



# – the *CFJMES* –

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P.O. BOX 90366

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20090-0366

SEP Vol. LXI, No. 9

September 17, 2017

## Schedule

- 9:30am Inquiry Session – St. Bonaventure Room downstairs  
9:30am Candidate Session (2018) – Sacred Heart Room downstairs  
11:00am Franciscan Crown Rosary in Blessed Sacrament Chapel  
11:00am Council meeting – St. Bonaventure Room  
12:00pm Mass in Monastery church  
1:00pm Fraternity Social Gathering – St. Bonaventure Room – downstairs in the Friary. **Lunch and light refreshments will be provided**, so you needn't bring your own lunch.  
1:30pm Fraternity Meeting – St. Bonaventure Room

## Fraternity Meeting Agenda

- Opening prayer
- Housekeeping
- Guest speaker **Patrick Carolan** from **Franciscan Action Network**
- Committee meetings
- Closing Evening prayer. If you have the “Shorter Christian” Prayer Book, please bring it with you.

### ***DON'T FORGET YOUR BINDERS!***

Reminder: If you are unable to attend the fraternity meetings for more than one month, please notify one of the Council members. Thank you.

## ◆ Theme: **JUSTICE** ◆

### Bible Quote of the Month

Then the King will say to those on his right hand, “Come, you whom my Father has blessed, take as your heritage the kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you made me welcome, lacking clothes and you clothed me, sick and you visited me, in prison and you came to see me.” Then the upright will say to him in reply, “Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and make you welcome, lacking clothes and clothe you? When did we

find you sick or in prison and go to see you?” And the King will answer, “In truth I tell you, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me.” (*Mt 25:35-40*)

### Prayer of the Month

“Let us touch the dying, the poor, the lonely and the unwanted according to the graces we have received and let us not be ashamed or slow to do the humble work.” -*St Teresa of Calcutta*

**N.B.** It is 10 years ago this month that St. Teresa of Calcutta passed to her heavenly reward.

## Contact Information

### Fraternity Council

Please call before 9pm.



J. Patrick Enderson (Minister) 301-793-1516

[jpatrick\\_ofs@yahoo.com](mailto:jpatrick_ofs@yahoo.com)

Larry Bleau (Vice Minister) 301-474-1338

[vice-minister@dcsfo.org](mailto:vice-minister@dcsfo.org)

Bill Richardson (Secretary) 301-848-7390

[secretary@dcsfo.org](mailto:secretary@dcsfo.org)

Michele Dunne (Treasurer) 202-412-1210

[treasurer@dcsfo.org](mailto:treasurer@dcsfo.org)

Adele Lewis (Formation Dir.) 239-839-5489

[formation@dcsfo.org](mailto:formation@dcsfo.org)

Fr. Jim Gardiner, S.A. (Spiritual Assistant)

202-526-6800 x374 [spiritual@dcsfo.org](mailto:spiritual@dcsfo.org)

Larry Bleau (Chimes Editor) 301-474-1338

[chimes@dcsfo.org](mailto:chimes@dcsfo.org)

Also visit our web site: <http://dcsfo.org/>

### St. Margaret of Cortona Regional Council

Patrick Martin (Minister) [jpmmartin@gmail.com](mailto:jpmmartin@gmail.com)

Bob Longo (DC Metro Area Councilor)

[blongosfo@gmail.com](mailto:blongosfo@gmail.com)

### National Fraternity

Jan Parker (Minister) [jansfo@yahoo.com](mailto:jansfo@yahoo.com)

## ADMONITION OF ST. FRANCIS

### **10. On the chastisement of the body**<sup>1</sup>

There are many, who while they sin or receive injury, often blame their enemy or neighbor. But it is in error because each one has in his own power (his) enemy, namely the body, through which he sins. Whence “blessed is that servant” (Mt 24:46), who having surrendered such an enemy into his own power, has held it always captive and wisely guarded himself from it; because, as long as he has does this, no other enemy, visible or invisible, will be able to harm him.

<sup>1</sup> *The Writings of St. Francis of Assisi*, tr. by Paschal Robinson (1905), accessed September 9, 2017, URL <http://www.sacred-texts.com/chr/wosf/wosf03.htm>.



## The Rule

Chapter Two, Article 10 of The Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order.

United themselves to the redemptive obedience of Jesus, who placed his will into the Father's hands, let them faithfully fulfill the duties proper to their various circumstances of life. Let them also follow the poor and crucified Christ, witness to him even in difficulties and persecutions.

## The Information Corner – Pope Quote



“Truth is an inseparable companion of justice and mercy.” “I encourage you to entrust yourselves to the Lord, who is the only one who helps and inspires us to contribute to reconciliation and peace.” “Reconciliation is consolidated by the contribution of all. It enables us to build the future and makes hope grow.”<sup>2</sup>

## Papal Intention for the Month

Prayer Intention – Parishes: That our parishes, animated by a missionary spirit, may be places where faith is communicated and charity is seen.<sup>3</sup>

## October Birthdays – Members and Friars

October 6 – Margaret Murphy, 17 – Cornelia Hart, 22 – Gerda Biglin, 25 – Fra. Thomas Courtney, OFM.

## Fraternity Finances

**\$** Last month we received \$211 in donations and disbursed \$913 in expenses, which includes \$735 for our second Fair Share payment. Thirty-three of 43 members have paid their Fair Share (\$30 each) for 2017; if unsure if you paid, check with Michele Dunne.

<sup>2</sup> Sep 7 and 8, 2017. URL <http://twitter.com/pontifex>

<sup>3</sup> Apostleship of Prayer. Accessed September 8, 2017, URL <http://www.apostleshipofprayer.org/>

## **The Information Corner – Celebrating the Transitus**

*By Michele Dunne, OFS*

Religious and secular Franciscans join in a special devotion each **October 3** to commemorate the “transitus,” or passing, of St. Francis from this life into the next. As we know from his early biographer St. Thomas of Celano<sup>4</sup>, the last days of our Father Francis's life in 1226 were eventful. His brothers carried him from Assisi to his beloved Portiuncula, the “little portion” church on the plain below the city. As he sensed that Sister Death was near, Francis asked that the Passion of Our Lord from the Gospel according to St. John be read to him, and that he be covered in sackcloth and ashes. After he passed, his friars processed with his body to San Damiano (also in the plain below Assisi), so that St. Clare and her sisters might venerate him. It was at this time that most of the friars, sisters, and other Assisians saw the stigmata on St. Francis for the first time. They marveled at the stigmata, as well as the fact that, after a long illness that had marred his appearance, in death Francis's face was “shining white in its beauty...like the face of an angel.”



The Transitus is a ritual unique to Franciscans. It is not a mass, but rather a service of readings (from scripture as well as the biography or writings of the Saint), hymns, prayers, intercessions, and veneration of a relic. Documentary evidence of Franciscans carrying out the ritual goes back to the 1800s in France, since which time the Transitus has become a

<sup>4</sup> “The Life of Saint Francis”, by Thomas of Celano, in *Francis of Assisi: Early Documents*, Vol 1 (2001), pp. 277-280.

common and even essential observance among Franciscans. Its significance for us is strong; in the words Daniel Grigassy, OFM:

“The last act in the life of Francis tells of his final moments. Once reconciled with the grave, he embraces Sister Death and passes from life into Life. In the annual ritualization of his passing, his death story is retold. In the act of his dying, his entire life is summed up; its meaning for our Franciscan lives is intensified for another year of Christian living. His followers ritually revisit the story of the charismatic founder and specify its final moment. We intensify the memory of the ways his life initially inspired our own, however long ago. Once again we find new reasons to remain faithful to the same gospel task of conformity of Christ.”<sup>5</sup>

The friars at our monastery will commemorate the Transitus on Tuesday, **October 3 at 7pm**. Fraternity members are strongly encouraged to participate in this beautiful and moving ritual. It is wonderful opportunity to renew our vocations as well as to share that joy with religious and secular Franciscans from throughout the area.



### **Please Pray For Our Sick**

Julie Stratchko; Frank Klem's wife Dona; Fred Scharf's father; Pat Allnutt; Larry Bleau's father, Raymond Bleau; Mary Anne Corr and her niece, Patricia Corr; Maria Louisa Correa and her sister Maria Franco; Lourdes Corso and her family; Sarah Faizi's mother and her family; Jean Fleurival; Roy Foster; John Hewitt; Marianne Hughes; Sheily Kelly; Nancy McCleary; Fritz Nicholas and his family; Joe Rende; Vicky Spalding; Cecilia Thieman and her family; Helen Walls; Dineen Whipple; Donna Wilkes and her family; and Mildred Wray.

<sup>5</sup> “The Transitus: A Rite of Intensification,” Daniel Grigassy, OFM, *The Cord* 43 No 10 (1993) pp 261-274, URL [http://anne.ontargetwebsolutions.com/~friars/archive/stfrancis/Transitus/stf\\_The\\_Transitus\\_part1.htm](http://anne.ontargetwebsolutions.com/~friars/archive/stfrancis/Transitus/stf_The_Transitus_part1.htm)

## **September Reflection**

By Larry Bleau, OFS<sup>6</sup>

What is justice? Probably most of us think of social justice when we hear “justice”, but it is something more basic. Our Catechism (CCC 1807) says it is **“the moral virtue that consists in the constant and firm will to give their due to God and neighbor.”** While reflecting on this, several aspects came to mind.

Justice is a moral value, which is another term for a cardinal virtue, the others being prudence, fortitude, and temperance. A moral virtue guides us in doing moral good. Justice is, then, a moral good. Since all good things come from God, we can even consider justice as a gift from God.

Justice is constant and firm will. Justice is to be applied consistently and regularly, not just sporadically, else it would not be justice. Imagine a worker getting paid only occasionally! It is to be applied firmly, with an attitude that shows the action is right, true, moral, with no ambivalence. It is also an act of the will: it is something we contemplate, decide, and act upon to accomplish. We use our God given intellectual faculties to discern the moral good and, along with prudence, find the best way to accomplish it.

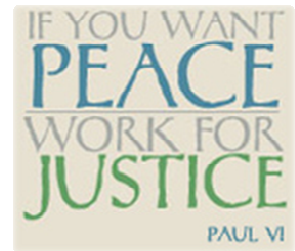
Justice is about giving someone *what is already due to them*. That is, the person is *already entitled*, by legal or moral right, to a thing, such as payment for work done, a fair trial, or choosing a spouse (or not). Justice gives that thing to the person. As an aside, consider how this differs from charity, wherein one *freely* gives to another *out of his own resources*. Justice is obligatory between two parties which can be other than oneself, while charity is done freely from oneself to another.

To whom is justice to be rendered? The scripture quote for this month gives us a broad hint: To everyone! If not, justice would be missing from some, which would be unjust. Justice is then a universal moral value and goal.

<sup>6</sup> Sources used for this reflection include the Catechism, *Catholic Encyclopedia*, and web site [newadvent.org](http://newadvent.org).

In particular, we render justice to God and to neighbor. To our neighbor, the claims of justice can involve legal aspects of our relation, moral dimensions, even relations between individuals and societies. To God, justice requires we give Him honor, praise, thanks, and obedience, as our Creator and Redeemer.

Justice is something between persons, so in that sense its implementation is in line with our Franciscan vocation. Franciscan theology is relational: between persons and



between a person and God. Thus, when we accomplish justice we carry out our professed vocation, and bring justice to the oppressed, just as Jesus would do. We are to “put on the mind of Christ,” to use St. Paul’s expression. And what more Franciscan can one be than to follow Christ?

### **Franciscan Feastdays and Memorials**

October 3 – St. John of Dukla, priest, I Order; 4 – Our Holy Father Francis, deacon, Founder of the Three Orders; 5 – St. Anna Schäffer, OFS (on cofs website, she died on Oct 5th); 6 – St. Mary Frances of the Five Wounds, virgin, III Order; 10 – St. Daniel, priest, and companions, martyrs [Angelus, Samuel, Donulus, Leo, Hugolinus and Nicholas], I Order; Bl. Mother Mary Angela Truszkowska, III Order; 11 – Bl. John XIII, pope, III Order; 12 – St. Seraphin of Montegrano, religious, I Order; 13 – Bl. Honorat Kozminski, priest, I Order, founder; 16 – The Servant of the Lord—James of the Rosary; 20 – Bl. James of Strepar, bishop, I Order; Bl. Contardo Ferrini, III Order; 21 – Bl. Josephine Leroux, virgin, martyr, II Order; 22 – St. Peter of Alcantara, priest, I Order; 23 – St. John of Capestrano, priest, I Order; 25 – Saint Antonio de Santa Ana (Frei Galvao); Bl. Maria Jesus Ferragut, virgin, and companions, martyrs of Valencia (Maria Veronica Masiá, Maria Felicity Masiá Ferragut, Isabel Claduch Rovira, Milagros Ortells Gimeno), II Order; 26 – Bl. Bonaventure of Potenza, priest, I Order; 31 – Bl. Angelo of Acri, priest, I Order.