



# — *the CHIMES* —

P.O. BOX 90366

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20090-0366

FEBRUARY Vol. LIV, No. 2

February 21, 2010

## Schedule

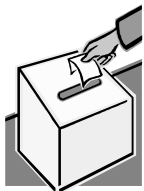
- 9:30am Orientation Session – Sacred Heart Room – downstairs in the Friary  
9:30am Candidate Session – large parlor in upstairs Friary  
10:30am Franciscan Crown Rosary in Blessed Sacrament Chapel  
11:15am Mass in Blessed Sacrament Chapel – Fr. Kevin, Celebrant  
12:15pm Fraternity Social Gathering – St. Francis Room. Refreshments will be provided.  
12:45pm Fraternity Meeting – St. Francis Room.

◆ Theme: **CONVERSION OF THE HEART** ◆



## Fraternity Meeting Agenda

- Binders w/Fraternity Guidelines, to be explained by the Minister.
- Sign up Sheet with Committees, activities; pick one!
- Explanation of Lectio Divina (Divine Reading). Scripture verses will be distributed to use for our spiritual exercise.
- Closing Evening prayer, led by Chris Cropper, who will explain how to pray the Divine Office. If you have the “Shorter Christian” Prayer Book, please bring it with you.



## Results Of The 2010 Fraternity Elections

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

**Bible Quote of the Month** – Romans 10:8-9: **Brothers and sisters: What does Scripture say? The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart — that is, the word of faith that we preach — for, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.**

**Prayer of the Month** – *Most High, Glorious God, enlighten the darkness of our minds. Give us a right faith, a firm hope and a perfect charity, so that we may always and in all things act according to Your Holy Will. Amen.*

## Contacting Council

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



Minister ( <b>please call before 9pm</b> )	Vicky Spalding	301-373-3955
Vice Minister	Chris Cropper	703-501-3873
Secretary	Larry Bleau	301-474-1338
Treasurer	Virginia Lyons	202-832-5666
Formation Director	John Hewitt	202-544-7092
Spiritual Assistant	Fr. Kevin Treston, OFM	202-526-6800

## ADMONITION OF ST. FRANCIS

### 2. The Evil of Self-will.

The Lord God said to Adam: “Of every tree of paradise thou shalt eat. But of the tree of knowledge of good and evil thou shalt not eat.” Adam therefore might eat of every tree of paradise and so long as he did not offend against obedience he did not sin. For one eats of the tree of knowledge of good who appropriates to himself his own will and prides himself upon the goods which the Lord publishes and works in him and thus, through the suggestion of the devil and transgression of the commandment, he finds the apple of the knowledge of evil; wherefore, it behooves that he suffer punishment.



*Let us reflect: Sin is saying NO to God. Anytime we sin against God or His Holy Magisterium by disobeying their commands, we offend God and break relationship with the Church and one another. Adam sinned against God by being disobedient and following his own will, thus eating of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Therefore, one who offends against obedience, as St. Francis said, must always suffer punishment.*

## The Information Corner – Lent begins Wednesday, February 17th! <sup>1</sup>

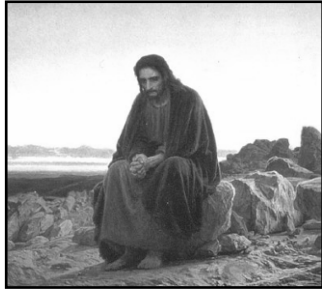
The three traditional pillars of Lenten observance are prayer, fasting and almsgiving. The key to renewed appropriation of these practices is to see their link to baptismal renewal.

**Prayer:** More time given to prayer during Lent should draw us closer to the Lord. We might pray especially for the grace to live out our baptismal promises more fully. We might pray for the elect who will be baptized at Easter and support their conversion journey by our prayer. We might pray for all those who will celebrate the sacrament of reconciliation with us during Lent that they will be truly renewed in their baptismal commitment.



**Fasting:** Fasting is one of the most ancient practices linked to Lent. In fact, the paschal fast predates Lent as we know it. The early Church fasted intensely for two days before the celebration of the Easter Vigil. This fast was later extended and became a 40-day period of fasting leading up to Easter. Fasting is more than a means of developing self-control. It is often an aid to prayer, as the pangs of hunger remind us of our hunger for God. The first reading on the Friday after Ash Wednesday points out another important dimension of fasting. The prophet Isaiah insists that fasting without changing our behavior is not pleasing to God. "This, rather, is the

<sup>1</sup> This article was taken in part from Catholic Online: <http://www.catholic.org/clife/lent/faq.php>



fasting that I wish: releasing those bound unjustly, untying the thongs of the yoke; setting free the oppressed, breaking every yoke; sharing your bread with the hungry, sheltering the oppressed and the homeless; clothing the naked when you see them, and not turning your back on your own" (Is 58:6-7).

Fasting should be linked to our concern for those who are forced to fast by their poverty, those who suffer from the injustices of our economic and political structures, those who are in need for any reason. Thus fasting, too, is linked to living out our baptismal promises. By our Baptism, we are charged with the responsibility of showing Christ's love to the world, especially to those in need. Fasting can help us realize the suffering that so many people in our world experience every day, and it should lead us to greater efforts to alleviate that suffering. Abstaining from meat traditionally also linked us to the poor, who could seldom afford meat for their meals. It can do the same today if we remember the purpose of abstinence and embrace it as a spiritual link to those, whose diets are sparse and simple. That should be the goal we set for ourselves – a sparse and simple meal. Avoiding meat while eating lobster misses the whole point!

**Almsgiving:** It should be obvious at this point that almsgiving, the third traditional pillar, is linked to our baptismal commitment in the same way. It is a sign of our care for those in need and an expression of our gratitude for all that God has given to us. Works of charity and the promotion of justice are integral elements of the Christian way of life we began when we were baptized.



**The Rule** – Chapter Two, Rule 8 of The Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order.

As Jesus was the true worshipper of the Father, so let prayer and contemplation be the soul of all they are and do. Let them participate in the sacramental life of the Church, above all the Eucharist. Let them join in liturgical prayer in one of the forms proposed by the Church, reliving the mysteries of the life of Christ.

**From the Mailbox: News of our Family** – Recently we received a letter from Bishop Stephen Athipozhiyil, Bishop of Alleppey, India, the diocese in which the Thresiamma Stephen family lives and whom the Fraternity supports through the Franciscan Family Apostolate program. Here are excerpts from that letter. Please keep our family in your prayers.



The services of FFA connected with the distribution of grant, supplying medical help, visiting the beneficiary families and doing other activities for their welfare are carried out smoothly by Sr. Dafini Anto distributing the quarterly financial assistance and doing other services to the beneficiaries, they take pain to visit the sponsored families in order to assess their progress and try to find out the most needy proposed from different parishes for adoption. Therefore I take this opportunity to thank you all for having contributed to the welfare of all the beneficiaries here. May God bless you all abundantly and keep you always in good health.

Last year onwards the FFA beneficiary members have formed Self Help Groups (SHGs) in every parish. And they contribute Rs. 10/- [about \$0.21] each as their share and deposit it in a bank. This helps everyone to take loan on the guarantee of the deposits of all members. At the same time they are aware that when they receive financial support there are many others in the society without being helped. So they have agreed to organize the sale of donation coupons and thus to raise fund before next Christmas in order to give one or two houses constructed to the homeless.

**Please Pray a Hail Mary For Our Sick** – Pat Allnutt, Saturnino and Vilma Camposano’s daughter Christine; Dorothy Clayton; Joseph Clemente; Maria Louisa Correa’s family; Lourdes Corso; Genie Dutton’s husband, Gene; Sarah Faizi’s cousin, Alice Kirner; Pat Ferguson and her daughter, Patty Wyman; Roy Foster; Marianne Hughes and her sister, Ellen, and her nephew, Bobby Cullen, Jr., who died recently (Marianne Hughes has problems with her arms); Sarah Hurd and her sister, Mabel Henson; Gwen Mason; Henry Mullins; Eugene Sides; Vicky Spalding’s daughter, Shannon, who is expecting a little boy on April 3<sup>rd</sup>; Julie Stratchko; Donna Wilkes (major surgery); and Theresa Wilson. Helen Walls says hello to all the members.



**March Birthdays** March 9 – Patricia Allnutt and Rita Braddock, 11 – Fritz Nicolas, 16 – Helene Hogan and John Whipple, 25 – Mary Anne Corr, 26 – Ernest Smith, Jr., 28 – Robert Mendoza and Fr. Kevin Treston, O.F.M.

### **February Franciscan Feastdays and Memorials**

- 4 Saint Joseph of Leonissa, priest of I Order. Optional Memorial.
- 6 Saints Peter Baptist, Paul Miki, and companions, martyrs of I and III Order. Memorial.
- 7 Saint Colette, virgin of II Order. Feast for Collettines; Memorial for II and III Order nuns.
- 19 Saint Conrad of Piacenza, hermit of III Order. Optional Memorial for III Order.

**Feastdays of Franciscan Friars** – Keep in your prayers the following friars, whose feast days or birthdays are this month: March 5, Kieran Malone – 16, Greg Giannoni – 17, Patrick Flannigan.

## February Reflection

*A Reading from the “Later Admonition and Exhortation” of St. Francis.*



*Let us love our neighbors as ourselves. And if anyone does not want to love them as himself, let him at least not do them any harm but let him do good.*

*Let whoever has received the power of judging others pass judgment with mercy, as they would wish to receive mercy from the Lord. For judgment will be without mercy for those who have not shown mercy.*

*Let us, therefore, have charity and humility and give alms because it washes the stains of our sins from our souls. For, although people lose everything they leave behind in this world, nevertheless, they carry with them the rewards of charity and the alms they have given, for which they will receive a reward and a fitting repayment from the Lord.*

*We must also fast and abstain from vices and sins and from an excess of food and drink and be Catholics.*

*We must also frequently visit churches and venerate and revere the clergy, not so much for themselves, if they are sinner, but because of their office and administration of the most holy Body and Blood of Christ which they sacrifice upon the altar, receive and administer to others. And let all of us know for certain that no one can be saved except through the holy words and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ which the clergy pronounce, proclaim and minister. They alone must minister and not others. Religious, however, who have left the world, are bound to do more and greater things, but not to overlook these.*