



— the *CFJMES* —

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P.O. BOX 90366
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20090-0366
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December 18, 2011

Schedule

9:30am Candidate Session – St. Bonaventure Room

No Fraternity Meeting This Month

◆ Theme: **DEDICATED SERVICE** ◆

Bible Quote of the Month



In those days a decree was issued by the emperor Augustus for a census to be taken throughout the Roman world. This was the first Registration of its kind; it took place when Quirinius was governor of Syria. Everyone made his way to his own town to be registered. Joseph went up to Judaea from the town of Nazareth in Galilee, to register in the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was of the house of David by descent; and with him went Mary, his betrothed, who was expecting her child. While they were there, the time came for her to have her baby, and she gave birth to a son, her first born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. (*Luke 2:1-7*)

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Prayer of the Month

O God, whose mighty Son was born in Bethlehem those days long ago, lead us to that same poor place, where Mary laid her tiny Child. And as we look on in wonder and praise, make us welcome him in all new life, see him in the poor, and care for his handiwork, the earth, the sky and the sea. O God, bless us again in your great love. We pray for this through Christ our Lord. Amen.¹



The Rule

Chapter Three, Article 20 of The Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order.

The Secular Franciscan Order is divided into fraternities of various levels--local, regional, national, and international. Each one has its own moral personality in the Church. These various fraternities are coordinated and united according to the norm of this rule and of the constitutions.

¹ Hoagland, Victor, C.P. (2004). Extracted from *Customs from Various Countries and Cultures*. Accessed December 7, 2011, URL <http://www.cptryon.org/prayer/adx/xcust.html>

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Please call before 9pm.



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The Information Corner

Our Lady of Guadalupe – Pray for Us! ²

In 1531 a “Lady from Heaven” appeared to a humble Native American at Tepeyac, a hill northwest of what is now Mexico City.

She identified herself as the ever virgin Holy Mary, Mother of the True God for whom we live, of the Creator of all things, Lord of heaven and the earth. She made a request for a church to be built on the site, and submitted her wish to the local Bishop. When the Bishop hesitated, and requested her for a sign, the Mother of God obeyed without delay or question to the Church’s local Bishop, and sent her native messenger to the top of the hill in mid-December to gather an assortment of roses for the Bishop. After complying to the Bishop’s request for a sign, She also left for us an image of herself imprinted miraculously on the native’s

tilma, a poor quality cactus-cloth, which should have deteriorated in 20 years but shows no sign of decay 479 years later and still defies all scientific explanations of its origin.



It apparently even reflects in Her eyes what was in front of her in 1531. There is reason to believe that at Tepeyac, Mary came in her glorified body, and her actual physical hands rearranged the roses in Juan Diego’s tilma, which makes this apparition very special. An incredible list of miracles, cures and interventions are attributed to Her. Yearly, between 18 - 20 million pilgrims visit the Basilica, making it Christianity’s most visited sanctuary.

The Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe is celebrated on December 12th. In 1999, Pope John Paul II, in his homily from the Solemn Mass at the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe, during his third visit to the sanctuary, declared the date of December the 12th as a Liturgical Holy Day for the whole continent. During the same visit Pope John Paul II entrusted the cause of life to her loving protection, and placed under her motherly care the innocent lives of children, especially those who are in danger of not being born.

ADMONITION OF ST. FRANCIS

24. On true love ³

Blessed (is) the servant, who would love (*dilectio*) his own brother as much, when he is infirm to the point that he cannot repay him, as when he is a healthy (brother), who can repay him.

Blessed (is) the servant, who would so love and fear his own brother, when he is far from him, as when for example he is with him, and would not say anything behind him, which he cannot, with charity, say before him.

³ 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 Accessed on December 6, 2011, URL <http://www.sancta.org/intro.html>

Christmas Donations



Our Rule (#11) asks us to be proper stewards of the Lord's gifts to us. In that spirit, your

Council has decided to make the following donations and gifts from the common fund this Christmas: Franciscan Monastery (\$200), Haitian Church damaged by earthquake (\$100, see photo), our Seminarian (\$50), Poor Clares (\$50), and our India Family Apostolate (\$50).

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 RSVP before Christmas.



January Birthdays

January 4 – Victoria Spalding, 13 – Henry Mullen, 15 – Dineen Whipple, 29 – John Hewitt, M.D., and 30 – Anthony Mazzucco and Julia Ann Stratchko.



Please Pray For Our Sick

Pat Allnutt; Larry Bleau's father, Raymond; the sister of deceased member Teresita Pena-Castro Bohan, Grace Bryan; Rita Braddock; Buelah Mary Bridges; Mary Ann Corr; Maria Louisa Correa (cancer of the eyes) and her sister, Maria Franco; Lordes Corso; Sarah Faizi's friend, Ron Harner; Pat Ferguson and her daughter, Patty Wyman; Roy Foster; Ling Guiron; the husband of deceased member Gwen Mason, Robert; Marianne Hughes and her family; Gene Sides and his wife; Julia Stratchko; Helen Walls (knee problem); Dineen Whipple; and Theresa Wilson.

Pray For Our Deceased Teresita Pena-Castro Bohan, who died on Tuesday, November 8, 2011. Her funeral was held on November 16 at St. Andrew the Apostle Church. Teresita was professed in 1962 and has been ill for some time. She was preceded by her husband and leaves behind siblings and many nephews and nieces.



Gwen Mason, who died on November 28, 2011, at the age of 84. Her funeral Mass was on December 2 at the Franciscan Monastery. Gwen was professed in 2008 and was an active member until recently, when she was taken seriously ill. She is survived by her husband, Robert, of 65 years, and many other family members.

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

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); and 31 – Saint John Bosco, priest of III Order, founder (memorial).

Feastdays of Franciscan Friars

Keep in your prayers the following friars, whose feast days are this coming month: January 3 – Manuel Ybarra, 11 – Garret Edmunds, 14 – Roger Petras, and 20 – John-Sebastian Laird-Hammond.

December Reflection

Anonymous priest

The Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Celebrated on 12/8/11

Genesis 3:9-15, 20; Psalm 98:1-4; Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12; Luke 1:26-38



The Patronial feast for the USA is the feast of the **Immaculate Conception**. It is fitting therefore, to give a brief explanation of the dogma. It has been a constant belief of the Church that Mary was sinless from the moment of her conception. This is implied in Genesis 3:15. 'I will put enmity between you and the woman, your seed and hers.' Enmity means complete separation from the other with whom one has enmity. At no time during her existence could she ever be under the power of the devil, therefore, she has to be sinless and **immaculately conceived**. Proclaiming it as a dogma in 1854 was not inventing something new, but made it an article of faith that had to be believed by all the faithful, taking it out of the area of theological opinion.

An artist conceives a painting before he paints it; a carpenter conceives a piece of furniture before he makes it; an architect conceives a building before it is built: God conceives a baby before it is born. When God conceived Adam and Eve they were both conceived by Him, without sin: they were **immaculately conceived**. Could God repeat this? Yes, he could and did. Even the strictest evangelical Christians believe that God conceived the first humans without sin as **immaculate conceptions**. First God conceived Adam from whom He took Eve (Eva in Latin). Eve was the first to sin and caused Adam to sin also. This is the original or first sin. From then on, all humans inherit the original sin of our first parents. God starts a new creation with a new Eve, Mary the mother of Jesus, from whom He takes a new Adam, Jesus the Christ. In the first

creation God chose a male from whom He conceives a woman, but in the new creation, He chooses a woman from whom He conceives a male.

In the Gospel of Luke read at the Mass for this feast, the first word of the Angel Gabriel to Mary is "Ave" Eva spelled in reverse. She is the new Eve, the mother of the living. Jesus is the new Adam. He will pay the penalty for the sins of mankind. Mary reverses the 'no' of Eve and Jesus reverses the 'no' of Adam. In the original creation God created the sinless male first from whom He took the sinless woman, but it failed. In the New Creation God reverses it, He conceives the **immaculate** woman first from whom He conceives the **immaculate** male. It worked, and we are the sons and daughters of this **immaculate** family.



As Christians we also are declared **immaculate** at our baptism into Christ.

Mary is our **Immaculate** Mother.

Belated Congratulations

Due to an error in our records **Mary Jo Fehr** was not recognized last month along with those who celebrated their anniversary of profession. Mary Jo has been a professed Secular Franciscan for **50 years**. Our apologies, Mary Jo. The entire fraternity joins with you to celebrate this occasion.

