



— the CHIMES —

P.O. BOX 90366

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20090-0366

MARCH Vol. LIV, No. 3

March 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
12:00pm Fraternity Social Gathering – St. Francis Room – downstairs in the Friary.
Refreshments will be provided.
12:45pm Fraternity Meeting – St. Francis Room; **BRING YOUR BINDERS!**
1:15pm Private Confessions – face-to-face or behind screen

◆ Theme: **RECONCILIATION WITH GOD!** ◆

Fraternity Meeting Agenda

- Opening prayers, with handout of binders for those who were unable to attend last month.
- Franciscan Penitential rite, led by Fr. Kevin. You may leave after this if you wish.

From the Rule: Chapter 2, 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 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.

This month we will be celebrating a Franciscan Penitential Rite with Confessions available afterwards. We will have four priests available to hear confessions if you desire to go. Both styles of confession will be offered; face to face and behind the screen. Confessions will begin at approximately 1:15pm and will end at 2:15pm. You are free to leave after the Penitential rite or after confession. We will not reconvene after 2:15pm. May God grant you a beautiful, blessed, and holy Easter!



Bible Quote of the Month – “Has no one condemned you?” The woman answered: “No one, Lord.” “Neither do I condemn you: go and do not sin again.” (*Jn 8:10-11*)

Prayer of the Month – We adore you, Lord Jesus Christ, here and in all your churches in the whole world, and we bless you, because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

Contacting Council

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



Minister (please call before 9pm)	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	212-866-0229
Spiritual Assistant	Fr. Kevin Treston, OFM	202-526-6800

ADMONITION OF ST. FRANCIS

3. On Perfect Obedience. ¹

The Lord says in the Gospel: “He who does not renounce all that he possesses, cannot be my disciple” (*Lk 14:33*); and: “He who will have wanted to save his life, shall lose it” (*Lk 9:24*). That man abandons all that he possesses, and loses his own body, who offers himself whole to obedience in the hands of his prelate. And whatever he does and says, that he himself knows, which is not contrary to his will, as long as what he does is good, is true obedience. And if at any time the subject sees better and more useful things for his own soul than those which the prelate precepts him, let him sacrifice these willingly to God; but those which are the prelate’s, let him strive to fulfill. For this is charitable obedience (cf. *1 Pet 1:22*), since it satisfies God and neighbor.



If indeed the prelate precepts anything against his soul, though he is not to obey him, nevertheless let him not give him up. And if he has endured persecution by others for that reason, let him love (*dilectio*) them more for God’s sake. For he who will endure persecution rather than wanting to be separated from his brothers, in truth remains continually in perfect obedience, since he lays down “his own life” (cf. *Jn 15:13*) on behalf of his brothers. For there are many religious, who under the appearance of seeing better things than those which their prelates precept, look back (cf. *Lk 9:62*) and return “to the vomit” of their own will. (cf. *Prov. 26:11*; *2 Pet 2:22*); these are murderers and on account of their bad examples cause many souls to perish.

The Information Corner – **What is Confession?** An extract from a message entitled “A Helpful Guide to the Sacrament of Penance” from the Bishops of Pennsylvania^{2,3}.

What is Confession?

Confession is a sacrament instituted by Jesus Christ in his love and mercy. It is here that we meet the loving Jesus who offers sinners forgiveness for offenses committed against God and neighbor. At the same time, Confession permits sinners to reconcile with the Church, which also is wounded by our sins. The sacrament, as the Catechism of the Catholic Church notes, is known by many names. Sometimes “it is called the sacrament of conversion because it makes sacramentally present Jesus’ call to conversion” (1423). But it is also better known as “the sacrament of Penance, since it consecrates the Christian sinner’s personal and ecclesial steps of conversion, penance, and satisfaction” (1423). For many of us it still continues to be known as “the sacrament of confession, since the disclosure or confession of sins to a priest is an essential element of this sacrament” (1424). At the same time, the Catechism reminds us that “it is called the sacrament of forgiveness, since by the priest’s sacramental absolution God grants the penitent ‘pardon and peace’” (1424).

¹ St. Francis of Assisi, *The Words of Admonition*, translated from the Critical Latin Edition, edited by Fr. Kajetan Esser, O.F.M., courtesy of Five Franciscan Martyrs Region, accessed March 4, 2010, URL <http://www.franciscan-sfo.org/ap/Admonitions.html>

² Bishops of Pennsylvania, *A Helpful Guide to the Sacrament of Penance*, Franciscan Friar Store, 2002, accessed March 4, 2010, http://www.franciscanfriarstor.com/archive/prayerrequests/The_Sacraments/sacrament%20of%20penance.htm

³ References within parentheses are to articles in the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

Finally, it is also called the sacrament of Reconciliation because it reconciles sinners to God and then to each other (1424). In this text, we will refer to the sacrament as the sacrament of Penance.

Why is Confession necessary?

We need the sacrament of Penance because each of us, from time to time, sins. When we recognize that we have offended God who is all deserving of our love, we sense the need to make things right. Like the prodigal son in the Gospel, we long to know again the loving embrace of a forgiving father who patiently waits for each of us. Jesus himself has established this sure and certain way for us to access God's mercy and to know that our sins are forgiven. By virtue of his divine authority, Jesus gives this power of absolution to the apostolic ministry. As the Catechism of the Catholic Church says, "in imparting to his apostles his own power to forgive sins the Lord also gives them the authority to reconcile sinners with the Church" (1444). We need to know that our sins are forgiven. There is something in our human nature that calls out for the assurance that our sins are actually forgiven. Confession is the visible manifestation of God's mercy that provides us, in human terms as well, the clear awareness that God has forgiven us.

How is the Church able to forgive sins?

The Church professes belief in "the forgiveness of sins" and is fully aware that only God forgives sins. It also believes that Jesus, through his death, washed away all sin and, after his resurrection, gave to his Church the power and authority to apply to us the redemption he won on the cross, namely God's forgiveness of our sins. As the Catechism points out, our faith in the forgiveness of sins is tied to faith in the Holy Spirit and the Church: "It was when he gave the Holy Spirit to his apostles that the risen Christ conferred on them his own divine power to forgive sins: 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained'" (976; cf. John 20:22-23). We bring our failings to the Church, then, because Jesus imparted to his apostles, their successors, and through them to all ordained priests, his own power to forgive sins, to restore and reconcile the sinner with God and also the Church. This power to forgive sins is often referred to as the "power of the keys", the power entrusted to the Church when Jesus told St. Peter, "I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven" (Matt 16:19). This power is manifested and operative in the sacrament of Penance.



The Rule – Chapter Two, Rule 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.

Early Documents – Some members expressed interest in the books mentioned at the February fraternity meeting. They are the *Early Documents* series. These are a more modern version of the *OMNIBUS*, what makes them special are the Scripture references and footnotes that high-light historical and biographical information. This is a series of books published by New City Press; they are available in hardback and paperback. The titles of the books are:

1. *Francis of Assisi/The Saint/Early Documents*
2. *Francis of Assisi/The Founder/Early Documents*
3. *Francis of Assisi/The Prophet/Early Documents*
4. *Claire of Assisi/The Lady/Early Documents*
5. *Index/Early Documents*

Update Your Directory – Joe Rende has moved; his new address is 9602 Colesville Road, Silver Spring, MD 20901-3144, phone 301-588-1491.

From the Mailbox: News of our Family – Recently we received a picture from the Whipple family; the couple is shown by arrow at right. We miss you, John and Daneen!



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 friend, Ron Harner; Pat Ferguson and her daughter, Patty Wyman; Roy Foster; Marianne Hughes and her sister, Ellen; Sarah Hurd and her family; Gwen Mason; Henry Mullins; Joe Rende; Eugene Sides; Julie Stratchko; Donna Wilkes (major surgery); and Theresa Wilson. Marianne Hughes says “Hello!” to all the members.

Pray For Our Deceased Frances Wicks, editor of the National Fraternity’s newsletter TAU-USA, who died on January 18, 2010. She was professed on October 3, 1982 and was an active member of Our Lady of Assumption Parish in Claremont, LA. She is survived by her husband, Bill, and many children. May the souls of the faithful departed, especially those of our members and their families, rest in eternal peace in the presence of our Lord.

April Birthdays April 5 – Dorothy Clayton, 6 – William Richardson, and 9 – Virginia Lyons.

Feastdays of Franciscan Friars – Keep in your prayers the following friars, whose feast days or birthdays (shown as (B)) are this and next month: March 5 – Kieran Malone, 16 – Greg Giannoni, 17 – Patrick Flanigan, and 28 – Kevin Treston (B); April 4 – David Wathen (B), and 23 – George Lewett.

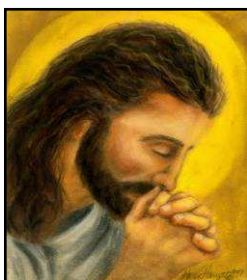
Fr. Kevin’s birthday is on March 28. Our fraternity wishes you a HAPPY BIRTHDAY, Fr. Kevin!

March Reflection

Lent 5 - Sunday

A reading from the 'The Major Legend of St. Francis' by St. Bonaventure

The man of God, Francis, gathered with his companions in an abandoned hut near the city of Assisi, where they kept themselves alive according to the pattern of holy poverty in much labour and want, drawing their nourishment more from the bread of tears than of delight. They spent their time there praying incessantly, directing their effort mentally rather than vocally to devoted prayers, because they did not yet have liturgical books from which to chant the canonical Hours. In place of these, they had the book of Christ's cross which they studied continually day and night, taught by the example and words of their father who spoke to them constantly about the cross of Christ.



When the brothers asked him to teach them to pray, he said, ‘When you pray, say “Our Father...” and “We adore you, O Christ, in all your churches throughout the whole world, and we bless you, for by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.” He also taught them to praise God in all and with all creatures, to honour priests with a special reverence, and to believe with certainty and to confess with simplicity the truth of the faith, as the holy Roman Church holds and teaches. They observed the holy father's teaching in every detail and prostrated themselves humbly before every church and crucifix which they were able to see from a distance, praying the formula he had taught them.