



# —the CHIMES—

P.O. BOX 90366

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20090-0366

MARCH Vol. LIII, No. 3

March 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's House Shall Be Called a House of Prayer***

***Remember to bring to the meeting your suggestions for a project we could start as a group, like a program to reach out to others or help the friars in their work; to grow in our knowledge of the faith, of St. Francis and St. Clare; to get together for prayer, Scripture sharing, or study of the Catechism.***

**Bible Quote of the Month** – His disciples recalled the words of Scripture: *Zeal for your house will consume me...* Jesus said to the Jews, "Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up." But he was speaking about the temple of his body. (*Jn 2:17, 19, 21*)

**Prayer of the Month** – *Tobias' Hymn of Blessing* – Blessed are all who love thee, who rejoice in thy peace. My soul blesses the Lord, because the Lord our God delivered Jerusalem his city from all her troubles. How happy shall I be if a remnant of my seed shall survive to see your glory. The gates of Jerusalem shall be built of sapphire, and of emerald, and all the walls round about of precious stones. All its streets shall be paved with white and clean stones: and Alleluia shall be sung in its streets. Blessed be the Lord who has exalted it, and may he reigns over it forever and ever, Amen. (*Tobias 13:18-23*)

***Come pray together our Franciscan Crown Rosary in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel at 10:30am. 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 – The Reverence and Zeal for God’s House (the Church).** Christ’s love for the Father was so intense that it burned Him up to the extent of bringing him to drive out with force those making of the temple a marketplace. The worship He rendered to God was not centered on ritual or ceremonies, but on the offering up of His own life for the ransom of many. His zeal in fulfilling his mission brought about the glory of God, the good of man, and the building up of His Church.

Between the Poverello and the Church existed the most delightful harmony. For Francis, perfect loyalty to Mother Church was in itself a rule as it was for him and his order to remain faithful to the Holy Gospel. The Prior, Burchard of Ursperg, who knew Francis and his first companions well, reports that *“The Friars Minor are submissive to the Apostolic See in all things.”* To believe, pray, think, work, feel and live with the Church was for Francis and his friars the most determined goal. In his First Rule, the man of God commands: *“Let none of the brothers preach contrary to the form and the institution of the holy Roman Church.”* He also stresses, *“Let all brothers be Catholic and live and speak in a Catholic manner.”* As a result, the singular title of “Francis the Catholic” was accorded to the Saint in his liturgical Office. His reverence and devotion for the Church manifested itself toward the clergy as well: *“Let us hold all clerics and Religious as our masters in those things which regard the salvation of souls, if they do not deviate from our religion, and let us reverence their office and order and administration in the Lord.”*



**St. Francis Basilica in Assisi**

Zeal for God’s House consumed Francis. That zeal was kept alive by the love he bore for the Holy Trinity; a love which fired up his passion to a flame enabling him to be more effective and productive. Called from above to labor for the renewal of the faith, he threw himself with his household into an untiring evangelic-apostolic activity. The chosen one of God, along with his Franciscan preachers, pointed out the way of salvation to men and women everywhere. *“By his word he branded all wisdom of the world as obvious folly, and by the simplicity of his preaching led all men to the true wisdom of God under the leadership of Christ.”* With the zeal of the Apostles, *“He sowed the seed of life and brought forth manifold fruit” (Thomas of Celano).* Zeal for souls has always been the “pole-star” of the Franciscan apostolate. If hesitant in where to start, ask the Lord, *“What will you have me do?”*

***Reflection:*** In the “Our Father” which is prayed daily in church, we say: ***“Thy Kingdom come, Thy Will be done on earth as it is in Heaven”.*** Let us believe and trust that God, in His mercy, will make this come true; that the day shall rise when mankind will join with the worshipers in the heavenly courts above, where all is purity and perfection, where every being has perfect reverence for God and His holiness. Zeal for God’s House grows when we let the Holy Spirit build His Temple in us so God’s love and mercy may dwell in our hearts. In order to make room for the Spirit, all unwanted intruders must be driven out, like the evils of greed, injustice, violence, fear, pride and selfishness. *“Let us always make in us this tabernacle and dwelling place for Him who is the Lord God omnipotent” (St. Francis in his Admonitions).* Let this be a Lenten practice before the season ends!

### **Questions for Discussion – On St. Francis Teaches – Reverence and zeal for the Church.**

1. What is worship according to the CCC (pp 505-511)? How do you worship God?
2. Towards which end do we especially pray at Mass when saying the “Our Father”?
3. How is true reverence for God revealed, since He has commanded nothing that is unessential?

### **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 follows Christ, the perfect man, becomes more of a man himself,” let them exercise their responsibilities competently in the Christian spirit of service.

**Fraternity Annual Retreat – June 12-14, 2009** - Our fraternity Treasurer, Virginia Lyons, will collect our dues for the retreat at the April meeting. The remaining balance is \$144 per member. A special envelope will be provided in the Chimes or at the meeting. April 19 is the deadline for this collection.

**Feast of St. Joseph, Spouse of Mary and Foster Father of Jesus –**

**March 19** – St. Joseph, by divine choice, became the head of the Holy Family. His proximity to the Blessed Mother and the Incarnate Word had a unique sanctifying effect upon him. He was the only one to have known and enjoyed the company and wisdom of Jesus Christ as God and man, and of Mary as the Virgin Mother. On this special privilege are laid the foundations of the honor paid to St. Joseph who was named the patron saint of the Universal Church. *“The earliest traces of public recognition of the sanctity of St. Joseph are to be found in the East. His feast, if we may trust the assertions of Papebroch, was kept by the Copts as early as the beginning of the fourth century. Nicephorus Callistus tells likewise that in the basilica erected at Bethlehem by St. Helena, there was a gorgeous oratory dedicated to the honor of our saint.” (Catholic Encyclopedia)*



In December 1870, Pope Pius IX solemnly declared the Holy Patriarch Joseph, patron of the Catholic Church, and enjoined that his feast (19 March) should be celebrated, but without octave, on account of Lent. Following the Footsteps of their predecessor, Leo XIII and Pius X have shown an equal desire to add their own jewel to the crown of St. Joseph: the former, by permitting on certain days the reading of the votive Office of the saint; and the latter by approving, on 18 March, 1909, a litany in honor of him whose name he had received in baptism.

**Franciscan Feast – Bl. Didacus Joseph of Cadiz (1743-1801) –**



**March 24** – Didacus was born in March 29. His lineage dated from the Visigoth kings. As a youth, he received the surname of “dunce of Cadiz” since he could make no progress at school. He amazingly became the most celebrated preacher in Spain, a St. Paul of his century! He took the habit of St. Francis with the Capuchins in Seville and was ordained a priest. The Holy Spirit gave power and unction to his words because of his humility and virtuous life. One day, while preaching in church, a child seated with his mother shouted: “Mother, mother, see the dove resting on the shoulder of Father Didacus! I could preach like that too if a dove told me all that I should say!” Before his sermons, Didacus used to scourge himself even unto blood in order to draw down God’s mercy more effectively upon the people. The holy Capuchin died in 1801 at the age of 58. He was beatified By Pope Leo XIII in 1894. His feast is March 24.

**News of our Franciscan Family** – **Donna Wilkes’** new diagnosis on her health condition is called SIADH. Her maximum daily fluid intake is limited to 1000cc... a little less than the pitcher of water she has on her bedside table. She is experiencing symptoms like sleepiness and difficulty concentrating. Your greeting cards are welcome. No phone calls or emails, please! Her address: The Washington Home, 3720 Upton Street NW #A356, Washington DC 20016-2299. **Marianne Hughes** had surgery on her right knee. The left knee is scheduled for the month of April. As for her shoulder it will be done later. Meanwhile, a therapist and a nurse come twice a week to check on her. Every Tuesday, she is given the Eucharist through a parish minister. She misses our meetings, hoping to hear from us sometimes. **Peggy Newcomer** is coming along at Soldiers Home. She goes to Mass every day in the little chapel there, using her motorized chair. She is grateful for being able to move around.

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

**April Birthdays** – April 5, Dorothy Clayton – 6, William Richardson – 9, Virginia Lyons.  
**HAPPY BIRTHDAY to you! May the Lord bless you and give you His Peace.**

**Feast days of Franciscan Friars** – Keep in your prayers the following friars, whose feast days or birthdays (shown as (B)) are this coming month: April 4, David Wathen (B) – 23, George Lewett. ***Fr. Kevin's birthday is on March 28. Our fraternity wishes you a HAPPY BIRTHDAY, Fr. Kevin!***

**Have you thought about giving up things for Lent?** It is great to give up something we really enjoy, like cookies, ice cream, chocolate, movies. But why not, this Lent, consider some negative habits we have difficulty to get rid of, like: ***complaining by focusing on gratitude; resentment by returning good for evil; giving up bitterness and turning to forgiveness; anger and be more patient; worry and trust in God; discouragement and be full of hope; gossiping and control the tongue.*** By the time Lent is over, we will be the new person Christ will welcome, saying: "Well done worthy servant, come share in my Resurrection, a foretaste of yours!"

**Every Friday during Lent - weather permitting - the Way of the Cross is offered outside to the public, at 3:00pm, in the lower gardens of the Monastery. In case of rain or snow, it takes place inside the Church.**

## March Reflection

*by Marie-Denyse Romain, SFO*

The special jubilee year dedicated to St. Paul by Pope Benedict XVI will end soon. The Pauline year, as we know, opened on June 28, 2008, and will close on June 29, 2009. It marks the 2000<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the saint's birth. The Holy Father said that the Church needs modern Christians who will imitate the Apostle's missionary energy and spirit of sacrifice, and that Christ needs witnesses and martyrs like St. Paul.

The Pope's announcement was made while presiding over a vespers service at the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls in Rome, the eve of the feasts of Sts Peter and Paul, patron saints of Rome. Beneath the basilica's main altar, Vatican experts have excavated and found a marble sarcophagus which is indeed the tomb of St. Paul who was believed martyred nearby. The sarcophagus, "according to the common opinion of the experts and unopposed tradition, holds the remains of the apostle Paul." The Pope recalled that St. Paul lived, worked and died for Christ. He also noted that, according to a long-standing tradition, St. Peter and St. Paul met near the basilica before they were martyred, and they hugged and blessed each other. They were united in the spirit of love and peace of Christ.

There were several publications on the writings of St. Paul offered during this commemorative year. His letters are a primary source of information about the life of the early church, which have strongly influenced its thinking through the centuries. St. Paul's apostolic activity should inspire us who are called to fulfill the same mission: ***to bring about the Kingdom of God and the salvation of souls.***

