



# —the CHIMES—

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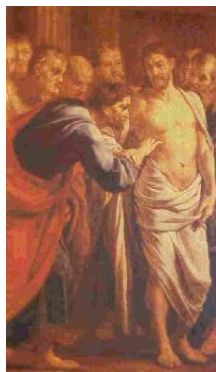
April 26, 2009

## **SCHEDULE + Our meeting this month will be on April 26**

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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: Blessed Are Those Who Have Not Seen and Still Believe!***



**Bible Quote of the Month** – Jesus said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe.” Thomas answered and said to him, “My Lord and my God!” Jesus said to him, “Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.” (*Jn 20: 27-29*)

**Prayer of the Month** – Most High and glorious God, enlighten the darkness of my heart and give me truer faith, more certain hope, and perfect charity, sense and knowledge of you, so that I may carry out your holy and true command for my life. (*From St. Francis Prayer Book – Jon M. Sweeney*)

***Come pray together our Franciscan Crown Rosary 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

### **Words of Admonition of Our Holy Father Francis – On Faith in the Lord’s Body.**

“It is really the Spirit of God who dwells in his faithful who receive the most holy Body and Blood of our Lord. Anyone who does not have this Spirit and presumes to receive him *eats and drinks judgement to himself* (1 Cor. 11:29). And so we may ask in the words of Scripture, *Men of rank, how long will you be dull of heart?* (Ps. 4:3). Why do you refuse to recognize the truth **and believe in the Son of God?** (Jn 9:35) Every day he humbles himself just as he did when he came from his *heavenly throne* (Wis. 18:15) into the Virgin’s womb; every day he comes to us and lets us see him in abjection, when he descends from the bosom of the Father into the hands of the priest at the altar. He shows himself to us in this sacred bread just as he once appeared to his apostles in real flesh. With their own eyes they saw only his flesh, but they believed that he was God, because they contemplated him with the eyes of the spirit. We, too, with our own eyes, see only bread and wine, but we must see further and firmly believe that this is his most holy Body and Blood, living and true. In this way our Lord remains continually with his followers, as he promised, ***Behold, I am with you all days, even unto the consummation of the world*** (Mt. 28:20). (From the Writings of St. Francis – The Admonitions)



### **Catechism of the Catholic Church – On the True Presence of Christ in the Eucharist.**

The Eucharistic presence of Christ begins at the moment of the consecration and endures as long as the Eucharistic species subsist. Christ is present whole and entire in each of the species and whole and entire in each of the parts, in such a way that the breaking of the bread does not divide Christ (Council of Trent).

***Worship of the Eucharist*** – In the liturgy of the Mass we express our faith in the real presence of Christ under the species of bread and wine by, among other ways, genuflecting or bowing deeply as a sign of adoration of the Lord. “The Catholic Church has always offered and still offers to the sacrament of the Eucharist the cult of adoration, not only during Mass, but also outside of it, reserving the consecrated hosts with the utmost care, exposing them to the solemn veneration of the faithful, and carrying them in procession” (Paul VI, *MF 56, CCC 1378*). “The Church and the world have a great need for the Eucharistic worship. Jesus awaits us in this sacrament of love. Let us not refuse the time to go to meet him in adoration, in contemplation full of faith, and open to making amends for the serious offenses and crimes of the world. Let our adoration never cease” (John Paul II, *Dominicae cenae, 3, CCC 1380*).



### **Questions for Discussion – Faith in the Presence and True Worship of the Eucharist.**

- 1 After receiving Jesus in Holy Communion, our thoughts should normally be focused on Him only. Are we fascinated by Him? How should we behave after Communion?
- 2 When we receive the Eucharist, the bonds of charity between us and Christ are strengthened each time. What benefit does the Church draw from it?
- 3 Why is the Eucharist offered as sacrifice at the altar?

### **The Rule – Chapter Two, Article 19 of The Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order.**

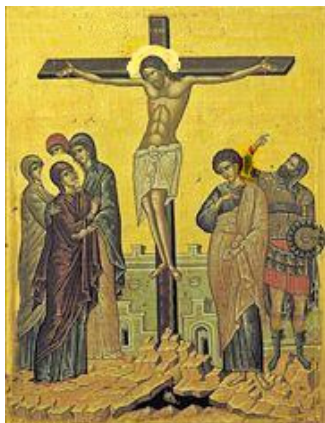


Secular Franciscan, therefore, should seek to encounter the living and active person of Christ in their brothers and sisters, in Sacred Scripture, in the church, and in liturgical activity. The faith of Saint Francis, who often said “I see nothing bodily of the Most High Son of God in this world except his most holy body and blood,” should be the inspiration and pattern of their Eucharistic life.

### **Lent Schedule at the Franciscan Monastery**

**Holy Thursday – April 9:** 7:00pm -*The Lord’s Supper, Procession followed by Adoration until midnight.*

**Good Friday – April 10:** 3:00pm - *Stations of the Cross.* 3:30pm - *Liturgy.* 8:00pm - *Burial of Christ.*



**On Good Friday, April 10**, we shall stand at the foot of the cross beside our Blessed Mother, St. John and St. Mary Magdalen, so we may witness and mourn with them. Let us look with trust and hope at the pierced side of Jesus from which flows “blood and water”, the fountain which heals the wounds of our sins. Contemplating Christ crucified, all beaten for our salvation, moves us to open our hearts to our suffering and wounded neighbor. It is at the foot of the cross that Mary became our Mother. She is our model in the imitation of her Son. We cannot presume to persevere in bearing our crosses, counting on our own strength. With her, at our side, we learn from her immeasurable love for the Lord, her courage and serenity that surpass our own. There is no more fear, no hesitation when she leads. If we are overwhelmed by an ordeal, let us look to Jesus, let us look to Mary. Let us also contemplate Christ crucified in the Holy Mass where the sacrifice of the cross is repeated daily. Let us gather around the altar on which a new Calvary is brought into place.

Our Savior and King gave us new life by His Death and Resurrection. Glory and praise to the risen Christ! It is on Easter morning that the Cross of our Lord, the tree of suffering and sacrifices, truly becomes the **Tree of Life**.

*Let us offer our prayers and sacrifices for our Holy Father who carries the cross of his pontificate. Like Christ, he so often faces oppositions. May God assist and protect him!*

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### **The 800<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Founding of the Franciscan Order – April 15 at 7:00 pm**

On the Wednesday of the Octave of Easter, at the Franciscan Monastery, Mt. St. Sepulchre.

***You are welcome to the Rite of Renewal of our Franciscan Commitment!***

**Franciscan Feast – Bl. Giles of Assisi, 1<sup>st</sup> Order (1190-1262) – April 23** – Giles, one of the first followers of St. Francis, was a simple and prayerful man. Francis held Giles in high esteem, and because of his purity of heart and single-mindedness he used to call him “our Knight of the Round Table.” In 1209, when Francis set out for Rome to request from Pope Innocent III the approval of his Rule, Giles was one of his companions on the journey. He spent most of his life at various Franciscan houses in Italy engaged in contemplation and manual labor.

Often in ecstasy, he won popular acclaim as a saint, and people high and low came to seek his advice. Pope Gregory IX and St. Bonaventure, who venerated him, paid him visits in his final residence near Perugia. His collected spiritual maxims, *The Golden Sayings*, still remain a spiritual “best seller.” Giles’ reputation spread even to France. One day King St. Louis IX of France, en route to the Holy Land, dropped in to see him in Umbria. Louis and Giles embraced each other, knelt for a while to pray, and then parted. During the whole visit neither had spoken a word. The monarch respected the friar’s opposition to needless conversation. When St. Bonaventure came to Perugia, Giles asked him if an ignorant person could love God as much as a scholar. Bonaventure responded, “a little old woman can love God even more than a master of theology.” Giles immediately ran out, met an old woman and told her, “O poor little old woman, though you are simple and uneducated, just love the Lord God and you can be greater than Brother Bonaventure.” Typically then, he went into an ecstasy that lasted three hours.



**Welcoming Ceremony** – *Carrol Akanegbu, Saturnino Camposano, Vilma Camposano, Amy Coulibaly, Randy Groves and Ryan Pineda* will complete their Orientation phase of formation with us. A welcoming ceremony will be conducted at the April meeting, as we are about to receive them in the Inquiry Phase next month. May the Holy Spirit continue to guide and strengthen them in their vocation.

**News of our Franciscan Family** – **Pat Ferguson** fell twice lately and had her shoulder fractured. Please keep her in your prayers. **Marianne Hughes** will have the surgery on her left knee on April 11. Good news about **Donna Wilkes!** She is being gradually healed from her Trigeminal Neuralgia. She thanks us for our prayers.

**Pray For Our Sick** – Pat Allnut; Dorothy Clayton; Maria Louisa Correa and her sister; Sarah Faizi’s aunt, Lena Schyle; Pat Ferguson and her 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; Lourdes Corso; Clotilda Crawley; Joseph Clemente; Maureen Nolan; Rita Braddock; Marc Pirritano and Polly Sergi’s husband, Domenick.

**May Birthdays** May 1, Lawrence Bleau – 2, Virginia Bradley – 6, Roy Foster – 8, Mary Jo Fehr – 20, Mark Di Salvo – 27, Sandra White – 30, Joseph Clemente and Jean-Paul Gauthier. **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 are this coming month: May 2, Athanasius Macora – 3, James Brabandt.

**Fraternity Retreat – June 12 to 14** –The payment deadline for our retreat dues is April 26, the Sunday of our meeting. The amount is **\$144**. Extra brown envelopes will be provided.

## April Reflection

by Marie-Denyse Romain, SFO

The Church will celebrate the glorious feast of **Easter** on **Sunday 12 April**. **Holy Thursday** will take us first at the Last Supper, in the company of the disciples, when Jesus shares His Holy Body and Blood with his friends under the species of bread and wine, our Eucharistic food. Later, on **Good Friday**, we shall be ready to look ahead and rise up with Jesus Christ on Easter Day. The fact that Jesus rose from the tomb demonstrated that He has power over death, and only through Him can humanity have hope for eternal life. The fulfillment of the establishment of God’s Kingdom in this world truly began on Easter Sunday when a new creation shone forth, empowered by the Holy Spirit, the first gift of the Resurrection.

Every sin, every failure, insecurities and hurts, were nailed to the cross with Jesus. When he died, our transgressions were taken to the grave with him. On that glorious Sunday, as he rose victorious, he left behind in the tomb all that had destroyed our relationship with God. The slate has been wiped clean! Not only are we forgiven, but Christ gives us a second, a third, and a fourth chance, even as many chances as we need, until we get it all straighten up, until we resemble the resplendant Jesus of the Gospel. Remember that we are called to do our part in the process, which seems painful at times. Knowing our limitations, let us acquire better wings and rise up not as brave and valiant knights, but rather as little brothers of Jesus and St. Francis who with their larger and stronger wings will bear us up to heaven, to eternal life. May the dazzling light of the Resurrection penetrates our hearts and illuminates them with God’s glory.



**The Divine Mercy** will be celebrated on **April 19** (the third Sunday of the month). As you noticed on our schedule, the April meeting has been moved to the fourth Sunday, on **April 26**, to accommodate our members and give them the opportunity to attend the feast in the church of their choice. We are granted a plenary indulgence on that day if we fulfill the conditions of having gone to confession, of receiving Communion, and by praying for the Holy Father.

*Best wishes, and Happy Feasts of the Resurrection and of the Divine Mercy!*