



- the Chimes -

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FEB Vol. LXIV, No. 2

February 16, 2020

Schedule

- 8-10am Breakfast Ministry – Cap College
9:30am Council meeting – Sacred Heart Room
10:30am Orientation Session – St. Francis Room downstairs
10:30am Candidate Session (2020) – Sacred Heart Room downstairs
11:15am Franciscan Crown Rosary in St. Bonaventure Room
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
3:00pm Council meeting (if needed)

Fraternity Meeting Agenda

- Opening prayer
- Housekeeping and news
- Book discussion – Chapter 1
- Short teaching on Freedom
- Discussion of the Rule – Article 12
- Closing Evening prayer. If you have the book “Shorter Christian Prayer”, please bring it with you.

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. The criteria for Active-excused and Lapsed member status is explained in the Fraternity guidelines. Thank you.

◆ Theme: **FREEDOM** ◆

Bible Quote of the Month

“I have the right to do anything,” you say – but not everything is beneficial. “I have the right to do anything” – but not everything is constructive. No one should seek their own good, but the good of others. (1 Cor 10:23-24)

Prayer of the Month

Almighty and merciful God, in your goodness take away from us all that is harmful, so that, made ready both in mind and body, we may freely accomplish your will. (Roman Missal, 32nd Sunday, Opening Prayer.

Save the Dates – Concert and Retreats

- **May 29-31 – St. Margaret of Cortona** annual retreat in **Priestfield, WV**. This year’s facilitator will be our very own Fr. Kevin Treston, OFM, a former Spiritual Advisor to our fraternity.
- **March 13 – Concert by David Haas** entitled *Take Nothing for the Journey*
- **March 14 – Lenten Retreat** at the Franciscan Monastery.



Contact Information

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Please call before 9pm.



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ADMONITION OF ST. FRANCIS

20. On the inane and loquacious religious ¹

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, 2017, URL <http://www.sacred-texts.com/chr/wosf/wosf03.htm>.



The Rule

Chapter Two, Article 12 of The Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order.

Witnessing to the good yet to come and obliged to acquire purity of heart because of the vocation they have embraced, they should set themselves free to love God and their brothers and sisters.

The Information Corner – Pope Quote



“Whoever keeps their gaze fixed on Jesus learns to live in order to serve. They do not wait for others to start, but set out to seek their neighbor.”²

Papal Intention for the Month

Prayer Intention – **Listen to the Migrants’ Cries.** We pray that the cries of our migrant brothers and sisters, victims of criminal trafficking, may be heard and considered.³

Book Discussion: “Surrounded by Love”

Starting this month we will discuss a chapter each month of the book “**Surrounded by Love**”. Read through p13 and be ready to discuss.

If you have done so already, please include an additional \$12 donation to cover the book’s cost. If you cannot afford the additional amount, contact a Council member and we will make sure you get one nonetheless.

Fraternity Finances

\$ Last month we received \$757 in donations and disbursed \$29.49 in expenses. This does not include undeposited/uncashed checks.

Thank you to the nine members who contributed their Fair Share in January.

² Feb 1, 2020. URL <http://twitter.com/pontifex>

³ Pope’s Worldwide Prayer Network. Accessed February 1, 2020, URL <http://popesprayerusa.net/popese-intentions/>

The Information Corner

Feb 7th – Feastday of St Colette of Corbie⁴

Foundress of the Colettine Poor Clares (Clarisses), Colette was born on January 13, 1381, at Corbie in Picardy, France. Her father, Robert Boellet, was a carpenter; her mother, Marguerite, was 60 and childless when Colette was born. The little girl took great pleasure in prayer, in compassion for the poor, and in rigorous mortification.



After her parents' death, Colette, at age 22, obtained permission to live as a recluse, shut up in a small abode adjoining the church; from a small window in it she could see the Blessed Sacrament. She had embraced the rule of the Third Order of Saint Francis, and endeavored to live in perfect poverty, severe mortification, and constant prayer.

God excited in Colette the desire to re-introduce the strict observance of the rule of St Clare, which many convents of Poor Clares then observed in a modified form. Although the humble virgin initially recoiled at the idea, the inspiration returned again and again, until she finally resigned herself to the will of God, praying, "Lord, what wilt Thou have me do? I am ready to do anything Thou desirest of me."

The Lord sent her a special director. After spending four years in her retreat, she set about her task of reform, and with the authority and the blessing of Benedict XIII⁵, she entered the

⁴ Extracted from two sources: Roman Catholic Saints, URL <https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/st-colette-de-corbie.html>, originally from The Franciscan Book of Saints, ed. by Marion Habig, OFM.; and EWTN, URL <https://www.ewtn.com/saintsholy/saints/C/stcoletteofcorbie.asp>, both accessed Feb 1, 2020.

⁵ Antipope Benedict XIII, Pedro de Luna, was then recognized by France as the rightful pope. He issued four Bulls in the period 1406-1412 in support of Colette.

order of Poor Clares. She founded a branch of the Order that is still known as the Colettines. She prescribed extreme poverty, fostered the spirit of prayer and simplicity of heart, and placed great value on the recitation of the Divine Office in choir. She established a total of 17 convents during her lifetime to complete the reform of the order.

Colette had a special devotion to St. John the Apostle, who appeared to her in a vision and placed a miraculous ring on her finger, saying as he did so, "by my own right and on behalf of the sovereign King and Prince of virginity and chastity." She also had a great desire for a relic of the True Cross. One day when she was contemplating Our Lord's suffering, she was drawn into an ecstasy. When her contemplation was over, she realized she was holding a small gold crucifix that had not been there before; it contained a small relic of the True Cross.

After her death at Ghent on March 6, 1447, similar foundations were established in countries other than France, in which the primitive rule of St. Clare began to flourish anew.

St. Colette was beatified January 23, 1740, and canonized on May 24, 1807. Her feastday is observed on March 6 but also on February 7 by Franciscans. The Colettine Sisters are found today, outside of France, in Belgium, Germany, Spain, England, and the United States.

A Stitch in Chimes

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

In February of 2000 the fraternity had lunch in the friary at the invitation of Fr. Kevin; discussed an excerpt from the book, "Way of Life" by Richard Portisak, OFM, which offered ways in which Secular Franciscans can be a vibrant force in society; collected and donated items to the Gift of Peace House and Ronald McDonald House; and Fr. Kevin wrote a reflection on St. Valentine.



Fair Share – What Is It?

Article 25 of the Rule asks us to “contribute toward the expenses of the higher fraternity councils.” The St. Margaret of Cortona Regional Fraternity’s suggested Fair Share donation is \$40 per active member (\$20 for active-excused). If you have not already done so, please include a Fair Share contribution in this month’s envelope, and write “Fair Share” on the envelope or check.



► Please note that this special donation does not go towards the support of our fraternity; your regular, separate monthly donation does this.

Please Pray For Our Sick

Connie Ramseth’s husband, Robert; Vilma Camposano; Mary Anne Corr and her niece, Patricia Corr; Maria Louisa Correa; Sarah Faizi and her friend, Ron Harner; John Hewitt; Polly Howard; Nancy McCleary; Margaret Murphy; Fritz Nicholas and his family; Cecilia Thieman and her family; John and Deneen Whipple; Helen Walls; and Donna Wilkes and her brother, Hollis.

March Birthdays

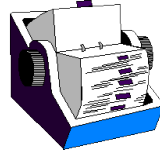
March 3 – Mary Gigliotti, 4 – Francis Kane, 5 – Vilma Camposano, 11 – Ling Guiron and Fritz Nicolas, 13 – Amy Bilyeau, 16 – John Whipple, 24 – Kady Konan, 25 – Mary Anne Corr, and 30 – Rita Aughenbaugh.

Franciscan Feastdays and Memorials

March 2 – Bl. Agnes of Prague, virgin, II Order; 3 – Bls. Liberatus Weiss, Samuele Marzorati and Michele Pio Fasoli, priests and martyrs, I Order; 5 – St. John Joseph of the Cross, priest, I Order; 9 – St. Frances of Rome, religious, III Order; 12 – Bl. Angela Salawa, virgin, III Order; 18 – St. Salvator of Horta, religious I Order; 20 – Bl. John of Parma, priest, I Order; 22 – St. Benvenute of Osimo, priest, I Order; 23 – St. Catherine of Genoa, III Order; 24 – Bl. Ludovico of Casoria, priest, I Order; 30 – St. Peter Regaldo, priest, I Order.

New Directory

The 2020 fraternity directory has been printed. Copies will be available at this and future meetings. If you prefer to receive a PDF copy of your directory, let Larry know and he will email one to you.



February Reflection

By Larry Bleau, OFS

What comes to mind with the word “freedom”? One often thinks of freedom “from” some restriction on our behavior, be it a law, moral code, social custom, or anything else. In Catholic understanding, however, it is the opposite: freedom “to” do something.

What it is we are to do is for us to discover. Church teaching, though, gives us very good guidelines: To do good. To discern and do God’s will. To serve God and one another. And: To love. This was Our Lord greatest commandment: Love one another.

To love someone we must be free to love. It is not forced, nor is it prohibited. It must be an act of our own will, undertaken of our own volition, without restraints, to place another’s welfare above our own, to make a gift of ourselves to the other. This is the essence of charity.

When St. Francis freely embraced the leper and found his odor to be sweet, he was freed from the social restraints placed on him at the time as well as his own aversion; he was free to love even the outcast of his day.



Jesus, in His great love for us, embraced the Cross and gave His life for us, and thereby set us free to love as well.

Let us follow their example and free ourselves to love others: our brother and sister, the stranger, the sojourner, the homeless and the outcast among us. For in this way we can be Jesus to them, and in doing so accomplish His will.