



- the Chimes -

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MAR Vol. LXIII, No. 3

March 15, 2019

REMINDER: April's meeting will be April 28, the 4th Sunday of the month.

Schedule

- 7:30am Capuchin Breakfast Ministry
- 9:30am Council meeting – Sacred Heart Room
- 10:30am Candidate Session (2018&2019) – Sacred Heart Room downstairs
- 11:15am Franciscan Crown Rosary in St. Bonaventure Room
- 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
- News and updates
- Rule Discussion – Article 4, Way of Life
- Presentation – St. Patrick
- Closing Evening prayer. We'll be praying St. Patrick's Breastplate 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: **WAY OF LIFE** ◆

Bible Quote of the Month

Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (*Jn 14:6*)

Prayer of the Month

Lord Jesus, You alone are holy and good, and all that is holy comes from the Father through You. You came into this world, not only to redeem us, but to show us Your great love. Grant that we, who desire to follow Your Word in our lives, may do so faithfully, and by our example bring all to You, Most High, Who lives and reigns with the Holy Spirit. Amen.



Contact Information

Fraternity Council

Please call before 9pm.



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ADMONITION OF ST. FRANCIS

27. On concealing good lest it be lost ¹



Blessed (is) the servant, who stores up “in Heaven” (*Mt 6:20*) the good things, which the Lord hath revealed to him and does not desire to disclose them to men for profit or gain, for the Most High Himself will manifest his deeds to whomever He has pleased. Blessed (is) the servant, who keeps the secrets of the Lord “in his heart” (cf. *Lk 2:19.51*).

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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 4 of The Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order.

The rule and life of the Secular Franciscans is this: to observe the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ by following the example of Saint Francis of Assisi, who made Christ the inspiration and the center of his life with God and people.

Christ, the gift of the Father's love, is the way to him, the truth into which the Holy Spirit leads us, and the life which he has come to give abundantly.

Secular Franciscans should devote themselves especially to careful reading of the gospel, going from gospel to life and life to the gospel.

The Information Corner – Pope Quote



“Sometimes we may feel we are alone in facing difficulties. But, even if He doesn’t intervene immediately, the Lord walks by our side and, if

we keep going forward, He will open up a new path.” “At the beginning of Lent, it would do us good to ask for the grace to preserve the memory of all that the Lord has done in our lives, of how He has loved us.”²

Papal Intention for the Month

Prayer Intention – Recognition of the Right of Christian Communities. That Christian communities, especially those who are persecuted, feel that they are close to Christ and have their rights respected.³

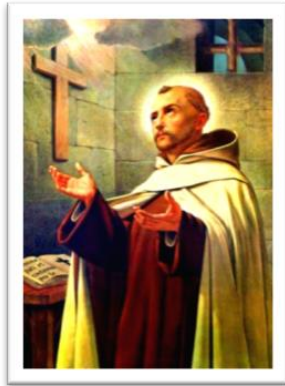
² Mar 2 and 7, 2019. URL <http://twitter.com/pontifex>

³ Pope’s Worldwide Prayer Network. Accessed Mar 3, 2019, URL <http://popesprayerusa.net/popese-intentions/>

The Information Corner

Mar 5th – Feastday of St. John of the Cross⁴

St. John Joseph of the Cross was born about the middle of the 17th century in the island of Ischia, near Naples. From his childhood he was the model of virtue, and in his sixteenth year he entered the Franciscan Order of the Strictest Observance, or Reform of St. Peter of Alcantara. Such was the edification he gave in his Order, that within three years after his profession he was sent to found a monastery in Piedmont. He became a priest out of obedience, and obtained, as it seems, an inspired knowledge of moral theology. With his superiors' permission he built another convent and drew up rules for that community, which were confirmed by the Holy See. He afterward became Master of Novices. Sometimes later he was made provincial of the province of Naples. He labored hard to establish in Italy that branch of his Order which the sovereign Pontiff had separated from the one in Spain. In his work he suffered much, and became the victim of numerous calumnies. However, the saint succeeded in his labors, endeavoring to instill in the hearts of his subjects, the double spirit of contemplation and penance bequeathed to his Reform by St. Peter of Alcantara. St. John Joseph exemplified the most sublime virtues, especially humility and religious discipline. He also possessed numerous gifts in the supernatural order, such as those of prophesy and miracles. Finally, consumed by labors for the glory of God, he was called to his reward. Stricken with apoplexy, he died an octogenarian in his convent at Naples on March 5, 1734.



Capuchin Breakfast Ministry

You may have noticed a new item on our schedule: Capuchin Breakfast Ministry. This is the hands-on apostolate our fraternity committed to at its January meeting. A small group of fraternity members will meet at the Capuchin Monastery the morning of the third Sunday, help prepare a hot breakfast, transport it to a local work site, and feed the day workers who gather there Sunday mornings. If you would like to participate in this corporal work of mercy, contact Michele at 202-412-1210. You needn't come forward every month, but we need to have a pool of volunteers to fulfill the commitment we have made.

From the Mailbox: News of our Family

- **Donna Wilkes** has a new phone number: 240-429-5347. Give her a call!
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A Stitch in Chimes

We continue our new feature, A Stitch in Chimes, a look back at what our fraternity did 20 years ago.

It is amazing how the Spirit works: in March 1999 the fraternity discussed Article 4 of our Rule! Twenty years ago we were moved to do the same thing we do



this month. Other things that happened twenty years ago this month: Fr. Kevin gave a presentation on Ongoing Conversion, letters from several members were shared, and fraternity member Michael Hunt passed.

April Birthdays

April 6 – William Richardson; 9 – Virginia Lyons; and 28 – Saturnino Camposano.



⁴ From Catholic Online, Accessed Mar 6, 2019, URL https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=191

Pray For Our Deceased Lhing Guiron’s father, **Jesus Villafior**, who died on Mar 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.

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 Members

Fr. Kevin Treston, OFM; Donna Wilkes and her family; Joe Gigliotti; Jean Xavier Fleurival; Rosemary Bordley and her family; Mary Anne Corr; Maria Louisa Correa; Lourdes Corso; Sarah Faizi, her mother Hilda(d.), and her friend, Ron Harner; John Hewitt; Nancy McCleary; Margaret Murphy and her husband Jim; Fritz Nicholas and his family; Cecilia Thieman and her family; and John and Dineen Whipple.

Franciscan Feastdays and Memorials

April 3 – Saint Benedict the Black, religious of I Order (memorial); 16 – Saint Bernadette Soubirous, cord-bearer of Saint Francis; 17 – Saint Benedict Joseph Labre, cord-bearer of Saint Francis; 21 – Saint Conrad of Parzham, religious of I Order (memorial); 23 – Blessed Giles of Assisi, religious of I Order (optional memorial); 24 – Saint Fidelis of Sigmaringen, priest and martyr of I Order. (feast); and 28 – Blessed Luchesius, layman of III Order (optional memorial of III Order).

March Reflection

By Larry Bleau, OFS

Give ‘til it hurts. That’s a phrase that has almost become a cliché, but warrants another look. Jesus gave Himself for us until it hurt, even unto death. St. Francis united himself with Our Lord’s sufferings and bore the gift of the stigmata. And here we are, now in Lent, thinking of how we may give of ourselves and unite ourselves with Jesus during this season of prayer, penance, repentance, almsgiving, and self-denial. If you are looking for something special to do for Lent, consider how to give back to your community. Rather than concentrate on what you give up, establish a new practice worthy of the season that could last beyond it.

I’ll close by sharing a probably fictional but inspiring tale I found online years ago, told by author Dan Millman. It gave me pause when I reread it, so I leave it with you for thought.

Many years ago, when I worked as a volunteer at Stanford Hospital, I got to know a little girl named Liza who was suffering from a rare and serious disease. Her only chance of recovery appeared to be a blood transfusion from her five-year-old brother, who had miraculously survived the same disease and had developed the antibodies needed to combat the illness. The doctor explained the situation to her little brother, and asked the boy if he would be willing to give his blood to his sister. I saw him hesitate for only a moment before taking a deep breath and saying, “Yes, I’ll do it if it will save Liza.” As the transfusion progressed, he lay in bed next to his sister and smiled, as we all did, seeing the color returning to her cheeks. Then his face grew pale and his smile faded. He looked up at the doctor and asked with a trembling voice, “Will I start to die right away?” Being young, the boy had misunderstood the doctor. He thought he was going to have to give her all his blood...and he was willing.