Caregivers are welcome to accompany patients.

The group meets in the Fireside Room, behind the Gathering Hall of the main SFOA building at 5111 San Felipe Rd. at 3:30 p.m. on Thursday.

Any extra, unused yarn, as well as gift cards to purchase yarn, are very much appreciated. For further information, please call Villager Joyce Harper, 270-0904.



**St. Francis of Assisi Shawl Makers.**