



- *the Chimes* -

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December 15, 2019



No Fraternity Meeting This Month



There will be no meeting this month. Formation classes (both Candidate and the new Orientation) will start January 19, the next meeting date. Look for times and room locations in the January *Chimes*.

◆ Theme: **HE CAME IN LOVE** ◆

Bible Quote of the Month

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came to be through him, and without him nothing came to be. What came to be through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race; the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. ... And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth. (*Jn 1:1-5,14*)

Prayer of the Month

May whoever observes all this be filled in heaven with the blessing of the most high Father, and on earth with that of his beloved Son, together with the Holy Spirit, the Comforter. (*Blessing of St. Francis*)



The Information Corner

Dec 10th – Feastday of Our Lady of Loreto¹

On Oct 7 Pope Francis added this feast to our liturgical calendar. The title Our Lady of Loreto refers to the Holy House of Loreto, the house in which Mary was born, where the Annunciation occurred, and to an ancient statue of Our Lady which is found there. Tradition says that a band of angels scooped up the little house from the Holy Land, transported it first to Tersato, Dalmatia in 1291, then Recanati, Italy in 1294, and finally to Loreto, Italy, where it has been for centuries. This flight led to her patronage of people involved in aviation, and the long life of the house led to her patronage of builders and construction workers. It is the first shrine of international renown dedicated to the Blessed Virgin. Popes have always held the Shrine of Loreto in special esteem, and it is under their direct authority and protection.



¹ "Our Lady of Loreto", CatholicSaints.Info. Mar 8, 2019, URL <https://catholicsaints.info/our-lady-of-loreto/>

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ADMONITION OF ST. FRANCIS

19. On the humble servant of God ²

Blessed (is) the servant, who does not consider himself better, when he is magnified and exalted by men, as when for example he is considered to be vile, simple, and despised, because as much as a man is before God, that much he is and nothing more. Woe to that religious, who has been placed on high by others and does not wish to descend by means of his own will. And “blessed (is) that servant” (Mt 24:46), who is placed on high not by means of his own will and desires always to be beneath the feet of others.

² *The Writings of St. Francis of Assisi*, tr. by Paschal Robinson (1905), accessed September 9, 2017, URL <http://www.sacred-texts.com/chr/wosf/wosf03.htm>.



The Rule

Chapter Two, Article 4, para 2, of The Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order.

Christ, the gift of the Father's love, is the way to him, the truth into which the Holy Spirit leads us, and the life which he has come to give abundantly.

The Information Corner – Pope Quote



“The word ‘Advent’ means coming. The Lord is coming. This is the root of our hope: the certainty that God’s consolation comes to us amidst the troubles of the

world. Not a consolation of words, but of His presence among us.” “The closeness to the Lord invites our heart to approach our brothers and sisters with love, to show compassion towards everyone.”³

Papal Intention for the Month

Prayer Intention – The Future of the Very Young. That every country take the measures necessary to prioritize the future of the very young, especially those who are suffering. ⁴

A Stitch in Chimes

Here’s a look at our fraternity 20 years ago:

In December of 1999 the fraternity had a social gathering as its meeting, donated funds to support a local food bank, discussed article 13 of our Rule, a former Minister of our fraternity, Genie Dutton, wrote a letter to the fraternity, and Fr. Kevin wrote a reflection on the coming of our Savior and how St. Francis meditated on it.



³ Dec 1 and 2, 2019. URL <http://twitter.com/pontifex>

⁴ Pope’s Worldwide Prayer Network. Accessed Dec 2, 2019, URL <http://popesprayerusa.net/popese-intentions/>

Christmas Donations

Each year Council approves various donations, reserving enough funds to pay for upcoming fraternity expenses. This year, thanks to your generous donations, Council decided to donate a total of \$925 to the following organizations: Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land in America, Capuchin College Breakfast Ministry, Franciscan Family Apostolate (in addition to our regular donation), Franciscan Foundation for the Holy Land, Franciscan Mission Service, Catholic Charities, St. Ann’s Center for Children, Youth and Families, and So Others May Eat. Thank you once more for your generosity.



Thank You, All



We on Council express our thanks to all who have donated to the support of the fraternity. We also want to recognize and thank those who, in addition, give in-kind donations of food, material, labor and time, which contribute to a sense of family. Thank you, one and all.

Fraternity Finances

\$ Last month we received \$60 in donations and disbursed \$695.24 in expenses. This does not include undeposited donations or outstanding checks written.

From the Mailbox: News of our Family

- **Oyuo Hoba**’s new address is 16501 Shady Grove Rd. #7863, Gaithersburg, MD 20898; his phone remains the same.
- **Donna Wilkes** writes, “Please accept my deepest appreciation for all your prayers, Holy Masses, sympathy, and the support you’ve offered to me and my family during our time of bereavement, following the death of, and for the repose of the soul of my father, Roland A. Wilkes.”



Our New India Family

For many years our fraternity, as one of its apostolates, has assisted the Sabastian family in Allepo, India, through the [Franciscan Family Apostolate](#) program. Praise be to God, they are now self sufficient. Council has requested a new family we can support.



Xavier (right) and his wife, Thresiamma (center), have three children – two daughters and a son. Their eldest daughter is a religious nun. Their son is married; he stays separately with his wife and children. His small earnings from fishing are not enough to help his parents or his sickly sister, Jessy (left). Jessy had married but because she is a mental patient her husband divorced her. Xavier’s wife is a heart patient. Three family members need regular medication. Xavier was a fisherman, but is unable to work now due to asthma and old age sickness. Most days the family is in starvation. They live in a small tiled house that is now in need of major repair. Xavier is losing hope and is looking for some kind of assistance.

Pray For Our Deceased Francisco Moreno, brother of member **Mary Gamez**, who died last month, and **Jim Murphy**, husband of member **Margaret Murphy**, who died Nov 14. 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.

December Reflection

By Larry Bleau, OFS

Palaces and Potholes

We are now in the season in which we anticipate the coming of the Redeemer of the world. We consider how he came to save us and redeem us from our sins. Was that the only reason he came, though?

Blessed John Duns Scotus, OFM, a great Franciscan theologian, perceived Jesus' coming in a different way: Jesus came because of God's infinite love for us. He loved us so much that he planned, from the beginning of time – before Adam was even created, much less sinned – to send His Son incarnate to be born, live among us, and eventually to die and rise in the perfect sacrificial offering. Such is the love of the Father for us. Such is the love that St. Francis experienced. *(next column)*

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 Todí, religious, I Order; 30 – St. Hyacinth of Mariscotti, virgin, III Order; 31 – St. John Bosco, priest, III Order, founder.

January Birthdays

January 4 – Victoria Spalding; 15 – Dineen Whipple; 17 – Adele Lewis; 29 – John Hewitt, Bennett Solberg; and 30 – Anthony Mazzucco.

(Reflection continued)

Consider, for a moment, and compare: the sin of a human vs. the gift of the Lord Himself. The human sin is like a pothole that needs to be repaired. The coming of the Lord is like a magnificent temple or palace. To quote noted Franciscan author Br. William Short, OFM, “God doesn’t build a Taj Mahal to cover a pothole.” No; He builds it because He always intended it to be built.



Let us, in this season of Advent, dwell not so much on the potholes in our life, but focus more on the magnificent palace the Lord has built for us and which is present in His coming.

This was inspired by a reflection written by Anne Mulqueen, OFS, published in the Summer/Fall 2019 edition of TAU-USA (at <https://secularfranciscansusa.org/tau-usa-newsletter/>), and was used by permission.

Please Pray For Our Sick

Connie Ramseth's husband, Robert; Vilma Camposano; Rosemary Boardley and her family; Mary Anne Corr and her niece, Patricia Corr; Maria Louisa Correa; Lourdes Corso and her family; Sarah Faizi's friend Ron Harner; Jean Fleurival; John Hewitt; Polly Howard; Nancy McCleary; Ouida Morrison; Margaret Murphy and her family; Fritz Nicholas and his family; Carol Petro; Cecilia Thieman and her family; Helen Walls; Deneen Whipple and her family; and Donna Wilkes and her brother, Hollis.

