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The Canticle
August 2008

Regular Meeting: Sunday, August 10, at 2:00 PM–North Room, St. Helen’s Christian Living Center, followed by the Council Meeting.

Agenda and Schedule for Meeting:

- 2:00 Opening Prayer, Reports, Old/New Business
- 2:20 Blessing of our donations to the Food Pantry
- 2:25 Ongoing formation: Donna will give a talk on Contemplative Prayer
- 3:10 Refreshments and break
- 3:30 Liturgy of the Hours
- 4:00 Closing Prayer and dismissal
- 4:15 Council Meeting

Refreshment Committee:

- Snacks:** Fred Schaeffer and Elizabeth Smith
- Beverages:** Jack Solloway

Upcoming Events: “Journey into God,” retreat with Andre R. Cirino, OFM & Josef Raischl, SFO, to be held at the Franciscan Center in Tampa, March 20-29, 2009. There is no other information at this time.

Remember in your prayers: Julia McHugh, Jennie Donlin, Donna Haro, John Matthews, Fred Schaeffer, Marie Fee, Jack Solloway, and all professed Franciscans in our Florida region who are ill, as well as those members of our Fraternity who cannot attend our meetings regularly.

From the Minister’s Desk: The Catechism of the Catholic Church tells us that “Contemplative Prayer is the poor and humble surrender to the loving will of the Father in ever deeper union with His beloved Son. This focus on Jesus in a renunciation of self.”

In our busy lives we are not used to sitting still. We feel guilty if we’re not doing something. But Jesus calls us to a closer relationship with Him. In order to build a closer relationship with Him, we must spend time with Him alone in silence. Set aside some time every day to spend with Him. Start with five minutes and increase the time from there. Let him start a fire in your heart. May God bless us and bring us closer to Him “whom we love.”

God Will Heal You!

“While he was at table in his house, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat with Jesus and his disciples. The Pharisees saw this and said to his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners? He heard this and said, “Those who are well do not need a physician, but the sick do.” (Mat 9:10-12)

After Jesus asks Matthew, the tax collector, to join the apostles, and Matthew agrees to follow Jesus, the above Scripture took place. Jesus came on earth for only one reason, to redeem the sin of man through his final sacrifice on the Cross... even in his public ministry he heals many from sickness of both body and mind.

We all need his help. We are all sick in one way or the other. Rarely does one find a man or woman who needs no help at all. They may not admit they need help, but Jesus offers us help freely, so we can easily ask for something for us, or for others, when we pray.

**DIVINE MERCY
FRATERNITY
SECULAR FRANCISCAN
ORDER
VERO BEACH, FLORIDA**

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There is no question that God heals! In the days that Jesus was on earth, when the above Scripture took place, the people of those times didn't think much of tax collectors because many were crooks. So for a man such as Jesus, called a healer and holy man in those days, to be associated with tax collectors and to ask one of them (Matthew) to join his disciples - that looked very suspicious to the Pharisees. Jesus draws no favorites, He pulls no punches and He loves each and every one of us - and so He heals us when we ask Him for help.

In the 2000 years since His Resurrection, Jesus hasn't stopped healing! We get up in the morning, mostly cheerfully, or at least after we rub the sleep out of our eyes - that's His healing at work in us. Keeping our demeanor on an even keel with His help is largely up to us. Our Lord does not micro-manage, and He has given us a free will to make decisions ourselves. Through experience, we avoid people whom we do not like.

We love our sisters and brothers as He has commanded us to do --- but we do not have to like them. Those are two different matters. I often pray for people I do not like. Don't you?

That careless driver on the road who just cut you off ... we let God (and everyone in our car) know exactly how we feel about him or her, but we know deep down that this careless person needs help so he/she doesn't hit someone else! We pray for that person right then and there.

So we get to the office, and there we find our nemesis, that person who always dumps most of his work on our desk - our first thought is how to avoid that person... self-preservation, and we pray and ask for God's help. In fact, many people ask for God's help so frequently during the day that they aren't even aware of it. Praise God! - Don't stop ... He will reward you for your Faith in Him!

Events happen to us because God allows them to happen. The horrible floods in the Midwest caused by an overflowing Mississippi River. First thing many people ask: "Oh God, why did this happen to me?" There is really no answer to that, but prayer will help. Prayer always helps because God heals! The goodness of people who help other people, even strangers, in natural disasters or even man-made evil, is God's goodness. Our ability to do good to others comes from Our Lord. The man who jumped in the icy waters of that plane crash into the Potomac River some years ago to save victims who were drowning, his goodness and bravery comes from God.

The Franciscan priest, Fr. Michael Judge, OFM, Chaplain to the New York Fire Department gave his life during that horrible day of September 11, 2001 at the World Trade Center Towers. His goodness came from God - as He expressed this healing love through the priest.

God heals. He will heal you, too!
Do ask Him for help!