



– *the CHIMES* –

P.O. BOX 90366

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20090-0366

JUL Vol. LV, No. 7

July 17, 2011

Schedule

- 9:30am Inquiry 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

Fraternity Meeting Agenda

- Opening Prayers
- Update on Members
- Talk on Redemptive Suffering; given by Minister
- Scripture Handouts
- Liturgy of the Hours
- Closing Evening prayer. If you have the “Shorter Christian” Prayer Book, please bring it with you.

DON'T FORGET YOUR BINDERS!

◆ Theme: REDEMPTIVE SUFFERING ◆

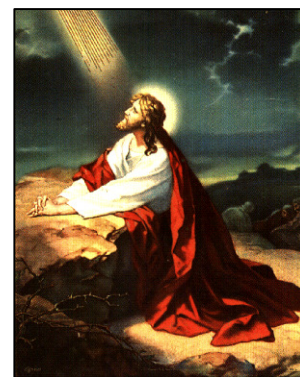
Bible Quote of the Month

And whereas indeed he was the Son of God, he learned obedience by the things which he suffered: And being consummated, he became, to all that obey him, the cause of eternal salvation. (*Hebrews 5:8-9*, Douay Rheims Bible)

Prayer of the Month¹

O loving Jesus Christ, Whose mercy is endless, we adore Your Agonizing Heart which bears great pains and sorrows for the salvation of man; Divine Lamb of God, Son of God and Son of the Virgin

Mary, God and Man. You who suffered sorrowfully for the love of mankind; Who in great fear and anguish sweated blood in the Garden of Gethsemane, we adore Your most Precious Blood and the sorrow in Your Agonizing Heart. We beg You for Your holy Church, the pope, the cardinals, bishops, clergy, and non-clergy who are under the shade of Your most Precious Blood; protection, peace and love, so that through the intercession of St. Michael and all the Archangels of heaven, we might conquer the Red Dragon. Amen.



¹ Adoration Prayers, URL

http://www.preciousbloodinternational.com/prayers_09.html

Contacting Council

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



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ADMONITION OF ST. FRANCIS

19. On the humble servant of God ²

Blessed (is) the servant, who does not consider himself better, when he is magnified and exalted by men, as when for example he is considered to be vile, simple, and despised, because as much as a man is before God, that much he is and nothing more. Woe to that religious, who has been placed on high by others and does not wish to descend by means of his own will. And “blessed (is) that servant” (Mt 24:46), who is placed on high not by means of his own will and desires always to be beneath the feet of others.



The Rule

Chapter Two, Article 16 of The Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order.

Let them esteem work both as a gift and as a sharing in the creation, redemption, and service of the human community.

² 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>

The Information Corner Devotion to the Precious Blood

Excerpted from *The Precious Blood of Christ*³,
 Fr. John A. Hardon, S.J.

Devotion to the Precious Blood is not a spiritual option, it is a spiritual obligation, and that not only for priests, but for every follower of Christ. I really believe that one of the symptoms of modern society (and I would even include, sadly, modern Catholic society) one of the symptoms of a growing, gnawing secularism is the lessening and the weakening of devotion to the Precious Blood. Devotion, as we know, is a composite of three elements: It is first- veneration, it is secondly- invocation, and it is thirdly- imitation. In other words, devotion to the Precious Blood of Christ, the Lamb of God who was slain, is first of all to be veneration on our part, which is a composite of knowledge, love and adoration. We are to study to come to a deeper understanding of what those two casual words, Precious Blood, really mean.



I found this passage in the oldest document, outside of sacred scripture, from the first century of the Christian era – to be exact, from Pope St. Clement I, dated about 96 A.D. Says Pope Clement:



“Let us fix our gaze on the Blood of Christ and realize how truly precious It is, seeing that it was poured out for our salvation and brought the grace of conversion to the whole world.” To understand the meaning of the Precious Blood we must get some comprehension of the gravity of sin, of the awfulness of offending God,

³ Fr. John A. Hardon, S.J., *The Precious Blood of Christ*, from The Real Presence Association, accessed July 4, 2011, URL http://www.therealpresence.org/archives/Christology/Christology_013.htm

because it required the Blood of the Son of God to forgive that sin. We are living in an age in which to sin has become fashionable.

This veneration of the Precious Blood, which is the first element in our devotion to the Precious Blood means that we have a deep sensitivity to the awfulness of sin. Sin must be terrible. It must be awful. It must be the most dreadful thing in the universe. Why? Because it cost the living God in human form the shedding of His Blood.



Lord Jesus, You became Man in order by your Passion and Death and the draining of your Blood on the Cross, might prove to us how much You, our God, love us. Protect us, dear Jesus, from ever running away from the sight of blood. Strengthen our

weak human wills so that we will not only not run away from the cross, but welcome every opportunity to shed our blood in spirit in union with your Precious Blood, so that, dying to ourselves in time we might live with You in Eternity. Amen

From the Mailbox: News of our Family

- **Delphine Ben's** new telephone number is 301-987-7074.
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Congratulations To Our New Priest

Congratulations to the newly minted **Rev. Michael Paris**, who was ordained to the priesthood on June 18, and whom we supported financially and spiritually during his years in the seminary. If you want to send him a congratulatory message, his address is 10617 August Light Ct., Columbia, MD 21044. A video clip of his ordination, courtesy of DC Priest, can be found on YouTube:



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qBUOWgPxkTw> .

Please Pray For Our Sick



Pat Allnutt; Buelah Mary Bridges; Teresita Pena-Castro Bohan; Maria Louisa Correa (cancer of the eyes) and her sister, Maria Franco; Lordes Corso and her family; Sarah Faizi's mother, Hilda; Pat Ferguson and her daughter, Patty Wyman; Roy Foster; Marianne Hughes and her family; Sarah Hurd and her family; Gwen Mason and her husband, Robert; Gene Sides and his wife, Annegret (cancer); Vicky Spalding; Julia Stratchko; Donna Wilkes's friend, Laura Long; and Theresa Wilson.

August Birthdays

August 8 – David Weir, 11 – Margaret Hromulak, 12 – Ronald McElligott, 13 – Alberto Gamez and Apollonia Sergi, 16 – Louis Remlin, and 29 – Christopher Cropper.

Franciscan Feastdays and Memorials

August 2 – Our Lady of the Angels of the Portiuncula (feast); 4 – Saint John Vianney, priest of III Order. (memorial); 7 – Blesseds Agathangelus and Cassian, priests and martyrs of I Order (optional memorial); 8 – Holy Father Dominic, priest founder of the Order of Preachers (feast); 11 – Saint Clare of Assisi, virgin of II Order (feast, solemnity for II and III Order nuns); 14 – Saint Maximilian Kolbe, priest of I Order (memorial); 17 – Saint Roch, member of III Order; 19 – Saint Louis of Toulouse, bishop of I Order (memorial); 21 – Saint Pius X, pope, member of III Order (memorial); and 25 – Saint Louis IX, king, member and patron of III Order (memorial).



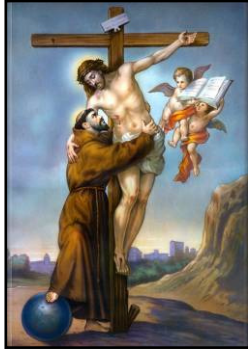
Feastdays of Franciscan Friars

Keep in your prayers the following friars, whose feast days are this coming month: August 6 – Fadi Azar, and 14 – Maximilian Wojciechowski.

JOY IN CARRYING THE CROSS OF CHRIST

Excerpts from *The Canticle of God the Father*
by Victoria Spalding, SFO

When I think about God's love for sinners, I think about the Bible, especially the New Testament, but most of all, I think about the depths of God's love through the suffering of the cross. All the saints understood the value of the cross, especially St. Francis. That is why he meditated on it often. It is



one of the reasons why he is also a great saint, because the cross leads to the abandonment of our free will to God. St. Francis abandoned everything to follow God, and before he died, he was allowed the privilege of actually feeling the great love and joy that God had for mankind and to also endure

the wounds of Christ in his body, through the stigmata. This is how much his suffering united him to Jesus.

In order to suffer the cross, Jesus had to abandon His free will to the Father. Remember, Jesus was human, and we can see that in His agony in the garden. But he prayed for strength, and the greatest prayer he said was, "Father, not my will, but thy will be done." Otherwise, he could have never taken up his cross the way he did. This was total abandonment to his Father's will. We need to make this our prayer in times of suffering, knowing that God knows best how to purify us and deliver us according to His divine plan.

When I was meditating during communion recently, I thought of Simon the Cyrene and how he was forced to take up the cross with Jesus. As most of you have seen in the movie, Jesus of Nazareth, Simon was reluctant to help carry the cross. I'm sure he was afraid, fearful of being humiliated, and embarrassed in front of his friends, not knowing what people would think or say about him. He was reluctant to carry the cross until he was forced. But now, I'm sure he realizes the glory he merited in doing so.



It was by no accident, that Jesus allowed this to happen. I'm sure that Simon represents all of us at

some point in our life. Nobody wants to suffer. It's human nature to reject the cross and suffering. The devil will cause suffering and then try to use it against us to make us bitter towards God. But Jesus showed us that he has overcome Satan, and that with his help, we can do the same. What a joy that is!

No one can carry the cross of Christ and not be changed by it. It purifies us. It takes our attention off ourselves and helps us focus on what it means to truly love God, because when God's love



comes into our hearts, we are changed. We begin to view suffering differently. We can start to understand the value and the joy of suffering when offered up out of love for God. The cross can bring us joy, not sadness, if we embrace it freely. In Samuel 16:7, it says, "Not as man sees does God see, because man sees the appearance, but the Lord looks into the heart."

God looks into the heart of each individual, in order to judge their actions and desire to please him. This is what is most important to God, the attitude in which we serve him, whether it is through our strengths or our weaknesses. No one in life is immune to suffering, but it's our attitude towards suffering that makes the difference. That's how we are able to become saints, in spite of our weaknesses.



When a priest blesses you, he makes the sign of the cross over you, to show that blessings come through the cross. When we start to pray, we make the sign of the cross. When the priest absolves you, he makes the sign of the cross. Blessings and forgiveness come through the cross! The cross is a symbol of God's obedience, which we should imitate, in order to receive His blessings. We can offer up anything to God as a sacrifice of joy, any little ache or pain, whether it is physical, mental, or spiritual. God can take the value of any small suffering and unite it to His and increase its value a hundred fold. As Christians, we can unite our sufferings together with Christ, to bring souls back to him. This is what it means to love our neighbor, to make reparation, and do penance. Dear Jesus, give us the grace to carry our cross with you.

Amen!