



- the Chimes -

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P.O. BOX 29506
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20017
OCTOBER 2022 Vol. LXVI, No. 10
October 16, 2022

WE WILL MEET IN PERSON ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16 AT 1:00 PM AT THE FRANCISCAN MONASTERY IN OUR USUAL ROOM. WE WILL HAVE OUR SOCIAL AT 1:00 PM, WITH THE MEETING BEGINNING AT 1:30.

For our infirm members, please join by Zoom at 1:30:

- To join by computer, use this link:
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82678568434?pwd=SjJZYs3MkN3VTdhWkwyOHNrR05SQT09> Meeting ID: 826 7856 8434 Passcode: 863198
- To join by phone, call 301-715-8592 Meeting ID: 826 7856 8434

Fraternity Meeting Agenda: Sunday, October 16, 2022, 1:00 pm

- Lunch and social 1:00-1:30 pm
- Opening prayer 1:30 pm
- News and announcements
- Ongoing formation: *Encountering Jesus*, Ch 1. Brief presentation by Vice Minister Joe Gigliotti, OFS, followed by discussion and faith sharing.
- Evening Prayer and Closing

Upcoming Events

- Mon Oct 3, Transitus: in person at the Franciscan Monastery 7 pm, and online by Franciscan Action Network at 5:30 pm (with music by our brother John Whipple!). Register here: <https://franciscanaction.org/virtual-transitus-service/>
- Tues Oct 4, Feast of St Francis
- Thurs, Oct 6, Franciscan Action Network Gala, "Peacebuilding in the Spirit of Sts Francis and Clare," St. Francis Hall and online. Tickets: <https://franciscanaction.org/2022-annual-gala-benefit/>
- Sat, Oct 15: Elections for National Leadership of US Order of Secular Franciscans
- Sun, Oct 16: Monthly fraternity meeting and fraternal visitation
- Sun, Nov 20: Monthly fraternity meeting

Preparing for our October Meeting – Please read Ch.1, "Nazareth: the Annunciation" in *Encountering Jesus* and come prepared to share your thoughts as we continue our virtual pilgrimage together. Please bring food or drink to share.

Fraternal Visitation at our October Meeting – Once every three years, the Regional Council visits our fraternity. This will happen at our October 16 meeting, and you will have the opportunity to speak to Regional Councilor Jan Benton about how things are going in the fraternity. Please make every effort to attend in person.

Advent Service Activity – Our fraternity and the St. Francis fraternity have agreed to a joint service activity for Advent, to take place on either Sat or Sun Dec 17/18 (exact date, time, and place to be confirmed soon). We will no-sew make warm scarves for those in need in our community. We hope to include prayer, song, and refreshments as well. Please let Michele know if you can help to plan the gathering.

Ongoing Formation Volunteers – Oct-Joe Gigliotti, Nov-Amy Bilyeau, Jan-John Whipple.

Fraternity Finances – September deposits were \$224.00; expenditures were \$160.89. This included our Zoom subscription for the coming year. Please remember to make contributions to the fraternity in October & November so that we can be generous in our holiday giving in December. Thank you!

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for Nov 2022: *Children Who Suffer.*

We pray for children who are suffering, especially those who are homeless, orphans, and victims of war; may they be guaranteed access to education and the opportunity to experience family affection.

Please pray for our members – Amy Bilyeau, Maria Louisa Correa and family, Jean Fleurival, Sarah Faizi's friend Ron Harner, Nancy McCleary, Bill Richardson, Helen Walls, Dineen and John Whipple, Donna Wilkes.

Fraternity Birthdays, November – 4-- Ouida Morrison

Franciscan Feasts and Memorials, November – St. John of Dukla, priest, I Order; 4 – Our Holy Father Francis, deacon, Founder of the Three Orders; 5 – St. Anna Schäffer, OFS (on ciofs website, she died on Oct 5th); 6 – St. Mary Frances of the Five Wounds, virgin, III Order; 10 – St. Daniel, priest, and companions, martyrs [Angelus, Samuel, Donulus, Leo, Hugolinus and Nicholas], I Order; Bl. Mother Mary Angela Truszkowska, III Order; 11 – Bl. John XIII, pope, III Order; 12 – St. Seraphin of Montegrano, religious, I Order; 13 – Bl. Honorat Kozminski, priest, I Order, founder; 16 – The Servant of the Lord—James of the Rosary; 20 – Bl. James of Strepar, bishop, I Order; Bl. Contardo Ferrini, III Order; 21 – Bl. Josephine Leroux, virgin, martyr, II Order; 22 – St. Peter of Alcantara, priest, I Order; 23 – St. John of Capestrano, priest, I Order; 25 – Saint Antonio de Santa Ana (Frei Galvao); Bl. Maria Jesus Ferragut, virgin, and companions, martyrs of Valencia (Maria Veronica Masiá, Maria Felicity Masiá Ferragut, Isabel Claduch Rovira, Milagros Ortells Gimeno), II Order; 26 – Bl. Bonaventure of Potenza, priest, I Order; 31 – Bl. Angelo of Acri, priest, I Order

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Our fraternity website:

<https://dcsfo.org/>

October Reflection

Michele Dunne, OFS

I love the feast of the Transitus, celebrated on the evening of October 3. It is a ceremony peculiar to Franciscans, in which we commemorate the transition of St. Francis from this life to the next in 1226. We read the narrative of his passing and his last words to his brothers. In some services, we also read the gospel passage that Francis asked his brothers to read aloud while he was on his deathbed: the Last Supper and Jesus washing the feet of his disciples (John 13:1-17). We sing hymns based on famous words of Francis, such as his Canticle of the Creatures and perhaps his prayer before the crucifix at San Damiano. In some cases, such as here at the Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land, there is a recreation of the procession of the friars with Francis' body, with an empty friar's habit resting on a bier accompanied by dozens or hundreds of candle-bearing participants.

Does this sound grim or even morbid? If you have ever attended a Transitus, you will know it is anything but that. It is, rather, an intimate recollection of the poignant last hours of our beloved Francis and a healthy acknowledgment that Sister Death comes to us all. Having been present at the passing of several close family members, I know how sacred those last hours are and at the Transitus I feel blessed to share somehow in the experience of the brothers who accompanied Francis as he made his final journey into eternal life.

Transitus services gather all sorts of Franciscans—vowed religious sisters and friars, professed Seculars, missionaries, and many others with Franciscan hearts—and once the service is over, there is a sense of celebration as we appreciate all that Francis has given to each one of us. For me, Francis came into my life about a decade ago, at a time when I

was experiencing painful disillusionment with the paths I had pursued in search of happiness and meaning. While I considered myself a committed and practicing Catholic, I had nonetheless fallen prey to the lure of personal pride, professional success, and financial security. God knew that Francis' particular way of following Jesus—characterized by humility, simplicity, joy, and voluntary poverty—was the exact antidote to what ailed me. I often think on the words of St. Clare of Assisi, who explained succinctly that “Christ is the way, and Francis showed it to me.”

As we remember Francis' passing, we also recall his wise words as he lay dying: “I have done what is mine; may Christ teach you what is yours!” Whether this month was the fiftieth time you commemorated the Transitus or the first, may God bless you with fresh insight about what is yours to do now.

