



—the CHIMES—

P.O. BOX 90366

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20090-0366

JULY Vol. LIII, No. 7

July 19, 2009

SCHEDULE

09:30am	Inquiry 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
03:00pm	Council Meeting in upper Conference Room

This month's theme: They Were Like Sheep Without a Shepherd



Bible Quote of the Month – When he disembarked and saw the vast crowd, his heart was moved with pity for them, for they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things. (Mk 6:34)

Prayer of the Month – Lord, our shepherd: You revive our soul, you guide our path, and save us from death each day. We always want to be in your company. (St. Francis Prayer Book)

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
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Councilor	Vicky Spalding	301-373-3955
Spiritual Assistant	Fr. Kevin Treston, OFM	202-526-6800

St. Francis Teaches – *That God Calls Us To Be Shepherds Of His Sheep.* What are the characteristics of a “sheep”? They are slow-footed animals, ignorant, weak, timid and defenseless, an ideal prey for wolves and thieves. They need protection, firm guidance. That’s where the shepherd steps in, one who cares for the flock, offering himself in sacrificial service. In Mk 6:32-34, Jesus came into that desert place with his disciples and saw a large crowd already there, waiting for him. He had compassion on them, because they were “*like sheep without a shepherd*”. He then began to teach them many things, feeding their souls spiritually. Jesus became the Good Shepherd for those who had none, commissioning his disciples to also labor as shepherds of his flock.



In the time of Francis, injustice and disparity between rich and poor were rampant; a situation similar to what we suffer now. The strong voice of a shepherd was needed to reinstate Christ’s values among the people. The “Poverello” stepped forward and won the crowds. He led the Church and society into conversion, reconciliation and a more authentic witness of God’s Word through his personal example. He guided them on a way that is everlasting, challenging them to be citizens of the Kingdom. Like Christ, he was often followed by multitudes in want of spiritual nourishment and guidance.

“The Little Flowers of St. Francis” tells us, in Chapter XIX, how famous Francis became and the great influence he had on the people: *Cardinal Ugolino, the protector of the Franciscan Order, had invited Francis to come to Rieti in order to consult an excellent oculist, since his eyesight was getting worse. As he was approaching the town, a large crowd came out to meet him so he was not able to enter the city. He went to a church near by. But the people, hearing where he was gone, flocked out to see him in such throngs that the vine which surrounded that church was completely ruined and all the grapes were taken and eaten. Francis seeing how deeply grieved was the priest, the carer of the vine, said to him: “I promise you on behalf of my Lord Jesus Christ that this year you will get twenty measures.”* It happened the way he said! The saint did this because of the great good which he saw the Lord performing in the souls of the people who came to him, for he saw that many of them, when they went away, were filled with the love of God and converted to heavenly longings, forgetting the world. During his ministry, Francis’ compassion was his one motivation. He was totally dedicated, showing no personal interests.

Reflection: *Are we not Christ’s disciples as well? He sends us as shepherds of souls. We are his hands, feet, eyes, heart in the world today. He can take our five loaves and two fishes, multiply them and provide more than we can consume, so all may have their fill. “For we have been called”, said our holy Founder, “for the purpose of healing the wounded, binding up those who are bruised, and reclaiming the erring.” Remember what Jesus said, “Freely you have received, freely give” (Mt 10:9). Full of enthusiasm and compassion for sinners, Francis told his friars: “Let us go out into the world and admonish everybody by example as well as word to do penance and be mindful of the Commandments.” What our world really needs is holiness: holy men and woman who love Jesus Christ and God’s Word more than they love their own careers and agendas. Are we not called to be God’s instruments of renewal among our brothers and sisters? Are we ready to take the challenge?*

Questions for Discussion – *Listening to Jesus in the Gospel*

1. What does Christ wish you to do, and to do in you, at this moment of your life?
2. In preaching the Good News, what really comes first?
3. What is our duty, as Franciscans, toward our brothers and sisters in the fraternity?

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.



Franciscan Feast – St. Elizabeth of Portugal (1271-1336) – July 4 –

Elizabeth of Portugal was the daughter of King Peter III of Aragon. She was named after her great-aunt, Elizabeth of Hungary, whose virtues she also shared. Married to King Dennis of Portugal, she endured trials with heroism; reconciled her son with his father and is known in consequence as the “peacemaker.” She showed unfailing charity toward the poor; founded convents, hospitals, nursing homes and shelters for young women. After her husband’s death in 1325, she became a Franciscan tertiary. In 1336, she stopped the fighting between the troops of Alfonso XI of Castile and those of Alfonso IV (her son), causing terms of peace to be arranged. Soon after, she died of a fever on July 4, 1336 at Estremoz Castle. She was buried at the Monastery of Santa Clara-a-Velha in Coimbra. St. Elizabeth was canonized by Pope Urban VIII on 25 May 1625.

Sts. Joachim and Ann – July 26 – The father and mother of most Holy Mary are true models of Christian marriage. We know very little about the lives of Mary’s parents, but considering the person of Mary, they must have been two very remarkable people to have been given such a daughter, and to have played so important a part in the work of Redemption. There is a church of St. Anne in Jerusalem and it is believed to be located on the site of the home of St. Joachim and Ann when they lived in Jerusalem. As they are the grandparents of Jesus, their feast day, July 26, has traditionally been a day to honor one’s grandparents. It reminds grandparents of their responsibility to establish a tone for generations to come. It also reminds the young that older people’s greater perspective, depth of experience and appreciation of life’s profound rhythms, are all part of God’s wisdom not to be taken lightly or ignored. We thank God for giving us such great saints.



Our Fraternity Retreat in Emmitsburg – It was a wonderful, peaceful and grace-filled retreat at Mother Seton Center. We spent the weekend of June 12-14 in prayer, meditation, having daily Mass, confession and spiritual talks by Father Kevin, our retreat master. We were surrounded by the beauty of nature, the mountains and the valley which were so familiar to St. Elizabeth Ann Seton and her sisters. This place is truly a holy ground for having seen the efforts, deep struggles and fulfillment of the saint’s holiest dreams. Those unique moments spent together there strengthened the bond between the members who attended. Know that we carried the whole fraternity and the friars in our intentions. We especially thank Father Kevin for having shared his time with us, leading us on that weekend spiritual journey.



News From our Seminarian, Michael Paris – On May 17, Mike started an eight day Ignatian retreat which has been a source of graces for him. During the summer, he will be stationed at the Sacred Heart parish in La Plata. He has been eagerly looking forward to it. He wishes to thank our fraternity for the monthly support we send him which means a lot to him. He is even more grateful, knowing that times are hard financially.

News of our Franciscan Family – **Marianne Hughes** returned home, doing much better after her knee replacement. She still has difficulty with her shoulder and arm. Continue to keep her in your prayers. **Margaret Newcomer** is moving around better with her legs. She would be so happy to come to our meetings, but the long seating hours are not recommended in her case. She thanks us for our prayers and is keeping us in hers as well. All our infirm brothers and sisters, our homebound and those in nursing homes are carried daily in our intentions. May God surround them with His love and grant them comfort and strength.

Pray For Our Sick – Anna Anezin; Dorothy Clayton; Maria Louisa Correa and her sister; Sarah Faizi’s aunt, Lina Schyle; Pat Ferguson’s daughter, Patty Wyman; Donna Wilkes; Margaret Newcomer; Theresa Wilson; Sarah Hurd and her sister, Mabel Henson; Pat Allnutt; Roy Foster; Eugene Sides; Henry Mullen; Adele Spellerberg; Marianne Hughes and her sister; Lourdes Corso; Rita Braddock; Joseph Clemente; Maureen Nolan; Fritz Nicolas’ daughter, Marguerite Nicolas and his son, Serge Nicolas; Michael Yacovone; Apollonia Sergi’s husband, Domenick; Josephine Awich’s father; Larry Bleau’s wife, Valerie.

Pray For Our Deceased – Beatrice Young who died on June 3, 2009. Her funeral Mass was on June 15 at Holy Redeemer Church in Washington, DC. Beatrice was professed in June 20, 1976. Also, Stasia Joyce Yacovone died on March 30. She was professed in June 17, 1960. May their souls and the souls of the faithful departed, especially those of our deceased family members, rest in eternal peace in the presence of our Lord.

August Birthdays August 11, Margaret Hromulak – 12, Ronald McElligott – 13, Mary Gamez and Apollonia Sergi – 29, Christopher Cropper. ***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: August 10, Lawrence Bode – 12, Matthias Rendon – 14, Maximilian Wojciechowsk.



The year of the Priest – Pope Benedict XVI, on his pastoral visit to Padre Pio's Monastery, paused for a few minutes in the crypt which houses the body of the saint and said: *"To the intercession of Our Lady and St. Pio of Pietrelcina, I would like to entrust the special Year of Priests, which I opened last Friday (June 19) on the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. May it be a privileged opportunity to highlight the value of the mission and holiness of priests to serve the Church and humanity in the third millennium."* The pope proposes the characteristics of the Saint from Pietrelcina to the Franciscan Friars, Padre Pio spiritual groups and all faithful. He prayed before the body of the saint.

An official prayer for priests will be used at our monthly fraternity meetings. Our members may also use that same prayer privately. May the Lord grant all priests the light and strength that they need to continue their mission soaked by love for God and fraternal charity.

July Reflection

by Marie-Denyse Romain, SFO

The world, the nations and our society are in great need of upright leaders, those who follow God's law and guide the people in the direction He had, in His wisdom, established for His children. A leader must display the qualities of a good shepherd as found in Christ, especially when he is given the care of souls. Personal, selfish interests are not found in his package. Therefore he is totally ***devoted*** to his office and only works for the good of those under his care. No one can force him to betray his flock even if danger threatens him. Jesus said: *"I am the good shepherd... The good shepherd lays down his life for his sheep."* (John 10:11), or, *"I know my sheep, and they know me."* (John 10:14). No other quality of a leader is of higher value than ***love*** for his people which shows itself in ***gentleness, compassion, in readiness*** to take their defense at any time. A perfect leader is endowed with ***wisdom*** knowing what is best for all. No plot is so deep, and no evil design so cunning, that he cannot at once, and with ease, pour confusion upon their authors. He is ***strong*** and ***just*** in his decisions which are guided by the Spirit. He is ***faithful, trustworthy*** and ***respectful*** of each and everyone.

Those qualifications are found in Christ who is the *"Chief Shepherd."* (1 Pet 5:4). He is the true model for the leaders of the world. As for us and by virtue of our Baptism, God calls us to also be His disciples, the shepherds of His flock so we may convert the unbeliever and reclaim the erring. The Church is the best school in which to exercise our talents directed toward leadership. In its shadow, we are trained in the teaching of the Gospel.

Our Franciscan fraternity must encourage those who are gifted in the area of leadership. They are much needed as Council officers. It is time to prepare the new elections which will take place in January 2010. We call upon the Holy Spirit to guide our qualified ones so they may come forward to serve. ***Open wide your heart to Him!***