



# —the CHIMES—

P.O. BOX 90366

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20090-0366

JANUARY Vol. LIII, No. 1

January 17, 2010

## SCHEDULE

- 9:30am Orientation Class, Sacred Heart Room – downstairs Friary  
9:30am Candidacy Class – Large Parlor in upstairs friary  
10:30am Please note that we are unable to hold the Franciscan Crown Rosary this month. Hopefully, we will resume next month!  
11:15am Mass in Blessed Sacrament Chapel. Fr. Kevin - Celebrant  
12:00pm Fraternity Social Gathering - St. Francis Room: refreshments are provided.  
12:45pm Elections and Fraternity Meeting in the Friary – St. Francis Room  
2:00pm **SHORT COUNCIL MEETING FOLLOWING THE FRATERNITY MEETING**

### *This month's theme: New Beginnings*

**PLEASE NOTE:** Fraternity Council Elections will be held this month. Ann Corro, our Regional Councilor will be presiding. After elections, there will be a short fraternity Meeting, followed by a Council meeting. The slate for the Candidates running for election is as follows:

Vicky Spalding - Minister  
Christopher Cropper - Vice Minister  
Larry Bleau - Secretary  
Virginia Lyons - Treasurer  
Formation Director - John Hewitt, M.D.

*If you wish to run for an office, please notify Chris Cropper, our Vice Minister. Thank you.*

### Contacting Council – please note new change

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



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

**UPDATE ON THE MINISTER** – Marie-Denyse is doing well and wishes to thank everyone for their prayers. Please keep them coming! She is unable to make it to our January meeting, but hopefully, she will visit us in February. Below is her new address.

**Marie-Denyse Romain**  
C/O Jehanne Sansaricq  
18335 Honey Locust Circle  
Gaithersburg, MD 20879

## ADMONITION of our Holy Father Francis

### 1. Of the Lord's Body

The Lord Jesus said to His disciples: "I am the Way, and the Truth, and the Life. No man cometh to the Father, but by Me. If you had known Me you would, without doubt, have known My Father also: and from henceforth you shall know Him, and you have seen Him. Philip saith to Him: Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us. Jesus saith to him: Have I been so long a time with you and have you not known Me? Philip, he that seeth Me seeth [My] Father also. How sayest thou, Show us the Father?" The Father "inhabiteth light inaccessible," and "God is a spirit," and "no man hath seen God at any time." Because God is a spirit, therefore it is only by the spirit He can be seen, for "it is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing." For neither is the Son, inasmuch as He is equal to the Father, seen by any one other than by the Father, other than by the Holy Ghost. Wherefore, all those who saw the Lord Jesus Christ according to humanity and did not see and believe according to the Spirit and the Divinity, that He was the Son of God, were condemned. In like manner, all those who behold the Sacrament of the Body of Christ which is sanctified by the word of the Lord upon the altar by the hands of the priest in the form of bread and wine, and who do not see and believe according to the Spirit and Divinity that It is really the most holy Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, are condemned, He the Most High having declared it when He said, "This is My Body, and the Blood of the New Testament," and "he that eateth My Flesh and drinketh My Blood hath everlasting life."



**Chapter II, Article 7** - *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 itself 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.*

**Please pray a Hail Mary a Day for Our Sick** – Marie-Denyse Romain, Dorothy Clayton; Maria Louisa Correa and her sister; Sarah Faizi's brother, Edgar, and also her Mom, Pat Ferguson's daughter, Patty Wyman; Donna Wilkes; Theresa Wilson; Sarah Hurd and her sister, Mabel Henson; Pat Allnutt; Roy Foster; Eugene Sides; Henry Mullen; Adele Spellerberg and daughter, Ruthie; Marianne Hughes and her sister; Lourdes Corso; Clotilda Crawley; Gwen Mason; Joseph Clemente; Saturnino and Vilma Camposano's daughter, Christine; Julie Stratchko, and Vicky Spalding's daughter, Shannon, who is expecting a little boy on April 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**NEWS FROM OUR SEMINARIAN** – Michael Paris is doing well and wishes to thank everyone for their kind support. He is sorry that our Christmas party was cancelled, and that he was unable to visit with us. Hopefully, he can come visit us sometime in the near future!

**Feast Day of our Friars – Please remember Fr. Manuel in prayer, whose feast day is Feb. 4<sup>th</sup>!**

### Franciscan Feasts and Memorials to be Remembered This Month of January

- 1 Solemnity of the Mother of God. Naming and Circumcision of Jesus
- 3 Holy Name of Jesus. Memorial
- 7 Blessed Angela of Foligno, religious of III Order. Optional Memorial for III Order
- 12 Saint Bernard of Corleone, religious of I Order. Optional Memorial
- 14 Blessed Odoric of Pordenone, priest of I Order. Optional Memorial
- 16 Saints Berard, priest, and companions, proto-martyrs of the I Order. Memorial
- 24 Saint Francis de Sales, bishop, doctor, cord-bearer of Saint Francis. Memorial (Rom.)
- 27 Saint Angela Merici, virgin of III Order, founder. Memorial (Rom.)
- 30 Saint Hyacinth of Mariscotti, virgin of III Order. Optional Memorial for III Order
- 31 Saint John Bosco, priest of III Order, founder. Memorial (Rom.)

## Angela of Foligno, Tertiary, 1309; Excerpt from Angela of Foligno, Divine Consolation

*Feast Day – January 7<sup>th</sup>* - Upon a certain occasion when I was in the church of the Blessed Francis, and it was nigh unto the time of the elevation of the Body of our Lord, whilst the organ was playing the angelic hymn, "Holy, holy, holy," my soul was caught up in that Light uncreate, and therein was it so rapt and absorbed in a manner wholly indescribable.

After this (I being still in the first rapture and attraction) there appeared unto me the figure of the Blessed Christ Crucified, as though He had been only just then taken down from the Cross; His blood was as fresh and red and flowed from His wounds as easily as though it had only that instant been shed. Moreover, there appeared such a dissolution of all the members of that blessed body that the sinews and joints of the bones seemed unto me as though loosened from their due harmony--that is to say, from their proper position in the body; and this was caused by hard and cruel stretching and the horrible ill-treatment of those virgin limbs at the hands of wicked men upon the torturing Cross; nevertheless, the skin was nowhere broken.

At this sight my bowels were so pierced with compassion that verily I seemed all transformed in the pain of the Crucified, both bodily and mentally. And with a sharper knife still was I pierced at the sight of the cruel and violent dissolution of all His limbs, where me thought His sinews were loosened and undone and His bones displaced; and so likewise at the sight of the open wounds, for in these did I behold a great secret of the Passion and of the hardness and cruelty of the tortures He had borne.

The sight of the crucified body of the good and beloved Jesus did awaken such great compassion that in all my inward parts and my bones and joints did I feel new pain, and I lamented afresh with terrible anguish.

As I stood thus absorbed in suffering and as though transformed in the pains of the Crucified, I heard Him speak again concerning the devout persons and the followers of His passion, and those who had taken compassion upon Him. I heard Him give thanks unto them and say:

"Blessed are all ye of my Father, who, having had compassion upon Me and passed through tribulation with Me and followed after My life, have merited to wash your robes in the most precious blood of the Lamb. Blessed are ye who suffer with Me, who am crucified and afflicted with boundless suffering in order that I may offer satisfaction for you and redeem you from immense, bitter, and endless torments, and who have rendered yourselves worthy of it by thus bearing with Me poverty, suffering, and contempt. Blessed are ye who shall remember and be pitiful of My Passion, which is the Miracle of all ages, the salvation and life of the lost and the sole refuge of sinners--for thereby shall ye share in the kingdom, the glory and the resurrection which I have purchased by that same Passion, and ye shall verily be co-heirs with Me for ever and ever. Blessed are ye of My Father and of the Holy Spirit, yea, verily blessed, and ye shall therefore have the blessing which I shall give at the last judgment, inasmuch as ye did not repulse Me when I came unto Mine own place, as did My persecutors, but of your compassion did receive Me into the lodging of your hearts as a desolate pilgrim; when I hanged naked upon the Cross, hungry, thirsty, and sick, and pierced by nails, ye did suffer with Me in My death and desired to be in all things My companions. Herein have ye verily accomplished the works of mercy, wherefore in the last dread hour ye shall hear it said, 'Come, ye blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.' Upon the Cross I did hunger, and at least through your compassion did ye give Me to eat," and then He added most marvelously the remainder of His saying, and I cannot possibly describe the burning love which shone upon these blessed ones from the eyes of that blessed Face of God made Man, Jesus Christ.



**February Birthdays** – February 1, Ronald McMahon and Cecilia Thieman, 4 - Alberto Gamez and Alan Blevins; 6 - Maureen Nolan; 8 - James (Jay) Lynagh III and Donna Wilkes; 21 - Joseph Rende; 25 - Jacqueline Wilson; 26 - Joan Adundo and Nita Mullins; 27 - Patricia Lovelace. **HAPPY BIRTHDAY to you! May the Lord bless you and give you His Peace!**

**Pray for our Deceased and their Families - Dominic Sergi** (husband of Apollonia (Polly) died on December 10<sup>th</sup> and his funeral was held at the Franciscan Monastery. Dominic was professed, along with his wife, Polly Sergi, on Oct. 4<sup>th</sup>, 1952, at the Franciscan Monastery. Also, please pray for the soul of Lucille Leach, who passed away on 9/6/09. Lucille was a former member of Mt. St. Sepulchre and also taught formation classes. May eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and may perpetual light shine upon them. Amen!

## January Reflection

### **Thomas of Celano, Second Life 17**

*"The lord pope remembered a vision that he had a few nights before, a vision that was to be fulfilled by the power of the Holy Spirit. In his sleep he had seen the Lateran basilica about to fall to ruin when a certain poor man, small and despised, propped it up on his shoulder so that it would not fall. So when Francis appeared before him with a petition one day, he thought: surely this is the man who is to support the church in his works and his teachings of Christ."*

Like St. Francis, every person is called to build up the kingdom of God, but as Franciscans, we are called in a special way, in imitation of our founder, who walked in the footsteps of Christ. We should pray daily through the intercession of St. Francis, that our souls may be illuminated to God's will in our lives. We are each called to a different purpose in life, but the goal is the same; to serve our Creator to our utmost ability. And how do we do that? We do that by our actions and our love for others, by serving the needy and the poor, and by being kind to those closest to us.

Have you ever thought how much one kind word or even one small gesture can make a difference? I once read a saying, which was, "**Perform random acts of kindness and senseless acts of love.**" One of the suggestions they gave was simple, such as paying a toll for the person in the car behind you. Ask the Holy Spirit to inspire you with these simple thoughts that you can carry out. Start a rippling effect of love and mercy and see what happens at the beginning of this New Year! The Solemnity of the Mother of God was January 1<sup>st</sup>. She is the perfect disciple. Ask Our Lady to help you, by praying the prayer below, in union with all the saints and angels, and she will. One person can make a difference! Francis and Clare's lives of holiness are still making a difference, long after their deaths. Let us pray that God will show us how our lives can still influence the world in ways of holiness and truth, long after we have left this world. Saints witness in heaven and on earth, and we are all called to be saints! *Lord, make me an instrument of your peace and good will! Amen.*

### **The Antiphon: Holy Virgin Mary**

**Holy Virgin Mary,**

**Among all women on earth there is none like Thee;**

**Thou art the Daughter and Handmaid of the Most High King and Father of Heaven;**

**Thou art the Mother of Our Most Holy Lord Jesus Christ;**

**Thou art the Spouse of the Holy Spirit.**

**Pray for us, with St. Michael the Archangel and all the Powers of Heaven and all the Saints, to Thy Most Holy and Beloved Son, Our Lord and Master.**

**Glory to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, ...**

*This text is taken from the Office of the Passion, by St. Francis, trans. by Benen Fahy, OFM, in "The Writings of St. Francis of Assisi," Burnes & Oates, 1964, with some modifications.*