



– the CHIMES –

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P.O. BOX 90366

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20090-0366

APR Vol. LX, No. 4

April 17, 2016

Schedule

- 9:30am Inquiry Session – St. Bonaventure Room downstairs
9:30am Candidate Session (2017) – St. Clare Room – upstairs in the Friary
9:30am Candidate Session (2016) – Sacred Heart Room downstairs
11:00am Franciscan Crown Rosary in Blessed Sacrament Chapel
12:00pm Mass in Monastery church
1:00pm Fraternity Social Gathering – St. Bonaventure Room – downstairs in the Friary. Bring your own lunch, light refreshments will be provided.
1:30pm Fraternity Meeting – St. Bonaventure Room

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.

Fraternity Meeting Agenda

- Welcoming Ceremony for new Inquirers – We welcome into our family those who have completed Orientation and feel called to pursue their path towards profession in the Order. Welcome and greet with joy our new Inquirers: **Francoise Bidiki** and **Constance Ramseth**.
- Opening Prayer
- Housekeeping
- Roundtable Discussion with Fraternity
 - Individual Introductions of New Council Members
 - Open Discussion on Fraternity's Plan for Year 1
 - Open Question & Answer Session
- Introduction to New Committees
 - Roles & Responsibilities
 - Expectations
- Closing Evening prayer. Please bring your "Shorter Christian" Prayer Book with you.

◆ Theme: TIME IS GREATER THAN SPACE ◆

Bible Quote of the Month

But when he comes, the Spirit of truth, he will guide you to all truth. He will not speak on his own, but he will speak what he hears, and will declare to you the things that are coming. (John 16:13)



Prayer of the Month

*"Be strong, dear brothers, and rejoice in the Lord. Do not be sad, you seem so few, and do not let my simplicity or yours discourage you. The Lord has shown me that God will make us grow into a great multitude, and will spread us to the ends of the earth."*¹

¹ Armstrong et al ed (1999), *Francis of Assisi: The Saint – Early Documents*, p205

Contact Information

Fraternity Council

Please call before 9pm.



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ADMONITION OF ST. FRANCIS

9. On love²



The Lord says:
“Love your enemies; [do good to those who hate you, and pray on behalf of those who are persecuting and calumniating you]”

(Mt 5:44). For he truly loves his enemy, who does not grieve because of the injury, which he did to him, but, concerning the sin against his own soul, burns for the sake of the love of God. And he shows love for him by (his) deeds.

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 Two, Article 19 of The Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order.

Mindful that they are bearers of peace which must be built up unceasingly, they should seek out ways of unity and fraternal harmony through dialogue, trusting in the presence of the divine seed in everyone and in the transforming power of love and pardon.

Messengers of perfect joy in every circumstance, they should strive to bring joy and hope to others.

Since they're immersed in the resurrection of Christ, which gives true meaning to Sister Death, let them serenely tend toward the ultimate encounter with the Father.

The Information Corner – Pope Quote



“The Bible is full of families, births, love stories and family crises. This is true from its very first page, with the appearance of Adam and Eve’s family with all its burden of violence but also its enduring strength (cf. Gen 4) to its very last page, where we behold the wedding feast of the Bride and the Lamb (Rev 21:2, 9). Jesus’ description of the two houses, one built on rock and the other on sand (cf. Mt 7:24-27), symbolizes any number of family situations shaped by the exercise of their members’ freedom, for, as the poet says, “every home is a lampstand.”

The Information Corner

April 27th – Feastday of Saint Zita de Lucca

Saint Zita of Lucca was a member of the Third Order of St Francis. Lucca is in Tuscany; and since the Third Order was widely propagated there after its founding, this holy servant girl of the thirteenth century would quite naturally join its ranks.

Papal Intentions for the Month

Universal Intention – Small Farmers - That small farmers may receive a just reward for their precious labor..

Evangelization Intention – African Christians - That Christians in Africa may give witness to love and faith in Jesus Christ amid political-religious conflicts.³

From the Mailbox: News of our Family

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 friends,

Sincere thanks for the timely aid which I received from you. We utilized the money for our daily needs. It is really a great blessing for us.

Our children – Laya, Lidhiya, and Samuel – are continuing their studies to prepare for their annual examination.

We remember you in our daily prayers and implore blessings on your undertakings. We wish you a very happy Easter.

Yours affectionately, Mary Sebastian

Fraternity Finances

\$ Last month we received \$580.22 in donations and disbursed \$667.30 in expenses. This does not include undeposited checks.

May Birthdays

May 1 – Larry Bleau, 4 – Michele Dunn, 6 – Roy Foster, 8 – Mary Jo Fehr, 12 – Margaret (Peggy) Simoneau, 15 – Delphine Ben and J. Patrick Enderson, 20 – Mark Di Salvo, 27 – Sandra White, 28 – Frank Klem, and 30 – Joseph Clemente and Jean-Paul Gauthier.

³ Apostleship of Prayer (2015). Accessed February 7, 2015, URL <http://www.apostleshipofprayer.org/>

Please Pray For Our Sick

Pat Allnutt; Larry Bleau's father, Raymond (now in assisted living); Ernest Braddock; Dorothy Clayton and her daughter, Kathy McCoy; Maria Louisa Correa and her family; Mary Ann Corr and her niece, Patricia Corr; Lourdes Corso and her family; Sarah Faizi's mother; Jean Fleurival; Roy Foster; John Hewitt; Marianne Hughes; Nancy McCleary; Fritz Nicholas and his family; Mary Okuma's family; Joe Rende; Julia Stratchko; Cecilia Thieman and her family; Hellen Walls; Dineen Whipple; Donna Wilkes and her brother, Hollis; Theresa Wilson; Mildred Wray.

Franciscan Feastdays and Memorials

May 9 – Saint Catherine of Bologna, virgin of II Order (optional memorial for II and III Order nuns); 11 – Saint Ignatius of Laconi, religious of I Order; 16 – Saint Margaret of Cortona, III Order (memorial); 17 – Saint Paschal Baylon, religious of I Order (memorial); 18 – Saint Felix of Cantalice, religious of I Order (feast); 20 – Saint Bernardine of Siena, priest of I Order (feast); 24 – Dedication of the Basilica of Saint Francis of Assisi (feast); 28 – Saint Mariana of Jesus de Paredes, virgin of III Order (optional memorial); 30 – Blessed Baptista Varano, virgin of II Order (optional memorial for II and III Order nuns), and 30 – Saint Ferdinand, King, member of the III Order.

Pray For Our Deceased Deacon Tom

Bello, who died on March 30, 2016. Tom, who was a former Region Minister and National Minister of the Secular Franciscan Order in the United States, embraced Sister Death on Mar 29 around 5pm. Tom's wife, Judy, said he entered eternal life very peacefully, and she thanked us for all the joy we brought to Tom by our love and prayers. Tom had been battling cancer for several years. The funeral was April 2 at St. James Church in Falls Church, VA. 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.

April Reflection

By J. Patrick Enderson, OFS

“Most High, glorious God, enlighten the darkness of my heart and give me true faith, certain hope, and perfect charity, sense and knowledge, Lord, that I may carry out Your holy and true command.” (Saint Francis – The Prayer before the Crucifix, 1205/06.)

The prayer listed above consists of only 34 words, yet its truth speaks to our hearts in profound ways. These prayerful words clearly demonstrate to us, as followers of the teachings and spiritual disciplines of Saint Francis, where our beloved founder’s heart was directed during his 44 years on earth, and why the Franciscan Order he founded in 1209 continues to grow and thrive more than 800 years later.

The beauty of simplicity and truth is that neither change with time. As Franciscans we

must be vigilant and walk with courage during our relatively short time on an earth, which is becoming increasingly hostile to the faithful. We should never lose sight of the mission which Saint Francis, Saint Anthony and Saint Claire declared and embraced openly during their lifetimes.

Today’s truth is the same truth which came to life as a result of Mary’s fiat over two thousand years ago. One so critically important to our faith, that her Son, Jesus Christ specifically used the word to reassure Thomas during the Last Supper by saying, “I am the way and the truth and the life.” (*John 14:6*)

I would like to sincerely thank each one of you reading this and for giving me the opportunity to serve each of you over the next three years as your new minister. I would also ask that each of you keep me in your prayers and know that you are all in mine.



Our New Council (Left to Right): J. Patrick Enderson, OFS (Minister), Chris Cropper, OFS (Vice Minister), Bill Richardson, OFS (Secretary), Gerda Biglin, OFS (Treasurer), Larry Bleau, OFS (Formation Director)