



—the CHIMES—

P.O. BOX 90366

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20090-0366

JANUARY Vol. LIII, No. 1

January 18, 2009

Schedule

09:30am	Orientation Session in Sacred Heart Room
09:30am	Candidate Session in upper Conference Room
10:30am	Franciscan Crown Rosary in Blessed Sacrament Chapel
11:15am	Mass in Blessed Sacrament Chapel. Fr. Kevin, celebrant
12:00pm	Conversation in the Friary: coffee, doughnuts and refreshments
12:45pm	Fraternity Meeting in the Friary
01:00pm	News from our members and SFO in general, any business, group discussion
02:00pm	Fr. Kevin's talk
02:45pm	Closing Prayer and Last Blessing
03:00pm	Council meeting

This month's theme: Come, See, and Believe!

Bible Quote of the Month – John was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he said, “behold, the Lamb of God.” The two disciples heard what he said and followed Jesus. Jesus turned and saw them following him and said to them, “What are you looking for?” They said to him, “Rabbi” – which translated means Teacher – ,”where are you staying?” He said to them, “Come and see.” (*Jn 1: 35-39*)

Prayer of the Month – Blessed Holy One, Lover of my youth, draw me after you, and I will come. I long for your affection, your embrace and your kiss. You are Most Beautiful, my Beloved; I will sing your praises. (*From St. Francis Prayer Book – Jon M. Sweeney*)

Come pray our Franciscan Crown Rosary together in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel at 10:30am.

All are invited !!

Our monthly Mass, celebrated by Fr. Kevin, is offered for our fraternity and the Monastery Friars.

Contacting Council

In case you want to contact any of our Council members, their telephone numbers are:



Minister (please call before 9pm)	Marie-Denyse Romain	703-734-9066
Vice Minister	Chris Cropper	301-476-7485
Secretary	Larry Bleau	301-474-1338
Treasurer	Virginia Lyons	202-832-5666
Formation Director	Ray Apodaca	202-544-7092
Councilor	Vicky Spalding	301-373-3955
Spiritual Assistant	Fr. Kevin Treston, OFM	202-526-6800

St. Francis Teaches – Open Your Heart to Jesus and Surrender! Jesus' invitation can be received and taken into account in ways which are different from one person to the other. In the Gospel of our Sunday meeting, John illustrates two very different ways to be called. The first, where two disciples of John the Baptist hearing that Jesus was the One, stepped on the road behind Him, with no hesitation. The second way is to be chosen by others, like Simon Peter to whom his brother Andrew said, "We have found the Messiah." Simon followed, saw, believed and his whole life changed. There is one common factor in those two cases: once the call is acknowledged, there is a willingness to choose and to immediately follow. The invited new disciples being opened to the grace responded fully to the words "*Come and See.*"



Francis experienced a dramatic call when Jesus enjoined him to "*rebuild His Church.*" He followed blindly like Andrew and the other disciple of John's Gospel. Not only did he transformed the Church and society, but he entered a whole new world, the Kingdom of God. God used him even more powerfully to usher in that Kingdom, bringing His Gospel alive in such a way that people were changed, renouncing their comfortable ways. Francis followed Christ and totally surrendered his will to Him. His Master's invitation was not limited to a "*Come and See*" but to a "*Come and Dwell*" where He lives, where holiness is a reality. In the constant company of our Lord, he listened carefully, heeding to all his commands. He made Christ the center of his prayer, the object of his love. He besought the Saviour to grant him the grace of perfect love: "*I beseech Thee, O Lord, that the fiery and sweet strength of Thy love may absorb my soul from all things that are under heaven.*" In pondering sacred Scripture, he marvelled at Our Lord's sacred humanity and reflected upon His life, death, and resurrection. Francis followed blindly the example set up in the Gospel by his Master. On His footsteps, he climbed the hills of contemplation, moving toward perfect union with the Divinity. His prayer was deeply affective, imbued with the simplicity of a child. The essence of Francis' affectivity was his great desire for God, the desire for personal union with Him. He prayed whole nights, yearning for his beloved, saying: "*Most holy Lord, I should like to love you. Dearest God, I should like to love you. O Lord God, I have given up to you all my heart and my body, and I yearn passionately to do still more for love of you if only I knew how.*" That kind of love drew him into the bosom of the Blessed Trinity. In the company of the Triune God, he was trained in all virtues which brought about his complete transformation and a full union with his Creator. With eagerness Francis climbed the ladder of perfection leading to the final dwelling in the heavenly Kingdom.

Reflection: *St. Francis invites us, his followers, to "Come and See." to watch the Lord Jesus ministering in the Gospel and experience Him in all aspects of our lives. He is so well described, so apparent in His Word. Reading the Bible daily is to gain a better understanding of His will, His way and His plan for us. He wants to take us to his home in Nazareth and see how he lived, hear his teaching, and conform our ways to His ways. Because he loves us with an everlasting love, his heart is ever calling, "Come and see." Are we willing to hasten and follow on his footsteps like the first apostles did? Let us squeeze then into the fold and surrender to his will by allowing ourselves not to think much but to love much. Only then can we taste and see how good the Lord is.*

"Show us Teacher where you live, and may we respond with sincere love and a receptive mind to your invitation to "Come and See."

Questions for Discussion – On St. Francis Teaches – Be prepared for the sharing.

- 1 In the Gospel of this Sunday meeting, John illustrates two different ways to be called. What are they? In which manner have you been called to serve as Secular Franciscan?
- 2 What is best to do, once we hear the call?
- 3 What are the steps leading a soul to Christ?

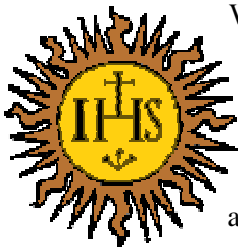
The Rule – Chapter Two, Article 14 of The Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order.



Secular Franciscans, together with all people of good will, are called to build a more fraternal and evangelical world so that the kingdom of God may be brought about more effectively. Mindful that anyone “who follow Christ, the perfect man, becomes more of a man himself,” let them exercise their responsibilities competently in the Christian spirit of service.

Coming Elections – The Regional Fraternity will elect new Council members in March 2009. Anyone qualified, from any fraternity in the Region, to hold an office in the Regional Council is invited to submit his (her) name in order to serve. Our fraternity will have its own election in January 2010. God has distributed great talents among us and St. Francis is calling our gifted ones to respond generously. Copies with description of the six different offices will be available at this meeting. The positions are: Minister, Vice-Minister, Formation Director, Secretary, Treasurer and Councilor. Let us pray the Holy Spirit to lead us where He wants us to serve.

The Information Corner – *JANUARY* is the month of the *Holy Name of Jesus*, and January 3 has been restored by Pope John Paul II as the true feast. St. Bernardino of Sienna was known for spreading the devotion to the Holy Name of Jesus. He would hold up for veneration the monogram of Christ’s Name – the letters “**IHS**” – surrounded by rays. IHS was used by St. Ignatius of Loyola as a symbol for the Jesuit Order.



We honor the Holy Name because of the command of Christ that we should pray in His name. As St. Paul wrote to the Philippians, “At the name of Jesus every knee should bend of those in heaven, on earth, and under the earth.” (Phil 2:10) By means of this devotion, we also make amends for improper use of the Holy Name. Devout Catholics bow their heads reverently at the sound of “Jesus” both inside and outside the liturgy. When we think of Jesus, we remember His name and we visualize the image of God in Him. St. Paul again said: “for in Jesus dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.” (Col 2:9)

Franciscan Feasts – Bl. Angela of Foligno, 3rd Order (1248-1309) –

January 7 – Born at Foligno of a rich family, Angela married at an early age. She loved the world and its pleasures and was forgetful of her dignity and duties as wife and mother. She then fell into sin and led a disorderly life. But God, having in His mercy inspired her with a deep sorrow for her sins, led her to the height of perfection and to the understanding of the deepest mysteries. She joined the Third Order of St. Francis. In the course of time the fame of her sanctity gathered around her a number of Tertiaries who strove under her direction to advance in holiness. Later she established at Foligno a community of sisters, who to the Rule of the Third Order added the three vows of religion without binding themselves to enclosure, so that they might devote their time to works of charity. She died January 4, 1309. Her remains repose in St. Francis Church at Foligno.



St. Bernard of Corleone, 1st Order (1605-1640) – January 12 – St.

Bernard was born in Sicily. His father owned a shoe shop. There he was taught the Shoemaker trade but left the shop at his father’s death. He took up fencing and became quite adept at wielding the sword, taking any opportunity to match swords with his countrymen. He was very much devoted to St. Francis of Assisi. He paid pious visits to a crucifix highly honored by the people, and provided that a lamp be kept burning before it.

At one point, St. Bernard had been challenged to a duel and wounded his opponent mortally. To escape his avengers, he sought refuge amongst the Capuchin Franciscans and was admitted as a lay brother. He led an austere life; fasted; practiced severe penances: sleeping with a block of wood under his head. He cherished a special love for Our Blessed Mother who appeared to him and placed the Divine Child in his arms. He died at Palermo on January 12, 1667, was beatified by Pope Clement XIII in 1767 and canonized by Pope John Paul II in 2001.



News of our Franciscan Family – Eugene Sides said on a Christmas card, “Please give all my Franciscan friends wonderful hugs. I pray for all of you each day.” Donna Wilkes’ surgical procedure to treat her trigeminal neuralgia has not been scheduled still. She thanks us for our wishes and prayers. Margaret (Peggy) Newcomer is sending her love to the fraternity. She spent Christmas with family members visiting.. Adele Spellerberg sent a beautiful handmade Christmas card drawn by her daughter Ruthie, saying: “May the Peace of Christmas fill your heart and your home with Love and Joy!” Roy Foster also sent his warm greetings to the fraternity. The Whipples said, “God bless you all!” Maria Louisa Correa is sending her love to everyone. From Connecticut, Gerda Biglin sent “a very Happy New Year to all.”

Pray For Our Sick – Dorothy Clayton; Maria Louisa Correa and her sister; Sarah Faizi’s brother, Edgar; Pat Ferguson’s daughter, Patty Wyman; Donna Wilkes; Margaret Newcomer; Theresa Wilson; Sarah Hurd; Mabel Henson; Pat Allnutt; Roy Foster; Eugene Sides; Henry Mullen; Adele Spellerberg; Marianne Hughes; Lourdes Corso; Clotilda Crawley; Joseph Clemente; Cecilia Thieman; Maureen Nolan and Beatrice Young.

Pray for Helen Holtz who died in December 2008 at the age of 90. Her funeral Mass took place on December 12 at St. John Baptist de la Salle Church in Chillum, MD. She made her profession in June 20, 1976. Also pray for Iola Pigott who passed away on December 24 at 87 years old. Her funeral Mass was said on January 2 at St. Anthony Church in DC. She professed in September 18, 1988. May the souls of Helen, Iola, and those of our deceased family members rest in eternal peace in the presence of our Lord.

February Birthdays February 1, Ronald McMahon and Cecilia Thieman – 4, Alberto Gamez and Alan Blevins – 6, Maureen Nolan – 8, James (Jay) Lynagh, III and Donna Wilkes – 21, Joseph Rende – 25, Jacqueline Wilson – 26, Joan Adundo and Nita Mullins – 27, Patricia Lovelace. **HAPPY BIRTHDAY to you! May the Lord bless you and give you His Peace.**

Feastdays of Franciscan Friars – Keep in your prayers the following friars, whose feastdays or birthdays (shown as (B)) are this coming month: February 4, Manuel (B).

January Reflection

by Marie-Denise Romain, SFO

The new calendar year began on January 1st with the solemnity of **Mary Mother of God**. January 11 sees John the Baptist stepping forward to help people recognize the Savior whom he baptizes in the River Jordan. He opened the way for Jesus and His ministry of salvation, a ministry based on the love, compassion, and mercy of a God who sends His Son to bring His children back to Him. We could call the Baptist the *Saint of New Beginnings*.

With each New Year comes new hope for a new beginning. This is the time when people make new resolutions. Some are successfully kept, some are not. This new beginning challenges us to take a plunge into the waters of repentance. Our *Jordan River* is the daily experiences that invite us to change our negative ways and, why not, take the responsibility to strengthen our catholic faith life as part of the Faithful People of God. The Voice of the Almighty speaks to us through Sacred Scripture, the Liturgy, the Magisterium of the Church. It directs us on the path to holiness towards the Kingdom of God.

As we enter 2009, and in spite of the many problems confronting our world we must be a people of hope, knowing that God is always in control. We, as the Baptist, are called to prepare the hearts of those around us to recognize and welcome the Lord in our midst; to strive in pleasing the Lord in every way. We can have a better year filled with inner peace and serenity if we do one important and essential thing: **Trust in God who loves us and wants us to live life fully.** Mary, the Mother of God and our Mother, will lead us to Jesus and into 2009.

Happy, Blessed and Healthy New Year to everyone and to the Friars!