



- the Chimes -

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

P.O. BOX 90366

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20090-0366

APR Vol. LXV, No. 4

April 18, 2021

WE WILL HAVE OUR MEETING BY ZOOM ON APR 18, AT 1:30pm, THE THIRD SUNDAY OF THE MONTH; SEE SCHEDULE.

FOR SOCIAL TIME, THE CONFERENCE WILL OPEN EARLY, AT 1PM.

TO JOIN BY COMPUTER: LOG ONTO ZOOM, MEETING ID 986 1672 6052

TO JOIN US BY TELEPHONE, CALL 1-301-715-8592, ENTER MEETING ID

Schedule

- 10:30am Sunday Mass: Dish or Direct TV subscribers Ch. 50; Comcast Ch. 23 in DC and Montgomery County, Ch. 3 in Prince George's County and Southern Maryland; RCN Ch. 15; Verizon Fios Ch. 3
- 12:00pm Mass livestreamed from the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception: <https://www.nationalshrine.org/mass/>
- 1:00pm Social time by Zoom conference, click <https://zoom.us/j/98616726052>
- 1:30pm Fraternity Meeting starts

Fraternity Meeting Agenda

- Opening prayer, Prayer for vocations – see (<http://dcsfo.org/prayers/vocations/>)
- News of members
- Survey results – *If you haven't sent yours in, please do so now*
- ***Fratelli Tutti* discussion – Chapter 3 – Read ahead of time**
- Discussion of **Article 23** of the Rule
- Evening prayer. In "Shorter Christian Prayer", see **p197-201** (Psalter Evening Prayer II for Week III), then **p468-469** (reading, antiphon, intercessions for Easter Evening Prayer II)

◆ Theme: **EASTER WITNESS** ◆

Bible Quote of the Month – Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He told them, "This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. (*Lk 24:45-48*)

Prayer of the Month – Father, Your Son opened the eyes, ears, and minds of the Apostles to enable them to give witness of You and Your Word to all nations. Give us that same grace, inspiration, courage and sense of purpose so that we, as missionaries in our secular world, may witness to You everywhere.



Contacting Council – Please call before 9pm.:

Minister	Larry Bleau	301-474-1338	minister@dcsfo.org
Vice Minister	Michele Dunne	202-412-1210	vice-minister@dcsfo.org
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Treasurer	Vilma Camposano	301-557-0271	treasurer@dcsfo.org
Formation Director	Adele Lewis	239-839-5489	formation@dcsfo.org
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Also visit our web site: <http://dcsfo.org/>

St. Margaret of Cortona Regional Council

Bob Longo (Minister)	blongosfo@gmail.com
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National Fraternity

Jan Parker (Minister)	jansfo@yahoo.com
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Admonition of St. Francis – 3. On Perfect Obedience

The Lord says in the Gospel: "He who does not renounce all that he possesses, cannot be my disciple" (Lk 14:33); and: "He who will have wanted to save his life, shall lose it" (Lk 9:24). That man abandons all that he possesses, and loses his own body, who offers himself whole to obedience in the hands of his prelate. And whatever he does and says, that he himself knows, which is not contrary to his will, as long as what he does is good, is true obedience. And if at any time the subject sees better and more useful things for his own soul than those which the prelate precepts him, let him sacrifice these willingly to God; but those which are the prelate's, let him strive to fulfill. For this is charitable obedience (cf. 1 Pet 1:22), since it satisfies God and neighbor.

**The Rule** – Chapter Two, Rule 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.

Pope Quote – "From the cross God reigns with the disarmed and disarming power of love. He continues to amaze our minds and hearts. Let us allow ourselves to be filled with that amazement. Let us gaze upon the Crucified One and say: 'Truly, You are the Son of God.' You are my God."¹

Papal Intention – **Fundamental rights.** We pray for those who risk their lives while fighting for fundamental rights under dictatorships, authoritarian regimes and even in democracies in crisis

¹ Posted 4/2/21, accessed 4/3/21, URL <https://twitter.com/pontifex>

Information Corner – Franciscan Saint – Apr 5th, Feastday of St. Crescentia Hoess ²



Crescentia Hoess was born on October 20, 1682, in Kaufbeuren, Germany. Her father was a simple weaver, poor, but pious; her mother bore a tender love for the sick and poor. She learned these and other good virtues from her good parents. As a child she would take time to pray in church and would give some of her meal to the poor. She learned the truths of religions early in life and was permitted to go to Holy Communion at the age of seven.

As Crescentia grew she assisted her parents in their work and trade. She was not long destined for this world, however. She hoped to be admitted among the consecrated virgins in the convent of the Tertiaries in her native town. As the convent was poor, they could not receive her without a dowry. The Protestant Mayor of the town told the nuns that they might, as a favor to him, accept Crescentia. “It would surely be a shame,” he added, “if such an angel were spoiled by the world.”

Crescentia was received into the convent, and was compelled to do the lowliest work of a maid; she was regarded as a burden, frowned upon and despised. In spite of her maltreatment, Crescentia remained steadfast in her vocation, refusing to give in to the temptation to leave.

After four years conditions improved. A new superior recognized the eminent virtue of Sister Crescentia; she was appointed portress, and later on novice mistress, where she won the love and respect of all the sisters to such a degree, that after the death of the superior she was unanimously elected as the successor.

As superior, Saint Crescentia Hoess evinced not only maternal affection for his sisters and holy zeal for their spiritual advancement, but also such prudence in material affairs that the circumstances of the convent became better than they had ever been. Meanwhile, she was entirely devoted to the interior life.

God almighty granted her very special enlightenment, so that her advice was constantly sought by both high and low, including princes, princesses, bishops and even cardinals. Crescentia, like a true daughter of St. Francis, always remained a model of humility.

From the early days of her convent life, Crescentia had been afflicted with headaches, toothaches, severe pains in the side, and more. As she aged, these bodily sufferings worsened. Remembering the sufferings of Christ, in which she wished to share, she cried out, “O ye bodily members, praise God that He has given you the capacity to suffer.” She drew peace and joy from her sufferings.

Perfected in the way of sanctity, Saint Crescentia Hoess went to her Lord on April 9, 1744. Her virtues were pronounced heroic in 1801, and Pope Leo XIII beatified her in 1900.

Chimes Design – This month’s *Chimes* is in a far simpler format to give you an idea of how easily it could be done. The *Chimes* need not be fancy; it does need to communicate. We are training a new editor who will start next month.

Fraternity Finances – Last month we received \$335 in donations and disbursed \$119.22 in expenses. This does not include undeposited checks.

² From web site Roman Catholic Saints, accessed 4/3/21, URL <https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/saint-crescentia-hoess.html>

Called To Serve: Responding in Love – In September the fraternity will elect a new Council. By now you have discerned if you have a calling, examined it with both heart and mind, and learned more of your calling through profession as a servant leader. The next step is to respond, as Isaiah did: “Here I am.”



Responding in love to a call allows up to put forward our best selves in service of our brothers and sisters. When a fraternity member approaches you or puts forward your name as a worthy servant of your fraternal family, respond with a confident “Here I am” as did the prophet, knowing the fraternity and the Holy Spirit will be with you.

Remote Meetings Are Fraternity Meetings – We do not know for how long we will have to continue to meet remotely. Even after the Monastery reopens, our meeting rooms may not be available, and many of us may not want to hazard out in a group.

Council therefore has decided to continue remote meetings for the foreseeable future. These are not “optional” meetings; they are the required monthly fraternity meetings. If you cannot attend, please inform a Council member as you would for an in-person meeting.

From the Mailbox: News of our Family – Below is a letter we recently received from the family in India whom we support through the Franciscan Family Apostolate program. Please keep them in your prayers.



Dear friends,

Hope you guys are safe and prosperous. It is an honour to have a word with you. We are very lucky to have you in our life. We extend our heartfelt gratitude and respect to you for kind generous support. Here all our field is dead condition. The pandemic has brought a sea change in our lives. The life became worst in these circumstances. Wish you a happy Easter.

My husband goes for fishing but earnings are very less. My mother taking regular medicine for heart complaint urinary complaint, blood pressure, etc. My daughter is working in scauig(*sic*) centre. My son is learning roof siding work. We are wishing you a Happy Easter. May God bless you.

Yours sincerely, Thresiamma Xavier Paliathayi

Fair Share – What Is It? – Article 25 of the Rule asks us to “*contribute toward the expenses of the higher fraternity councils.*” The St. Margaret of Cortona Regional Fraternity’s suggested Fair Share donation is \$40 per active member (\$20 for active-excused). If you have not already done so, please include a Fair Share contribution in this month’s envelope, and write “Fair Share” on the envelope or check. Thank you to the 12 members who have contributed thus far.



► Please note that this special donation does not go towards the support of our fraternity; your regular, separate monthly donation does this.

A Stitch in Chimes – Here’s a look at our fraternity 20 years ago:

In April of 2001 Teresa Wilson (d. 2012) gave a presentation on St. Benedict the Moor; the fraternity discussed “The SFO With All Its History and Traditions” from *Fully Mature with the Fullness of Christ*; we published in the *Chimes* a latter from the family we sponsored in India; fraternity member Catherine Heit passed away; and the meeting closed with evening prayer.

Please Pray For Our Members – Vilma and Saturnino Camposano; Mary Ann Corr; Maria Louisa Correa; Sarah Faizi and her brother Edgar; Jean Fleurival; John Hewitt; Nancy McCleary; Adele Lewis; Carol Petro; John and Deneen Whipple; and Donna Wilkes.

May Birthdays May 1 – Larry Bleau, 4 – Michele Dunne, 8 – Mary Jo Fehr, 12 – Margaret Simoneau, 15 – Delphine Ben and J. Patrick Enderson, 20 – Mark Di Salvo, 27 – Sandra White, 30 – Joseph Clemente and Jean-Paul Gauthier.

Franciscan Feasts and Memorials – May 3 – Bl. Arthur Bell, Henry Heath, John Woodcock, et al., priests, martyrs of England, I Order; 7 – Bl. Agnellus of Pisa, religious, I Order; 8 – Bl. Jeremiah of Valacchia, religious, I Order.; 9 – St. Catherine of Bologna, virgin, II Order; 10 – St. Ivo of Brittany, III Order; 11 – St. Ignatius of Laconi, religious, I Order; Bl. Antonio of St. Anne Galvoa, I Order, founder; 12 – St. Leopold Mandic, priest, I Order; 16 – St. Margaret of Cortona, III Order; 17 – St. Paschal Baylon, religious, I Order; 18 – St. Felix of Cantalice, religious, I Order; 19 – St. Crispin of Viterbo, religious, I Order; St. Theophilus of Corte, priest, I Order; 20 – St. Bernardine of Siena, priest, I Order; 21 – Bl. Franz Jägerstätter, Martyr, III Order; 24 – Dedication of the Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi; 28 – St. Mariana of Jesus de Paredes, virgin, III Order; 30 – St. Ferdinand, king, III Order; St. Camilla Batista of Varano, OSC

April Reflection

by Larry Bleau, OFS

Most Just, Most Pure



Saint Joseph's qualities are manifold, almost too many to mention, which is why his litany is so long. The two I'd like to reflect on this month are just and pure.

The title **Most Just** given to Joseph is a superlative. To be just is to be fair, moral, proper, reasonable, and many more things. Joseph was more than fair when he responded to the angel's message and married Mary; he was moral in maintaining his faithfulness to her and the Son born of her; he protected them, taking prudent action to avoid danger; and provided for their well being, thinking little of himself. Of the just people in the Bible, Joseph was perhaps the most so. If we think of the things Joseph did, and consider those for whom his actions – Mary and Jesus – we realize why the superlative is warranted; indeed, why he is to be emulated.

The title **Most Pure** is also appropos for Joseph. He treated Mary with the utmost respect and tenderness, abstained from having relations with her before or after Jesus' birth, and remained chaste, being faithful to her for his entire life. He was the human role model for Jesus, and as such surely Joseph had a powerful positive effect on Jesus. Apart from original sin, Joseph was, to our knowledge, sinless as well. His heart was always for Our Lord and His Mother. He put trust in God and set aside personal desires, content to give himself totally to cring for these two special people that had been entrusted to his care.

St. Joseph, we ask that you intercede with Our Lord and obtain for us the grace to be just in how we interact with our fellow men and women, and to be pure of heart, mind and soul, so that when we meet You face to face, You will welcome us into Your eternal home with the greeting: Well done, good and faithful servant.