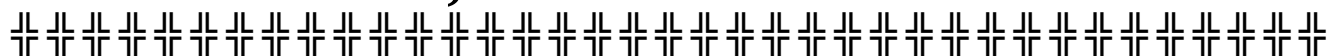


the secular franciscans

Our Lady of Guadalupe Fraternity

FEBRUARY, 2010



COUNCIL

Minister: Ceres Fernandez, SFO (562) 947-7849

Vice-Minister: Bill Armstrong, SFO (714) 524-3484

Secretary: Ron Wakefield, SFO (562) 699-0708

Treasurer: Ernesto Jimenez, SFO (714) 525-1432

Formation Director: Albert Hernandez, SFO (562) 945-5878

Spiritual Assistant: Vacant

Satellite: Immaculate Heart of Mary

Church, 1100 S. Center St., Santa Ana, CA

FRATERNITY CALENDAR

Feb. 10, Wednesday:

7:00 pm - Candidates

1:00 pm - General Meeting

Feb. 12, Friday: La Habra

6:30 pm - Fraternity council meeting

7:30 pm - General meeting

Mar. 19, Friday:

Band Concert - Ron's school

Feb. 12, Sunday: Santa Ana

1:00 pm - General Meeting

Mar. 24, Wednesday:

7:00 pm - Candidates

Feb. 17 - ASH WEDNESDAY

Feb. 24, Wednesday:

7:00 pm - Candidates

Mar. 6, Saturday:

Formation Seminar #3 - San Diego

Mar. 10, Wednesday:

7:00 pm - Candidates

Mar.12, Friday:

6:30 pm - Council meeting

7:30 pm - General meeting

INFIRMARIAN

Continue to pray for our dispensed members, **Gaynel Chamberlain**, and **Pascal Cano**, as well as for **Abelia Morales**; also pray for **Angel Ramos** who is recovering from surgery. Also commended to your prayers is **Frances Wicks**, editor of **The Tau** magazine, former regional treasurer, and her husband **Bill**, former National Minister. She had emergency surgery recently and is in very serious condition.

Websites for lots of good information:

www.stfrancisregion.org - St. Francis Region

www.nafra-sfo.org -National fraternity

www.ciofs.org/en.htm - International fraternity

www.franciscanresources.com

Mar. 14, Sunday: Santa Ana

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Written on January 1, 2010

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We welcome 2010 with great thanksgiving for 2009 and the years past for every second is indeed a gift from the Lord.

We were blessed in 2009 to be able to have meaningful activities. In October we had dinner together at El Adobe and then attended the transitus celebration hosted by the San Juan Capistrano fraternity. Also in October we gathered with our brothers and sisters of the St. Francis region to commemorate our 800th year as Franciscans. Our Santa Ana satellite fraternity had their visitation from the Region in November regarding their petition to become canonically established. In December we had the opportunity to participate in the vespers with the Melkite-Greek church in Placentia. We also served dinner for the ladies at the Isaiah House after the Christmas concert by school kids that our Franciscan brother, Ron, directed. It is also with sadness that in 2009 we experienced the passing on of our candidate Madalyn who suffered from cancer. May her soul rest in peace.

How can we do better in 2010 and what can we improve on? Personally, I want to spend more time in prayer, pray the rosary and scriptures more often. I also resolve to go to confession more often. All of us can improve on our prayer life. I think a good prayer life translates to becoming a better Franciscan.

As for our fraternity, I envision a more animated and spirit filled monthly meeting. We can make this happen by preparing and studying our material before the meeting. We already tried to start the meeting with our formation topic discussion first and putting announcements at the end. I think the result is positive. We can also try to give a chance to other members to share their thoughts by being concrete and concise in our own sharing. One member suggested having a time keeper so as to give everyone a chance to talk and share. We look forward to trying this. We welcome your thoughts and ideas on how to make our

formation more effective. We want each member to leave the meeting spiritually fed and each one of us has the responsibility to make this happen with the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Maybe for this year we should try to have a second meeting in a month to foster closer relationship between all of us. I know this is recommended and we have tried this in the past but it stopped. Maybe we can start this again? Or maybe we can have other activities in lieu of a second meeting from time to time. We can go to mass together and then breakfast after or attend Taize prayer at St Bruno's in Whittier which is held every 3rd Monday of the month. I invite you to think about some ideas and share them during the next meeting.

On this feast day of her solemnity we ask the Blessed Virgin Mary to pray for us and our fraternity.

Have a happy new year!

Yours in St. Francis,
Ceres

"Secular Franciscans should always act as a leaven in the environment in which they live through the witness of their fraternal love and clear Christian motivations." (Gen'l. Constitutions, Art. 19.1, on Rule 14)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

2/26 - Juana
Ollervides, SFO

RECEPTION:

1/6/93 - Ernesto &
Maria Jimenez, SFO,
Juana Ollervides, SFO
1/7/68 - Abelia Morales, SFO

PROFESSION:

2/2/69 - Abelia Morales, SFO



Spiritual Calendar for February

- 2** **Presentation of the Lord**
- 3** **Blase, bishop and martyr, and
Ansgar, bishop**
- 4** **Joseph of Leonissa, priest, 1st Order**

- 5 **Agatha**, virgin and martyr
- 6 **Peter Baptist, Paul Miki** and
companions, martyrs
*Included several Franciscan priests
and about 15 tertiaries (3rd Order)*
- 7 **Colette**, virgin, 2nd Order
- 8 **Jerome Emiliani**, holy man,
Josephine Bakhita
- 10 **Conrad of Piacenza**, hermit, 3rd
Order; **Scholastica**, virgin.
- 11 **Our Lady of Lourdes**
- 14 **Cyril**, monk, and **Methodius**, bishop
- 17 **ASH WEDNESDAY, Seven Seven**
Founders of the Order of Servites
- 19 **Conrad of Piacenza**, hermit, 3rd
Order
- 21 **Peter Damian**, bishop and doctor
- 22 **Chair of Peter**, apostle
- 23 **Polycarp**, bishop and martyr

REGIONAL CHAPTER MEETING

The annual Chapter meeting for St. Francis Region (Ministers' Meeting) was held January 14-17, 2010, at Marywood Retreat Center in Orange. With neither elections nor visitation scheduled this year, the focus was on Formation. Bob "Fitz" Fitzsimmons, our National Formation Director, made 4 presentations on Formation.

On Friday evening Fitz spoke briefly on Sylvia's theme of "Hearts on Fire for the Lord," using Joyce Rupp's "Hearts on Fire" as the basis. He gave the gathered ministers these questions for reflection: What were you last passionate about? Does your profession reflect the passion and fire of a personal call of the Holy Spirit for others? When were you last excited to be a Franciscan in pursuit of Jesus? What prevents you from imaging the Father as God wildly and recklessly in love with you? When did you last let your light shine?

Fitz entitled his Saturday morning presentation: "The Dream - Propositum Vitae - The Gospel Life." The life Francis chose was one of identity - a commitment to a

lifestyle based on following Jesus, and on a few lines of Scripture. (Mt. 19:21, Mt. 16:24, and Luke 9:3.) He was talking about a major shift in the model of the Church, from being primarily a Church based on Act - Apostolic, to a Church based on Jesus - Evangelical. Fitz set up a diagram of "Churchianity vs. Christianity." In the former we find hierarchy, unequal relationships, prayer limited primarily to "official" prayer and prayer forms. In the Evangelical church all are brothers and sisters, a family - all equal, prayer is available to all using any formula, especially contemplation, leaders occupy the role of servant, not lord. He challenged us with: Where are we, and where do we want to be?

Saturday afternoon's presentation was "Understanding the Economic Trinity," and was about giving ourselves completely, and recognizing that everything we are and have is a gift from God. We are only stewards of those gifts.

Sunday morning Fitz gave us an overview of where the formation process is going, and told us he anticipates nation-wide formation seminars on all the material being worked on now will be in 2011.

PROJECTS FOR 2010: Every fraternity was asked to approach youth groups in their parishes and on college campuses and present the H2O Lenten project to them and try to get some of them involved with it. That is part of our emphasis this year on Youth.