



— *the CHIMES* —

P.O. BOX 90366

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20090-0366

APRIL Vol. LIV, No. 4

April 18, 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. <u>BRING YOUR BINDERS!</u>
12:45pm	Fraternity Meeting – St. Francis Room
3:00pm	Council Meeting – large parlor in upstairs Friary

◆ Theme: **GOD'S INFINITE MERCY!** ◆

Fraternity Meeting Agenda

- Update on Sick list
- Hand out of Scripture Verses
- Teaching on Francis with handouts
- Instruction on the Liturgy of the Hours
- Closing Evening prayer

Note: We will be using the Shorter Christian Prayer book for the Liturgy of the Hours. If you already have the book, please bring it with you. If not, we have 15 books available for \$10 each. If you cannot afford to buy a book, please let the Minister know at the meeting.



Bible Quote of the Month – Let all the earth cry out to God with joy; praise the glory of his name; proclaim his glorious praise, alleluia. (*Ps 65:1-2*)

Prayer of the Month – O God, your gift of life is abundant beyond all understanding. May we whom you have called to life in Christ be willing servants of the Gospel, so that we may share with others all that you have given to us in your goodness. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

4. Let no one appropriate to himself superior over others.¹

I did not come “to be ministered unto, but to minister” (cf. *Mt 20:28*), says the Lord. Let those, who are set up over others, glory as much because of that office of superior, as if they had been appointed to the office of washing the feet of the brothers. And in as much as they are more disturbed because of having lost their office of superior than because of (having lost) the office regarding feet, so much more do they assemble purses for themselves to the danger of their souls (cf. *John 12:6*).

St. Francis truly followed the Lord’s command to love one another and to serve one another. In essence, St. Clare followed it greatly as well. Both saints sacrificed earthly pleasure to serve and follow Christ in all things.



The first two commandments echo the importance of loving God above all things and serving our neighbor. What does charity oblige us to do? Charity obliges us to love God above all things, because He is infinitely good and to love our neighbor as ourselves for the love of God.

And one of them, a doctor of the Law, putting him to the test, asked him, “Master, which is the great commandment in the Law?” Jesus said to him, “Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with thy whole heart, and with thy whole soul, and with thy whole mind.’ This is the greatest and the first commandment. And the second is like it, ‘Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.’ On these two commandments

depend the whole Law and the Prophets.” (Matthew 22:35-40)

As Christians and Franciscans, we understand and believe that the gifts and blessings that come from God must be returned to Him by serving others. Jesus gave us the command to love one another before He died through His holy apostles. Our Lord, in His great humility, washed the feet of His apostles, as if He had been their servant! Let us remember, then, that Jesus gave us this example that we too might be humble and serve one another. Jesus also washed their feet to prepare their souls for the most holy reception of His Body and Blood, teaching us by this ceremony that we must truly wash our souls in the Holy Sacrament of Penance before receiving Holy Communion. Therefore, we pray: LORD, MEEK AND HUMBLE OF HEART, MAKE MY HEART LIKE UNTO THINE OWN! PREPARE OUR SOULS WORTHILY TO RECEIVE YOU. Amen.

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 11, 2010, URL <http://www.franciscan-sfo.org/ap/Admonitions.html>



The Rule – Chapter Two, Rule 10 of The Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order.

United themselves to the redemptive obedience of Jesus, who placed his will into the Father's hands, let them faithfully fulfill the duties proper to their various circumstances of life. Let them also follow the poor and crucified Christ, witness to him even in difficulties and persecutions.

News From Our Seminarian – Michael Paris has returned from a retreat in France and is excited about his ordination to the Deaconate, which will take place **June 5th** at St Matthew's Cathedral, 1725 Rhode Island Ave., NW, at 10:00am. Mark your calendar! In an email, Mike writes:



Dear Friends,

I want to thank you for your prayer intentions that you sent me a few weeks ago. I compiled them and prayed for each of you by name and what you asked me to pray for. It was a time of real joy and peace being at those sacred places. God is continuing to do some great things through these saints we visited and I hope that it was fruitful for you as well. I feel I myself was given some important graces that I need to be a good priest, so I thank you for your prayers.

Peace and God Bless, Mike

From the Mailbox: News of our Family

- Congratulations to Vicky Spalding, whose daughter, Shannon, on March 22, gave birth to Samuel Parker Armsworthy.
- Eugene Sides wrote from Parkville, SC, thanking us for our prayers. He also enrolled the Fraternity members in the Masses celebrated by the monks on Easter Sunday and throughout Easter Week in the Monastic Church at St. Benedict's Abbey, Benet Lake, WI. Thank you, Gene, for this spiritual Easter gift!



- Mary Sebastian, the mother in our Franciscan Family in India, wrote:

Thank you very much for the help given us. We always remember you in our evening prayers; also pray for us. Work on our house has started. Husband's fishing and children's studies are going well. Your help is very useful for my poor family. I wish a Happy Easter to you and your family.

Please Pray a Hail Mary For Our Sick – Pat Allnutt; Alan Blevins' mother, Faye; Teresita Pena-Castro Bohan; Rita Braddock; Mary DeShazo (health problems); Maria Louisa Correa's and her sisters; Lourdes Corso; Dorothy Clayton; Pat Ferguson and her daughter, Patty Wyman; Roy Foster; Marianne Hughes and her sister, Ellen; Sarah Hurd and her sister, Mabel Henson; Sandra Powell; Eugene Sides; Adele Spellerberg and her daughter Ruthie; Julie Stratchko; Helen Walls; and Donna Wilkes, her brother Hollis, and a friend of hers who has a special intention. Adele says she still prays the rosary for all the members.



Pray For Our Deceased Daniel Green, KMSS, who died on March 27, 2010. His funeral Mass was on April 9 at the Franciscan Monastery. Danny was an active member of the Knights of Mt. St. Sepulchre from 1976 until 1993, when physical limitations overtook him. While not an SFO, Danny had the characteristics of one who lived the Franciscan way of life: kindness, humility, charity, care of the poor, perseverance in the face of adversity, devotion to the Blessed Mother. 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.



May Birthdays May 1 – Larry Bleau, 6 – Roy Foster, 8 – Mary Jo Fehr, 12 – Margaret (Peggy) Simoneau, 20 – Mark Di Salvo, 27 – Sandra White, 30 – Joseph Clemente and Jean-Paul Gauthier.

Feastdays of Franciscan Friars – Keep in your prayers the following friars, whose feast days are this coming month: May 2 – Athanasius Macora, and 3 – James Brabandt.

Franciscan Feasts and Memorials to be Remembered in April and May

April 3 – Saint Benedict the Black, religious of I Order (Memorial); 16 – **Saint Bernadette Soubirous**, cord-bearer of Saint Francis; 17 – **Saint Benedict Joseph Labre**, cord-bearer of Saint Francis; 21 – **Saint Conrad of Parzham**, religious of I Order (Memorial); 23 – **Blessed Giles of Assisi**, religious of I Order (optional Memorial); 24 – **Saint Fidelis of Sigmaringen**, priest and martyr of I Order (Feast); 28 – **Blessed Luchesius**, layman of III Order (optional Memorial of III Order).

May 9 – Saint Catherine of Bologna, virgin of II Order (optional Memorial for II and III Order nuns); 11 – **Saint Ignatius of Laconi**, religious of I Order; 16 – **Saint Margaret of Cortona**, III Order (Memorial); 17 – **Saint Paschal Baylon**, religious of I Order (Memorial); 18 – **Saint Felix of Cantalice**, religious of I Order (Feast); 20 – **Saint Bernardine of Siena**, priest of I Order (Feast); 24 – **Dedication of the Basilica of Saint Francis of Assisi** (Feast); 28 – **Saint Mariana of Jesus de Paredes**, virgin of III Order (optional Memorial); 30 – **Blessed Baptista Varano**, virgin of II Order (optional Memorial for II and III Order nuns); 30 – **Saint Ferdinand**, King, member of the III Order.

April Reflection

*A Reading from 'A Letter to the Entire Order'
by St. Francis*



Let everyone be struck with fear, let the whole world tremble, and let the heavens exult, when Christ, the Son of the Living God, is present on the altar in the hands of a priest! O wonderful loftiness and stupendous dignity! O sublime humility! O humble sublimity! The Lord of the Universe, God and the Son of God, so humbles himself that for our salvation he hides himself under an ordinary piece of bread! Brothers, look at the humility of God, and pour out your hearts before him! Humble yourselves that you may be exalted by him! Hold back nothing of yourselves for yourselves, that he who gives himself totally to you may receive you totally!