



- the Chimes -

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P.O. BOX 29506
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20017
JUNE 2022 Vol. LXVI, No. 6
June 19, 2022

WE WILL MEET ON SUNDAY, JUNE 19 AT 1:30 PM AT THE FRANCISCAN MONASTERY IN OUR USUAL ROOM.

For those unable to join in person due to health or distance, please join by Zoom:

- To join by computer, use this link:
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81392829482?pwd=RFRTdjJXdWtrMERHQnJHcytkZkNxUT09> Meeting ID: 813 9282 9482 Passcode: 007827
- To join by phone, call 301-715-8592

Fraternity Meeting Agenda: Sunday, June 19, 2022, 130 pm

- Gather: 1:15-1:30 pm
- Opening prayer
- News of members
- Discussion: *Encountering Jesus*, Ch 5, "The Mount of Beatitudes: The Sermon on the Mount"
- Closing: Evening Prayer

Preparing for our June Meeting –Please read the Ch 5 of the book before our meeting. Please reflect on the questions and come prepared to share.

Ongoing Formation Volunteers - June- Mary Gigliotti, July- Joe Gigliotti, Aug- Dineen Whipple, Sep-Joe Gigliotti, Oct- Amy Bilyeau, Nov-Joe Gigliotti, Dec-John Whipple.

Upcoming: Quinquennial - 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 – May deposits were \$260.00; expenditures were \$33.19.

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for July 2022– *Elderly*: We pray for the elderly, who represent the roots and memory of a people; may their experience and wisdom help young people to look towards the future with hope and responsibility.

Please pray for our members – Amy Bilyeau, Mary Ann Corr, Maria Louisa Correa and her family, Sarah Faizi and her friend Ron Harner, Jean Fleurival, and Helen Walls.

Change of address- Sarah Faizi will move to Riderwood in June. Her new address will be Orchard Point Apt 513, 3140 Gracefield Rd, Silver Spring MD 20904.

Fraternity Birthdays, July – 8, Brenda Nutt; 17, Nancy McCleary

Franciscan Feasts and Memorials, July 1 – St. Junipero Serra, priest, I Order; 4 – St. Elizabeth of Portugal, queen, III Order; 7 – Bl. Davanzato, bishop, III Order.; 8 – Bl. Gregory Grassi, bishop, and companions, martyrs, I and III Order; 9 – St. Nicholas Pick, priest, and companions, martyrs, I Order; 10 – St. Veronica Giuliani, virgin, II Order; 12 – Sts. John Jones and John Wall, priests, martyrs, I Order; 13 – Bl. Angeline of Marisciano, religious, III Order; 15 – St. Bonaventure, bishop, doctor, I Order; 16 – Canonization of St. Francis - Canonized 16 July 1228 by Pope Gregory IX; St. Francis Solano, priest, I Order; 18 – St. Simon of Lipnica; 21 – St. Lawrence of Brindisi, priest, doctor, I Order; 23 – Bl. Cunegunda, religious, II Order; St. Bridget of Sweden, widow, III Order; 24 – Bl. Louise of Savoy, widow, II Order; Bl. Modestino of Jesus and Mary, religious, I Order; Bl. Antonio Lucci, bishop, I Order; 27 – Bl. Mary Magdalene of Martinengo, virgin, II Order; 28 – Bl. Mary Teresa Kowalska, virgin, martyr of Poland, II Order; Bl. Mattia Nazarei, virgin, II Order

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Our fraternity website:

<https://dcsfo.org/>

June Reflection: A Trip to Ukraine

Michele Dunne, OFS

In late May I was honored to take part in the first faith delegation to Ukraine, in response to an invitation from the mayor of the capital city Kyiv. It was a long trip but very well worth it. I wanted to share with you some of my thoughts about what people of faith can do in a hot conflict such as the Russian invasion. Here is an abbreviated version of an article I cowrote with Eli McCarthy of Georgetown University:

Why would you go into a war zone? Isn't this for political and military leaders? Is there any significant role for religious leaders and spiritual power? These are some of the questions we faced regarding our multi-national, interfaith, just peace delegation to Kyiv, Ukraine on May 24-25.

The delegation responded to an invitation by Mayor Vitali Klitschko of Kyiv: "I make an appeal to the world's spiritual leaders to take a stand and assume the moral function that is incumbent upon them, and to proudly assume the responsibility of their religions for peace," said Klitschko. Seventeen religious leaders joined this initial delegation as representatives from Jewish, Muslim, and Christian traditions, with six of us from the United States. Our purpose was to show solidarity with the people of Ukraine as well as to pray for a just peace.

Our delegation saw the devastation of war firsthand in Irpin, a suburb of Kyiv that was assaulted by Russian forces for a month before being retaken by the Ukrainian army in early April. Bombed houses were everywhere, and some 3000 of the town's residents were now homeless. At a Caritas resettlement site for 100 of them in an old summer camp, we met 91-year-old Maia. She told us that she had lost her entire family in her youth during World War II, adding that even so, "I have never seen such cruelty as in this war."

Russian forces also destroyed Irpin's House of Culture, which still displayed posters of concerts and children's events from happier times. Large parts of the roof were gone, with metal rods hanging down nearly touching the rubble on the floor. Slowly walking through dust and rubble and seeing the burnt-out frame of a grand piano, we felt the immense weight of darkness, destruction, and violence. As we began to leave, some felt drawn to sing and pray together, and we formed a circle. As we prayed extemporaneously, tears came. The power of destruction and violence was being challenged by the power of life-giving compassion, of Jesus' resurrection that overcomes death.

What Ukrainian faith leaders as well as government officials told us was that this war was just as much spiritual and ideological as any other form of contestation. Greek Catholic Archbishop Shevchuk said, "We are to be defeated and re-educated as part of *Russky Mir*," an ultranationalist Russian view that legitimized violence in a supposed battle with Western immorality and globalization. He noted that religion, culture, oil, and nuclear weapons have all been instrumentalized to serve this ideology. Apostolic Nuncio

Kulbokas told our group that, while he is overwhelmed by the logistics of everyday life (“I spend most of my time searching for diesel fuel”), what is critical is the spiritual battle: “if we are unified, Satan will be unable to get in.”

Disinformation, distortions, and lies are a common currency in war-making. As one example, Kyiv Deputy Mayor Mondryivskyi expressed exasperation at having to counter lies being told about Ukraine by Russian media, pleading with the delegates to “tell what you experienced; we are normal people.”

Indeed, unity, solidarity, compassion, humanization, and truth will be essential tools in establishing a just peace in Ukraine, so helping to construct and bolster them is exactly where people of faith can contribute. Our delegation drew inspiration from past faith leaders’ far more courageous initiatives. St. Francis of Assisi traveled to Egypt in 1219 and crossed enemy lines to end a brutal war. He took a spiritual approach to what others saw as a military problem and ignored their warnings that his effort to meet the Muslim Sultan was dangerous and foolish. While the war did not end immediately, Francis and Sultan Malik al-Kamil appear to have been changed by their encounter, which might well have accelerated an end to the war as it led to a more humanizing approach by the Sultan and consistent attempts to negotiate peace.

What can faith leaders do in the face of a brutal war? We can and did pray, and we can be “doers of the word and not hearers only” (James 1:22). We can express solidarity through accompaniment, compassion through humanitarian aid and service, and work to establish a terrain of truth in the international public narrative on which a just peace can be built.

Through this multi-national, interfaith just peace delegation we hope to encourage a wave of subsequent delegations, increases in humanitarian aid and peacebuilding, consistent humanitarian corridors, focus on dialogue and diplomacy, and creative responses to strengthen the human community to persist in trying to save lives and end killing in Ukraine.

