



— the CHIMES —

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DEC Vol. LVIII, No. 12

December 21, 2014



No Fraternity Meeting This Month



There will be no meeting this month. Formation classes (Candidate and the new Orientation) will start in January on regular schedule. Look for times and room locations in the January *Chimes*.

◆ Theme: ADVENT & CHRISTMAS ◆

Bible Quote of the Month

But Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart. (*Luke 2:19*)

Prayer of the Month

Alma Redemptoris Mater

Alma Redemptoris Mater, quae pervia caeli porta manes, et stella maris, succurre cadenti. Surgere qui curat, populo: tu quae genuisti, natura mirante, tuum sanctum Genitorem, Virgo pruis ac posterius, Gabrielis ab ore sumens ilud ave, peccatorum miserere.

(Translation) Loving Mother of the Redeemer, gate of heaven, star of the sea, assist your



people who have fallen, as we strive to rise again. To the wonderment of nature, you bore your

Creator, yet remained a virgin after as before. You who received Gabriel's joyful greeting, have pity on us poor sinners.

Catechism Quote

No one, whether shepherd or wise man, can approach God here below except by kneeling before the manger at Bethlehem and adoring him hidden in the weakness of a new-born child. (CCC 563)



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ADMONITION OF ST. FRANCIS

21. On the inane and loquacious religious¹

Blessed (is) the servant, who when he speaks, does not reveal all his own (thoughts) in view of (some) reward, and is not swift to speak (cf. Prov 29:20), but wisely weighs what he ought to speak and answer. Woe to him religious, who does not retain in his heart (Lk 2:19.51) the good things, which the Lord shows him, and does not show them to others through work, but who in view of (some) gain desires rather to show them to men with words. He himself receives "his wage" (cf. Mt 6:2; 6:16) and (his) hearers bring back little fruit.

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>.



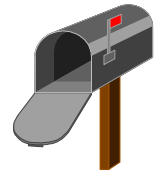
The Rule

Chapter One, Article 3 of The Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order.

The present rule, succeeding *Memoriale Propositi* (1221) and the rules approved by the Supreme Pontiffs Nicholas IV and Leo XIII, adapts the Secular Franciscan Order to the needs and expectations of the Holy Church in the conditions of changing times. Its interpretation belongs to the Holy See and its application will be made by the General Constitutions and particular statutes.

From the Mailbox: News of our Family

- Alan Blevins wrote that on Aug 23 he was promoted to Catholic Chaplain at South Bay HOC, Suffolk County Sheriff's Dept., Boston, MA. Congratulations, Alan!
- Ryan Pineda wrote, "Thank you for the checks I received recently, which are most helpful, as well as your prayers. Next month I will make my canonical retreat in preparation for my Transitional Diaconate Ordination in June 2015. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!"
- 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,

Thank you very much for the help you sent for my family. I will never forget this help and I remember you in our evening prayer. Please also pray for us.

My daughter and I are suffering from allergies and taking medicine regularly. The children are studying well. The help you sent last time was used for children's school supplies, dresses, etc. Once again I thank you.

Yours sincerely, Mary Sebastian

Meet Our New Candidates



Congratulate Michele Dunne, Wendy Enderson, and Frank Klem, as they enter the Candidate phase of initial formation. Keep them in your prayers and support them in their discernment of a vocation as a Secular Franciscan.

Fraternity Finances

\$ Last month we received \$391.50 in donations and disbursed \$446.17 in expenses. This does not include undeposited checks. Council approved \$950 in Christmas donations: Noah House (\$100), Poor Clares of Perpetual Adoration (\$100), Servants of the Lord and the Virgin of Mataram Provincial House (\$100), Catholic Charities (\$100), St. Ann's Center for Children, Youth and Families (\$100), Missionaries of Charity Convent (\$100), Franciscan Monastery (\$200), Franciscan Family Apostolate (\$50), Spiritual Assistant (\$50), and our Seminarian, Ryan (\$50).

January Birthdays

January 4 – Victoria Spalding, 15 – Dineen Whipple, 29 – John Hewitt, M.D., and 30 – Anthony Mazzucco and Julia Ann Stratchko

Feastdays of Franciscan Friars

Keep in your prayers the following friars, whose feast days are this coming month: January 3 – Manuel Ybarra, 11 – Garret Edmunds, 14 – Roger Petras, and 20 – John-Sebastian.

Please Pray For Our Sick

Pat Allnutt; Larry Bleau's father, Raymond (recent fall); Ernest Braddock; Mary Anne Corr's niece, Patricia Corr (surgery); Maria Louisa Correa and her family; Sarah Faizi and her family; Jean Fleurival; Roy Foster; John Hewitt; Marianne Hughes and her family; Nancy McCleary; Ouida Morrison; Fritz Nicholas and his family; George Ramsey and his mother (deceased); Joe Rende; Eugene Sides and his family; Margaret Simoneau and her mother, Frances; Julia Stratchko and her family; Cecilia Thieman and her family; Dineen Whipple; Donna Wilkes and her brother, Hollis; Theresa Wilson; and Mildred Wray.

Pray For Our Deceased Margareta

Ramsey, mother of member George Ramsey, who died on November 13, 2014. Her funeral Mass was held at the Monastery, and she was laid to rest beside her husband, Eldridge Ramsey, who was a Knight of Mount St. Sepulchre. 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.

Franciscan Feastdays and Memorials

January 1 – Solemnity of the Mother of God; 3 – Holy Name of Jesus (memorial); 7 – Blessed Angela of Foligno, religious of III Order (optional memorial) for III Order); 12 – Saint Bernard of Corleone, religious of I Order (optional memorial); 14 – Blessed Odoric of Pordenone, priest of I Order (optional memorial); 16 – Saints Berard, priest, and companions, protomartyrs of the I Order (memorial); 24 – Saint Francis de Sales, bishop, doctor, cord-bearer of Saint Francis (memorial); 27 – Saint Angela Merici, virgin of III Order, founder. (memorial); 30 – Saint Hyacinth of Mariscotti, virgin of III Order (optional memorial) for III Order); and 31 – Saint John Bosco, priest of III Order, founder (memorial).

December Reflection

By Corky Hart, OFS

For the first time in 33 years, my husband and I are not going to have Christmas at home. We are “bringing Christmas” to our daughter and son-in-law in Philadelphia who are expecting their first child (a boy) right around that time. Travel and the expectation of a baby have made me ponder the Magi’s journey, and how it relates to our lives. Al and I will be travelling at greater speed and with far more ease than they did, and we will bring the dinner fixings and very ordinary presents, no gold, frankincense or myrrh. The Magi knew that the one they sought was of infinite significance; we go because Jesus is of infinite significance in our lives and (thank God) in the lives of our children. We know that the Lord will be there with us in that little apartment because we will gather in His Name, but even better, when we go to Mass together at Christmas, whether in the little parish church in that Philadelphia neighborhood or anywhere in the world, we will find the Incarnate Word among us; His image in the crèche to remind us of His humble birth, His holy presence, body, blood soul and divinity in the Holy Eucharist to feed us. We are invited to an intimate communion with Him that the travelling wise men could never have imagined.

It can be easy in this world to be disappointed in Christmas; we are encouraged by those who are selling something at his time of year to desire sentimentally the perfect gift, the perfect family, the perfect life. We who seek Christ as



Courtesy of the Asociación de Belenistas de Madrid

our highest good know better. Jesus’ first coming was in obscurity and quiet. Even though the heavens declared it, the signs were missed by most people; there was no fanfare, no noise. The Magi looked for the Messiah in an unlikely place because they understood the signs. They had the courage to pursue Him through inconvenience and hardship, on roads that they did not expect. Their reward was a personal audience with the Messiah, and, I like to imagine, a quiet interview with his holy Mother and St. Joseph. They even had an angel direct their path homeward.

This Christmas, let’s look for Jesus in the unexpected places. Let’s avoid having the things we have always done dictate how we respond to those spontaneous invitations to grace which God is always presenting us. Let’s resolve to look for Him in the everyday things, the circumstances of life, and the unexpected opportunities to serve Him in those we encounter.

