



- the Chimes -

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

P.O. BOX 29506
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20017
DECEMBER 2022 Vol. LXVI, No. 12
December 17, 2022

WE WILL MEET IN PERSON ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17, 8:30 AM-12 NOON AT CAPUCHIN COLLEGE FOR OUR ADVENT SERVICE ACTIVITY. PLEASE SEE DETAILS BELOW.

Fraternity Advent Activity Agenda: Saturday, Dec 17, 2022, 8:30 am

- Mass with Capuchin Friars
- Coffee and Social
- Service Project

Advent Service Activity Dec 17 – For our December meeting, we will do a joint prayer and service activity with St. Francis Fraternity. Last year we hosted them at our usual place and time, and this year they will reciprocate. We will meet on **Saturday, Dec 17, 8:30 am-12:00 noon at Capuchin College, 4121 Harewood Rd NE**. There is a small parking lot on the side of the building as well as a larger one behind. After Mass and socializing, we will make no-sew scarves as holiday gifts for our unhoused neighbors. **Please bring good scissors** if you have them.

Mark your calendar

- Fraternity 2023 meeting dates: Sun Jan 15, Feb 19, Mar 19, Apr 16, May 21, Jun 18, Jul 16, Aug 20, Sep 17, Oct 15, Nov 19, Dec 17.
- St. Margaret of Cortona Region events: Jan 28: St Bonaventure seminar Part 2 at Franciscan Monastery; Mar 11: Annual Day of Reflection for Candidates at Franciscan Monastery; Jul 21-23: Regional Retreat at Loyola Retreat House MD

Ongoing Formation Volunteers –Jan-John Whipple.

Fraternity Finances – November deposits were \$563.00 (includes reimbursement from St. Francis Fraternity for half of the expenses of our Advent service project); expenditures were \$2.00.

Christmas Donations - This year, due to member contributions and low expenses, our fraternity is able to give more at Christmas than it has done in many years. Reasons for our low expenses include the fact that the Monastery no longer charges us rent

(please be sure to thank the friars!) and that two fraternity members have generously undertaken to pay the expenses of printing and mailing out the Chimes. As a result, our fraternity will give \$2000 in donations this Christmas. Recipients will be: Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land, the new Franciscan School at Cana of Galilee, Franciscan Action Network, Forestville Pregnancy Center, Mulholland Foundation, So Others Might Eat, St. Ann's Home, and St. Joseph House. Thank you for your generosity!

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for Jan 2023: *For educators:* We pray that educators may be credible witnesses, teaching fraternity rather than competition and helping the youngest and most vulnerable above all.

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

Fraternity birthdays, January – 4 – Vicky Spalding, 15 – John Whipple, 17 – Adele Lewis, 29 – Bennett Solberg

Franciscan Feasts and Memorials, January - 3 – Most Holy Name of Jesus; 6 – Bl. Diego José of Cádiz, priest, I Order; 7 – Bl. Angela of Foligno, religious, III Order; 8 – Bl. Eurosia Fabris, III Order; 12 – St. Bernard of Corleone, religious, I Order; 14 – Bl. Odoric of Pordenone, priest, I Order; 16 – Sts. Berard, priest, and companions, protomartyrs of the Order; 18 – St. Charles of Sezze, religious, I Order; 19 – Bl. Thomas of Cori, priest, I Order; St. Eustochia Calafato, virgin, II Order; 20 – Bl. John Baptist Triquerie, priest, martyr, I Order; 23 – St. Maryanne Cope, virgin, OSF see also; 24 – St. Francis de Sales, bishop, doctor, III Order, founder; 27 – St. Angela Merici, virgin, III Order, founder; 29 – Bl. Roger of Todi, religious, I Order; 30 – St. Hyacinth of Mariscotti, virgin, III Order; 31 – St. John Bosco, priest, III Order, founder

Contacting Council

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St. Margaret of Cortona Regional Council

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Our fraternity website:

<https://dcsfo.org/>

December Reflection

Michele Dunne, OFS

In December 1224, about two weeks before Christmas, St. Francis contacted a friend and asked for help: "If you want us to celebrate the present fast of our Lord at Greccio, go with haste and diligently prepare what I tell you. For I wish to do something that will recall to memory the little Child who was born in Bethlehem and set before our bodily eyes in some way the inconveniences of his infant needs, how he lay in a manger, how, with an ox and an ass standing by, he lay upon the hay where he had been placed."

As Francis' first biographer, Thomas of Celano, recounts the story, "The manger was prepared, the hay had been brought, the ox and ass were led in. There simplicity was honored, poverty was exalted, humility was commended, and Greccio was made, as it were, a new Bethlehem. The night was lighted up like the day, and it delighted men and beasts. The people came and were filled with new joy over the new mystery. The woods rang with the voices of the crowd and the rocks made answer to their jubilation. The brothers sang, paying their debt of praise to the lord, and the whole night resounded with their rejoicing...for the Child Jesus had been forgotten in the hearts of many; but, by the working of his grace, he was brought to life again through his servant St. Francis and stamped upon their fervent memory."

Next year will be the 800th anniversary of the living nativity at Greccio, where St. Francis instituted the custom of nativity scenes at Christmas that we still observe today. Yet in some ways, those pretty nativity scenes we cherish--- beautifully garbed figures, trimmed with gold, with picturesque angels hovering overhead---have much in common with the pre-Greccio idea of Jesus, which focused on his divinity more than his humanity. Francis wanted to evoke the tangible aspects of the Incarnation-- the cold, the dirt, the smells, the bodily suffering into which Jesus was born--in order to open our eyes to God's passionate desire to be with us.

As we move through Advent towards Christmas, my prayer for myself and for you, my dear sisters and brothers, is that God will once again awaken us to His passionate love and increase our capacity to share that love with everyone we meet. As it was at Greccio--where "simplicity was honored, poverty was exalted, humility was commended" and all became "a new Bethlehem"—so may it be in our lives.

Source: Thomas of Celano, *The Life of Saint Francis* (1229)

