



# *- the Chimes -*

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

P.O. BOX 29506  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20017  
MARCH 2022 Vol. LXVI, No. 3  
March 20, 2022

## **WE WILL MEET SUNDAY, MAR 20 AT 1:30 PM IN PERSON AT THE FRANCISCAN MONASTERY.**

For those unable to join in person due to illness, please join by Zoom:

- To join by computer, use this link:  
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83154461295?pwd=b2V1OHBkcEdJSno1NGhQSk0zWTg5Zz09>  
Meeting ID: 831 5446 1295 Passcode: 955083
- To join by phone, call 301-715-8592 Meeting ID: 831 5446 1295

### **Fraternity Meeting Agenda: Sunday March 20**

- Gather: 1:15-1:30 pm
- Opening prayer
- News of members
- Short teaching on St. Francis' Office of the Passion
- Discussion: How might I need to be "converted" this Lent?
- Closing: Office of the Passion

**Preparing for our March Meeting** – Please reflect on the following before our meeting: Our Rule calls on us to “follow the poor and crucified Christ, witness to him even in difficulties and persecutions” (Art 10) and to conform our thoughts and deeds to those of Christ “by means of that radical interior change which the gospel itself calls conversion” (Art 7). How might I need to be “converted” this Lent?

**Regional Retreat and Quinquennial** - The St. Margaret of Cortona region will hold our annual regional retreat **May 13-15, 2022** at Loyola Retreat House in Faulkner, MD. Information to register is here: <https://saintmargaretofcortona.org/upcoming-events/>. The Quinquennial, the national gathering of Seculars every five years, will take place in Phoenix, AZ **August 3-6, 2022**. Registration is required by July 1: <https://secularfranciscansusa.org/wp-content/uploads/General-Information-post-by-Aug.-1-2021.pdf>

**Fraternity Finances** – February deposits were \$505; expenditures were \$196.23 (this included our post office box fee for the year). **Fair Share for 2022** is now due: \$40 each for active professed or candidates; \$20 each for excused members. Please remember that our fraternity must pay for all members and that 100% of Fair Share is passed on; none of it is used for our fraternity expenses. Please pay by May if you can.

**Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for April 2022**– *For health care workers: We pray for health care workers who serve the sick and the elderly, especially in the poorest countries; may they be adequately supported by governments and local communities.*

**Please pray for our members** – Mary Ann Corr, Maria Louisa Correa and family, Sarah Faizi's friend Ron Harner, Jean Fleurival, Nancy McLeary, Mary Okumu and family, George Ramsey, Joseph Rende, Cecilia Theiman and family, Helen Walls, Dineen Whipple, and Donna Wilkes and her brother Hollis.

**Franciscan Feasts and Memorials, April** – 3 – St. Benedict the Moor, religious, I Order; 16 – St. Bernadette Soubirous, cord-bearer of St. Francis; St. Benedict Joseph Labre, cord-bearer of St. Francis; 21 – St. Conrad of Parzham, religious, I Order; 23 – Bl. Giles of Assisi, religious, I Order.

**Fraternity Birthdays, April** – 6 – Bill Richardson, 9 – Virginia Lyons

### **Contacting Council**

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**Our fraternity website:**

<https://dcsfo.org/>

## **March Reflection**

Michele Dunne, OFS

Lent is a time to go deep spiritually, to focus on what is keeping me from being fully open to God's love and will for me. Two passages from scripture readings in the first week of

Lent are resonating with me particularly so far this season. One is the pivotal teaching of Jesus in the Gospel according to Luke (9:22-25): “If anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it.”



So, let me stop here and ask the question: do I want to “come after” Jesus—truly? Jesus says this involves taking up my cross daily and following him, which I believe means far more than bearing patiently with the hardships of my own life. While Jesus’ crucifixion has a deep theological meaning, it also had a specific human cause: Jesus annoyed the authorities of his day by speaking and acting against injustice, greed, and hard-heartedness and in favor of mercy, generosity, and forgiveness. Do I follow Jesus by doing

likewise? More to the point, am I willing to sacrifice my personal interests to do so, understanding that by doing so, I will “save” my life?

A recent insight by a Protestant minister friend also has me thinking about another story from Luke: the temptations of Jesus in the desert (Luke 4:1-13). The three temptations (to turn a stone into bread, rule kingdoms, throw himself down from the Temple parapet), my friend pointed out, can be understood as tempting Jesus to abuse his power as the Son of God in three ways: economic, political, and religious. While I don’t have a great deal of any of those kinds of power, it did get me thinking, “in what ways might I be tempted to abuse the power that I do have as a child of God?” For example, do I ever abuse my powers of thought and speech by accusing, disparaging, or ridiculing others, for example those I find difficult to like or even understand?

Finally, I have always thought it wise that Lent begins on Ash Wednesday with a stern warning against spiritual pride or seeking temporal rewards for the Lenten practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving (Matthew 6: 1-18). Our dear St. Francis was keenly aware of that temptation. In the story about “the wonderful forty days’ fast of St. Francis” in the *Fioretti*, it is recounted that he spent it alone on an uninhabited island, with only two loaves of bread to eat. When he was fetched from the island on Holy Thursday, there were one and a half loaves left. As the story goes, “It is believed that St. Francis ate the other half out of reverence for the fast of the Blessed Christ, who fasted forty days and nights without taking any material food. And so with that half loaf he drove from himself the poison of pride.” Food for thought during our forty days indeed. May the Lord give you peace.

(Source: Raphael Brown, “The Little Flowers of St. Francis,” Doubleday, 1958)