



# — the CHIMES —

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## No Fraternity Meeting This Month



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

### ◆ Theme: THE ADVENT OF MERCY ◆

#### Bible Quote of the Month

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. (*Matthew 5:7*)

#### Prayer of the Month

Send your Spirit and consecrate every one of us with His anointing, so that the Jubilee of Mercy may be a year of grace from the Lord, and your Church, with renewed enthusiasm, may bring good news to the poor, proclaim liberty to captives and the oppressed, and restore sight to the blind.<sup>1</sup>

#### The Information Corner

The Vatican has created a separate web site for the **Jubilee of Mercy**. Visit it at <http://www.im.va/content/gdm/en.html> for information, documents, and answers to all sorts of questions about how to live this **Year of Mercy**.

<sup>1</sup> *Prayer of Pope Francis for the Jubilee*, accessed December 10, 2015, URL <http://www.im.va/content/gdm/en/giubileo/preghiera.html>



#### The Rule

Chapter Two, Article 15 of The Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order.

Let them individually and collectively be in the forefront in promoting justice by the testimony of their human lives and their courageous initiatives. Especially in the field of public life, they should make definite choices in harmony with their faith.

#### Papal Intentions for the Month

Universal Intention – **Experiencing God’s Mercy**. That all may experience the mercy of God, who never tires of forgiving.

Evangelization Intention – **Families**. That families, especially those who suffer, may find in the birth of Jesus a sign of certain hope.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Apostleship of Prayer (2015). Accessed February 7, 2015, URL <http://www.apostleshipofprayer.org/>

### Contact Information

#### Fraternity Council

Please call before 9pm.



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### ADMONITION OF ST. FRANCIS

#### 5. That no one should be proud, but rather glory only in the Cross of the Lord<sup>3</sup>

Be conscious, O man, to how many wondrous things the Lord God has placed in you, since He created and formed you “to the image” of His own Beloved Son according to the body “and to (His) likeness” according to the spirit (cf. Gen 1:26). And all the creatures, which are under heaven, each according to its nature, serve, know and obey their Creator better than you. And even the demons did not crucify Him, but you together with them have crucified Him and even now you crucify (Him) by delighting in vices and sins. Whence therefore can you glory? For if you were so subtle and (See Admonition, next column)

<sup>3</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> .

### Meet Our Newly Professed

Congratulations to our newly professed members! Shown, clockwise from left: Corky Hart (Minister), **Ouida Morrison**, **George Ramsey**, Fr. Ed Flanagan OFM (Presider), **Mary Okumu**, and **Mildred Wray**.



#### Admonition (cont.)

wise that you had “all knowledge” (cf. 1Cor 13:2) and knew how to interpret every “kind of tongue” (cf. 1 Cor 12:28) and to search subtly after celestial things, in all these things you cannot glory; since one demon knew of celestial things and now knows of earthly things more than all men, (even) granted that there has been someone, who received from the Lord a special understanding of the highest wisdom. Similarly even if you were more handsome and wealthy than all and even if you were working miracles, as would put demons to flight, all those things are injurious to you and nothing (about them) pertains to you and you can glory in them not at all. But in this we can glory, “in” our “infirmities” (cf. 2 Cor 12:5) and bearing each day the Holy Cross of Our Lord Jesus Christ (Lk 14:27).

**Welcome Our New Candidate**

Congratulations to **Susan Zell**, who starts her period of formation as a Candidate.

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**January Birthdays**

January 4 – Victoria Spalding, 15 – Dineen Whipple, 17 – Adele Lewis, 29 – John Hewitt, M.D., and 30 – Anthony Mazzucco and Julia Ann Stratchko.

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**Fraternity Finances**

**\$** Last month we received \$336 in donations and disbursed \$472.97 in expenses. This does not include undeposited checks.

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**Please Pray For Our Sick**

Pat Allnutt; Larry Bleau’s father, Raymond; Ernest Braddock; Maria Louisa Correa and her sister, Maria Franco; Mary Ann Corr’s niece, Patricia Corr; Lourdes Corso and her family; Sarah Faizi’s mother; Jean Fleurival; Roy Foster; John Hewitt; Marianne Hughes and her family; Nancy McCleary; Fritz Nicholas and his family; Mary Okumu’s family; Joe Rende; Julia Stratchko; Cecilia Thieman and her family; Dineen Whipple; Theresa Wilson; Mildred Wray.

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**Pray For Our Deceased**

**Maritzah Cayemitte**, daughter of Fritz Nicholes, who died recently. Her funeral Mass was on December 5 at St. Michael’s Church.

**Theresa Wilson**, whom we just learned passed away last month. Theresa was professed in 1980 and was an active member until the last few years.

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.

**News From Our Seminarian**

Last month Ryan Pineda wrote a letter to us, but we did not have room. Here it is:

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,  
Pax et Bonum!

Thank you again for the check that you sent. I have to apologize for not writing last month. October was really busy in the seminary and for our country as well when we hosted Pope Francis here. I hope some, if not all, were able to participate in an event with Pope Francis, be it at the Canonization Mass at the Shrine, his address to the Congress, or the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia.

In my case, I still cannot stop thanking God for the graces I have received. It was indeed a rare opportunity to see the Holy Father. God is generous to me because not only did I see the Holy Father but I was also able to serve at the Mass at the Shrine. Being one of the deacons at a Papal Mass was just a once in a lifetime opportunity. Never have I dreamed that I will be able to venerate the altar with Pope Francis, give the sign of peace to him, and receive the Body and Blood of Christ from the Holy Father.

The Papal Visit has indeed led me to reflect more on Divine Providence and Divine Goodness. Everything is grace. This is one of the blessings of studying Creation and the Human Person at the Dominican House of Studies. I registered to take one class at this institute this semester to satisfy my degree requirement at Catholic University. Although it is a challenge for me to read and understand Aquinas’ Summa Theologiae, especially the articles on creation and angelic creatures, this class is helping me to reflect more on how great the Lord is. I wish I can spend my whole semester just studying the works of Aquinas but I also have to study for my other classes. I also spent my free periods the last few months studying for my Comprehensive Exam. Please pray for us deacons who took this exam that we pass.

Thank you again and please know of my prayers and gratitude for your community. Please pray for me as well.

Thank you, Ryan

## **December Reflection**

*By Corky Hart, OFS*

I write this nine days into Advent as we start the Year of Mercy. First Vespers have just been said for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, and the household Advent candles have been lit to the singing of O Come, O Come, Emmanuel. What better way to begin the Year of Mercy than to meditate upon the infinite mercy of the Incarnation!

It can be a challenge to remain attentive as we wait for Him, but as Franciscans we have an advantage. Ever since our Seraphic Father held the Christ child in his arms at Greccio, the sons and daughters of St. Francis have had a special relationship to Christmas, and to Advent's vigilance. For us Advent is a golden opportunity for fasting, prayer, almsgiving and personal repentance, as well as for contemplation of the humility and holy poverty of the Savior's birth. Now with the start of the extraordinary Year of Mercy, we have an additional advantage as Brothers and Sisters of Penance who know the Merciful Heart of the Father. We who are so aware of how much of His Mercy we have received are called to carry Mercy to a weary world. To whom much is given, from him much is required.

This year let's pray and do penance for our world so in need of grace and mercy. Let's start simply, first with sacramental Confession, then perhaps with an extra prayer, an anonymous gift, or an unseen small sacrifice. Let's continue to pray and sacrifice for peace, and to live in peace as best we can with all people and with creation.



## **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.

## **Franciscan Feastdays and Memorials**

January 3 – Most Holy Name of Jesus; 6 – Bl. Diego José of Cádiz, priest, I Order; 7 – Bl. Angela of Foligno, religious, III Order; 8 – Bl. Eurosia Fabris, III Order; 12 – St. Bernard of Corleone, religious, I Order; 14 – Bl. Odoric of Pordenone, priest, I Order; 16 – Sts. Berard, priest, and companions, protomartyrs of the Order; 18 – St. Charles of Sezze, religious, I Order; 19 – Bl. Thomas of Cori, priest, I Order; St. Eustochia Calafato, virgin, II Order; 20 – Bl. John Baptist Triquerie, priest, martyr, I Order; 23 – St. Maryanne Cope, virgin, OSF see also; 24 – St. Francis de Sales, bishop, doctor, III Order, founder; 27 – St. Angela Merici, virgin, III Order, founder; 29 – Bl. Roger of Todi, religious, I Order; 30 – St. Hyacinth of Mariscotti, virgin, III Order; 31 – St. John Bosco, priest, III Order, founder.

