



# - the Chimes -

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P.O. BOX 90366

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20090-0366

MAR Vol. LXIV, No. 3

March 15, 2020

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## Schedule

- 8-10am Breakfast Ministry – Cap College  
10:30am Council meeting – Sacred Heart Room  
10:30am Orientation Session – St. Francis 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 (continued)

## Fraternity Meeting Agenda

- Opening prayer
- News and housekeeping
- Meet our Seminarian
- Book discussion – Chapter 2
- Discussion of the Rule – Article 13
- 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.

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## ◆ Theme: RENEWAL ◆

### Bible Quote of the Month

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. (*Rom 12:2*)

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### Prayer of the Month

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew in me a steadfast spirit. Do not cast me away from your presence, nor deprive me of your Holy Spirit. (from *The Miserere*)

### Save the Date – Retreat, Movie

- **May 29-31 – St. Margaret of Cortona** annual retreat in **Priestfield, WV**. The speaker will be Fr. Kevin Treston, OFM, a former Spiritual Advisor to our fraternity. Those who would like to attend but need assistance should contact Council privately.
- **March 18, 6:30** – Join us for the documentary movie “**I Am Patrick**”; see details on p3.



## Contact Information

### Fraternity Council

Please call before 9pm.



Larry Bleau (Minister) 301-474-1338

[minister@dcsfo.org](mailto:minister@dcsfo.org)

Michele Dunne (Vice Minister) 202-412-1210

[vice-minister@dcsfo.org](mailto:vice-minister@dcsfo.org)

Bill Richardson (Secretary) 301-848-7390

[secretary@dcsfo.org](mailto:secretary@dcsfo.org)

Vilma Camposano (Treasurer) 301-557-0271

[treasurer@dcsfo.org](mailto:treasurer@dcsfo.org)

Adele Lewis (Formation Dir.) 239-839-5489

[formation@dcsfo.org](mailto:formation@dcsfo.org)

Fr. Jim Gardiner, S.A. (Spiritual Assistant)

202-526-6800 x374 [spiritual@dcsfo.org](mailto:spiritual@dcsfo.org)

Larry Bleau (Chimes Editor) 301-474-1338

[chimes@dcsfo.org](mailto:chimes@dcsfo.org)

Also visit our web site: <http://dcsfo.org/>

### St. Margaret of Cortona Regional Council

Bob Longo (Minister) [blongosfo@gmail.com](mailto:blongosfo@gmail.com)

Mary Bibro (DC Metro Area Councilor)

[bibromc@mac.com](mailto:bibromc@mac.com)

### National Fraternity

Jan Parker (Minister) [jansfo@yahoo.com](mailto:jansfo@yahoo.com)

## ADMONITION OF ST. FRANCIS

### 21. On the inane and loquacious religious <sup>1</sup>

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.

<sup>1</sup> *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 13 of The Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order.

As the Father sees in every person the features of his Son, the firstborn of many brothers and sisters, so the Secular Franciscans with a gentle and courteous spirit accept all people as a gift of the Lord and an image of Christ.

A sense of community will make them joyful and ready to place themselves on an equal basis with all people, especially with the lowly for whom they shall strive to create conditions of life worthy of people redeemed by Christ.

## The Information Corner – Pope Quote



“Lent is the perfect time to allow ourselves to contemplate the pain of those who suffer without anyone to help them. It is the time to turn compassion into concrete acts of solidarity and care.” “Lent is great time to make space for the Word of God. It is time to turn off the TV and open the Bible. It is a time to pull ourselves away from cell phones and connect ourselves to the Gospel.”<sup>2</sup>

## Papal Intention for the Month

Prayer Intention – Catholics in China. We pray that the Church in China may persevere in its faithfulness to the Gospel and grow in unity.<sup>3</sup>

## Fraternity Finances

💰 Last month we received \$775 in donations and disbursed \$404.83 in expenses.

▶ At lunchtime we will circulate an envelope, please contribute a small amount to support our seminarian.

<sup>2</sup> Mar 6 and Feb 28. URL <http://twitter.com/pontifex>

<sup>3</sup> Pope’s Worldwide Prayer Network. Accessed February 7, 2020, URL <http://popesprayerusa.net/popese-intentions/>

## **The Information Corner**

**May 16th** – Feastday of St. Frances of Rome<sup>4</sup>



Frances' life combines aspects of secular and religious life. A devoted and loving wife, she longed for a lifestyle of prayer and service, so she organized a group of women to minister to the needs of Rome's poor.

Born of wealthy parents, Frances found herself attracted to the religious life during her youth. But her parents objected and a young nobleman was selected to be her husband.

As she became acquainted with her new relatives, Frances soon discovered that the wife of her husband's brother also wished to live a life of service and prayer. So the two, Frances and Vannoza, set out together—with their husbands' blessings—to help the poor.

Frances fell ill for a time, but this apparently only deepened her commitment to the suffering people she met. The years passed, and Frances gave birth to two sons and a daughter. With the new responsibilities of family life, the young mother turned her attention more to the needs of her own household.

The family flourished under Frances' care, but within a few years a great plague began to sweep across Italy. It struck Rome with devastating cruelty and left Frances' second son dead. In an effort to help alleviate some of the suffering, Frances used all her money and sold her possessions to buy whatever the sick might possibly need. When all the resources

had been exhausted, Frances and Vannoza went door to door begging. Later, Frances' daughter died, and the saint opened a section of her house as a hospital.

Frances became more and more convinced that this way of life was so necessary for the world, and it was not long before she requested and was given permission to found a society of women bound by no vows. They simply offered themselves to God and to the service of the poor. Once the society was established, Frances chose not to live at the community residence, but rather at home with her husband. She did this for seven years, until her husband passed away, and then came to live the remainder of her life with the society—serving the poorest of the poor.

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### **Book Discussion: “Surrounded by Love”**

This month we will continue to discuss the book “**Surrounded by Love**”. Please read chapter 2 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.

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### **“I Am Patrick” Movie Night**



Join us on **Wed, Mar 18** for a movie night to see the documentary “**I Am Patrick**”; movie time is **6:30**. Meet at the Regal Majestic Stadium 20 Theatres, in Silver Spring, which is walking distance from the Silver Spring Metro. Buy your ticket, then proceed to the theatre, where you will be met shortly before showtime; let Larry know (301-474-1338) if you plan to attend.

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### **April Birthdays**

April 6 – William Richardson, 9 – Virginia Lyons, 28 – Saturnino Camposano.

Friar birthdays: April 4 – Friar David Wathen.

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<sup>4</sup> Source: Franciscan Media, accessed Mar 1, 2020, URL <https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-frances-of-rome/>.

### **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.



Thank you to the 15 members who have contributed thus far.

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



### **Meet Our Seminarian**

This month please welcome the seminarian will will sponsor, Dylan Prentice. He will join us for Mass, lunch and our meeting.

### **New Fraternity Directory**

The 2020 fraternity directory is available at the meeting. If you prefer to receive a PDF copy, let Larry know and he will email one to you.

### **From the Mailbox: News of our Family**

- **Francoise Bidiki** has moved: 1233 Main Dr. NW #322, Washington, DC 20012.

### **A Stitch in Chimes**

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

In March of 2000 the fraternity joined with the Church in celebrating the Great Jubilee year; discussed Article 16 of the Rule; had an informal discussion about Lent; donated supplies to two local charities; and Fr. Kevin wrote a reflection on St. Patrick.



### **March Reflection**

*By Larry Bleau, OFS*

“Let us begin again, for up to now we have done nothing.” These words of St. Francis apply to many situations in life, but even more so during Lent, when we are called for a deeper renewal, both in the spirit and in the world.

For our spiritual renewal, let us spend more time with God each day, such as in Eucharistic adoration or prayer, and commit to helping someone through spiritual works of mercy to bring them closer to God.

For our worldly renewal, let us reach out to the poor, the hungry, and the outcast, and help our brothers and sisters through corporal works of mercy. By this we show them that God is present to them in us and through us.

### **Please Pray For Our Sick**

Amy Bilyeau; Adele Lewis; Connie Ramseth’s husband, Robert; Vilma Camposano; Mary Anne Corr and her family; Maria Louisa Correa; Sarah Faizi and her friend, Ron Harner; Jean Fleurival; John Hewitt; Polly Howard; Nancy McCleary; Margaret Murphy; Cecilia Thieman and her family; John and Deneen Whipple; Helen Walls; and Donna Wilkes and her brother, Hollis.

### **Franciscan Feastdays and Memorials**

April 2 – Bl. Elisabetta Vendramini, religious, III Order, founder; 3 – St. Benedict the Moor, religious, I Order (Sometimes celebrated on April 4); 6 – St. Crescentia Höss, virgin, III Order; 16 – St. Bernadette Soubirous, cord-bearer of St. Francis; St. Benedict Joseph Labre, cord-bearer of St. Francis; 21 – St. Conrad of Parzham, religious, I Order; 23 – Bl. Giles of Assisi, religious, I Order; 24 – St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen, priest, martyr, I Order; 25 – Bl. Pedro de San Jose Betancur, religious, III Order, founder; 27 – St. Zita of Lucca, virgin, III Order; 28 – Bl. Luchesius, III Order; 30 – Bl. Benedict of Urbino, priest, I Order; St. Benedict Joseph Cottolengo, III Order.