



# – *the CHIMES* –

P.O. BOX 90366

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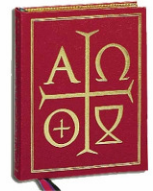
January 16, 2011

## Schedule

- 9:30am Orientation Session – Sacred Heart Room – downstairs in the Friary
- 9:30am Candidate Session – St. Bonaventure Room downstairs
- 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
- 2:30pm Council Meeting – St. Bonaventure Room downstairs

## Fraternity Meeting Agenda

- Introduction of New Members in Orientation
- Individual selection of Franciscan Saints
- Handout on Francis
- Short Apologetics: New Revised Mass Text
- Closing Evening prayer. If you have the “Shorter Christian” Prayer Book, please bring it with you.



***DON'T FORGET YOUR BINDERS!***

## ◆ Theme: SEASON OF PEACE ◆

### Bible Quote of the Month



When Jesus therefore was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of king Herod, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem. Saying, Where is he that is born king of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the east, and are come to adore him. And king Herod hearing this, was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And assembling together all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, he inquired of them where Christ should be born. But they said to him: In Bethlehem of Judea.

For so it is written by the prophet: And thou Bethlehem the land of Judea art not the least among the princes of Judea: for out of thee shall come forth the captain that shall rule my people Israel. (*Matthew 2:1-6, Douay-Rheims Bible*)

### Prayer of the Month

Father of light, unchanging God, today you reveal to men of faith the resplendent fact of the Word made flesh. Your light is strong, Your love is near; draw us beyond the limits which this world imposes, to the life where Your Spirit makes all life complete. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.  
*New Saint Joseph Sunday Missal.*

## Contacting Council

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



Vicky Spalding (Minister) 301-373-3955  
minister@dcsfo.org  
Chris Cropper (Vice Minister) 703-501-3873  
Larry Bleau (Secretary, Chimes Editor)  
301-474-1338  
Virginia Lyons (Treasurer) 202-832-5666  
John Hewitt (Formation Dir.) 212-866-0229  
Fr. Kevin Treston, OFM (Spiritual Assistant)  
202-526-6800

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## ADMONITION OF ST. FRANCIS

### **13. On patience**<sup>1</sup>

“Blessed (are) the peacemakers, since they shall be called sons of God” (*Mt 5:9*). The servant of God cannot know how much patience and humility he has in himself, while he is satisfied. However when the time has come, that those who ought to satisfy him, do the contrary to him, as much patience and humility (is) there, that much he has and not more.



### The Rule

Chapter Two, Article 18 of The Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order.

Moreover they should respect all creatures, animate and inanimate, which bear the imprint of the Most High, and they should strive to move from the temptation of exploiting creation to the Franciscan concept of universal kinship.

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<sup>1</sup> 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>

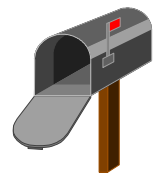
## Contributions

Council gave Christmas donations to the following organizations: \$200 to the Monastery, \$100 to Shepherd’s Table, \$100 to the Franciscan Family Apostolate (our India family), \$50 to Deacon Michael Paris, and \$50 to Amazon Relief.

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## From the Mailbox: News of our Family

- **Julia Stratchko** thanks fraternity members for their prayers, thoughts and cards. She misses all of you.
- **Donna Wilkes** asks for prayers; she now needs oxygen periodically. She prays for her SFO sisters and brothers, and sends a special prayer:  
Father of light, unchanging God, today You reveal to men [& women] of faith the resplendent fact of the Word made flesh. Your light is strong, Your love is near; draw us beyond the limits which this world imposes, to the life where Your Spirit makes all life complete.




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## New Years Dinner a Success



Nancy McCleary, Larry Bleau, Bill Richardson, Chris Cropper, Larry’s wife Valerie, and Mary De Shazo (not shown) came together for a fellowship dinner on New Years Day.

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## News From Our Seminarian

Deacon Michael Paris is excited about his ordination to the Priesthood, which will take place **June 18th** at National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception at 10:00am. Mark your calendar! If you want to send him a congratulatory message, his address is 10617 August Light Ct., Columbia, MD 21044.

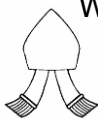
## News of our Family In India

Here are extracts from a letter from Bishop Stephen Athipozhiyil, of the Diocese of Alleppey, where lives the Thresiamma Stephen family, whom the Fraternity supports through the Franciscan Family Apostolate program. It is addressed to Secular Franciscan Friends:

First of all, let me take this occasion to thank each and every one of you for your valuable prayers and special concern towards your beneficiarries in Alleppey. ... The feast of St. Francis Assisi was celebrated with solemnity on 4<sup>th</sup>



October 2010 at Mount Carmel Cathedral of the Diocese. Mr. Alan Ouimet and Mrs. Patricia were present at the Solemn Mass and the public meeting following the Mass. Almost 700 beneficiaries participated in the Mass and the meeting. ... Through FFA 600 families and supported with financial assistance in every three months. 185 patients are helped once in 3 months for their medical treatment. 9 students are supported for their education. 16 families were helped for repairing their houses. 5 families were given new houses this year. ... Now the activities of the FFA Alleppey are looked after by Sr. Daphne Anto, the secretary, and 8 other staff members. Besides distributing the quarterly financial assistance to the beneficiaries they take pain to visit the sponsored families to assess and evaluate their progress and try to find out the most needy from different parishes to be proposed for sponsoring. Therefore let me thank most sincerely all of you who have contributed to the welfare of all the beneficiaries here in Alleppey.



With assurance of my prayers,  
Yours sincerely in Jesus,  
Bishop Stephen Athipozhiyil  
Bishop of Alleppey

**Pray For Our Deceased** Lena Schyle, aunt of member Sarah Faizi. 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.

## The Information Corner

### **Vatican Warns About Zen, Yoga <sup>2</sup>**

VATICAN CITY (AP) - The Vatican Thursday cautioned Roman Catholics that Eastern meditation practices such as Zen and yoga can “degenerate into a cult of the body” that debases Christian prayer.

“The love of God, the sole object of Christian contemplation, is a reality which cannot be ‘mastered’ by any method or technique,” said a document issued by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

The document, approved by Pope John Paul II and addressed to bishops, said attempts to combine Christian meditation with Eastern techniques were fraught with danger although they can have positive uses.

The 23-page document, signed by the West German congregation head Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, was believed the first time the Vatican sought to respond to the pull of Eastern religious practices.

Ratzinger told a news conference that the document was not condemning Eastern meditation practices, but was elaborating on guidelines for proper Christian prayer.

By Eastern methods, the document said, it was referring to practices inspired by Hinduism and Buddhism such as Zen, Transcendental Meditation and yoga, which [may] involve prescribed postures and controlled breathing.

Some Christians, “caught up in the movement toward openness and exchanges between various religions and cultures, are of the opinion that their prayer has much to gain from these methods,” the document said.

But, it said, such practices “can degenerate into a cult of the body and can lead surreptitiously to considering all bodily sensations as spiritual experiences.”

The document defined Christian prayer as a “personal, intimate and profound dialogue between man and God.”

Such prayer “flees from impersonal techniques or from concentrating on oneself, which can create a kind of rut, imprisoning the person praying in a spiritual privatism.”

Attempts to combine Christian and non-Christian mediation are “not free from dangers

<sup>2</sup> © 1989, Associated Press, issued NY on 12/14/1989.

and errors," the document said.

It expressed particular concern over misconceptions about body postures in meditation.

"Some physical exercises automatically produce a feeling of quiet and relaxation, pleasing sensations, perhaps even phenomena of light and of warmth, which resemble spiritual well-being. To take such feelings for the authentic consolations of the Holy Spirit would be a totally erroneous way of conceiving the spiritual life.

"Giving them a symbolic significance typical of the mystical experience, when the moral condition of the person concerned does not correspond to such an experience, would represent a kind of mental schizophrenia which could also lead to psychic disturbance and, at times, to moral deviations."

The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith is the Vatican's watchdog body for doctrinal orthodoxy. The document did not name any particular individuals, groups or religious movements that have strayed in the use of Eastern meditation practices but the congregation often acts in response to complaints.

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### **Please Pray For Our Sick**

Pat Allnutt; Larry Bleau's brother, Ron Bleau; Teresita Pena-Castro Bohan; Buelah 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 and her husband, Robert; Gene Sides and his wife, Annegret; Julia Stratchko; and Theresa Wilson.




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### **February Birthdays**

February 1 – Ronald McMahon and Cecelia Thieman, 4 – Alan Blevins and Alberto Gamez, 8 – Jay Lynagh III and Donna Natalie Wilkes, 21 – Joseph Rende, 25 – Jacqueline A. Wilson, 26 – Joan O. Adundo and Nita Mullins, and 27 – Patricia Lovelace.

### **Franciscan Feastdays and Memorials**

February 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).

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### **January Reflection**

*By Vicky Spalding, SFO*

At the beginning of every New Year, we look for ways to improve ourselves, both spiritually and physically. For many of us, 2010 was a very difficult year; the loss of loved ones, sickness and disease in our own families and within ourselves, and the separation of living far from our loved ones. So what can we do to make 2011 a more fruitful year and perhaps a more optimistic year?

A grateful heart is a generous heart. Perhaps, we can think about offering up our suffering more, praying more, or simply making it a point to reach out to someone each day with a smile or kind word. Which reminds me, I would like to thank each of you for your prayers, cards, love, and support, during the holidays. It means more than you know!

We can also spend more time studying our Franciscanism through the writings of Francis and Clare. Some of my favorite books are *A Sense of the Divine* by Canterbury Press and *Praying with Clare of Assisi* by Ramona Miller and Ingrid Peterson. Both are a great resource and learning tool. Most importantly, let the Holy Spirit guide you, by spending time in prayer each day. He will help lead you where you need to be, both in your prayer life and life in general. He is the Minister General of our Order!



Therefore, I would like to take this time to wish each of you a very Blessed, holy, and healthy New Year. You are in my prayers! Your Minister Servant, Vicky