



— the CHIMES —

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DEC Vol. LX, No. 12

December 18, 2016



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*.

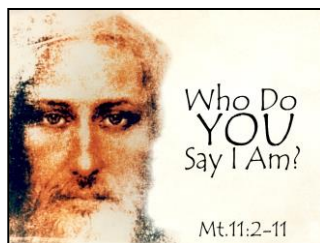
◆ Theme: **PREPARING THE WAY BEFORE YOU** ◆

Bible Quote of the Month

When Jesus finished giving these commands to his twelve disciples, he went away from that place to teach and to preach in their towns.

When John heard in prison of the works of the Messiah, he sent his disciples to him with this question, “Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?” Jesus said to them in reply, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them. And blessed is the one who takes no offense at me.” As they were

going off, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John, “What did you go out to the desert to see? A reed swayed by the wind? Then



what did you go out to see? Someone dressed in fine clothing? Those who wear fine clothing are in royal palaces. Then why did you go out? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it

is written: ‘Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way before you.’. (*Matthew 11: 1-10*)

Prayer of the Month

May your heart always be the temple of the Holy Spirit. May Jesus always be the helmsman of your little spiritual ship. May Mary be the star which shines on your path and may she show you the safe way to reach the Heavenly Father. Amen. –*Saint Pio of Pietrelcina*

December Reflection

By Michele Dunne, OFS

In reading our Bible Quote of the Month (Matthew 11:1-10), one might well wonder why St. John the Baptist sent his followers to ask Jesus whether he was the Messiah. After all, wasn't this the same John who leapt in his mother's womb when he heard the Blessed Virgin's voice – and so knew who Jesus was even before either of them was born? Perhaps it was not John himself who needed to know, but rather his followers who needed to find out
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Please call before 9pm.



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The Information Corner – Pope Quote



“God has not abandoned His people and has not let them be overcome by evil, because He is faithful and His grace is greater than sin... And the fulfillment of so much love will be exactly the Kingdom established by Jesus, that Kingdom of pardon and peace, which we celebrate at Christmas and which is manifested conclusively in Easter. These are the reasons for our hope. When all seems over, when in the face of so many negative realities faith grows weary and the temptation to say that all has lost meaning comes, rather, [look to] the good news brought by those quick feet: God is coming to make something new, to establish a kingdom of peace. God has ‘extended His arm’ and brings liberty and consolation.”¹

¹ Vatican Radio, broadcast Dec 14, 2016. Accessed Dec 14, URL <http://www.news.va/en/news/pope-at-audience-jesus-coming-brings-consolation-t>

December Reflection

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for themselves who Jesus was. Our Lord's parting words to John's followers are most beautiful: “Blessed is the one who takes no offense at me.” Not “worship me” or even “follow me,” but merely “take no offense” – how meek and humble of heart indeed. And as Advent advances, what better time to reflect on the touching stories of our forebears in this



Franciscan path – St. Francis, St. Clare, and St. Anthony – experiencing the grace of holding the Infant Jesus in their arms during their fervent prayers. May we be blessed during this Advent and Christmas with meek and humble hearts that take no offense at our gentle Jesus, and willing arms that provide the Holy Infant with a loving place to rest and to grow.

January Speaker from Hospital in Bethlehem

The speaker at our January 15, 2017, meeting will be Michele Bowe, President of the board of directors of **Holy Family Hospital** in Bethlehem. She will give us a briefing on the hospital, which is run by the Order of Malta, of which Michele is a member.



The Monastery has been helping to collect infant onesies and other small clothes for newborns (tee shirts, hats, blankets), which Michele Dunne will hand carry to Bethlehem. Please bring something if you can; cash donations are also welcome.²

² The hospital's web site is <http://holfamilyhospital-bethlehem.org/>. To learn more, watch the short video (<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/religionandethics/2016/12/09/bethlehems-holy-family-hospital/33646/>), which aired in December on the “Religion and Ethics” program on PBS.



The Rule

Chapter One, Article 1 of The Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order.

The Franciscan family, as one among many spiritual families raised up by the Holy Spirit in the Church, unites all members of the people of God – laity, religious, and priests – who recognize that they are called to follow Christ in the footsteps of St. Francis of Assisi. In various ways and forms but in life-giving union with each other, they intend to make present the charism of their common Seraphic Father in the life and mission of the Church.

ADMONTION OF ST. FRANCIS

17. On the humble servant of God³

“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.

From the Mailbox: News of our Family

Nirvana Jolls has moved; her new address is 12802 County Road 747 Apt. D, Hanceville, AL 35077, email Nirvanaandaj@hotmail.com.



January Birthdays

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

Fraternity Finances

\$ Last month we received \$290 in donations and disbursed \$192.54 in expenses, not including undeposited checks.

³ *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>.

Papal Intentions for the Month

Universal Intention – **End to Child-Soldiers:** That the scandal of child-soldiers may be eliminated the world over.

Evangelization Intention – **Europe:** That the peoples of Europe may rediscover the beauty, goodness, and truth of the Gospel which gives joy and hope to life.⁴

Please Pray For Our Sick

Julia Stratchko; Frank Klem’s wife, Dona Klem; Pat Allnutt; Larry Bleau’s father, Raymond Bleau; Ernest Braddock; Dorothy Clayton and her daughter, Kathy Mccoy; Mary Anne Corr and her niece, Patricia Corr; Lourdes Corso and her family; Sarah Faizi’s mother; Jean Fleurival; Roy Foster; John Hewitt, M.D.; Helene Hogan; Marianne Hughes and her family; Nancy McCleary; Mary Okuma’s family; Fritz Nicholas and his family; Brenda Nutt; Joe Rende; Vicky Spalding’s father, John Lynch; Cecilia Thieman and her family; Helen Walls; Dineen Whipple; Donna Wilkes and her family; Theresa Wilson; and Mildred Wray.

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, coadjutor 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).

Feastdays of Franciscan Friars

Pray for the following friars, whose feast days are next month: January 3 – Manuel Ybarra, 11 – Garret Edmunds, and 20 – John-Sebastian.

⁴ Apostleship of Prayer (2016). Accessed December 12, 2016, URL <http://www.apostleshipofprayer.org/>