



– *the CHIMES* –

P.O. BOX 90366

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20090-0366

DECEMBER Vol. LIV, No. 12

December 19, 2010

Schedule

9:30am Candidate Session – St. Bonaventure Room

No Fraternity Meeting This Month

◆ Theme: MOTHERHOOD ◆

Bible Quote of the Month

AND there shall come forth a rod out of the root of Jesse, and a flower shall rise up out of his root. And the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him: the spirit of wisdom, and of understanding, the spirit of counsel, and of fortitude, the spirit of knowledge, and of godliness. And he shall be filled with the spirit of the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge according to the sight of the eyes, nor reprove according to the hearing of the ears. But he shall judge the poor with justice, and shall reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall slay the wicked. And justice shall be the girdle of his loins: and faith the girdle of his reins. (*Isaiah 11:1*)



The Rule

Chapter Two, Article 17 of The Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order.

In their family they should cultivate the Franciscan spirit of peace, fidelity, and respect for life, striving to make of it a sign of a world already renewed in Christ.

Prayer of the Month

Father, we are filled with the new light by the coming of your Word among us. May the light of faith shine in our words and actions. Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen. (Magnificat- Christmas Day).



Contacting Council

Below is contact information for Council members; please call before 9pm.



Vicky Spalding (Minister)	301-373-3955
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Chris Cropper (Vice Minister)	703-501-3873
Larry Bleau (Secretary, Chimes Editor)	301-474-1338
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John Hewitt (Formation Dir.)	212-866-0229
Fr. Kevin Treston, OFM (Spiritual Assistant)	202-526-6800

ADMONITION OF ST. FRANCIS

12. On recognizing the spirit of God ¹

Thus can the servant of God be known, if he has the spirit of the Lord: when the Lord works through him anything good, if his flesh for that reason would not exalt itself, because it is always contrary to every good, but if he rather would hold himself up before (his own) eyes as more vile and esteem himself less than all other men.

The Information Corner ²

Our Lady of Guadalupe – December 12th

A poor Indian named Juan Diego, a fifty-seven year old widower on his way to Mass one Saturday morning in December encountered beautiful music by a hill called Tepeyac. A radiant cloud appeared and within it a young Native American maiden dressed like an Aztec princess. The lady sent Juan Diego to the Franciscan bishop of Mexico to request that a chapel be built on the hill where she appeared.



Eventually the bishop told Juan Diego to have the lady give him a sign. About the same time Juan Diego's uncle became seriously ill. This led poor Diego to try to avoid the lady. The lady found Juan Diego and assured him of a recovery for his uncle and provided roses for Juan to carry to the bishop in his cape.

When Juan Diego opened his cape in the bishop's presence, the roses fell to the ground and the bishop sank to his knees. On Juan Diego's cape was a beautiful painting of Mary as she appeared at the hill of Tepeyac. It was December 12, 1531.

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 April 19, 2010, URL <http://www.franciscan-sfo.org/ap/Admonitions.html>

² Both of these adapted from "Saint of the Day" 5th revised edition.

Feast of the Immaculate Conception – December 8th


A feast called the Conception of Mary arose in the Eastern Church in the seventh century. In the eighth century it came to the Western church and in the eleventh century it received its name, the Immaculate Conception.



In 1854 Pius IX gave the infallible statement: "The most Blessed Virgin Mary, in the first instant of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege granted by almighty God, in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, the savior of the human race, was preserved free from all stain of original sin."

Two Franciscans, William of Ware and Blessed John Duns Scotus, helped develop the theology; they point out that Mary's Immaculate Conception enhances Jesus' redemptive work. This Feast is a Holy Day of Obligation and is observed on December 8th.

New Years Day Meal

Larry Bleau and his wife will host a meal for Fraternity members at their home in  College Park on New Years Day. If you want to join them, call Larry at 301-474-1338 (or email him at larval03@gmail.com); space is limited to ten. If you want to bring a dish, let him know.

Please Pray For Our Sick

Pat Allnutt; Larry Bleau's brother, Ron Bleau; Mary Bridges; Maria Louisa Correa and her sister, Maria Franco; Lordes Corso; Clotilda Crawley's daughter, Delourdes Crawley, who is a member of the South Korean Air Force; Sarah Faizi's friend, Ron Harner; Pat Ferguson and her daughter, Patty Wyman; Roy Foster; Sarah Hurd and her family; Marianne Hughes and her family; Gwen Mason; Joe Rende's friends Anna Falcone, Lucy Toschi and Rose Boise; Gene Sides and his wife, Annabel; Julia Stratchko; and Theresa Wilson.

Pray For Our Deceased Ernest Smith, Jr., who died on December 8. No other details are known at this time. Ernest was professed in 2000. 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.

News Of Our Family

Anne Rydlewicz, daughter of member Henry Mullen, wrote to thank us for continuing to send her father the *Chimes*. Henry is not sick, but lives in Villa Rosa Nursing Home in Mitchellville, MD, and is doing fairly well for age 98. Our Christmas wishes go to both Henry and Anne!

January Birthdays

January 4 – Victoria Spalding, 13 – Henry Mullen, 15 – Dineen Whipple, 28 – Elizabeth Labadie, 29 – Teresita Bohan and John Hewitt, 30 – Anthony Mazzucco and Julia Ann Stratchko.



Franciscan Feastdays and Memorials

January 1 – Solemnity of the Mother of God; 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, protomartyrs of the I Order (memorial); 24 – Saint Francis de Sales, bishop, doctor, cord-bearer of Saint Francis (memorial); 27 – Saint Angela Merici, virgin of III Order, founder. (memorial); 30 – Saint Hyacinth of Mariscotti, virgin of III Order (optional memorial for III Order); 31 – Saint John Bosco, priest of III Order, founder (memorial).

Feastdays of Franciscan Friars

Keep in your prayers the following friars, whose feast days or birthdays (shown as (B)) are this coming month: January 14 – Roger Petras, 20 – Sebastian Laird-Hammond, and 24 Christopher Coppock (B).

December Reflection

Dear Brothers and Sisters, I wanted to write a reflection but found the following in the book, *A Sense of the Divine*. It was written for Christmas Day... I think it sums up beautifully what Christ has done for us by giving up this magnificent holy day. I wish each and everyone of you a Blessed, holy, and grace-filled Christmas and New Year. See you in January!

Your Minister and Servant, Vicky

A reading from the ‘*Later Admonitions and Exhortation, to the Brothers and Sisters of Penance*’, by Saint Francis.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of 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 whole world.

Because I am the 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 Mary, 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, honour 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.