



# —the CHIMES—

P.O. BOX 90366

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20090-0366

JANUARY Vol. LII, No. 1

February 15, 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 are provided.  
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

*This month's theme: God Heals in Body, Mind, and Soul*



**Bible Quote of the Month** – A leper came to Jesus and kneeling down begged him and said, “If you wish, you can make me clean.” Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand, touched him, and said to him, “I do will it. Be made clean.” The leprosy left him immediately, and he was made clean.” (*Mk 1: 40-42*)

**Prayer of the Month** – “You alone are holy, O Lord God, you are He who performs things wondrous... You are our hope. You are our faith. You are our great relish. You are our eternal life, great and wondrous Lord, God almighty, Savior merciful. (*St. Francis' Praises for Br. Leo*)

*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 ( <b>please call before 9pm</b> )	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 Through Life Example** – In Celano, First Life, we read: “Every order, every sex, every age has in him (Francis) a visible pattern of the way of salvation and has outstanding examples of holy works... Let them look into the mirror of his life and learn every perfection... If any, finally, seek signs and wonders, let them petition his sanctity and they will get what they seek.” Filled with the Spirit of the Lord, his highest philosophy was to find out carefully in which way he might accomplish the holy Will of God in every situation.

Walking in the footsteps of Christ, Francis went about doing good, not only through his preaching but also through the miracles he performed: “By means of his clothing, diseases depart, illnesses leave, and crowds of both sexes are delivered from their troubles by merely invoking his name”(Thomas Celano). God’s grace freely operated in him. He naturally healed the sick in body and at the same time in the soul. In the Omnibus of Sources is found an account of the cure of an evil man with leprosy. Even the friars taking care of him had given up totally, not being able to stand his filthy language, the insults, physical injuries, and mostly his cursing the Blessed Christ and His most holy Mother. Finally, Francis took upon himself to treat this poor man with patience, humility and love. Instructed by the Holy Spirit that the leper was possessed, he began to pray devoutly for him. “He had water boiled with many - sweet-scented herbs, undressed the leper and began to wash him with his own hands, while another friar poured the water over him. And by a divine miracle, wherever St. Francis touched him with his holy hands, the leprosy disappeared, and the flesh remained completely healed”(Little Flowers of St. Francis) Being conscious of the miraculous change in his body, the leper shed bitter tears of repentance. Filled with remorse he humbly confessed his sins to a priest, having his soul internally purified and seeking nothing but the mercy of God. A sincere repentance accompanied by a good confession had the leprosy of his soul totally healed. He was made a new man.



***Reflection:*** There is much to learn from Francis’ humility as he dealt with the leper’s perversity. Approaching the poor man, he greeted him, saying: “God give you peace, my dear brother.” The Leper responded with harsh reproaches. Francis then had recourse to prayer knowing that all power comes from God, and that everything is possible with Him. Because of his servant’s holiness the Lord was able to work wonders through him. But the man of God would never let pride settle in. The “Fioretti” mentions his behavior following the astounding cure of the leper: “He gave thanks to God and left there for a distant region, so that when that miracle became known to the people they should not all run to him, because through humility he wanted to flee any wordly glory.”

### **Questions for Discussion – Preaching by Example.**

1. What made Francis God’s perfect instrument, even to the point of becoming a wonder worker?
2. Do miracles occur in your life? What is the greatest miracle experienced daily by us, Catholics?
3. What did Francis call himself at times?

### **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** – With Ash Wednesday (February 25) we enter the Lenten Season; one directed to prayer, penance and alms giving. By a renewal of spirit, or conversion, we experience true repentance and are granted forgiveness through the Mercy of God.

**A Reminder – Fraternity Annual Retreat – June 12-14, 2009** – 25 reservations have been made so far at the Seton Retreat Center in Emmitsburg, MD. There are 33 rooms, each at \$160. The down payment was sent, leaving a balance of \$144 per person. Our Treasurer will collect that amount in April.

**News from Michael Paris (Our Seminarian)** – Michael sent a letter on December 26, 2008, to be shared with our fraternity members. Following are some of his words:

Dear SFO's,

Merry Christmas! I thought you might be interested in what is going on with my life in formation and how much I appreciate your support and prayers. I have been encouraged when I get something in the mail from you. When I wonder how to fill up my gas tank, all of a sudden I receive a check from you. I know that God especially is using your prayers which strengthen me in ways that I do not always perceive.

I am now in my second year of theology at the Mount. It is hard to believe that I am in my sixth year and still have two years to go. I will be a Deacon in June 2010 and a Priest in June 2011. I pray that you will be able to attend my ordination and first Mass. I am beginning to see the light at the end of the tunnel. I am excited to be configured to Christ as a Priest and to begin ministry in the Archdiocese of Washington.

This summer I was at Queretaro Mexico to study Spanish and learn the Mexican culture. The family I stayed with only spoke Spanish, so I was forced to learn fast. There were Churches everywhere with Masses going on. I made some great friends and got to see places like Mexico City where I was able to visit Guadalupe and pray before the miraculous image of Our Lady for all of you.

My pastoral assignment this year was to go to a Psychiatric Nursing Home in South Mountain PA to visit patients with some form of mental illness. I met the suffering Christ there. All in all, I am very grateful to God for calling me to the seminary and to grow in love with him and the Church and progressively be stripped of that self-love. Please know of my gratitude and prayers for you all.

In the Immaculate,  
Mike



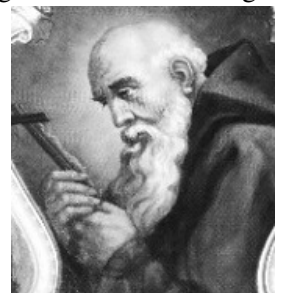
**Franciscan Feasts – St. Colette of Corbie, 2<sup>nd</sup> Order (1381-1447) – February 7**

– In the centuries following the deaths of Sts. Francis and Clare, an era of mitigation and relaxation reached its height at the end of the fourteenth century. God raised up St. Colette to restore the Franciscan Order to primitive observance. She joined a succession of orders: the Beguines, Benedictines, and the Urbanist Poor Clares. Later she lived as a recluse in a hut near Corbie. Having resolved to reform the Poor Clares, she turned to the Avignon Pope Benedict XIII who was recognized in France as the rightful Pope. Benedict allowed her to enter the Franciscan order of Poor Clares and empowered her to found new convents and complete the reform of the order. She prescribed for those convents extreme poverty, to go barefooted, and the observance of perpetual fast and abstinence.

In addition to the strict rules of the Poor Clares, the Colettines follow their special constitutions sanctioned in 1434 by the General of the Franciscans, William of Casale, approved in 1448 by Nicholas V, in 1458 by Pius II, and in 1482 by Sixtus IV. Colette was beatified 23 January 1740, and canonized 24 May 1807. The Collettine Sisters are found in France, Belgium, Germany, Spain, England, and the United States.

**St. Conrad of Piacenza, 3<sup>rd</sup> Order Hermit (1290-1350) – February 10**

– Conrad belonged to one of the noblest families in Piacenza. Married quite young, he led a virtuous and God-fearing life. His pastime was hunting. On one occasion, he ordered his attendants to fire some brushwood in which game had taken refuge. The wood burned and a strong wind caused the flames to spread rapidly in the surrounding fields and forest. A mendicant found nearby was accused of being the author. He was imprisoned, tried, and condemned to death. Stricken with remorse, Conrad made open confession of his guilt and was forced to sell all his possessions in order to repair the damage of which he had been the cause. Being reduced to poverty, he retired to a lonely hermitage some distance from Piacenza, while his wife entered the Order of Poor Clares. He joined a group of hermits following the Third Order Rule. Later he went to Sicily, where for thirty six years he lived a most austere and penitential life and worked numerous miracles. He died at Noto in Sicily 19 February 1350. He was canonized in 1625. He is invoked for the cure of hernia.



**Pray For Our Sick** – Anna Anezin; Dorothy Clayton; Maria Louisa Correa and her sister; Sarah Faizi's cousin, David Schyle; Pat Ferguson's daughter, Patty Wyman; Donna Wilkes; Margaret Newcomer; Theresa Wilson; Sarah Hurd; Mabel Henson; Rita Braddock; Pat Allnutt; Roy Foster; Eugene Sides; Henry Mullen; Adele Spellerberg; Marianne Hughes and her sister; Lourdes Corso; Clotilda Crawley; Joseph Clemente; Maureen Nolan and Beatrice Young.

**Pray For Our Deceased** – Br. Benedict (Richard) Tade, OFM who died on January 23, 2009. His funeral Mass was on January 29 at the Franciscan Monastery. He belonged to the community of friars residing at the Monastery. May the souls of Br. Benedict, of the deceased friars and members of our fraternity rest in eternal peace in the presence of our Lord.

**March Birthdays** – March 9, Patricia Allnutt and Rita Braddock – 11, Fritz Nicolas – 16, John Whipple and Helene Hogan – 25, Mary Anne Corr – 26, Ernest Smith, Jr. – 28, Robert Mendoza. ***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 feast days are this coming month: March 5, Kieran Malone – 16, Greg Giannoni – 17, Patrick Flannigan.

**Franciscan Family Apostolate** – Based on information in the letter of Bishop Steven in Kerala, India, published in our last Chimes, here is the address to use if you wish to adopt a family:  
**Francisca Family Apostolate - 93 County Way, Madison CT 06443**

## February Reflection

*by Marie-Denyse Romain, SFO*

The St. Margaret of Cortona Region is notifying us that the four Commissions established by the National Fraternity of the SFO, namely: ***Ecology, Family, Peace & Justice, and Work*** are being absorbed and renamed into ***JPIC (Justice & Peace in the Integrity of Creation)***. This is a new terminology that we need to get used to, as change is a slow process. When we receive information from NAFRA, it will be passed on to the local fraternities. The same calling remains, though: "Be good stewards in taking care of God's creation." Through this holy task, God allows us to participate in his on-going activities of creating, sustaining and redeeming the world. Genesis says: "***All that God created was good.***" Therefore it is a moral duty to care for His creatures: animate or inanimate, and to provide for the physical and spiritual needs of our brothers and sisters, imitating Francis who showed great reverence toward all, especially the weakest and neglected. Jesus will certainly ask us one day: "***Give me an account of your stewardship. Did you respect and preserve life (in any form,); this most sacred life that I entrusted to you?***"



*The Commissions are and will continue to be our way of living out our Holy Rule. It is a fact that all four Commissions emerged from the 1978 Rule of our Franciscan Order. Let us, as much as we can, be efficient stewards in making the earth a better and safer place to live. Through our apostolic action in the home, work place, schools, and other public areas, we must come forward with the right solutions for safeguarding a healthy, productive, attractive and peaceful environment. We hear so much about global warming, air pollution, soil erosion, life threatening for humankind and the animal kingdom. These are wake up calls! A catastrophic result may take us by surprise if appropriate action is not taken.*

***"Our earth speaks to us, and we must listen if we want to survive." (Pope Benedict XVI, July 24, 2007)***