



- the Chimes -

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OCTOBER Vol. LXV, No. 10

October 17, 2021

WE WILL MEET ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17 AT 1:30 PM IN THE ST. BONAVENTURE ROOM AT THE FRANCISCAN MONASTERY. THERE WILL BE NO MASS AND WE WILL NOT HAVE REFRESHMENTS, JUST A MEETING. PLEASE WEAR A MASK, AS DC HAS REIMPOSED MASK REQUIREMENTS FOR INDOOR GATHERINGS.

WE WILL ALSO HAVE A SIMULTANEOUS ZOOM MEETING FOR MEMBERS WHO ARE UNABLE TO JOIN US DUE TO HEALTH OR DISTANCE.

- **TO JOIN BY COMPUTER, USE THIS LINK:**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82875120768?pwd=b3kydjZCa3h0UFVVRaHBsdzF2QUJldz09>

Meeting ID: 828 7512 0768 Passcode: 064028

- **TO JOIN BY TELEPHONE, CALL 301-715-8592, ENTER MEETING ID 828 7512 0768**

WHETHER YOU JOIN IN PERSON OR BY ZOOM/PHONE, PLEASE ARRIVE BETWEEN 115 AND 130 PM SO WE CAN START THE MEETING PROMPTLY AT 130 PM. THANK YOU!

◆ **Theme: KINSHIP WITH ALL CREATION**

Fraternity Meeting Agenda: Sunday October 17

- Opening prayer
- News of members
- Discussion of our fraternity's annual charitable giving
- Meet a Franciscan
- Discussion on "integral ecology" and the Laudato Si' action platform
- Closing: Evening Prayer

Preparing for our meeting

Please spend a few minutes in advance of our meeting looking at the website of the Laudato Si' Action platform: <https://laudatosiactionplatform.org/> . The Vatican is inviting religious and lay communities to learn and grow together as we journey towards full sustainability in the holistic spirit of what Pope Francis calls “integral ecology.” As individuals and as a fraternity, we are called to contribute our unique culture, experience, involvements, and talents to this journey towards greater love for our Creator, each other, and the home we share.

Gospel Quote of the Month – Jesus said to them, “Go into the whole world and proclaim the Gospel to every creature.” (*Mark 16:15*)

Franciscan Quote of the Month – Be praised, my Lord, through our sister Mother Earth, who feeds us and rules us, and produces various fruits with colored flowers and herbs. (*St Francis, Canticle of the Sun*)



The Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order – Chapter II *The Way of Life*

18. Moreover they should respect all creatures, animate and inanimate, which “bear the imprint of the Most High,” and they should strive to move from the temptation of exploiting creation to the Franciscan concept of universal kinship.

Pope Francis’ Prayer Intention for November – We pray that people who suffer from depression or burn-out will find support and a light that opens them up to life.

News of our members

Our minister Michele Dunne has accepted a new position as Executive Director of the Franciscan Action Network, beginning October 18. The organization’s mission statement is: “Inspired by the Gospel of Jesus, and the example of Saints Francis and Clare, the Franciscan Action Network is a collective Franciscan voice seeking to transform United States public policy related to peace making, care for creation, poverty, and human rights.” The website is: <https://franciscanaction.org/> . Please pray for Michele, that she might bring a true Franciscan spirit to her new work.

Please pray for our members – Amy Bilyeau, Vilma Camposano, Mary Anne Corr, Maria Louisa Correa and her sister, Sarah Faizi and her friend Ron Harner, Mary Jo Fehr and her family, Jean Fleurival, Virginia Lyons, Nancy McCleary, Helen Walls, Dineen and John Whipple, Donna Wilkes

November Birthdays – 4, Ouida Morrison

The Information Corner – St. Elizabeth of Hungary, feast Nov 19

St. Elizabeth of Hungary was the daughter of royalty and married at an early age to a prince, with whom she had three children. While the marriage was happy, Prince Ludwig’s

family criticized Elizabeth's "inordinate" care for the poor. Elizabeth was captivated by stories of St. Francis and St. Clare and became a Franciscan tertiary. She won the love of the people when she opened the royal grain stores to them during a time of famine. Ludwig died on the way home from a crusade when Elizabeth was only 20 years old and his family banished her from court, turning her out on a winter night with her newborn child. She was eventually given a small cottage and lived simply, supporting herself by fishing and spinning. She died at 24 and was canonized only a few years later. St. Elizabeth is a patron of the Secular Franciscan Order.

--Source: Robert Ellsberg, *The Franciscan Saints*, Franciscan Media, 2017

Franciscan Feasts and Memorials, November – St. Charles Borromeo, bishop, III Order; 6 – Bl. Alfonso Lopez, priest, and companions, martyrs [Pedro Rivera, Modesto Vegas, Dionisio Vicente, priests; Francisco Remon, Miguel Remon, religious, I Order; 7 – St. Didacus of Alcala, religious, I Order also Blessed Helen of Arcella (Italy); 8 – Bl. John Duns Scotus, priest, I Order; 13 – St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, virgin, III Order, founder; 14 – St. Nicholas Tavelic, priest, and companions, martyrs, I Order; 17 – St. Elizabeth of Hungary, widow, III Order, Patron of the Secular Franciscan Order; 18 – Bl. Salome, virgin, II Order; 19 – St. Agnes of Assisi, virgin, II Order; 25 – Commemoration of all the Deceased of the Franciscan Family (I,II,III Order); Bl. Elizabeth of Reute, virgin, III Order; 26 – St. Leonard of Port Maurice, priest, I Order; 27 – St. Francis Anthony Fasani, priest, I Order; Bl. Umile de Bisignano, religious, I Order; 28 – St. James of the March, priest, I Order; 29 – All Saints of the Franciscan Order (I,II,III Order)

Fraternity Finances – September deposits were \$20; expenditures were \$202.87. Expenses for this month included our annual Zoom subscription. Please consider increasing your donations in October and November as we prepare to make our annual charitable contributions in December. Thank you for your generosity!

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Our fraternity website:

<https://dcsfo.org/>

October Reflection

by Michele Dunne, OFS

One day, some months after I began formation as a Secular Franciscan, I had a strange and wonderful experience. I was driving through Rock Creek Park, a route I took frequently to get from my house to other parts of Washington DC. It was late summer or early autumn, and the many trees in the park were full of lush green leaves. I was looking at the trees as I drove, and suddenly something changed for me. Instead of just admiring the trees as beautiful objects, I became aware of them as living and dynamic beings. More than that, I saw them as charged with divine life—in fact, as fingers of God, reaching from under the surface of the earth through the ground and into the air. The trees were not just static objects but living agents of God's love, actively embracing humans and all other creatures, providing us food, shelter, and many other gifts. My eyes filled with tears and my heart burned with gratitude for the ways God loves and embraces all of us through His holy trees.

That experience was for me an unexpected gift, and since then I have never looked at trees quite the way I did before. I've spent a bit of time learning to identify some of the trees common to our area so that I can call them by their names, and now I have a few tree friends, mostly large trees in nearby parks—a massive tulip poplar, a pair of white oaks that face each other like dancing partners—whom I stop by to visit. And I'll even admit to hugging them from time to time (apparently this is not uncommon among Franciscans!). Recent science reinforces the fact that trees are dynamic living beings who communicate with each other through their root systems as well as through the air about matters such as potential threats and exchanging nutrients.

Trees are just one element of the glorious creation of which we human beings are part. Most of us, myself included, live in ways that take us far away from a harmonious relationship with the rest of creation. I too often view creation—animals, plants, elements like air and water—simply as commodities to be consumed. And I tend to consume more than I truly need, which hurts creation and wastes resources that other people might need more than I.

The new *Laudato Si'* action platform from the Vatican asks all of us, as individuals and communities, to take another look at our consumption patterns and attitudes towards creation. How can we appreciate anew God's glorious creativity and great love for us, and how can we make a response in love to God and all our sisters and brothers throughout creation, just as St. Francis did? Please give this some thought and let us discuss in October as we conclude this Season of Creation.