



— the CHIMES —

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P.O. BOX 90366

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20090-0366

FEB Vol. LXII, No. 2

February 18, 2018

Schedule

- 9:00am Council meeting
9:30am Orientation Session – St. Bonaventure Room downstairs
9:30am Candidate Session (2019) – St. Clare Room – upstairs in the Friary
9:30am Candidate Session (2018) – Sacred Heart Room downstairs
11:15am Franciscan Crown Rosary in Blessed Sacrament Chapel
12:00pm Mass in Monastery church
1:00pm Fraternity Social Gathering – St. Bonaventure Room – downstairs in the Friary. Bring your own lunch, light refreshments will be provided.
1:30pm Fraternity Meeting – St. Bonaventure Room

Fraternity Meeting Agenda

- Opening prayer
- Announcements, Housekeeping
- Short Teaching on Detachment; bring your **Red Rule Book**
- Closing Evening prayer, using the book “**Shorter Christian Prayer**”; 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. The criteria for Active-excused and Lapsed member status is explained in the Fraternity guidelines. Thank you.

◆ Theme: DETACHMENT ◆

Bible Quote of the Month

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Mt 6:19-21)



Prayer of the Month

Lord, You have called us to serve You each day of our lives, in the midst of a world filled with material things which are temptations to each of us. Give us Your grace by which we may live detached from these earthly things and see them, not as possessions of our own and for ourselves, but rather as gifts entrusted by You to each of us to be used in the service of humanity, especially the poor, and for Your greater glory. Amen.



Contact Information

Fraternity Council

Please call before 9pm.



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ADMONITION OF ST. FRANCIS

14. On poverty of spirit ¹

“Blessed (are) the poor in spirit, since theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven” (Mt 5:3). There are many, who persisting in prayers and (liturgical) offices practice many abstinences and afflict their own bodies, but because of a single word, which seems to be injurious to their bodies or because of anything, which is brought against them, being scandalized, they are continually disturbed. These are not poor in spirit; since he who is truly poor in spirit, hates his very self and loves those who beat him in the face (cf. Mt 5:39).



¹ *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 14 of The Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order.

Secular Franciscans, together with all people of good will, are called to build a more fraternal and evangelical world so that the kingdom of God may be brought about more effectively. Mindful that anyone who follows Christ, the perfect man, becomes more of a man himself, let them exercise their responsibilities competently in Christian spirit of service.

The Information Corner – Pope Quote



“A faith that does not trouble us is a troubled faith. A faith that does not make us grow is a faith that needs to grow.”

“Goodness, together with love, justice and solidarity, are not achieved once and for all; they have to be realized each day.” ²

Papal Intention for the Month

Universal Intention – Say “No” to **Corruption**. That those who have material, political or spiritual power may resist any lure of corruption. ³

Fraternity Finances

💰 No figures were available by the time the Chimes went to publication. The annual report will be presented at the meeting.

Chimes By Email

If you currently receive the Chimes by postal mail but are able to receive it by email, Council asks that you let Larry Bleau know (301-474-1338, or chimes@dcsfo.org) so he can switch you to the email list and reduce the fraternity’s costs. Thank you.

² Feb 1 and Jan 30, 2018. URL <http://twitter.com/pontifex>

³ Pope’s Worldwide Prayer Network. Accessed February 1, 2018, URL <http://popesprayerusa.net/popese-intentions/>

The Information Corner

Feb 25th – Feastday of Blessed Sebastian of Aparicio.⁴

Sebastian's roads and bridges connected many distant places. His final bridge-building was to help men and women recognize their God-given dignity and destiny.

Sebastian's parents were Spanish peasants. At age 31, he sailed to Mexico, where he began working in the fields.



Eventually he built roads to facilitate agricultural trading and other commerce. His 466-mile road from Mexico City to Zacatecas took 10 years to build and required careful negotiations with the

indigenous peoples along the way.

In time Sebastian was a wealthy farmer and rancher. At the age of 60, he entered a virginal marriage. His wife's motivation may have been a large inheritance; his was to provide a respectable life for a girl without even a modest marriage dowry. When his first wife died, he entered another virginal marriage for the same reason; his second wife also died young.

At age 72, Sebastian distributed his goods among the poor and entered the Franciscans as a brother. Assigned to the large (100-member) friary at Puebla de los Angeles south of Mexico City, Sebastian collected alms for the friars for the next 25 years. His charity to all earned him the nickname "Angel of Mexico."

Sebastian was beatified in 1787 and is known as a patron of travelers.

Fair Share – What Is It?

Article 25 of the Rule asks us to "*contribute toward the expenses of the higher fraternity councils.*" The St. Margaret of Cortona Regional Fraternity's suggested Fair Share donation is \$30 per active member (\$20 for active-excused). If

⁴ Franciscan Media, accessed Jan 15, 2018, URL <https://www.franciscanmedia.org/blessed-sebastian-of-aparicio/>

you have not already done so, please include a Fair Share contribution in this month's envelope, and write "Fair Share" on the envelope or check.

From the Mailbox: News of our Family

- **Chris Cropper** has a new address: 11711 Wisteria Pond Way #311, Manassas, VA 20109-3839.
- **Helen Walls** sends her wishes and prays for all members. She has a new address: #2 St. Pius X, Elverson, PA 19520-9461; phone 610-470-4890.
- **John Whipple** misses the fraternity; he still plays music for the Lord every Sunday. A true Troubadour! Keep him and his wife Dineen in your prayers.



Call Your Council!

Have you become ill recently? New work schedule that takes up your Sundays? Moved out of the DC area? Tell your Council these things! Your Franciscan family can't know the trials and hardships of your life – or your joys –



unless you share these with them. The examples just given are also good reasons to request active-excused status. Ask your Council about this option. Even when active-excused, we still love to hear from you, so call us, send a note or an email, and stay in touch with the fraternity, whose members love you and pray for you.

Please Pray For Our Sick

Mildred Wray; Nita Mullins; Pat Allnutt; Larry Bleau's wife, Valerie Bleau, and his friend, Fred Hoeck; Amy Cabigas (lots of prayers); Mary Anne Corr and her family; Maria Louisa Corriea and her family; Lourdes Corso and her family; Sarah Faizi's mother and her friend, Ron Harner; Jean Fleurival; Roy Foster; John Hewitt; Nancy McCleary; Margaret Murphy's husband, Jim Murphy; Fritz Nicholas and his family; Brenda Nutt; Leonora Okuma; Mary Okuma's family; Fritz Nicholas and his family; Patricia Pflieger; Joe Rende; Fred Scharf's father; Cecilia Thieman and her family; Dineen Whipple; Donna Wilkes and her family; Helen Walls; Dineen Whipple.

Day of Reflection – Beholding the Face of Christ In Others



The St. Margaret of Cortona Region will hold a **Franciscan Day of Reflection** on Saturday, April 7, 8:30am-4:00pm. It is entitled **Beholding the Face of Christ In Others** and will be held at the Shrine of St. Anthony in Ellicott City. This is open to all Inquirers, Candidates, those in Orientation and newly professed. Cost is \$50, and the registration form (http://dcsfo.org/handouts/2018_DayofReflection.pdf) must be returned by Mar 24. The Formation Team and Council urge those in initial formation to attend.

If you would like to attend but have limited means, contact a Council member privately for assistance; you should not miss this opportunity.

Lenten Retreat – A Call To Conversion

A **Lenten Retreat** will be held on Saturday, Feb 24, 9am-4pm, at the Monastery. The presenter will be our very own Spiritual Assistant, Fr. Jim Gardner, SA. Its focus will be on **A Call to Conversion**. Cost is \$40, registration is needed by Feb 21. See the registration flyer on our web site at (http://dcsfo.org/handouts/2018_LentenRetreat.pdf) for more details.



March Birthdays

March 3 – Mary Gigliotti, 4 – Francis Kane, 5 – Vilma Camposano, 9 – Patricia Allnutt, 11 – Ling Guiron, 11 – Fritz Nicolas, 16 – John Whipple, 24 – Kady Konan, 25 – Mary Anne Corr, 30 – Rita Aughenbaugh.

Franciscan Feastdays and Memorials

March 2 – Blessed Agnes of Prague, virgin of II Order (optional memorial for II and III Order nuns); 9 – Saint Frances of Rome, religious of III Order (optional memorial); and 24 – Blessed Didacus Joseph of Cadiz, priest of I Order (optional memorial).

February Reflection

By Larry Bleau, OFS

Detachment, this month's theme, has many aspects. The one being explored this month by our Formation Director, Adele Lewis, deals with detachment from temporal goods and how we, as Franciscan laypersons, might apply this in our daily lives, keeping in mind Article 11 of our Rule (<http://dcsfo.org/rule.php>).

Temporal, or worldly, goods include material things. There are physical things – money, our home, furniture, vehicles, jewelry – which we acquire and, if we are not careful, to which we become beholden. Then there are more abstract things, such as wealth and power, which can also lead to our downfall. Even Sister Earth herself, the environment in which we live and move and have our being, we can come to think of as “ours”.

In the Gospels Jesus instructs us to be good “stewards,” not “owners.” If one has a legal turn of mind, the term “trustee” might suggest itself: one who is in charge of something for the sole benefit of another, never for oneself. Our approach to life changes if we think all that we own as merely being held in trust for a greater good, something other than ourselves, and we are prepared to let go of it for that purpose. Our actions and thoughts are then other-centered.



There is an old folk song whose refrain is “They will know we are Christians by our love.” How might another know we are Franciscan? Certainly by our love, not only for one another, but for everyone. Beyond that, though, we could be distinguished by our detachment from material things, our ability to let them go. Once we remove them from a central role in our lives, it frees us to make Jesus our center. We can then, in a truly Franciscan manner, express this love and caring towards our brothers and sisters, all those around us, and all of His creation.