



# - *the Chimes* -

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December 16, 2018



## **No Fraternity Meeting This Month**



There will be no meeting this month. Formation classes (both Candidate and the new Orientation) will start in January on regular schedule. Look for times and room locations in the January *Chimes*.

◆ Theme: **HUMILITY** ◆

### **Bible Quote of the Month**

Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave, and being made in the likeness of men. (*Phil 2:3-7*)



### **Prayer of the Month**

“My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my savior. For he has looked upon his handmaid’s lowliness; behold, from now on will all ages call me blessed. The Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is from age to age to those who fear him. He has shown might with his arm, dispersed the arrogant of mind and heart. He has thrown down the rulers from their thrones but lifted up the lowly. The hungry he has filled with good things; the rich he has sent away empty. He has helped Israel his servant, remembering his mercy, according to his promise to our fathers, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”



## Contact Information

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Please call before 9pm.



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## ADMONITION OF ST. FRANCIS

### 24. On true love <sup>1</sup>

Blessed (is) the servant, who would love (dilectio) his own brother as much, when he is infirm to the point that he cannot repay him, as when he is a healthy (brother), who can repay him.

Blessed (is) the servant, who would so love and fear his own brother, when he is far from him, as when for example he is with him, and would not say anything behind him, which he cannot, with charity, say before him.

### Fraternity Finances

**\$** Last month we received \$530 in donations and disbursed \$82.90 in expenses.

<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 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



“This Advent, make yourself small, make yourself humble, make yourself a servant of others, and the Lord will give you the ability to understand how to make peace.” “Loving

God means serving our neighbour without reserve, and trying to forgive without limits.”<sup>2</sup>

## Papal Intention for the Month

Evangelization Intention – **In the Service of the Transmission of Faith.** That people, who are involved in the service and transmission of faith, may find, in their dialogue with culture, a language suited to the conditions of the present time.<sup>3</sup>

## Christmas Donations

Each year Council approves various donations, reserving enough funds to pay for upcoming fraternity expenses. This year Council decided to donate a total of \$550 to the following organizations: Franciscan Monastery, Franciscan Foundation for the Holy Land, Franciscan Mission Service, Catholic Charities, So Others May Eat, and Franciscan Family Apostolate (in addition to our regular donation). Thank you for your generosity.



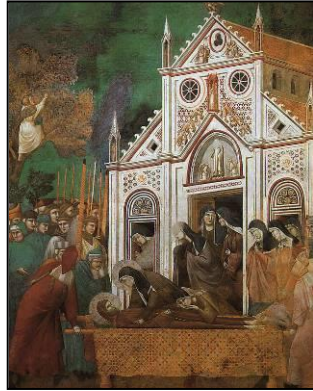
<sup>2</sup> Dec 4 and 7, 2018. URL <http://twitter.com/pontifex>

<sup>3</sup> Pope’s Worldwide Prayer Network. Accessed Nov 26, 2018, URL <http://popesprayerusa.net/popese-intentions/>

## The Information Corner

### **Dec 12th** – Finding of the body of St. Francis <sup>4</sup>

It is said that St. Francis had, in his humility, expressed a wish to be buried on the Colle d'Inferno, a hill outside of Assisi where criminals were executed. However this may be, on October 4, 1226, the day after he passed, his body was borne in triumphant procession to the city, stopping at St. Damian's so that St. Clare and her companions might venerate the sacred stigmata now visible to all. His body was placed provisionally in the church of St. George, where he had learned to read and had first preached. Many miracles are recorded to have taken place at his tomb.



Francis was canonized at St. George's by Gregory IX on July 16, 1228. On the following day the pope laid the first stone of the great double church of St. Francis, erected in honour of the new saint, and on May 25, 1230, Francis's remains were secretly transferred there by Brother Elias and buried far down under the high altar in the lower church.

On December 12, 1818, after lying hidden for six centuries, Francis's coffin was found as a

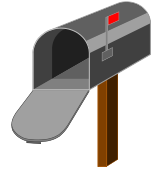


<sup>4</sup> Robinson, P. (1909). St. Francis of Assisi. In *The Catholic Encyclopedia*. Retrieved and edited Dec 7, 2018, from New Advent, URL <http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/06221a.htm>

result of a toilsome search lasting fifty-two nights. This discovery of the saint's body is commemorated in the order by a special office on December 12.

### From the Mailbox: News of our Family

- **Amy Bilyeau** has moved, her new address is 3127 Ravensworth Place, Alexandria, 22302
- **Margaret Murphy** says hello to our members.
- Recently we received a handwritten letter from the family in India whom the Fraternity supports through the Franciscan Family Apostolate program. Here is an extract from the letter. Please keep them in your prayers.



Dear friend,



With a very grateful heart I pen these few lines to you. I have received your timely aid which you sent for my family. We, the family members, are ever grateful to you for the same.

How are you and your dear ones? How is your weather? Hope the climate over there is fine and favorable for your health.

This year monsoon creates lots of calamities in our Kerala State. Beginning in 15th August 2018, severe floods affected Kerala due to unusually high rain fall during the monsoon season. About 500 people died, some people are missing. At least a million people were evacuated, mainly from the eastern parts of Aleppy. By God's grace we are safe.

We are happy to share with you some news about our family. As you know, myself and my husband were taking regular medicine. Now we are recovered from it and we go for our work. Laya, Lidhiya, and Samuel are continuing their studies. By the grace of God we are all doing well.

We wish you a very happy and blessed feast of St. Francis of Assisi.

Yours sincerely, Mary Sebastian

**Pray For Our Deceased** Vicky Spalding's father, **John Stephen Lynch**, who passed on Dec 4, and Bill Richardson's brother, **David Richardson**, who passed on Dec 6. 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.

### **Please Pray For Our Members**

Joe Gigliotti; Rosemary Bordley and her family; Mary Anne Corr and her niece, Patricia Corr; Maria Louisa Correa; Lourdes Corso and her family; Sarah Faizi, her family, and her friend Rich Gilgallon; John Hewitt; Nancy McCleary; Margaret Murphy and her husband Jim; Fritz Nicholas and his family; Carol Petro; Bill Richardson; Cecilia Thieman and her family; Helen Walls; John and Dineen Whipple; and Donna Wilkes and her family.

### **Franciscan Feastdays and Memorials**

January 1 – Solemnity of the Mother of God; 3 – Holy Name of Jesus (memorial); 7 – Blessed Angela of Foligno, religious of III Order (optional memorial for III Order); 12 – Saint Bernard of Corleone, religious of I Order (optional memorial); 14 – Blessed Odoric of Pordenone, priest of I Order (optional memorial); 16 – Saints Berard, priest, and companions, protomartyrs of the I Order (memorial); 24 – Saint Francis de Sales, bishop, doctor, cord-bearer of Saint Francis (memorial); 27 – Saint Angela Merici, virgin of III Order, founder (memorial); 30 – Saint Hyacinth of Mariscotti, virgin of III Order (optional memorial for III Order); and 31 – Saint John Bosco, priest of III Order, founder (memorial).

### **January Birthdays**

January 4 – Victoria Spalding; 15 – Dineen Whipple; 17 – Adele Lewis; 29 – John Hewitt, Bennett Solberg; and 30 – Anthony Mazzucco.

### **Feastdays of Franciscan Friars**

Pray for the following friars, whose feast days are next month: January 3 – Manuel Ybarra, and 20 – John-Sebastian.

## **December Reflection**

*By Larry Bleau, OFS*

During this season of Advent there are many things we could ponder: our Lord's great love, his poverty, our anticipation at His coming, and more. When I started to write to you, brothers and sisters, I was moved to consider humility.

Jesus exhibited humility in the very form He assumed, becoming like us in human form. He had to deal with all the trials and temptations we do as humans, learning from them, growing, in wisdom, age, and grace. He was called upon to preach a prophetic and redemptive message to his followers; and even those who were not!

Later, He took the form of bread, a lowly, earthly substance elevated to the divine by the action of a priest. Francis himself recognized this when he wrote, "O sublime humility! O humble sublimity! The Lord of the universe, God and the Son of God, so humbles Himself that for our salvation He hides Himself under an ordinary piece of bread."<sup>5</sup>

Francis, in following our Lord, sought out His humility as well, practicing it in every aspect of his life. True, he was not always thus, but after answering his call to conversion he took on this task seriously: his encounter with the leper, his referring to himself and the friars as the "lesser brothers", his recognition of his own unworthiness compared to the enormous graces our Lord provides, which ours for the asking.

We, as Christians, are called to follow the example of Christ, and as Secular Franciscans, St. Francis has shown us the way by providing us with our Rule.



So let us contemplate, during this season of Advent, the coming of Jesus, doing so with humility of heart and spirit, so that, with the intercession of Mary, we may better prepare ourselves to receive him into our lives.

<sup>5</sup> *Francis of Assisi The Saint: Early Documents, The Writings of Francis of Assisi, A Letter to the Entire Order, p118, v27.*