



– *the CHIMES* –

P.O. BOX 90366

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20090-0366

APR Vol. LV, No. 4

April 17, 2011

Schedule – *Note the change!*

- 9:30am Orientation Session – Sacred Heart Room – downstairs in the Friary
- 9:30am Candidate Session – St. Bonaventure Room downstairs
- 11:30am Franciscan Crown Rosary in Blessed Sacrament Chapel
- 10:00am Mass in Monastery Church (or at your own parish)
- 12:00pm Fraternity Social Gathering – St. Francis Room – downstairs in the Friary. Refreshments will be provided.
- 12:45pm Fraternity Meeting – St. Francis Room

DON'T FORGET YOUR BINDERS!

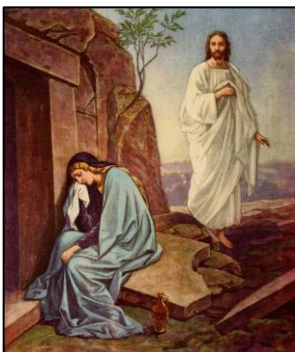
Fraternity Meeting Agenda

- Opening Prayers
- Welcoming ceremony for those entering Inquiry: **J. Patrick Enderson, Oumou Hoba, William Kidwell, Kady Konau, and Margaret Tippett.** Congratulations, one and all, and welcome to our family!
- Treasurer's Report
- The Importance of Having a Will
- Talk by Chris: **Franciscan Spirituality Series – The First Followers**
- Closing Evening prayer. If you have the "Shorter Christian" Prayer Book, please bring it with you.

◆ Theme: **RESURRECTION AND LIFE** ◆

Bible Quote of the Month

Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, is never to die again; death no longer is master over Him. For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus. (Romans 6:8-11)



Prayer of the Month

O beloved Saint Francis, gentle and poor, your obedience to God and your simple, deep love for all God's creatures led you to the heights of heavenly perfection and turned many hearts to follow God's will. Now, in our day, pray also for us, in our ministry to the many who come here searching for peace and intercede for us as we come before the Lord with our special requests. [Mention your special intention.] O blessed Saint of God, from your throne among the hosts of heaven present our petitions before our faithful Lord. May your prayers on our behalf be heard and may God grant us the grace to lead good and faithful lives. Amen. *Novena to St. Francis*

Contacting Council

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



Vicky Spalding (Minister) 301-373-3955
 Chris Cropper (Vice Minister) 703-501-3873
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 301-474-1338
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ADMONITION OF ST. FRANCIS

16. On cleanliness of heart ¹

“Blessed (are) the clean of heart, since they themselves shall see God” (*Mt 5:8*). Truly are they clean in heart who despise earthly things, seek heavenly ones and do not ever withdraw from adoring and beholding Our Lord, living and true, with a clean heart and soul.

The Information Corner

May 1st – Divine Mercy Sunday



The Feast of Divine Mercy is celebrated on the Sunday after Easter Sunday. The feast of Divine Mercy was revealed by Christ Himself to Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska and was extended to the entire Catholic Church by Pope John

Paul II on April 30, 2000, the day that he canonized Saint Faustina. A **PLENARY INDULGENCE (the forgiveness of all temporal punishment resulting from sins that have already been confessed)** is granted on the Feast of Divine Mercy to all the faithful, who:

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>

Go to Confession, receive Holy Communion, pray for the intentions of the Holy Father, and “in any church or chapel, in a spirit that is completely detached from the affection for a sin, even a venial sin, take part in the prayers and devotions held in honor of Divine Mercy, or who, in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament exposed or reserved in the tabernacle, recite the Our Father and the Creed, adding a devout prayer to the merciful Lord Jesus (e.g., ‘Merciful Jesus, I trust in you!’).”



I. The usual conditions for every plenary indulgence:

- sacramental confession [according to previously issued norms, within about 20 days before or after]
- Eucharistic communion [according to previously issued norms, preferably on the day, or the days before or after]
- prayer for the intentions of Supreme Pontiff [certain prayers are not specified]

II. The specific conditions added for this Indulgence on Divine Mercy Sunday are:

- in any church or chapel, in a spirit that is completely detached from the affection for a sin, even a venial sin, take part in the prayers and devotions held in honor of Divine Mercy
- or, in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament exposed or reserved in the tabernacle, recite the Our Father and the Creed, adding a devout prayer to the merciful Lord Jesus (e.g., “Merciful Jesus, I trust in you!”)



The Rule

Chapter Two, Article 13 of The Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order.

As the Father sees in every person the features of his Son, the firstborn of many brothers and sisters, so the Secular Franciscans with a gentle and courteous spirit accept all people as a gift of the Lord and an image of Christ.

From the Mailbox: News of our Family

- **Maria Louisa Correa** tells us she loves all the members of the Fraternity and misses them as well.



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.

Thank you, Fr. John!

Many thanks to Fr. John Shanahan, T.O.R., for his pastoral visit to our Fraternity in March, and for leading us in evening prayer.

Donations

As Francis would say, “For the love of God”, please do not forget to place your



donation in the small brown envelopes provided for this purpose at the Fraternity meeting and place them in the donations box. If you are unable to attend meetings but would like to mail your donation, please send it to our mailing address: P.O. Box 90366, Washington, DC 20090-0366. Whatever you give is appreciated by Council, as it helps not just with *Chimes* publication, but with other major expenses of operating the Fraternity. As Rule 25 states, “Regarding expenses necessary for the life of the fraternity and the needs of worship, of the apostolate, and of charity, all the brothers and sisters should offer a contribution according to their means.” Thank you so very much!

May Birthdays

May 1 – Larry Bleau, 6 – Roy Foster, 8 – Mary Jo Fehr, 12 – Margaret (Peggy) Simoneau, 15 – Delphine Ben, 20 – Mark Di Salvo, 27 – Sandra White, and 30 – Joseph Clemente and Jean-Paul Gauthier.

Please Pray For Our Family

Pat Allnutt; Teresita Pena-Castro Bohan and her family; Buelah Mary Bridges; Maria Louisa Correa and her sister, Maria Franco; Lordes Corso; Sarah Faizi’s friend, Ron Harner; Pat Ferguson and her daughter, Patty Wyman; Roy Foster; Marianne Hughes and her family; Gwen Mason and her husband, Robert; Gene Sides and his wife, Annegret (cancer); Adele Spellerberg and her daughter, Ruthie; Julia Stratchko; Donna Wilkes; and Theresa Wilson.



Pray For Our Deceased George Herman, brother-in-law of member Marianne Hughes, died on March 12, 2011, at the age of 82. 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.

Franciscan Feastdays and Memorials

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), and Saint Ferdinand, King, member of the III Order.

April Reflection

By Vicky Spalding, SFO

Lent is a time of forgiveness and mercy, not only for ourselves but also for others. If we want to be forgiven, we must also forgive. It is a requirement given to us by Jesus. In Matthew 18:21-22, it says, that Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?" Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.

Forgiving our neighbor when we are offended is not easy. Christ's cross was one of compassion and mercy for the sinner. Our cross should also be one of love and forgiveness, compassion and mercy towards one another.

Below I have outlines eight steps to forgiveness. Ponder them often whenever the need arises to forgive! May God bless each one of you and hold you in the palm of his hand. Amen.

STEPS TO FORGIVENESS

1. Forgiveness is a decision, not a feeling. You don't have to feel it, to do it! It is an act of the will.
2. Pray for the grace to forgive. Think of Our Lady and how she forgave us for killing her Son in her worst agony at the foot of the cross. It was our sins that crucified Him!

3. In prayer, Jesus once told me; "Do not focus on the hurts others inflict upon you; focus on your reaction to them." Ask yourself: Was my reaction pleasing to God, or did it also offend Him? Remember, you will NOT be judged on other people's actions towards you, but on your reaction towards them. If the offense hurt you, it hurt God even more, because He is all good. Therefore, like St. Francis, be more concerned with the offense against God, than with the offense against yourself.
4. Ask the Holy Spirit to let the other person know, who hurt you, how you are feeling, and ask the Holy Spirit to convict them if they are wrong. Most often, people hurt us without intentionally meaning to do so.
5. Emotions and feelings are not sins. It's what we do with them that makes them a sin... Ask the Lord to help you to use your anger for the building up of the kingdom.
6. Pray for peaceful solutions to your own daily problems and for the problems in the world.
7. Pray for the other person and for the grace to do something nice for them by practicing the Beatitudes. It will heal YOU, and you will feel the resentment instantly melting away.
8. When we pray the Our Father, we are asking God to forgive us in the same manner that we forgive our enemies... Thus, it is a necessity to forgive others if we want to be forgiven.

