



— the CHIMES —

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P.O. BOX 90366

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20090-0366

DEC Vol. LVI, No. 12

December 16, 2012

Schedule

- 9:30am Inquiry Session – Sacred Heart Room – downstairs in the Friary
9:30am Candidate Session – St. Bonaventure Room downstairs

No Fraternity Meeting This Month

Those in formation should check with their instructors *regarding their class time in December.*

◆ Theme: AWAKENING ◆

Bible Quote of the Month

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the holy Spirit. (*Rom 15:13*)

Prayer of the Month

Hail and blessed be the hour and moment in which the Son of God was born of the most pure Virgin Mary, at midnight, in Bethlehem, in piercing cold. In that hour, vouchsafe, O my God! to hear my prayer and grant my desires, through the merits of Our Saviour Jesus Christ, and of His Blessed Mother. Amen.

It is piously believed that whoever recites the above prayer fifteen times a day from the feast of St. Andrew (30th November) until Christmas will obtain what is asked.



The Rule

Chapter One, Article 6 of The Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order.

They have been made living members of the Church by being buried and raised with Christ in baptism; they have been united more intimately with the Church by profession. Therefore, they should go forth as witnesses and instruments of her mission among all people, proclaiming Christ by their life and words.

ADMONITION OF ST. FRANCIS

8. On avoiding the sin of envy

The Apostle said: “No one can say, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ except in the Holy Spirit” (1 Cor 12:3); and “There is no one who does good, not even one” (Rm 3:12). Whoever therefore envies his own brother because of the good, which the Lord says and works in him, tends towards the sin of blasphemy, because he envies the Most High Himself (cf. Mt 20:15), who says and works every good.

Contact Information

Fraternity Council

Please call before 9pm.



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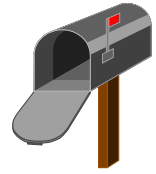
Fraternity Finances

\$ Last month we received \$306 in donations and disbursed \$257 in expenses. At the present time we have \$745 in the treasury, with another \$350 to deduct for Christmas charity contributions/gifts: Franciscan Monastery (\$200), our family in India (\$50), Poor Clares (\$25), Missionaries of Charity (\$25), and our Spiritual Assistant (\$50). We will also need to pay for our regular monthly expenses of room rental (\$50) and mailing expenses for the Chimes for this month. This will leave us with approximately \$300 in our treasury.

Chris and I learned at the recent Regional Meeting that our Fare Share dues has also greatly increased and the first installment will be due in May. If you can please find in your hearts to send in a contribution for December, no matter how small, it will be greatly appreciated! Thanks so much! Your Minister, Vicky.

From the Mailbox: News of our Family

- Dineen Whipple wrote: "Hi everyone. I'm still improving, but still get tired quite easily. Thank you for all your continued prayers. I couldn't make it without them. I pray for you all daily. God bless you all."
- Recently we received a handwritten letter from the family in India whom the Fraternity supports through the Franciscan Family Apostolate program. Here is an extract. Please keep them in your prayers.



Here is our news. My husband has high blood pressure and high cholesterol. He is taking medicine for pains in his legs and hands. I am sick with allergies. The children are well and going to school.

We wish you a happy and blessed Feast of St. Francis. We send our love and regards to you and your families.

Yours sincerely, Mary Sebastian



News From Our Seminarian

In September Ryan Pineda wrote: Pax et bonum! Thank you again for the financial and spiritual support. It's really a big help for me. It's also a comfort knowing that there are people walking with me as I journey towards priesthood. Life here in the seminary continues to excite and amaze me. The classes that I am taking inform my spiritual life. I especially enjoy my Spirituality class where we study, analyze & reflect on the writings of Church fathers and saints. Meanwhile, my Pentateuch class enables me to read the first 5 books of the Bible differently. My ministry at St. Anthony's has started already and it is a challenge to teach the faith (and manage the classroom) to 3, 4 & 5-year olds. But I am happy to be here. Thank you again and may God bless your community. Sincerely, Ryan.

January Birthdays

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

New Years Day Mass, Movie and Meal

Larry Bleau and his wife will host a New Years Day pot luck meal at their home in College Park. If you wish to come, contact Larry (301-474-1338 or larval03@gmail.com) for directions and to let him know what you'd like to bring. Guests should arrive around **4pm**, with the meal to start at 4:30pm.

If you want to worship with us, Mass at our parish ([Holy Redeemer](#)) starts at **12:10pm**. After Mass we will have some appetizers and watch the movie "[The Way](#)" at about **1:30pm**.

Please Pray For Our Sick

Pat Allnut; Rita Braddock; Maria Louisa Correa and her family; Sarah Faizi and her friend Ron Harner; Pat Ferguson and her family; Jean Fleurival; Roy Foster; Marianne Hughes and her family; Nirvana Jolls son, Hatem (broken arm); Nancy McCleary and her family; Margareta Ramsey; Joe Rende's nephew, Tony Falcone; Gene Sides and his wife, Annagret; Julia Stratchko; Cecilia Thiemann and her family; Mary Thuman (former regional minister); Dineen Whipple; Donna Wilkes and her family; and Theresa Wilson.

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

By Vicky Spalding, OFS

I am writing this reflection on the feast of the Immaculate Conception, the Solemnity of Mary. What an enormous debt we owe to Our Lady for saying yes, to not only being the Mother of God, but our Mother as well. We have so much to be thankful for! We have God the Father as our Father; Jesus as our brother, and Mary as our Mother.



During this holy season of Advent, I would invite you to reflect on all that God has given us. Let us ponder as St. Francis and St. Clare did, God's great humility in becoming an infant babe, so that He could save us from our sins. With nowhere to lay His head that first cold Christmas night, let us offer Him now our hearts in reparation for the many sins that the world is committing against Him. Let us prepare to receive Him in Holy Communion by visiting the Sacrament of Penance; and lastly, let us ponder daily this great mystery of His love for us, so that on Christmas Day, we may rejoice with all the angels and the saints in worshiping our Lord and Savior!

May the Good Lord bless each one of you with a joyous and holy Christmas and New Year! You are in my prayers.

