



# – the CHIMES –

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P.O. BOX 90366

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20090-0366

MAR Vol. LXII, No. 3

March 18, 2018

## Schedule

- 9:00am Council meeting – Sacred Heart Room  
9:30am Orientation Session – Sacred Heart Room downstairs  
9:30am Candidate Session (2019) – St. Clare Room – upstairs in the Friary  
9:30am Candidate Session (2018) – St. Bonaventure Room downstairs  
11:00am 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  
2:45pm Council meeting (continued)

## Fraternity Meeting Agenda

- Opening prayer
- News of members, housekeeping
- Triduum – Presentation by our Spiritual Assistant, Fr. Jim Gardiner, S.A.
- Formation Q&A (new, see article)
- Evening prayer. Please bring your book “Shorter Christian Prayer” with you.
- Closing prayer

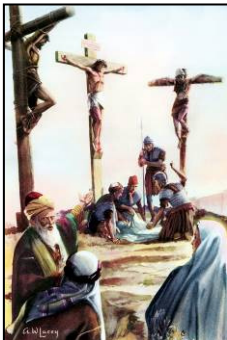
### ***DON'T FORGET YOUR BINDERS!***

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: THE TRIDUUM ◆

### Bible Quote of the Month

And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of the Skull), they gave Jesus wine to drink mixed with gall. But when



he had tasted it, he refused to drink. After they had crucified him, they divided his garments by casting lots; then they sat down and kept watch over him there. And they placed over his head the written charge against him: This is Jesus, the King of the Jews. (Mt 27:33-37)

### Prayer of the Month

O Jesus, it is not the heavenly reward you have promised which impels me to love you; neither is it the threat of hell that keeps me from offending you.

It is you O Lord, it is the sight of you affixed to the Cross and suffering insults; it is the sight of your broken body, as well as your pains and your death.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Parish of Saint Agnes Cathedral, Rockville Centre, NY, accessed Mar 7, URL

<http://www.stagnescathedral.org/Prayers/Triduum.html>

### **Contact Information**

#### **Fraternity Council**

Please call before 9pm.



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### **ADMONITION OF ST. FRANCIS**

#### **15. On peace<sup>2</sup>**

“Blessed (are) the peacemakers, since they shall be called sons of God” (*Mt 5:9*). Those truly are the peacemakers, who concerning all those things, which they suffer in this age, preserve peace in soul and body for the sake of the love (*amor*) of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

### **Fraternity Finances**

**\$** Last month we received \$377 in donations and paid \$48.82 in expenses. Our Fair Share invoice for 2018 – the total amount due from our fraternity – is \$1,130, which we must pay by May. Please donate your fair share at your earliest convenience: \$30 for active professed and candidates, \$20 for excused members.

<sup>2</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 15 of The Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order.

Let them individually and collectively be in the forefront in promoting justice by the testimony of their human lives and their courageous initiatives. Especially in the field of public life, they should make definite choices in harmony with their faith.

### **The Information Corner – Pope Quote**



“Let us learn to recognize that which leaves a good and lasting mark on our hearts, knowing that it comes from God.” “With so much to do, we often neglect what is really important: our spiritual lives, and our relationship with God. So let’s stop and take time to pray!”<sup>3</sup>

### **Papal Intention for the Month**

**Prayer Intention – Evangelization: Formation in Spiritual Discernment** – That the Church may appreciate the urgency of formation in spiritual discernment, both on the personal and communitarian levels.<sup>4</sup>

### **Formation Q&A**

This month we will try something new in our meeting: A period during which those in Initial Formation can ask questions of their professed brothers and sisters of the Secular Franciscan Order. Reflect on what you’d like to know, and let the Spirit guide you.



<sup>3</sup> Mar 6 and 9, 2018. URL <http://twitter.com/pontifex>

<sup>4</sup> Pope’s Worldwide Prayer Network. Accessed March 3, 2018, URL <http://popesprayerusa.net/popese-intentions/>

## The Information Corner

**Mar 2nd** – Feastday of St Agnes of Bohemia<sup>5</sup>

Agnes (1203-1280, not to be confused with St. Clare's sister) was born in Prague, daughter of King Ottokar I of Bohemia and Queen Constance. Although her family intended her to marry the king Henry III of England, Agnes – deeply affected by meeting Franciscan friars and sisters in Prague – resisted and eventually joined the Poor Clares in 1236. Agnes is famous as the recipient of a number of personal letters from St. Clare, in which many of Clare's important teachings about prayer are preserved. "Place your mind before the mirror of eternity!" St. Clare wrote to Agnes, "and transform your whole being into the image of the Godhead itself through contemplation." Agnes was canonized in 1989 by John Paul II.



## Franciscan Feastdays and Memorials

April 2 – Bl. Elisabetta Vendramini, religious, III Order, founder; 3 – St. Benedict the Moor, religious, I Order (Sometimes celebrated on April 4); 6 – St. Crescentia Höss, virgin, III Order; 16 – St. Bernadette Soubirous, cord-bearer of St. Francis; St. Benedict Joseph Labre, cord-bearer of St. Francis; 21 – St. Conrad of Parzham, religious, I Order; 23 – Bl. Giles of Assisi, religious, I Order; 24 – St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen, priest, martyr, I Order; 25 – Bl. Pedro de San Jose Betancur, religious, III Order, founder; 27 – St. Zita of Lucca, virgin, III Order; 28 – Bl. Luchesius, III Order; 30 – Bl. Benedict of Urbino, priest, I Order; St. Benedict Joseph Cottolengo, III Order.

## Feastdays of Franciscan Friars

Keep in your prayers friar David Wathen, whose feast day is April 4.

<sup>5</sup> Ellsberg, Robert (1996), *The Franciscan Saints*, Franciscan Media, pp 45-46.

## From the Mailbox: News of our Family

- **Brenda Nutt** is recovering from knee replacement; her new address is 102 East 5th St., Williamstown, WV 26187, phone 301-481-3009.
- **Gerda Biglin** has a new telephone number: 860-558-6476.
- **Mary Anne Corr** had a fall last year and had to move from home. Her new address is c/o Bartholomew House, 6904 River Rd., Bethesda, MD 20817; she has no phone, but the office phone is 301-320-6151. She thinks about our members, misses them badly, and asks for our prayers. Mary Anne, we all miss you, too!



## April Birthdays

April 6 – Bill Richardson, 9 – Virginia Lyons, and 28 – Saturnino Camposano.

## Please Pray For Our Sick

Mildred Wray; Nita Mullins†; Pat Allnutt; Larry Bleau's friends Fred Hoeck and Carol Savage; Amy Cabigas; Mary Anne Corr and her family; Maria Louisa Corriea and her sister Maria Franco; Lourdes Corso and her family; Sarah Faizi's mother and her friend, Ron Harner; Jean Fleurival; Roy Foster; John Hewitt; Adele Lewis; Nancy McCleary; Margaret Murphy's husband, Jim Murphy; Fritz Nicholas and his family; Brenda Nutt; Leonora Okuma's family; Fritz Nicholas and his family; Joe Rende; Fred Scharf's father; Cecilia Thieman and her family; Dineen Whipple; Donna Wilkes and her family; Helen Walls.

## Pray For Our Deceased Nita Mullins,

who died last month. Nita has been a member of our fraternity for a very long time. She has been quite ill and has lived at and been cared for by the Little Sisters of the Poor. May the souls of the faithful departed, especially those of our members and their families, rest in eternal peace in the presence of our Lord.

## **March Reflection**

*By Larry Bleau, OFS*

“...leave your offering there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering.” (Mt 5:24)

This passage foreshadows Jesus’s formal initiation of the sacrament of Reconciliation, at which he gives his apostles authority to bind and loose sins. Jesus’s desire that we forgive and be forgiven is so strong that he implores – even commands – us to first seek out this forgiveness before even offering sacrifice to God or worshipping Him the temple.



What a wonderful gift Jesus has given to his faithful! No longer should we consider ourselves doomed to be punished by a wrathful God. This negative image is replaced by the loving image of Jesus speaking to us as a brother, father, and mother.

Jesus’s love is boundless, and he is ready to bestow his graces on all who ask for them with sincere heart. He could have just stopped here and commanded us to seek forgiveness; this would have been significant enough. He goes much further, though, elevating this to the level of a sacrament. In this way He makes this sacramental forgiveness available to all generations.

St. Francis also gave us a model of forgiveness. He begged forgiveness of others for his own actions, such as when he fasted too strongly and another friar, attempting to imitate Francis, came close to starvation. He readily forgave others their misdeeds, such as when he forgave

robbers who tried to raid the hermitage where he stayed. Francis, by acting lovingly towards them, made them realize their own offences and thereby brought about their true conversion.



As Secular Franciscans, we strive to make Christ present to all whom we meet. Let us each seek out a way to forgive others, to ask forgiveness for our own actions, and receive this wonderful sacrament of Reconciliation during Lent. The Lord has given us an invitation and an offer of grace; let us accept it whole heartedly and remain with Him always.

## **Holy Week Events**

Don’t forget to put Holy Week activities on your schedule. Here is what is happening at the Monastery:

- Wed, Mar 28, 7:30pm – Tenebrae
- Thu, Mar 29, 7:30pm – Holy Thursday
- Fri, Mar 30, 2:30pm – Stations of the Cross
- Fri, Mar 30, 3:30pm – Passion of Our Lord
- Fri, Mar 30, 7:30pm – Burial Service
- Sat, Mar 31, 8:00pm – Easter Vigil Mass

