



— the CHIMES —

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P.O. BOX 90366

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20090-0366

AUG Vol. LVIII, No. 8

August 17, 2014

Schedule

- 9:30am Inquiry 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. Bring your own lunch, light refreshments will be provided.
- 12:45pm Fraternity Meeting – St. Bonaventure Room
- 2:15pm Council meeting

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.

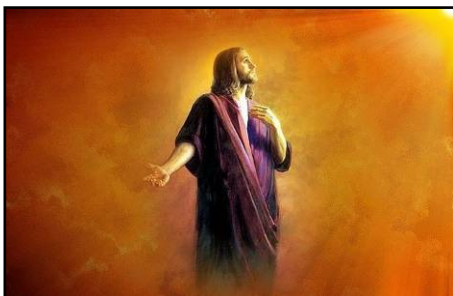
DON'T FORGET YOUR BINDERS!

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: PRAYING IN FAITH ◆

Bible Quote of the Month

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen. (Eph 3:20-21; NIV)



Prayer of the Month



O Glorious St. Clare! God has given you the power of working miracles continually, and the favor of answering the prayers of those who invoke your assistance in misfortune, anxiety, and distress. We beseech you, obtain from Jesus through Mary His Blessed Mother, what we beg of you so fervently and hopefully, (mention your petition) if it be for the greater honor and glory of God and for the good of our souls. Amen.¹

¹ Prayer to St. Clare; source: 2heartsnetwork.org

Contact Information

Fraternity Council

Please call before 9pm.



Cornelia (Corky) Hart (Minister) 301-593-0955

minister@dcsfo.org

Bill Richardson (Vice Minister) 301-848-7390

vice-minister@dcsfo.org

Helene Hogan (Secretary) 301-481-0695

secretary@dcsfo.org

Brenda Nutt (Treasurer) 301-481-3009

treasurer@dcsfo.org

Larry Bleau (Formation Dir.) 301-474-1338

formation@dcsfo.org

Fr. Kevin Treston, OFM 202-526-6800

(Spiritual Assistant) spiritual@dcsfo.org

Larry Bleau (Chimes Editor) 301-474-1338

chimes@dcsfo.org

Web site: <http://dcsfo.org/>

St. Margaret of Cortona Regional Council

Patrick Martin (Minister) jpmartin@gmail.com

Laura Hansen-Rainey (DC Metro Area

Councilor) lhr1018@gmail.com

National Fraternity

Dcn. Tom Bello (Minister) tbellosfo@gmail.com

ADMONITION OF ST. FRANCIS

17. On the humble servant of God²

“Blessed (is) that servant” (*Mt 24:46*), who does not exalt himself more because of the good, which the Lord says and works through him, than that which He says and works through another. A man sins, who wants rather to receive from his neighbor, what he does not want to give of himself to the Lord God.

Fraternity Finances



Amounts for July were not available at press time; they will be reported next month.

² *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 25 of The Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order.

Regarding expenses necessary for the life of the fraternity and the needs of worship, of the apostolate, and of charity, all the brothers and sisters should offer a contribution according to their means. Local fraternities should contribute toward the expenses of the higher fraternity councils.

The Information Corner

A day-long Conference on Healing and Miracles with a 7:00 evening Healing Service will be hosted at Trinity College's Gymnasium on August 23. The conference and service will be led by Damian Stayne, Catholic Lay Evangelist from England. Mass will be celebrated at the conference at 11:00 am. For more information and to register for the conference, go to www.acts430.com. Attendees at the conference must register, but the healing service is free of charge and open to the public.

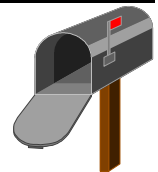
From the Mailbox: News of our Family

- **Clotilda Crawley** writes:

“Thank you for your card, good wishes and gift of \$50.

I expect to leave the country in August when my son

returns to take over my house. Please keep me in your daily prayers and during the monthly meetings, as I will keep you in mine. I am sad to leave you. When I visit my children I will visit you, too. Love, Clotilda”



Feastdays of Franciscan Friars

Keep in your prayers the following friars, whose feast days are this coming month: August 14 – Maximilian Wojciechowski.



Pray For Our Deceased

Fr. Stephen Sabbagh, OFM, who died on August 6, 2014. His funeral Mass was on August 9 at the Franciscan Monastery. Fr. Stephen was Spiritual Assistant for our fraternity for many years

until 1997. He was also Spiritual Assistant for several other fraternities, and was well known within the St. Margaret of Cortona Region. Fr. Stephen was born in 1931 in Brooklyn, NY, of Syrian parents, entered the Order in 1954, obtained his M.A. at Catholic University, and was ordained a priest in 1959. In the past few years his health deteriorated and he moved to Carroll Manor Nursing Home, where passed away in his sleep on August 6.

May the souls of the faithful departed, especially those of our members and our wider Franciscan Family, rest in eternal peace in the presence of our Lord.

Please Pray For Our Sick



Pat Allnutt; Larry Bleau's father, Raymond Bleau; Ernest Braddock (husband of deceased member Rita Braddock); Mary Anne Corr's niece, Patricia Corr;

Maria Louisa Correra and her sister, Maria Franco; Lourdes Corso and her kids; Sarah Faizi and her family; Shonne Farrell; Jean Fleurival; Roy Foster; Jean-Paul Gauthier (recovering from severe injury); Marianne Hughes and her sister, Ellen Burgess; Joe Humphries and his nephew, Richard Marshall; Nancy McCleary; Fritz Nicolas and his daughter; Mary Okumu's family; George Ramsey and his mother; Joe Rende's special intention; Eugene Sides and his family; Julia Stratchko and her husband; Helen Walls; Dineen Whipple; Donna Wilkes and her brother, Hollis; Theresa Wilson; and Mildred Wray.

September Birthdays

September 1 – Kathleen White, 4 – Maria Correra, 9 – Salvacion Pagado, 18 – Marilyn Taylor and Theresa Wilson, 19 – Catherine Horvath, 23 – Jean Fleurival, and 27 – Mary Okumu.



Franciscan Feastdays and Memorials



September 1 – Blessed Beatrice of Silva, virgin of II Order, founder (optional memorial); 2 – Bl. John Francis Burte, Bl. Severin Girault, and Companions, martyrs of I and III Orders (optional memorial); 4 – Saint Rose of Viterbo, virgin of III Order (optional memorial for III Order); 17 – Stigmata of our holy Father Francis (feast); 18 – Saint Joseph of Cupertino, priest of I Order (feast); 20 – Saint Francis Mary of Camporosso, religious of I Order (memorial); 23 – Saint Padre Pio of Pietrelcina, stigmatist and priest of I Order (feast), and Finding of the body of Saint Clare (optional memorial for II and III Order nuns); 26 – Saint Elzear of Sabran and Blessed Delphina of Glandenes, husband and wife of III Order (optional memorial for III Order).

Support the Knights



The Knights of Mount St. Sepulchre is having their annual raffle ticket fundraiser.

Tickets are \$5 for a book of six, or \$1 each. Drawing will be at the next pasta dinner on September 19. Larry Bleau (301-474-1338) will sell tickets before and after the fraternity meeting. You can also buy them and the pasta dinner tickets at the Gift Shop.

Stigmata of St. Francis³

Two years before Francis, the faithful servant of Christ, gave his soul back to God, he was alone on the top of Mt. La Verna. There he had begun a fast of forty days in honor of the archangel Michael and was immersed more deeply than usual in the delights of heavenly contemplation. His soul became aglow with the ardor of fervent longing for heaven as he experienced within himself the operations of grace.

As he was drawn aloft through ardent longing for God one morning near the feast of the Exaltation of the Cross, and was praying on the mountainside, he saw what appeared as a seraph with six bright wings gleaming like a fire descending from the heights of heaven. As this figure approached in swift flight and came near the man of God it appeared not only winged but also crucified. The sight of it amazed Francis and his soul experienced joy mingled with pain. He was delighted with the sight of Christ appearing to him so graciously and intimately and yet the awe-inspiring vision of Christ nailed to the cross aroused in his soul a joy of compassionate love.



When the vision vanished after a mysterious and intimate conversation it left Francis aglow with seraphic love in his soul. Externally, however, it left marks on his body like those of the Crucified as if the impression of a seal had been left on heated wax. The figures of the nails appeared immediately on his hands and feet. The heads of the nails were inside his hands but on top of his feet with their points extending through to the opposite side. His right side too

³ Extract from *Legenda Minor* of St. Bonaventure, slightly reworded, accessed from URL <http://catholicexchange.com/september-17th-the-stigmata-of-st-francis-of-assisii> on August 9, 2014. Full text in Armstrong et al ed. (2000), *Francis of Assisi, Early Documents – Volume II, The Founder*, pp710-713.

showed a blood-red wound as if it had been pierced by a lance, and blood flowed frequently from it. Because of this new and astounding miracle unheard of in times past, Francis came down from the mountain a new man adorned with the sacred stigmata, bearing in his body the image of the Crucified not made by a craftsman in wood or stone, but fashioned in his members by the hand of the living God.

August Reflection

By Corky Hart, OFS

We have all had the experience of feeling urgently drawn to prayer for someone; that deeply felt stirring of the Holy Spirit that causes us to pray with a supernatural sympathy and the gift of faith. This is a cause of great joy because we know our prayer at that moment is rooted solidly in God's loving will. We know that the Lord answers prayer when it is in accord with His will. It is He Who heals the sick, restores the lost, mends the broken, raises the dead, makes the lame to walk, the deaf to hear, the blind to see, and those without speech to sing, and He invites us to pray in accord with His generosity.

Of course, the answers to our prayers don't always look like we think they ought to look. We may or may not witness a physical healing for which we pray - only God knows what is best - but the deepest and most urgent need in anyone's life is for healing of the soul wounded by our sins or those of others. God does still heal physically - I have seen this with my own eyes - but there are other ways in which the dead are brought to life, and those without speech can sing. (Just read Galatians 5:20, or Psalm 89:1.)

Our first and best avenue of spiritual healing is frequent confession and reception of the Eucharist. After that, the praise of God through simple thanksgivings, songs, thoughtful recitation of the psalms, or spontaneous praise does wonders to open our hearts to receive God's graces. And while we are caught up in the praise of Him who can do immeasurably more than we can ask or think, miracles can and do happen.