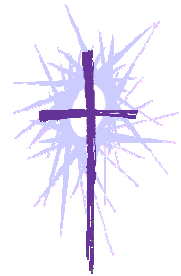




– the CHIMES –

Visit us at <http://dcsfo.org/>

P.O. BOX 90366
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20090-0366
MAR Vol. LVI, No. 3
March 18, 2012



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 to be provided.
12:45pm Fraternity Meeting – St. Francis Room

Fraternity Meeting Agenda

- Opening Prayers
- Update on members
- Book Review – Vicky Spalding
- Apostolate Update
- Talk on Marriage – Fr. Kevin
- Closing Evening prayer. If you have the “Shorter Christian” Prayer Book, please bring it with you.

◆ Theme: OUR CALL TO BE CHASTE ◆

Bible Quote of the Month

“Everything is lawful for me,” but not everything is beneficial. “Everything is lawful for me,” but I will not let myself be dominated by anything...But whoever is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. Avoid immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the immoral person sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been purchased at a price. Therefore glorify God in your body. (*1 Corinthians 12, 17-20*)



Prayer of the Month

Jesus, Lover of chastity, Mary, Mother most pure, and Saint Joseph, chaste guardian of the Virgin, to you I come at this hour, begging you to plead with God for me. I earnestly wish to be pure in thought, word and deed in imitation of your own holy purity. Obtain for me, then, a deep sense of modesty which will be reflected in my external conduct. Protect my eyes, the windows of my soul, from anything that might dim the luster of a heart that must mirror only Christ-like purity. And when the “Bread of Angels becomes the Bread of me” in my heart at Holy Communion, seal it forever against the suggestions of sinful pleasures. Heart of Jesus, Fount of all purity, have mercy on us.¹

¹ URL <http://www.tfpstudentaction.org/resources/prayers-for-students/prayer-for-purity.html>

Contact Information

Fraternity Council

Please call before 9pm.



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St. Margaret of Cortona Regional Council

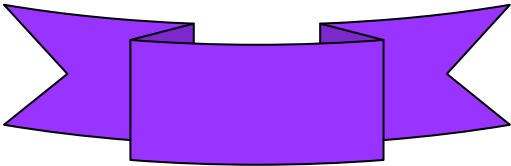
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ADMONITIONS OF ST. FRANCIS

27. On concealing good lest it be lost ²

Blessed (is) the servant, who stores up “in Heaven” (Mt 6:20) the good things, which the Lord hath revealed to him and does not desire to disclose them to men for profit or gain, for the Most High Himself will manifest his deeds to whomever He has pleased. Blessed (is) the servant, who keeps the secrets of the Lord “in his heart” (cf. Lk 2:19.51).

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 Rule

Chapter Three, Article 23 of The Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order.

Requests for admission to the Secular Franciscan Order must be presented to the local fraternity, whose council decides upon the acceptance of new brothers and sisters.

Admission into the Order is gradually attained through a time of initiation, a period of formation of at least one year, and profession of the rule. The entire community is engaged in this process of growth by its own manner of living. The age for profession and the distinctive Franciscan sign are regulated by the statutes.

Profession by its nature is a permanent commitment.

Members who find themselves in particular difficulties should discuss their problems with the council in fraternal dialogue.

Withdrawal or permanent dismissal from the Order, if necessary, is an act of the fraternity council according to the norm of the constitutions.

Change in Meeting Date



The April meeting will be held on April 22, which is the **fourth** Sunday of the month, since the third Sunday is **Divine Mercy Sunday**.

From the Mailbox: News of our Family

- **Dorothy Clayton** has moved and now lives with her daughter; her new address is P. O. Box 142, Shady Side, MD 20764.
- **Adele Spellerberg** prays for all the members of the Mt. St. Sepulchre Fraternity and would love to have visitors; she lives at the Brooke Grove Nursing Home.



The Information Corner

Marriage: A Great Mystery

By Corky Hart, SFO

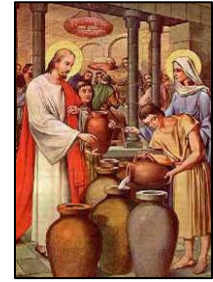
The human person, made in the image and likeness of God, is a relational being. We all live in relationships of one kind or another, some through a life of celibacy or consecrated virginity in service to the Church as priests or consecrated religious. Others may be called to the single life in the world, living for God through their personal freedom, in charity and chastity. Most of us, however, are called to marriage and family life, a challenging and rewarding life³. Each of these vocations in its own way asks a free and loving self-donation for the sake of the Kingdom of God, and points to the restoration of all things in Christ at the end of time. But marriage is unique in its place in scripture.



From Genesis to Revelation, the bible presents marriage as a picture, a living metaphor, of the relationship between God and Man. Scripture begins with the creation of man and woman in the image and likeness of God, and ends with the wedding-feast of the Lamb⁴. Marriage holds an exalted place in the Bible; the Song of Songs and the story of Tobit speak of romance and fidelity. Holy relationships between the sexes is modeled for us: Boaz gives an example of strong, compassionate masculinity in his response to Ruth, and the virtuous woman of Proverbs 31, in whom her husband trusts, is an image of feminine strength and dignity.

The significance of marriage in the economy of salvation is evidenced by Christ's first miracle at Cana. Through His mother's intercession on behalf of the family who would have been shamed by a lack of wine, Christ's earthly ministry begins. We may see in this miracle how the wine of the Holy Spirit, the "new wine" (Mk.

2:22) of life in Christ, is vital to the living out of the vocation to marriage, especially in the modern world. Without the transformative power of Divine Love, human love is fatally vulnerable to the selfishness of our fallen nature.



Loving self-donation, not self-seeking, is vital to all vocations in the Christian life, and especially to successful marriage. In St. Paul's admonition to the married couples of Ephesus⁵, he instructs wives to "be subject to" their husbands in everything, but in the context of husbands instructed to "love [their] wives as Christ loved the Church, and gave himself up for her." They are to love their wives "as their own bodies," to nourish and cherish them as members of the body of Christ, and to help them to holiness. What wife wouldn't be willing to "be subject" to such a husband? And what husband would not be blessed in a wife who respects him and "brings him good and not harm all the days of her life?"⁶ The great mystery of Christ and the Church manifested in the sacrament of marriage, lived out day by day, is a powerful witness to the world of the love of Christ, and a beautiful reminder of that Kingdom we all long for, "the life of the world to come."⁷



*How can I ever express the happiness of a marriage joined by the Church, strengthened by an offering, sealed by a blessing, announced by angels, and ratified by the Father? . . . How wonderful the bond between two believers, now one in hope, one in desire, one in discipline, one in the same service! They are both children of one Father and servants of the same Master, undivided in spirit and flesh, truly two in one flesh. Where the flesh is one, one also is the spirit. (Tertullian, *Ad uxorem*. 2, 8, 6-7: PL 1, 1412-1413; cf. FC 13.)*

³ For information on the defense of marriage, visit: www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/marriage-and-family

⁴ *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, Article 1602

⁵ Eph. 5:22-33

⁶ Prov. 31:12

⁷ Nicene Creed

Regional Elections

On March 24 the fraternities that compose the St. Margaret of Cortona Region will meet to elect its leaders. Each fraternity, through its representative, will cast a vote for each position on the Regional Council. Please keep those who aspire to be servant leaders in your prayers. Let us also thank those who have served our region these past three years.

Please Pray For Our Sick

Pat Allnutt; Rita Braddock; Buelah Mary Bridges; Maria Louisa Correa (glaucoma) and her family; Lordes Corso; Sarah Faizi and her mother; Pat Ferguson and her daughter, Patty Wyman; Jean Xavier Fleurival; Roy Foster; Marianne Hughes and her family; Nancy McCleary (recent operation); Gene Sides and his wife, Annegret; Vicky Spalding's father, John Lynch; Julia Stratchko; Cecelia Thieman; Helen Walls; Dineen Whipple; Donna Wilkes; Emmy's friend, Josephine; and Theresa Wilson.



April Birthdays

April 5 – Dorothy Clayton, 6 – William Richardson, and 9 – Virginia Lyons.

Franciscan Feastdays and Memorials

April 3 – Saint Benedict the Black, religious of I Order (memorial); 16 – Saint Bernadette Soubirous, cord-bearer of Saint Francis; 17 – Saint Benedict Joseph Labre, cord-bearer of Saint Francis; 21 – Saint Conrad of Parzham, religious of I Order (memorial); 23 – Blessed Giles of Assisi, religious of I Order (optional memorial); 24 – Saint Fidelis of Sigmaringen, priest and martyr of I Order. (feast); and 28 – Blessed Luchesius, layman of III Order (optional memorial of III Order).

Feastdays of Franciscan Friars

Keep in your prayers Friar David Wathen, whose birthday (Apr 4) is this coming month.

March Reflection

By Vicky Spalding, SFO

Lent is a time for renewal, for growth in the Holy Spirit, who leads us into all truth! That is why Lent is a time to reflect on the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus. St. Francis and St. Clare reflected on the San Damiano Cross



often, and they tell us that this reflection is what drew them deeper into the heart of their suffering Savior. As Franciscans, we should always be conscious of what the Good Lord has done for us. Each day upon arising, we should thank and praise God for all the many blessings He has bestowed upon us through the power of the Trinity and the sacrifice of His Son, Jesus Christ. This sacrifice is reenacted each time we attend Mass and receive the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of our Savior in Holy Communion.

Our theme this month is about chastity and the Holy Sacrament of Marriage. A



couple questions arose after the last meeting about the criteria involving Marriage and the desire to become a Franciscan. Fr. Kevin will be giving us a talk and answering any of the questions you may have on this topic. He will also speak to us on why the Sacrament of Marriage is sacred and why we are called to be chaste in every state of life. Chastity not only involves our bodies but our hearts as well. Both body and soul must be pure, if we are to be temples of the Holy Spirit.

Many of you are already professed Franciscans, and some of you are still studying. This month, please reflect on the passion of our Savior and why we are called to be pure in body, mind, and spirit, as St. Francis taught us. This is one of the promises we profess, and it is the means by which God comes to dwell within us!

I wish you all a holy and blessed Lenten Season.

Your sister in Christ, Vicky.