



# - the Chimes -

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

P.O. BOX 29506  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20017  
SEPTEMBER 2023 Vol. LXVII, No. 9  
September 17, 2023

**WE WILL MEET ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 12 NOON – 4:00 PM AT THE FRANCISCAN MONASTERY IN THE ST. FRANCIS ROOM. THIS MEETING WILL BE IN PERSON ONLY.**

## **Fraternity Retreat Agenda: Sunday, September 17, 12 noon – 4:00 pm**

- Lunch and Social: 12-1:00 pm
- Opening prayer 1:00 pm
- Film, "The Letter," 1:00-2:30 pm
- Discussion 2:30-3:30 pm
- Evening Prayer and Closing

**Our Joint Fraternity Retreat is Here!** In place of our September meeting, we will hold a half-day retreat jointly with St. Mary of the Angels Fraternity (Rockville) at the Franciscan Monastery on **Sun. Sept. 17, 12 noon-4:00 pm**. The meeting will be held in the St. Francis Room (formerly the gift shop), across the hallway from our normal meeting room. We will have a hot lunch catered by the Olive Garden (paid for by the fraternity), watch the Vatican-sponsored film on Laudato Si', "The Letter," and have a group discussion facilitated by Sr. Louise Lears, a Sister of Charity of Cincinnati. **Please make every effort to attend this special event and meet brothers and sisters from another fraternity.**

Our fraternity will resume our normal meeting time and format, including Zoom, on Sunday, October 15.

## **Feast of the Transitus, Tues Oct 3**

Please mark your calendar for the Feast of the Transitus of St. Francis at the Monastery on Tuesday October 3 at 7 pm. Let's plan to meet up and sit together for this wonderful, distinctively Franciscan celebration of the passing of our founder.

**Member seeking a ride to meetings.** Our sister, Adele Lewis, has moved to The Landing of Silver Spring, 13908 New Hampshire Ave, Silver Spring. She would like to resume attending meetings in September and would be grateful for any member who can give her a ride. Please call Adele at 239-839-5489 to arrange. Thank you!

**Please pray for our members:** Amy Bilyeau, Maria Louisa Correa and family, Sarah Faizi and friend Ron Harner, Fr. Jim Gardiner, Nancy McCleary, Carol Petro and family, Bill Richardson, Helen Walls, John Whipple, Donna Wilkes.

### **Contacting Council**

Minister	Michele Dunne	202-412-1210	<a href="mailto:micheledunne@gmail.com">micheledunne@gmail.com</a>
Vice Minister	Joseph Gigliotti	202-251-7336	<a href="mailto:gigliottilaw@gmail.com">gigliottilaw@gmail.com</a>
Secretary	vacant		
Treasurer	Francoise Bidiki	443-518-6367	<a href="mailto:kimbekete@gmail.com">kimbekete@gmail.com</a>
Formation Dir	Mary Gigliotti	202-251-7660	<a href="mailto:mmamsop@aol.com">mmamsop@aol.com</a>
Spiritual Asst	Fr. Jim Gardiner	202-526-6800 x374	<a href="mailto:jgardiner@atonementfriars.org">jgardiner@atonementfriars.org</a>
Councilor	Bill Richardson	301-848-7390	<a href="mailto:richardson4645@yahoo.com">richardson4645@yahoo.com</a>

### **St. Margaret of Cortona Regional Council**

Bob Longo (Minister)	<a href="mailto:blongosfo@gmail.com">blongosfo@gmail.com</a>
Janice Benton (DC Metro Area Councilor)	<a href="mailto:jbentonsfo@gmail.com">jbentonsfo@gmail.com</a>

### **National Fraternity**

Jane DeRose-Bamman (Minister)	<a href="mailto:ofsusaminister@gmail.com">ofsusaminister@gmail.com</a>
-------------------------------	--

**Our fraternity website:**

<https://dcsfo.org/>

## **September Reflection**

Michele Dunne, OFS

Welcome to the Season of Creation, which began on September 1 and ends on the feast of St. Francis, October 4. This is a special season, celebrated annually since 2015, to renew our relationship with our Creator and with all of creation. I am so glad that our fraternity will celebrate in a special way with our September 17 film viewing and retreat, and I hope you are looking forward to the event as much as I am.

This year's theme for the Season of Creation, explained in Pope Francis' annual [message](#), is "let justice and peace flow," inspired by the words of the prophet Amos: "Let justice flow on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream" (5:24). As Pope Francis explains, "When we 'seek first the kingdom of God' (Mt 6:33), maintaining a right relationship with God, humanity and nature, then justice and peace can flow like a never-failing stream of pure water, nourishing humanity and all creatures."

When I think of God's incredible, life-giving love and how it is manifested all around us, I am reminded of the words of Jesus, when he explained that we must be life-giving and life-preserving to all, including those we see as enemies, "that you may be children of your heavenly Father, for He makes His sun rise on the bad and the good, and causes rain to fall on the just and the unjust" (Mt 5:45). That is such a beautiful image: God embracing all of us with His love in such tangible ways—sunshine, moonlight, rain, wind. And it is good for me to remember that God's love is given freely to all people and to all of creation.

The Season of Creation is a good time to stop and savor that tangible love of God, and to ask myself what kind of return I make for that love. Do I live as gently as I can on this beautiful planet created by God, or do I run roughshod over it? As Pope Francis concludes his message, “In this Season of Creation, as followers of Christ on our shared synodal journey, let us live, work and pray that our common home will teem with life once again. May the Holy Spirit once more hover over the waters and guide our efforts to ‘renew the face of the earth’” (cf. Ps 104:30).



## A Mighty River

Amos 5: 24