



- the Chimes -

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P.O. BOX 29506
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20017
JANUARY 2023 Vol. LXVII, No. 1
January 15, 2023

WE WILL MEET IN PERSON ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 15, 1:00 PM AT THE FRANCISCAN MONASTERY FOR LUNCH AND ON ZOOM AT 1:30.

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

- To join by computer, use this link:
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89804989034?pwd=RDBiK0c2N29Hak5qV2tCSU0vS3UwZz09>
Meeting ID: 898 0498 9034 Passcode: 601489
- To join by phone, call 301-715-8592 Meeting ID 898 0498 9034

Fraternity Meeting Agenda: Sunday, January 15, 2023, 1:00 pm

- Lunch and social 1:00-1:30 pm
- Opening prayer 1:30 pm
- News and announcements
- Ongoing formation: *Encountering Jesus*, Ch 3, "The Nativity: Bethlehem"
Brief presentation by John Whipple, OFS, followed by sharing
- Evening Prayer and Closing

Inquirer Information Session on Jan 15 – On Jan 15 at 12 noon, our fraternity will hold an information session for all who are interested in the Secular Franciscan Order. Following that session, participants will be invited to join for lunch and our regular fraternity meeting. Please make every effort to attend and welcome our visitors warmly! Also, please invite anyone you know who is interested.

Preparing for our meeting – Please read Ch 3 of *Encountering Jesus* and come ready to discuss. Please bring food or drink to share, bearing in mind we will have extra guests.

Mark your calendar

- Fraternity 2023 meeting dates: Sun 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

Call for Spiritual Assistants- Our regional fraternity is asking for OFS volunteers to be trained to be spiritual assistants, as many fraternities are without. Qualifications include being professed for at least 5 years, a Catholic in good standing, recommended by the fraternity, and having internet connectivity for Zoom meetings. If interested, please contact Regional Spiritual Assistant Anne Mulqueen anne_mulqueen@mac.com .

Fraternity Finances – December deposits were \$432.00, and expenditures were \$2000.00. Expenditures included our Christmas donations for 2022 to: 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 Feb 2023: *For parishes:* We pray that parishes, placing communion at the center, may increasingly become communities of faith, fraternity and welcome towards those most in need.

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

Franciscan Feasts and Memorials, February - 1 – St. Verdiana, virgin, III Order, Bl. Andrew of Segni, religious, I Order; 4 – St. Joseph of Leonessa, priest, I Order; 6 – Sts. Peter Baptist, priest, Paul Miki and companions, martyrs (Martin of the Ascension, Francis Blanco, priests; Philip of Jesus, cleric; Francis of St. Michael, Gonsalvo Garcia, religious; seventeen tertiaries), I and III Order; 7 – St. Colette of Corbie, virgin, II Order; 8 – St. Giles Mary of St. Joseph, religious, I Order; 15 – Transfer of the Body of St. Anthony of Padua; 17 – Bl. Luke Belludi, religious, I Order; 19 – St. Conrad of Piacenza, hermit, III Order; 27 – Bl. Sebastian of Aparicio, religious, I Order

Contacting Council

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Our fraternity website:

<https://dcsfo.org/>



January Reflection

Michele Dunne, OFS

This Christmas season was a complicated one. The wondrous birth of our savior Jesus Christ and the desire to resume full celebrations were juxtaposed with holiday plans disrupted by blizzards, brutal cold that endangered the most vulnerable, COVID and other infections that left many sitting alone at home. This year I heard from or about many families struggling with cancer diagnoses, substance abuse, or other difficult problems related to caring for ageing family members or coping with broken relationships. Truly it was a humbling reminder of the fragility of our human condition—which St. Francis reminded us at Greccio that God humbled Himself to share.

And yet---some things warmed my heart and lifted my spirits this Christmas. One of them was you, my dear Franciscan sisters and brothers! Your goodness and generosity amazed me. When our Council met in late November to discuss how much of our resources we should give away at Christmas, all the members readily agreed—let's give it all away, keeping only a small prudent reserve to cover our expenses in the next few months. That is what we did, giving far more than we have ever given before. And, God be praised, as soon as those checks went out, in came more contributions from several of our members, replenishing our resources beyond what we had expected.

You also touched my heart at our Advent service activity on December 17. When I looked around the room and saw many tables of our members and those from St. Francis fraternity, full of fellowship and ready to work to make warm scarves for our homeless neighbors, my eyes filled with tears of happiness.



The work was done in no time and in good cheer, and soon there were more than 40 beautiful scarves. My husband and I gave them away to the homeless community at McPherson Square on December 21, and just by luck (Holy Spirit?) someone else had donated a large box of warm gloves to be given the same night. One man, who looked bone-tired and downhearted, picked out a scarf and gloves for himself and was about to walk away when he turned back, looked me in the eye, and said, "Thank you, life saver." These are thanks I pass to all of you.

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What I experienced during that moment of communion at McPherson Square reminded me of a discussion during a prayer group just a few days before. We had been talking about what Christmas meant to us, and I thought that for me it was contained in one word: Emmanuel, which in Hebrew means precisely “God-with-us.” Jesus is God-with-us, and I see Him in more and more places—in your bright faces on December 17 and in the weary eyes of the man on December 21. Whatever is going on in our lives, our country, our world, we can hold on to this: in 2023 as ever, we have God with us.