



– the *CFJMES* –

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P.O. BOX 90366

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20090-0366

JAN Vol. LVIII, No. 1

January 19, 2014

Schedule

NOTE: Change in meeting location!

- 9:30am Orientation Session – St. Clare Room – upstairs 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. Bonaventure Room** – downstairs in the Friary. Refreshments will be provided.
- 12:45pm Fraternity Meeting – **St. Bonaventure Room**

Fraternity Meeting Agenda

- Opening prayer
- Housekeeping
- Handouts
- Saints for the year
- Short Teaching
- Closing Evening prayer. If you have the “Shorter Christian” Prayer Book, please 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: NEW BEGINNINGS ◆

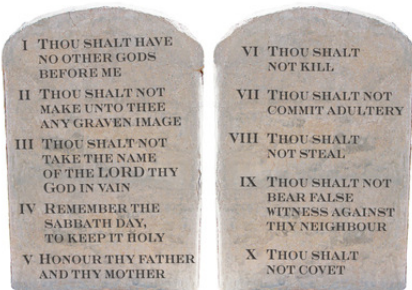
Bible Quote of the Month

I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of

bondage.

You shall have no other gods before me.

(Ex 20:2-3)



Prayer of the Month

Prayer before the Crucifix at San Damiano

Most High, glorious God, enlighten the darkness of my heart and give me right faith, certain hope and perfect charity, with wisdom and insight, O Lord, that I may know and do Your holy and true will.



Contact Information

Fraternity Council

Please call before 9pm.



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ADMONITION OF ST. FRANCIS

10. On the chastisement of the body ¹

There are many, who while they sin or receive injury, often blame their enemy or neighbor. But it is in error because each one has in his own power (his) enemy, namely the body, through which he sins. Whence “blessed is that servant” (Mt 24:46), who having surrendered such an enemy into his own power, has held it always captive and wisely guarded himself from it; because, as long as he has does this, no other enemy, visible or invisible, will be able to harm him.

¹ *The Writings of St. Francis of Assisi*, tr. by Paschal Robinson (1905), accessed September 9, 2013, URL <http://www.sacred-texts.com/chr/wosf/wosf03.htm> .



The Rule

Chapter One, Article 18 of The Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order.

Moreover they should respect all creatures, animate and inanimate, which bear the imprint of the Most High, and they should strive to move from the temptation of exploiting creation to the Franciscan concept of universal kinship

The Information Corner

A Salutation of the Virtues ²

Hail, Queen Wisdom! May the Lord protect You, with Your Sister, holy pure Simplicity! Lady holy Poverty, may the Lord protect You, with Your Sister, holy Humility! Lady holy Charity, may the Lord protect You, with Your Sister, holy Obedience. Most holy Virtues, may the Lord protect all of You from Whom You come and proceed...




News From Our Seminarian

Ryan Pineda writes: “Brothers and Sisters in Christ, Thank you again for all your prayers and support. Please know of my prayers. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.”

² From *Prayers of St. Francis*, accessed January 9, URL http://www.ofm.org/ofm/?page_id=122

From the Mailbox: News of our Family

- **Maria Louisa Correa** writes: "I send my best to you in this blessed season. I pray for you and thank you for all your prayers for me and my family. My eyesight is very poor but your prayers may improve my vision. Please continue to pray for me and my sister. God bless all." 
- **Eugene Sides** writes: "The last two years have been filled with a great number of health related appointments and hospital stays and chemo for my wife Annegret. Presently she is in remission and is starting to get back to her normal self. I don't miss the busy life in the Washington area. Living in the West Carolina hills has its virtues. I was extremely happy to receive my 20 year certificate in the SFO. Wishing you a peaceful Christmas and a great New Year in 2014."
- **Helen Walls** writes: "May all of our brothers and sisters in our Franciscan Fraternity be abundantly blessed this Holy Season and always. I send you my love and prayers."
- 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 loving friends,

We are grateful to you for your generous aid. God bless you in abundance for your great hearts. We are very shocked by my father-in-law's death of a heart attack last month. He was a very good father for all of us. Please remember him in your prayers.

I am sick with asthma problems. My husband is keeping well and the children are preparing for their school exams. The weather has changed. The rainy season is over and days are bright and sunny. Wishing you all joys for Christmas and the New Year.

Love, Mary Sebastian

February Birthdays

February 1 – Ronald McMahon and Cecelia Thieman; 4 – Alan Blevins and Mary Gamez; 8 – Polly Howard, James (Jay) Lynagh III, and Donna Wilkes; 21 – Joseph Rende; 26 – Joan Adundo; and 26 – Nita Mullins.



Franciscan Feastdays and Memorials

February 4 – Saint Joseph of Leonissa, priest of I Order (optional memorial); 6 – Saints Peter Baptist, Paul Miki, and companions, martyrs of I and III Order (memorial); 7 – Saint Colette, virgin of II Order (feast) for Collettines (memorial for II and III Order nuns); and 19 – Saint Conrad of Piacenza, hermit of III Order (optional memorial for III Order).

Fraternity Finances

💰 Last month we received \$103 in donations and disbursed \$1,114.63 in expenses.

Please Pray For Our Sick

Lourdes Corso; Saturnino Camposano (recovery from knee surgery); Sarah Faizi and her family; Jean Fleurival; Roy Foster; Jean-Paul Gauthier (recovering from severe injury); Marianne Hughes and her family; Nancy McCleary; George Ramsey and his mother, Margareta Ramsey (recent stroke); Apollonia Sergi; Fritz Nicolas and his family; Joe Rende's friends Theresa Fay, John Fay, Nancy Butta, Elaine Kasaskeris, and John Zimmerman; Julia Stratchko and her family; Cecilia Thieman and her family; Helen Walls; Dineen Whipple; and Theresa Wilson.



January Reflection

By Corky Hart, OFS

It's a New Year. Lots of folks start new exercise programs, diets, or self-improvement schemes. Even if we're not resolution-makers, it's natural to want to start over, to "reboot" our lives. The prospect of a "do-over" brings us relief and hope.

Our life in Christ is a perpetual new beginning. Scripture tells us that God's mercies are new every morning (*Lam 3:22-23*). Our Seraphic Father lived this so beautifully. From the moment he heard the loving command of Christ from the Cross of San Damiano, Francis was always ready to start anew, to hear God's word and do it. We might say that St. Francis lived in a constant state of "new" as he daily sought

to live in perfect obedience, in union with Jesus. What freedom and joy this brought him and those who followed him! How beautiful to walk in that constant conversion of heart that Francis lived so vividly! How amazing that we too are called to live that life!

My dear brothers and sisters, it's time for us to begin again. Let's pray, serve, and learn together, and help one another grow in love. This month we will look at the First Commandment, a starting point for a life of love and obedience. As we strive to imitate Christ in the spirit of St. Francis, may God grant us grace to live our vocation to poverty, chastity, and obedience to Him who brought us out of darkness into His wonderful light (*1 Pet 2:9*).

