



# - the Chimes -

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

P.O. BOX 90366  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20090-0366  
NOVEMBER Vol. LXV, No. 11  
November 21, 2021

**WE WILL MEET ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 21 AT 1:30 PM IN THE ST. BONAVENTURE ROOM AT THE FRANCISCAN MONASTERY.**

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/88289810261?pwd=NHZsZzhGL1RGTFgxM3ZjR1RsWGxRQT09> or use Meeting ID: 882 8981 0261. Passcode: 064456
- TO JOIN BY TELEPHONE, CALL 301-715-8592, Meeting ID: 882 8981 0261
- **Theme: LEARNING THE PEACE OF JESUS**

## **Fraternity Meeting Agenda: Sunday November 21**

- Opening prayer
- News of members, report on regional ministers' gathering
- Sharing on Advent practices
- Short presentation on *Fratelli Tutti*, Ch 7 and Ch 8
- Discussion of *Fratelli Tutti*
- Closing: Evening Prayer

## **Preparing for our meeting**

**Please read in advance** Ch 7 and Ch 8 of Pope Francis' encyclical *Fratelli Tutti* and prepare your thoughts. Advance preparation makes for a much better discussion. If you do not have a book copy, you may read the entire encyclical at:

[https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco\\_20201003\\_enciclica-fratelli-tutti.html](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20201003_enciclica-fratelli-tutti.html) . We will also have a brief sharing on favorite prayer practices/other faith customs for Advent, which begins Sunday November 28. Please think in advance and come ready to share ideas!

## **Bring clothes for Bethlehem babies**

At our October meeting, we agreed to bring onesies or other clothes for newborn babies to the November meeting. This is for the monastery's annual collection of clothes for the

Holy Family Hospital in Bethlehem. Please bring your donation to the Nov 21 meeting or, if you will not attend, drop it off at the monastery before Thanksgiving.

### **Please mark your calendar:**

- Sun Dec 19, 2021, 1-4 PM Advent Day of Reflection (Fr Monastery)
- Meetings for 2022: Jan 16, Feb 20, Mar 20, Apr TBD, May 15, June 19, July 17, Aug 21, Sept 18, Oct 16, Nov 20, Dec TBD

### **Advent Day of Reflection December 19**

This year instead of skipping our meeting in December we will commemorate Advent in a special way: with a Day of Reflection together with our friends in the St Francis fraternity. It will take place on **Sunday, December 19, 1-4 pm**, here in the Franciscan Monastery (St. Francis Room) and will be led by our Spiritual Assistant Fr Gardiner and Br. Joseph Pham. Please plan to attend!

### **Christmas Donations for 2021**

Please be generous in your contributions for November so that our fraternity can give generously to the Monastery (which has not charged us rent this year) and other charities in December. Let a member of Council know if you recommend a charity.

**Gospel Quote of the Month** – Jesus said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. It will not be so among you.” (*Mt 20:25-26*)

**Franciscan Quote of the Month** – Answering a question from a bishop about how the brothers could endure living in such poverty, St. Francis answered him with that curious and almost stunning shrewdness which the unworldly can sometimes wield like a club of stone. He said, “If we had any possessions, we should need weapons and laws to defend them.” (G.K. Chesterton)



**The Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order – Chapter II *The Way of Life***. 19. Mindful that they are bearers of peace, which must be built up unceasingly, they should seek out ways of unity and fraternal harmony through dialogue, trusting in the presence of the divine seed in everyone and in the transforming power of love and pardon.

**Pope Francis’ Prayer Intention for December**– Let us pray for the catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God: may they be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Please pray for our members** – Amy Bilyeau, Rosemary Boardley and family, Maria Louisa Correa and family, Sarah Faizi and friend Ron Harner, Jean Fleurival, Nancy McLeary, Carol Petro, Cecilia Thieman and family, Helen Walls, Dineen and John Whipple, Donna Wilkes.

## **Information Corner – Servant of God Bernard of Quintavalle, Dec 10**

Bernard, one of the wealthy young men of Assisi, became the first companion to St. Francis. While others were still ridiculing Francis' renunciation of wealth and status, Bernard invited him to dine and stay the night. He was so moved by Francis' prayers during the night that he determined to follow him, and the two sought guidance from the bible. Bernard disposed of his property and the two started on a life of voluntary poverty. He accompanied Francis on many journeys and remained dear to the saint, who asked for Bernard on his deathbed and called him "my first-born son." Bernard died around 1241, and his last words were, "I find this in my soul: not for a thousand worlds equal to this one would I want not to have served Our Lord Jesus Christ...my dearest brothers, I beg you to love one another." He is buried in the crypt of the Basilica of St Francis.

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

**Franciscan Feasts and Memorials, December** – 2 – Bl. Maria Angela Astorch, virgin, II Order; Bl. Rafal Chylinski, priest, I Order; 8 – Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Patron & Queen of the Franciscan Order; 10 – Bl. Peter Tecelano, III Order; 13 – Finding the Body of St. Francis; 15 – Bl. Mary Frances Schervier, virgin, III Order

**Fraternity Finances** – October deposits were \$413.00; expenditures were \$459.33 (this included our annual website fees).

## **Contacting Council**

Minister	Michele Dunne	202-412-1210	<a href="mailto:micheleddunne@gmail.com">micheleddunne@gmail.com</a>
Vice Minister	Joseph Gigliotti	202-251-7336	<a href="mailto:gigliottilaw@gmail.com">gigliottilaw@gmail.com</a>
Secretary	Mary Gigliotti	202-251-7660	<a href="mailto:mmamsop@aol.com">mmamsop@aol.com</a>
Treasurer	Franciose Bidiki	443-518-6367	<a href="mailto:kimbekete@gmail.com">kimbekete@gmail.com</a>
Formation Dir	Mary Gigliotti	202-251-7660	<a href="mailto:mmamsop@aol.com">mmamsop@aol.com</a>
Spiritual Asst	Fr. Jim Gardiner	202-526-6800 x374	<a href="mailto:jgardiner@atonementfriars.org">jgardiner@atonementfriars.org</a>
Councilor	Bill Richardson	301-848-7390	<a href="mailto:richardson4645@yahoo.com">richardson4645@yahoo.com</a>

## **St. Margaret of Cortona Regional Council**

Bob Longo (Minister) [blongosfo@gmail.com](mailto:blongosfo@gmail.com)  
 Janice Benton (DC Metro Area Councilor) [jbentonsfo@gmail.com](mailto:jbentonsfo@gmail.com)

## **National Fraternity**

Jan Parker (Minister) [ofsusaminister@gmail.com](mailto:ofsusaminister@gmail.com)

Our fraternity website:

<https://dcsfo.org/>

## **November Reflection**

*by Michele Dunne, OFS*

Writing to you on the eve of All Saints' Day, I am reminded of how many Christian saints lived radically peaceful lives in times of war and strife—including, of course, our patrons St. Francis and St. Clare. The two of them stepped out of a system in which maintaining the wealth and privilege of their social class (for Francis the wealthy merchants and for

Clare the nobility) led to repeated violence against others, whether the members of other classes within Assisi or other cities such as Perugia. Clare and Francis not only abandoned their own wealth and privilege but also declined to enter existing religious orders, which they might well have seen as participating in that social system and therefore complicit in its violence. Using no violence but great persistence, Francis and Clare pursued a different vision—something humble, peaceful, and compassionate.

Chapter 7 of Pope Francis' encyclical *Fratelli Tutti*, which we will discuss at our November meeting, challenges us to rethink our ideas about peace, justice, and war. While I see myself as a peaceful person, in fact I am probably still under the sway of what the theologian Walter Wink called “the myth of redemptive violence,” the idea that violence and war ultimately are necessary to “save” us. It is not surprising that I might believe in redemptive violence on some level, because it is deeply rooted in many cultures, including here in the United States. But here is the question: is it Christian?

There can be little doubt that Jesus Christ was a radically peaceful person. Although born into a world rife with violence (Roman occupation, Jewish violent resistance, slavery, wars, and more), Jesus preached a gospel of loving enemies, praying for persecutors, and forgiving others seventy-times-seven times. He spoke clearly and repeatedly, at great personal risk, against domination by the wealthy and powerful, reserving his strongest criticisms for hypocritical religious leaders. When Jesus' own life was on the line at the moment of his unjust arrest, he admonished Peter, “Put your sword back into its place; for all who take the sword will perish by the sword” (*Mt 26:52*). While Jesus' statement is sometimes interpreted to mean merely that Peter should not interfere with God's plan for salvation, it can also be understood to mean that Jesus rejected violence as ultimately destroying the perpetrator as well as the victim.

Pope Francis makes clear in *Fratelli Tutti* that rejecting violence does not mean accepting injustice or injury; rather he says that loving an oppressor means seeking ways to stop the injustice, thereby returning humanity to both the oppressed and the oppressor. But he does oppose forms of retribution that involve violence or killing. On the death penalty, he echoes St. John Paul II in calling it “inadmissible” and St. Augustine in pleading, “Do not let the atrocity of their sins feed a desire for vengeance.” On war, Pope Francis is also clear: “We can no longer think of war as a solution, because its risks will probably always be greater than its supposed benefits. In view of this, it is very difficult nowadays to invoke the rational criteria elaborated in earlier centuries to speak of the possibility of a ‘just war.’ Never again war!”

All of this is food for thought as we examine our own hearts and ask ourselves, deeply and honestly, whether we truly embrace the peacefulness of Jesus (as did Francis and Clare) or still nurture hidden desires to resolve problems through violent speech, actions, punishments, or war.