



—the CHIMES—

P.O. BOX 90366

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20090-0366

May Vol. LIII, No. 5

May 17, 2009

Important Notice: *A Mass and healing service has been arranged by the fraternity, in lieu of our meeting of May 17, in the Monastery Church. The friars and the public are invited. Fr. Bill Foley is the main celebrant. Fr. Kevin will concelebrate. Those in formation (Inquiry and Candidacy), please contact your facilitators for the class time on that Sunday.*



SCHEDULE

TBS	Inquiry Session in Sacred Heart Room
TBS	Candidate Session in upper Conference Room
01:00 pm	Franciscan Crown Rosary in Blessed Sacrament Chapel
02:00 pm	Mass in Monastery Church. Fr. Foley, main celebrant. Fr. Kevin, concelebrant

This month's theme: Mary's Perfect Love and Obedience to the Father



Bible Quote of the Month – Jesus said to his disciples: “As the Father loves me, so I also love you. Remain in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and remain in His love.” (*Jn 15: 9-11*)

Prayer of the Month – Hail, O Lady, Holy Queen Mary, Holy Mother of God, you are the Virgin made church and the one chosen by the most Holy Father in heaven whom he consecrated with his most holy beloved Son and with the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete, in whom there was and is all the fullness of grace and every good. (*Francis' salutation to the Virgin Mary*)

***Come pray together our Franciscan Crown Rosary in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel at 1:00pm.
All are invited !!***

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 and the Catechism of the Catholic Church
On the Love of God and Obedience to His Commandments

Francis' love for God was mostly directed toward Christ, the God-Man. Since the Father and the Holy Spirit are with the Son, One, and the same God, Francis' deep affection for Jesus was automatically intended for the other two Persons of the Trinity. Francis, by nature, was a passionate lover. *"From the time of his conversion to his death, he loved Christ with his whole heart, bearing the memory of Him constantly in his mind. So ardently and tenderly did he love the divine Savior, that, on hearing His sweet Name, he became enraptured and exclaimed: 'Heaven and earth should bow before the Name of the Lord' (The Three Companions).* In his prayers, he besought the Savior to grant him the grace of perfect love. His entire life was one long prayer of love to God. *"Love and honor the Lord God with a clean heart and a pure mind"* was his constant admonition to the brothers. *"Intoxicated with divine love"* would be the characteristic trait of the saint, as declared the Three Companions. St. Bonaventure reported: *"Like a glowing coal he appeared to be wholly consumed by the flame of divine love."*



His Obedience – In the name of the sovereign Trinity, Francis adjured the Chapter General in a letter: *"Listen, children of the Lord and my brothers, and with your ears take up my words. Turn the ear of your heart to the voice of the Son of God and obey it. With all your heart keep his commandments, and fulfill his counsels with a perfect will. Proclaim it that he is good, and in what you do, glorify him (Tob. 6,8), because he has sent you all over the world so that you should bear witness to his voice in word and deed, and have everybody learn that there is no one almighty but he. Persevere under holy discipline and obedience, and with a good and firm resolution comply with what you have promised him. For God our Lord deals with you as with his children (Heb. 12, 7).*

The Catechism of the Catholic Church, on Our duty to Love and Obey the Lord God: "You Shall Love the Lord Your God With All Your Heart, And With All Your Soul, And With All Your Mind" God has loved us first. The love of the One God is recalled in the first of the "ten words". The commandments then make explicit the response of love that man is called to give to his God (2083). "The first commandment embraces faith, hope, and charity. When we say 'God' we confess a constant, unchangeable being, always the same, faithful and just, without any evil. It follows that we must necessarily accept his words and have complete faith in him and acknowledge his authority. He is almighty, merciful, and infinitely beneficent. Who could not place all hope in him? Who could not love him when contemplating the treasures of goodness and love he has poured out on us? Hence the formula God employs in the Scripture at the beginning and end of his commandments: I am the Lord " (2086, *Roman Catechism* 3, 2, 4). Our moral life has its source in faith in God who reveals his love to us. St. Paul speaks of of the "obedience of faith" as our first obligation. He shows that "ignorance of God" is the principle and explanation of all moral deviations. Our duty toward God is to believe in him and to bear witness to him (2087). The first commandment requires us to nourish and protect our faith with prudence and vigilance and to reject everything that is opposed to it (2088).

Questions (to cover on your own) – On Love of God and Obedience to His Commandments.

1. What governs our choices when confronted by God's Commandments?
2. In which circumstances in his life has St. Francis manifested his love and obedience to God?
3. The Virgin Mary lived the surrender of love with perfection. What made her so receptive?



The Rule – Chapter Two, Article 9 of The Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order

The Virgin Mary, humble servant of the Lord, was open to his every word and call. She was embraced by Francis with indescribable love and declared the protectress and advocate of his family. The Secular Franciscans should express their ardent love for her by imitating her complete self-giving and by praying earnestly and confidently.

The Information Corner – Fraternity Retreat in Emmitsburg, Maryland – June 12-14: As you know, carpooling will be our way of transportation. By this time, arrangements should have already been made among the members attending. Fr. Kevin will be our Retreat Master.

Check-in time as you arrive on Friday, June 12, will be from 3:00 – 7:00 pm. The Retreat Center requires a 24-hour notice of any attendee cancellation. If notice is not given, the individual will be billed for one-night stay. The \$20.00 down payment is not refundable.

Feast of the Month – Our Lady of Fatima – May 13 – Pope John Paul II said at Fatima: “The message of Fatima is more relevant and more urgent than when Our Lady first appeared on May 13, 1917.” The message of Fatima is an anguished appeal of our Heavenly Mother, who sees us in great danger and who comes to offer her help and advice. Her message is also a prophecy, a clear indication of what was about to transpire in the 20th century, and what is still going to happen infallibly in the near future, depending on our response to her requests, and our praying the Rosary often.



Our lady of Fatima continues to work miracles today through Fatima water. This water sprang up in Fatima at the spot the Bishop told people to dig, very near where our Lady appeared at the Cova de Iria (the Cove of Peace). The water is known to cure people with sicknesses and poor health. Spiritual healings can especially be obtained through Mary. She is the fountain of supernatural health and our merciful Mother who listens to her children who love her, seek her and invoke her with confidence. *In this month of May, the month of Mary*, let us show our appreciation for having in her such a powerful intercessor. She said in Fatima, *“I will never forsake you. My Immaculate Heart will be your refuge and the way that will lead you to God...”*

Franciscan Feast – St. Paschal Baylon (1540-1592) – May 17 – Paschal was born on the feast of Pentecost at Torre Hermosa in Spain. His parents were poor but rich in piety and Christian virtue. The child appeared to be endowed with all the gifts of the Holy Spirit. As a boy, he had to tend the cattle of strangers. The children of his age had a certain respect for him and would listen to the Christian instructions he sometimes gave them. At the age of 24 he begged for admission as a lay brother at the convent of the Friars Minor at Monteforte. His request was granted, and Paschal seemed to run the path of perfection with ease. He was so humble that he considered himself the last of all. Out of charity, he cheerfully assumed the most burdensome duties for other brothers. Most devoted to prayer, he spent all his spare time at it. He always had his rosary in his hand and God in his heart. He fostered a special devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary, whom he called his mother, and to the Blessed Sacrament, and it proved a constant means to rekindle his zeal.



God showed how pleased He was with his devotion. One day while out-of-doors, Paschal devoutly knelt down to adore the Blessed Sacrament when the bell announced the Consecration. At that moment the Blessed Sacrament was presented to him in a monstrance supported by angels. In the convent church he was frequently found before the tabernacle prostrate or with his arms outstretched, or even rapt in ecstasy. The simple brother, who had never learned to read or write, could discourse about deepest mysteries of religion with marvelous insight to the astonishment of the most learned men. Paschal died at Villareal, on the feast of Pentecost, the feast on which he was born. At his funeral, when the Blessed Sacrament was raised in the Requiem Mass, the dead body raised itself, bowed to the Sacred Host, repeating the act of reverence at the elevation of the Chalice. Numerous other miracles occurred at his grave.

Pope Paul V beatified Paschal and Pope Alexander VIII canonized him in the year 1690. Pope Leo XIII in 1897 made him the patron of all Eucharistic societies and congresses.

Fare Share Dues — Each year, in July, we are required to pay our annual local fraternity dues to the Regional and National fraternities. Our yearly Fare Share dues are **\$18.00 per active member** and **\$10.00 per each excused member**. The Council is asking that all professed members pay their individual dues, since the monthly operating expenses for the fraternity are costly. June will be the deadline for this particular collection, and those attending our June retreat may bring their contribution at this time. Thank you for your support!

News of our Franciscan Family – Marianne Hughes had her knee surgery postponed. It is now scheduled for May 12. Please continue to keep her in your prayers, as well as **Donna Wilkes** and **Lourdes Corso**.

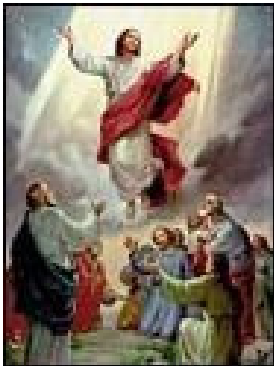
Pray For Our Sick – Dorothy Clayton; Maria Louisa Correa and her sister; Sarah Faizi's brother, Edgar; Pat Ferguson's daughter, Patty Wyman; Donna Wilkes; Margaret Newcomer; Theresa Wilson; Sarah Hurd; Mabel Henson; Pat Allnutt; Roy Foster; Eugene Sides; Henry Mullen; Adele Spellerberg; Marianne Hughes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

June Birthdays – June 3, Philip Melore – 5, Anna Zaczynski and Sheila Kelly – 9, Mary Catherine Kohut and Carol Petro – 12, Lee Ann Petta – 19, Margaret Newcomer and Helen Walls – 21, Adele Spellerberg – 22, William Hayes, III Brown. **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: June 3, Kevin Treston – 13, Anthony Sejda – 21, Aloysius Florio – 25, William Winkler – 29, Simon McKay, Paul Luke Rush, and Peter Vasko.

May Reflection

by Marie-Denyse Romain, SFO



On **May 21**, the Church will commemorate the **Ascension of our Lord** which took place on the fortieth day after His glorious Resurrection. Jesus, on returning to His Father, had completed the work of our redemption and proved that He was the Messiah who overcame death and opened the way to those who would persevere in faith. There is no better guide than the Gospel which shows us the safe path in following in the footsteps of the Master. It teaches us how to love God and our neighbor, how to pray, to act, and most of all how to reach holiness in order to inherit the Kingdom of God. Remember that although Jesus has ascended into Heaven, He is here with us today. He is in our hearts, in His Church, in the Holy Eucharist, and in the Sacred Tabernacle. Moved by His Spirit, we must labor to proclaim the Good News to those around us. The Holy Apostles, while on earth, have ran the race. Why not us!

May 31 is **Pentecost Sunday**, commemorating the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and Mary in the Upper Room. It is called the **Birthday of the Church**. On this day, the Body of Christ, the Church, became the visible presence of the Risen Lord in the world. We, as its members, continue to participate in the role of



witnessing to Christ. The Church will reach its full stature only if we put our God-given talents to its service, working unselfishly and zealously toward the good of all. As Jesus filled the disciples with His Holy Spirit that Sunday, he will come also to us, providing we have made room for Him in our lives.

***May your Ascension Day and Pentecost Sunday be filled with joy and the blessings of the risen Lord!
Also, on May 10, Happy Mothers' Day to all mothers in the fraternity!***