



— the *CFJMES* —

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MAR Vol. LVII, No. 3

March 17, 2013

Schedule

- 9:30am Orientation Session – Sacred Heart Room – downstairs in the Friary
- 9:30am Candidate Session – St. Bonaventure Room downstairs
- 10:30am Franciscan Crown Rosary in Blessed Sacrament Chapel
- 11:15am Mass in Blessed Sacrament Chapel
- 12:00pm Fraternity Social Gathering – St. Francis Room – downstairs in the Friary. Refreshments will be provided.
- 12:45pm Fraternity Meeting – St. Francis Room

Fraternity Meeting Agenda

- Opening Prayers and Comments
- News from Members
- Welcome to our Regional Councilor – Laura Hansen-Rainey
- Elections for new Council Officers
- Closing Evening prayer.



◆ Theme: STEWARDSHIP ◆

Bible Quote of the Month

The Request of James and John

Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to him. “Teacher,” they said, “we want you to do for us whatever we ask.” “What do you want me to do for you?” he asked. They replied, “Let one of us sit at your right and the other at your left in your glory.” “You don’t know what you are asking,” Jesus said. “Can you drink the cup I drink or be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with?” “We can,” they answered.

Jesus said to them, “You will drink the cup I drink and be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with, but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared.”

When the ten heard about this, they became indignant with James and John. Jesus called them together and said, “You



know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” (*Mark 10:35-45*)

Contact Information

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Please call before 9pm.



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ADMONITION OF ST. FRANCIS

11. That no one should be corrupted by the wickedness of another¹

No thing ought to displease the servant of God except sin. And in whatever manner another person would sin, even on account of this the servant of God, out of charity, would not be upset or grow angry, (as one who) hoards up fault for himself (cf. Rm 2:5). That servant of God, who does not grow angry nor disturbs himself on another's behalf, lives rightly without anything of his own. And blessed is he, who does not let anything remain for himself, rendering those things "which are Caesar's to Caesar, and those which are God's to God" (Mt 22:21).

¹ St. Francis of Assisi, *The Words of Admonition*, translated from the Critical Latin Edition, edited by Fr. Kajetan Esser, O.F.M, courtesy of Five Franciscan Martyrs Region, accessed April 19, 2010, URL <http://www.franciscan-sfo.org/ap/Admonitions.html>



The Rule

Chapter One, Article 8 of The Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order.

As Jesus was the true worshipper of the Father, so let prayer and contemplation be the soul of all they are and do.

Let them participate in the sacramental life of the Church, above all the Eucharist. Let them join in liturgical prayer in one of the forms proposed by the Church, reliving the mysteries of the life of Christ.



Prayer of the Month

Prayer for Forgiveness

Lord, please forgive all my failings. Forgive me for the times in life I have wasted; for all the times I have not spent with you and have not listened and obeyed your words. Lord, forgive me for wanting high seats of honor and places of leadership like the disciples, James and John, instead of being humble and serving you where you need me. Lord, forgive me for being like the disciples who grew jealous of James and John, instead of being humble and trusting in you. Lord, forgive me for only wanting what I want in life, not what you want. Forgive me, Lord, for not consulting you before making important decisions, for relying on my own judgment instead of yours, for serving my own needs instead of the needs of others. Lord, forgive me for judging others unjustly and for failing to show mercy. And lastly, Lord, please forgive me for not asking you what it is you would have me do before doing it. Lord, I beg your forgiveness for all the sins of my life. May I do what you ask of me, not what I ask of you! Amen.

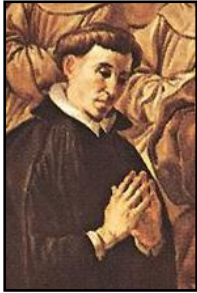


The Information Corner

Because this month we are having elections, I thought it fitting to note the qualities of a good Franciscan leader!

Characteristics of a Christian Leader²

St. Bonaventure wrote a very practical work on spiritual leadership in the 13th. century. He was the organizer who assisted St. Francis and gave order and structure to the Franciscan order. In this work he describes six qualities of a spiritual leader:



- **Zeal for righteousness.** Moral sensitivity to anything unjust in himself (first) or others. Highlights the importance of purity.
- **Compassion.** This should be demonstrated to those who are facing both physical and spiritual weaknesses. Today Bonaventure would describe this aspect as being a servant to those in need.
- **Patience.** Bonaventure reminds leaders of the critical need for patience due to at least three reasons: leadership is exhausting and demanding work, there is little apparent return for all the efforts a leader makes, and many who are on the receiving end are ungrateful.
- **Good example.** Leaders are models that other people look to and follow their example, therefore, make it good! The leader is no better than the followers and Bonaventure stresses humility and maturity.
- **Good judgment or discernment.** This guides the leader in knowing both what to do and how to do it. In relationship to this he addresses how



² Summarized by Tom Schwanda from *St. Bonaventure. The Character of a Christian Leader* (originally titled *The Six Wings of the Seraph*), translated by Philip O'Mara (1978), Servant Books, Ann Arbor, MI, URL <https://www.rca.org/sslpage.aspx?pid=1797>

to encourage the spiritual and moral growth of the community. He also reminds his readers of the need for delegation and the danger of becoming buried under the heavy load of administration.

- **Devotion to God.** *While listed last, this is the most important quality because everything else depends upon it. A close personal relationship with God guides us in all our leadership responsibilities. Here Bonaventure mentions the need for public and private prayer and cultivating an awareness or mindfulness of God in all of life.*

News From Our Seminarian

Ryan Pineda writes:

Pax et bonum! I want to thank you again for the financial and spiritual support that you provide. Please know that I truly appreciate it.



Things are getting busier and busier each day in the seminary. The classes that I am taking, although they are great and exciting, are very demanding and challenging. Add to these classes the daily, weekly and monthly routine in Theological College. I am also busy volunteering as a desk receptionist at the Basilica on Friday afternoons. I have seen some of you already while I'm on duty. Please stop by if you're at the Shrine on Fridays.

Again, thank you for everything. Please know of my prayers for your intentions.

April Birthdays

April 5 – Dorothy Clayton, 6 – William Richardson, and 9 – Virginia Lyons.

Feastdays of Franciscan Friars

Keep in your prayers the following friar, whose birthday is this coming month: April 4 – David Wathen.

Fraternity Finances

\$ Last month we received \$431 in donations and disbursed \$199 in expenses.

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).

Please Pray For Our Sick

Pat Allnutt; Rita Braddock and her family; Dorothy Clayton and her daughter; Maria Louisa Correa and her family; Lourdes Corso; Genie Dutton's sister-in-law, Ellen C. Blakes Lee (deceased); Sarah Faizi and her family; Jean Fleurival; Roy Foster; Corky Hart's friend, Robyn; Marianne Hughes and her family; Nirvana Jolls and her family; Nancy McCleary; George Ramsey's mother, Margareta Ramsey; Joe Rende; Gene Sides and his family; Vicky Spalding's mother, Delores Lynch; Julia Stratchko; Donna Wilkes; and Theresa Wilson.



March Reflection

By Vicky Spalding, OFS

It's been twelve years since I professed as a Secular Franciscan. As many of you know, I became Minister on the day of my profession. Yes, the Good Lord is always full of surprises! That is why it is important to stay close to Him at all times. You never know when you are going to be called by God as the apostles were to serve in a larger capacity.



The theme for this month is STEWARDSHIP. What does that mean for you and me? First it means developing a very close relationship with the Lord, so that you, together with God, can discover and develop those talents that he has given you and use them wisely to build up the kingdom. What is the lesson we must learn here? Before we can be effective in any service, we must KNOW and LOVE the One we want to serve. And that means spending quiet time in prayer communicating with God and placing Him first before all else.

Holy Thursday is approaching, and we see Jesus in the scriptures washing his disciples feet at the last supper. Why? Because He is setting an example of servanthood that He wishes for them to follow. Are we following that same example? Are we doing things out of love for our brothers and sisters in our families? In our fraternity? In our community? It is my ardent wish that you maintain that same level of integrity and peace that caused you to say to the Lord at your profession in imitation of Francis, "This is what I want".



May God richly reward and bless your life, as you have so richly rewarded and blessed mine for the last twelve years! You are in my prayers.