



# - the Chimes -

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P.O. BOX 90366

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20090-0366

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April 19, 2020

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**NO IN-PERSON MEETING THIS MONTH. WE WILL HAVE A CONFERENCE CALL MEETING; SEE REVISED SCHEDULE BELOW AND ARTICLE.**

**ON SUNDAY 1:50pm CALL 605-313-5421, CONFERENCE CODE 844330**

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## Schedule

10:30am **Sunday Mass:** Dish or Direct TV subscribers Ch. 50; Comcast Ch. 23 in DC and Montgomery County, Ch. 3 in Prince George's County and Southern Maryland; RCN Ch. 15; Verizon Ch. 3

12:00pm Mass livestreamed from the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception: <https://www.nationalshrine.org/mass/>

1:30am Franciscan Crown Rosary at home together (optional)

2:00pm Fraternity Meeting by telephone conference call; see above.

## Fraternity Meeting Agenda

- Opening prayer
- News of our members
- Book discussion – Chapter 3
- Discussion of the Rule – Article 13
- Closing prayer. This month we'll pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet.

### ***DON'T FORGET YOUR BINDERS!***

Even though we are meeting from home, your binder contains the Opening and Closing Prayers for fraternity meetings and the Divine Mercy Chaplet from last year.

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◆ Theme: **IN THE SPIRIT** ◆

## Bible Quote of the Month

I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Advocate, that He may be with you forever; that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you.

“I will not abandon you as orphans; I will come to you. In a little while the world will not see me any longer, but you will see me; because I live, you will live too.” (Jn 14:16-19)

## Prayer of the Month

### **An Act of Spiritual Communion**

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there, and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen. (St. Alphonsus Liguori, 18<sup>th</sup> century)

## **Contact Information**

### **Fraternity Council**

Please call before 9pm.



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## **ADMONITION OF ST. FRANCIS**

### **22. On correction <sup>1</sup>**

Blessed (is) the servant who would endure discipline, accusation and rebuke as patiently from another as from his very self. Blessed

(is) the servant, who having been rebuked, acquiesces kindly, submits meekly, confesses humbly and makes satisfaction freely. Blessed (is) the servant, who is not quick to excuse himself and humbly endures shame and rebuke because of a sin, even though he has not committed (any) fault.



<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**



“We are one human family. Let us bring all hostilities to a halt. May our joint fight against the COVID-19 pandemic bring everyone to recognize the great need to reinforce brotherly and sisterly bonds.”<sup>2</sup>

## **Papal Intention for the Month**

Prayer Intention – Freedom from Addiction.

We pray that those suffering from addiction may be helped and accompanied. <sup>3</sup>

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

This month we will continue to discuss the book “**Surrounded by Love**”. Please read chapter 3 and be ready to discuss.

## **Regional Retreat Cancelled**

Due to the COVID-19 virus, the St. Margaret of Cortona Council decided to cancel the retreat that was scheduled for May. Any deposits will be refunded.

<sup>2</sup> Mar 29, 2020. URL <http://twitter.com/pontifex>

<sup>3</sup> Pope’s Worldwide Prayer Network. Accessed Mar 29, 2020, URL <http://popesprayerusa.net/popese-intentions/>

## **The Information Corner**

*Editor's note: Given the COVID-19 pandemic, we decided that this month we would highlight a non-Franciscan saint, St. Charles Borromeo, who in dealing with a similar crisis nonetheless provided an excellent example on Franciscan behavior.* <sup>4</sup>

During the 1576 plague that menaced the northern Italian city of Milan and eventually took 25,000 lives, the civil government fled the city out of fear. The archbishop of Milan, St. Charles Borromeo, took over, assured the people he would not abandon them and, together with priests from the parishes and religious orders, began to care for their material and spiritual needs.



He organized hospitals, cared for orphans and brought the sacraments to those who were quarantined in their homes. He got priests to offer Masses in public squares and the middle of streets so that people could participate from their houses. He sold his personal goods and much of the diocesan treasury to feed the hungry and had the tapestries of his residence converted into blankets to warm the poor.

As a good shepherd, he was willing to risk his life to care for both the souls and the bodies of those entrusted to him and was able to persuade so many of his brother priests to join him. Recalling how Christ died for them first, he declared that Christ “does not even request this pathetic life of ours, but only that we put it at risk.”

He challenged them to pay attention not only to what can kill the body, like the pestilence, but

<sup>4</sup> Landry, Fr. Roger (2020). National Catholic Register, extracted from *4 Virtues Needed to Help Keep Your Eyes on Christ in This Crisis*, accessed May 29, 2020, URL <https://www.ncregister.com/blog/fatherlandry/4-virtues-you-need-in-this-time-of-crisis>

also to what can harm the soul, commenting, “The devout souls of our brethren languish with desire for divine things.”

And providing them, he argued, is not a small matter.

“I will certainly say that the sick do not need our assistance in such a way that without it they would have no hope of salvation, but often our services are necessary,” he said. “Besides, it is indisputably clear that we all understand how much [the sacraments] benefit not only the bad, but also the good, and how much alleviation they usually bring to the sick body and above all to the soul solicitous for its salvation.”

The greatest illustration of that point was how he scaled a mountain of corpses to give absolution and viaticum to a man at the top of the heap who had been placed there prematurely.

His example of courage tied to charity is a mirror for the Church and her leaders in every age, most especially at times of crisis. As all of us confront the coronavirus, we can all profit from how St. Charles put the Catholic faith into action in the most demanding and dangerous circumstances.

### **Pray For Our Deceased Friar John**



**Sebastian Laird-Hammond, OFM**, 59, of our Franciscan family, died on March 20, the first victim of the COVID-19 virus in DC. He had also battled leukemia for years. By his request there was no service; he was interred in his home state of Indiana. Friar Sebastian, a permanent Deacon, came to the Monastery in the 1980s and served in many crucial roles, including Secretary, business manager, Vicar, and founder and chaplain of the Franciscan Monastery Garden Guild. May the souls of the faithful departed, especially those of our Franciscan family, rest in eternal peace in the presence of our Lord.

## A Stitch in Chimes

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

In April of 2000 the fraternity discussed Article 17 of our Rule; Fr. Kevin gave a presentation on the Concept of Pilgrimage for the Jubilee Year 2000; our Treasurer, Alan Blevins, gave a report on fraternity finances; Gene Sides (d.) wrote to members about his travels with his family; and we reported the results of the Region's Elections (the new Region's Minister was Tom Bello (d.)).



## May Birthdays

May 1 – Larry Bleau, 4 – Michele Dunne, 8 – Mary Jo Fehr, 12 – Margaret Simoneau, 15 – Delphine Ben and J. Patrick Enderson, 20 – Mark Di Salvo, 27 – Sandra White, 30 – Joseph Clemente and Jean-Paul Gauthier.

## Fraternity Finances

\$ Last month we received \$180.97 in donations and disbursed \$78.86 in expenses, not including undeposited checks.

## Franciscan Feastdays and Memorials

May 3 – Bl. Arthur Bell, Henry Heath, John Woodcock, et al., priests, martyrs of England, I Order; 7 – Bl. Agnellus of Pisa, religious, I Order; 8 – Bl. Jeremiah of Valacchia, religious, I Order.; 9 – St. Catherine of Bologna, virgin, II Order; 10 – St. Ivo of Brittany, III Order; 11 – St. Ignatius of Laconi, religious, I Order; Bl. Antonio of St. Anne Galvoa, I Order, founder; 12 – St. Leopold Mandic, priest, I Order; 16 – St. Margaret of Cortona, III Order; 17 – St. Paschal Baylon, religious, I Order; 18 – St. Felix of Cantalice, religious, I Order; 19 – St. Crispin of Viterbo, religious, I Order; St. Theophilus of Corte, priest, I Order; 20 – St. Bernardine of Siena, priest, I Order; 21 – Bl. Franz Jägerstätter, Martyr, III Order; 24 – Dedication of the Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi; 28 – St. Mariana of Jesus de Paredes, virgin, III Order; 30 – St. Ferdinand, king, III Order; St. Camilla Batista of Varano, OSC.

## April Reflection

By Larry Bleau, OFS

These are the times that try men's – and women's – souls, in a spiritual sense. They are also a challenge to each of us. We have many bonds to unite us: our common faith, our profession, our being members of the same fraternal family. As Catholics, we all believe in the Real Presence of Our Lord in the Eucharist and the graces imparted when we receive Him. We long for this, as St. Francis did, when he said “we have and see nothing corporally of the Most High in this world except [His] Body and Blood....”<sup>5</sup>

Our challenge in these times is to unite ourselves to our Lord, make Him part of us, and ask Him to sanctify us, even while not at Church. We all recognize this as prayer. A special prayer for this purpose is Spiritual Communion. One example<sup>6</sup> of this type of prayer, by St. Alphonsus Liguori, is on p1, which we would pray during Communion. Let us fervently beseech our Redeemer in this manner, so that during our “time in the wilderness” we can be closer to Him.



## Please Pray For Our Sick

Adele Lewis; Rosemary Bordley and her family; Vilma Camposano; Mary Anne Corr and her family; Maria Louisa Correa and her family; Sarah Faizi's friend, Ron Harner; Jean Fleurival; John Hewitt; Mary Gigliotti's friend Mary Pat Donoghue and brother Danny; Polly Howard; Nancy McCleary; Margaret Murphy; Fritz Nicolas and his family; Connie Ramseth and her husband, Robert; Cecilia Thieman and her family; John and Deneen Whipple and their family; Helen Walls; and Donna Wilkes and her brother, Hollis.

<sup>5</sup> Armstrong et al (1999). *Early Documents: The Saint, Vol 1*, Exhortations to the Clergy (Later Edition), p54.

<sup>6</sup> Our Catholic Prayers, URL

<https://www.ourcatholicprayers.com/spiritual-communion.html>