



—*the CHIMES*—

P.O. BOX 90366

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20090-0366

NOVEMBER Vol. LIII, No. 12

December 20, 2009

SCHEDULE

10:00 - 11:30am – Candidacy Class

1:00 pm: CHRISTMAS PARTY IN THE REFECTORY (DINING HALL)

This month's theme: Christ's Birth gives us hope!

PLEASE NOTE: There will be no private Mass for our fraternity on December 20th. The Christmas party will begin at 1:00pm that day and is being hosted by the Friars. A special thank you to Fr. Jeremy, Fr. Kevin, and all our Franciscan Friars for your gracious hospitality!

HEAD COUNT PLEASE!

Please respond if you plan on attending the Christmas Party by emailing Vicky Spalding @ vspalding@verizon.net or Chris Cropper @ ChristopherCropper@comcast.net. You may also call the phone numbers listed below to contact Chris or Vicky. A head count is needed ASAP. Thank you!

Please pray for our Minister, Marie-Denyse Romain, who underwent emergency surgery to correct a perforated colon on Sunday, Nov. 15th. Marie-Denyse will be staying w/her sister in Bethesda after she finishes her stay in rehab. Get Well Cards can be sent to Marie-Denysye at the address below. Chris Cropper will be acting as the Minister in her absence until the January elections. We are not sure when Marie-Denyse will be returning home, but she kindly asks that you please continue to keep her in your prayers... Thank you!

***Marie-Denyse Romain
c/o Mrs. Anne Marie Breton
8405 Lilly Stone Drive
Bethesda, MD 20817***

Contacting Council – please note new change

In case you want to contact any of our Council members, their telephone numbers are:



Acting Minister	Chris Cropper	703-501-3873
Secretary	Larry Bleau	301-474-1338
Treasurer	Virginia Lyons	202-832-5666
Formation Director	Ray Apodaca	202-544-7092
Councilor (after 7pm)	Vicky Spalding	301-373-3955
Spiritual Assistant	Fr. Kevin Treston, OFM	202-526-6800

Congratulations to Jean Cortes Zalamea, whose solemn Profession took place on Sunday, November 15, at the Monastery Church. Special thank you to all those, who participated in making this day, such a beautiful and festive occasion!

Admonition of St. Francis re: Love.

The Lord says in the Gospel, "Love your enemies," etc. He truly loves his enemy who does not grieve because of the wrong done to himself, but who is afflicted for love of God because of the sin on his [brother's] soul and who shows his love by his works.

The Rule – Chapter Two, Article 7 of The Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order

United by their vocation as "brothers and sisters of penance" and motivated by the dynamic power of the gospel, let them conform their thoughts and deeds to those of Christ by means of that radical interior change which the gospel calls "conversion." Human frailty makes it necessary that this conversion be carried out daily. On this road to renewal the sacrament of reconciliation is the privileged sign of the Father's mercy and the source of grace.

CHRISTMAS CHARITIES: *The following Christmas donations were voted on by the Council and will be made on behalf of the fraternity to the following charities. Thank you for your generosity throughout the year!*

\$200.00 – Franciscan Monastery

\$100.00 - Family Apostolate in India

\$100.00 – Shepherd's Table (Silver Spring)

\$100.00 – Poor Clares in D.C.

Franciscan Feasts and Memorials to be Remembered This Month of December

8 - Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Patron and Queen of the Franciscan Orders.

9 - Feast of Juan Diego

12 - Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patron and Queen of the Americas.

15 - Blessed Mary Frances Schervier, virgin of III Order. Optional Memorial for III Order.

24 – Jacopone da Todi, Friar, Poet, 1306

Pray For Our Sick – Marie-Denyse Romain, Anna Anezin; Dorothy Clayton; Maria Louisa Correa and her sister; Sarah Faizi's brother, Edgar; Pat Ferguson's daughter, Patty Wyman; Donna Wilkes; Theresa Wilson; Sarah Hurd; Mabel Henson; Pat Allnut; Roy Foster; Eugene Sides; Henry Mullen; Adele Spellerberg; Marianne Hughes and her sister; Lourdes Corso; Clotilda Crawley; Gwen Mason; Joseph Clemente; Saturnino and Vilma Camposano's daughter, Christine.

New Address Change - Roy Foster, Jr. has a new mailing address: Please note:

C/O VAMC
ECRC UNIT – 1, Room 1057
508 Fulton Street
Durham, NC 27701
Phone: 919-638-7509

Prison Outreach Ministry – Welcome Home Reentry Program – provides reentry kits, rental assistance, transportation, clothing, job-readiness, drug treatment, GED training and mentoring services. You can send your support by a tax deductible donation to **Prison Outreach Ministry. P.O. Box 44325, Fort Washington, MD 20749**. For hands-on support, you are invited to help assemble 2,000 reentry kits on Saturday, December 5 at 9:00am at **Centro Maria, 650 Jackson Street, NE**. Call ahead at 301-448-7026. Activate a Beatitude!

January Birthdays – 04-Vicky Spalding; 13-Henry Mullen; 15-Dineen Whipple; 16-Marie-Denyse Romain; 29-John Hewitt; 30- Tony Mazzucco and Julia Ann Stratchko.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to you all! May the Lord bless you and give you His Peace!

December Reflection

A Reading from the 'later Admonition and Exhortation to the Brothers and Sisters of Penance' by St. Francis

In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen. Brother Francis, their servant and subject, sends esteem and reverence, true peace from heaven and sincere love in the Lord to all Christian religious people; clergy and laity, men and women, and to all who live in the world.

Because I am a servant of all, I am obliged to serve all and to administer the fragrant words of my Lord to them. Therefore, realizing that I could not visit each one of you personally because of sickness and the weakness of my body, I decided to offer you in this letter and message, the words of Our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the Word of the Father, and the words of the Holy Spirit, who are spirit and life.

The Most High Father made known from heaven through His holy angel, Gabriel, this Word of the Father – so worthy, so holy and glorious, in the womb of the holy and glorious Virgin Mary, from whose womb he received the flesh of our humanity and frailty. Though he was rich, he wished, together with the most Blessed Virgin, his mother, to choose poverty in the world beyond all else.

*Let every creature
in heaven on earth, in the sea and in the depths,
give praise, glory, honor and blessing
to Him who suffered so much,
who has given and will give in the future every good,
for he is our power and strength,
who alone is good, who alone is almighty,
who alone is omnipotent, wonderful, glorious
and who alone is holy, worthy of praise and blessing
through endless ages.
Amen!*