



# — the *CFJMES* —

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P.O. BOX 90366

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20090-0366

MAR Vol. LVIII, No. 3

March 16, 2014

## Schedule

- 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. Light refreshments will be provided.
- 12:45pm Fraternity Meeting – St. Bonaventure Room

**ALERT! There will be no April meeting. Formation classes will meet on April 6, however.**

## Fraternity Meeting Agenda

- Opening prayer
- Housekeeping
- Handouts
- Short Teaching
- Closing Evening prayer. If you have the “Shorter Christian” Prayer Book, please bring it with you.

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

## ◆ Theme: **OUR LENTEN JOURNEY WITH THE CROSS** ◆

### Bible Quote of the Month

The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written:

*I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the learning of the learned I will set aside.*

Where is the wise one? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made the wisdom of the world foolish? For since in the wisdom of God the world did not come to know God through wisdom, it was the will of God through the foolishness of the proclamation to save those who have faith. For Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are called, Jews and Greeks alike,

Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength. (*1 Cor 1:17-25*)

### Prayer of the Month



Lord Jesus, when the world was growing cold, You renewed in the flesh of St. Francis the sacred marks of your Passion and inflamed in his heart a fire of love for You. Divine Savior, impress on my heart an ardent devotion to Your holy passion and death, that I may cheerfully carry my cross and with joy embrace my penances. Lord, show me the areas of my life where I need mostly to follow the example of St. Francis.

### **Contact Information**

#### **Fraternity Council**

Please call before 9pm.



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

#### **12. On recognizing the spirit of God <sup>1</sup>**



Thus can the servant of God be known, if he has the spirit of the Lord: when the Lord works through him anything good, if his flesh for that reason would not exalt itself, because it is always contrary to every good, but if he rather would hold himself up before (his own) eyes as more vile and esteem himself less than all other men.

### **News From Our Seminarian**

Ryan Pineda thanks us for our spiritual and financial support. He just finished his midterm examinations, and hopes to be ordained a deacon next year.

<sup>1</sup> *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 Three, Article 20 of The Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order.

The Secular Franciscan Order is divided into fraternities of various levels--local, regional, national, and international. Each one has its own moral personality in the Church. These various fraternities are coordinated and united according to the norm of this rule and of the constitutions

### **No Meeting in April!**

Since the third Sunday in April falls on Easter Sunday, there will be no fraternity meeting. We will still have formation classes, but they have been rescheduled for April 6 at 10:00am. Please mark your calendar!

### **The Information Corner**



Depictions of the events described in the Stations did not start becoming common in churches until Pope Innocent XI permitted the Franciscans in 1686 to erect such displays in all their churches. He also declared that all indulgences given for visiting the sacred sites in the Holy Land would apply to any Franciscan or Franciscan lay affiliate visiting a set of stations in a church. Pope Benedict XIII extended that privilege to all the faithful in 1726. Five years later, Pope Clement XII allowed all churches to have stations and fixed the number at 14, where it has been ever since. <sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Puet, Tim (2014). Extracted from "Stations of the Cross date back to the fourth century", Catholic News Agency, accessed March 8, 2014, URL [http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/stations\\_of\\_the\\_cross\\_date\\_back\\_to\\_the\\_fourth\\_century/](http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/stations_of_the_cross_date_back_to_the_fourth_century/).

### **Fraternity Finances**

**\$** Last month we received \$1,151 in donations and disbursed \$157 in expenses. This does not include undeposited checks.

#### **Treasurer's report for 2013**

|                              |         |
|------------------------------|---------|
| Donations received (income)* | \$5,696 |
| Operating expenses           | \$1,801 |
| Fair share dues              | \$1,166 |
| Donations given              | \$1,962 |
| Total expenses               | \$4,929 |

\* Includes a large one-time donation.

### **April Birthdays**

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

**Pray For Our Deceased Joan Leckinger**, who died on March 4. Her funeral Mass will be on March 15 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Annapolis. Joan was an active member of our fraternity until she transferred out. 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 Sick**

Pat Allnut; Rita Braddock; Dorothy Clayton and her family; Maria Louisa Corraera and her family; Lourdes Corso; J. Patrick Enderson's father, Richard Enderson, who is seriously ill; Sarah Faizi and her family; Jean Fleurival; Roy Foster; Jean-Paul Gauthier (recovering from severe injury); John Hewitt; Marianne Hughes and her family; Nancy McCleary; Fritz Nicolas and his family; George Ramsey and his family; Apollonia Sergi and her family; Julia Stratchko and her family; Helen Walls; Dineen Whipple; and Theresa Wilson.

### **Feastdays of Franciscan Friars**

Keep in your prayers the following friars, whose feast days are this coming month: April 4 – David Wathen (B).

### **March Reflection**

*By Corky Hart, OFS*

The Cross is still a stumbling block and foolishness to many – sometimes, if we're honest, perhaps even to ourselves. Lent provides a fresh opportunity to respond to the Cross with love, and to grow closer to Christ in obedience and humility.



Our Seraphic Father was deeply conformed to the Passion of Christ, even bearing the Stigmata. As Franciscans, we are called to echo St. Francis' devotion to the Passion.

The Church invites us to prayer, fasting and almsgiving, to dispose ourselves to receive divine grace, and to unite ourselves to the poor and suffering of the world. Let's strive for closeness to Christ in this brief and precious Lenten season. Let's encourage one another to imitate Christ who in great humility was obedient to God in all things.

### **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