



- the Chimes -

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P.O. BOX 29506
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20017
OCTOBER 2023 Vol. LXVII, No. 10
October 15, 2023

WE WILL MEET ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1-3 PM AT THE FRANCISCAN MONASTERY IN THE ST BONAVENTURE ROOM.

Infirm members are invited to join by Zoom:

Join by computer via this link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85204889768?pwd=8f1Oh2WbYjgLVSY5YSIEhBcf7bUKJO.1>

Meeting ID: 852 0488 9768 Passcode: 095033

Join by telephone: 301-715-8592 Meeting ID: 852 0488 9768

Fraternity Meeting Agenda: Sunday, October 15, 1-3 pm

- Lunch and Social: 1 pm (please bring food or drink to share)
- Opening prayer 1:30 pm
- Updates and news of members
- Ongoing formation
- Evening Prayer and Closing

Feast of the Transitus, Tues Oct 3, 7 pm

Please mark your calendar for the Feast of the Transitus of St. Francis (his passing into eternal life) 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.

Mass to celebrate new Franciscan Cardinal, Sun Oct 15, 11 am

Please attend a special mass of thanksgiving at the Franciscan Monastery before our monthly meeting on Sun Oct 15 at 11 am celebrated by Cardinal Pierbattista Pizzaballa OFM, who became a Cardinal on Sep 30. Cardinal Pizzaballa is the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem and was the Franciscan Custos of the Holy Land for many years before that.

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: Maria Louisa Correa and family, Sarah Faizi and friend Ron Harner, Jean Fleurival, Fr. Jim Gardiner, Nancy McCleary, Bill Richardson, Helen Walls, John Whipple, Soledad Wong.

Contacting Council

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Our fraternity website:

<https://dcsfo.org/>

October Reflection

Michele Dunne, OFS

Sisters and brothers, I share with you here a reflection I submitted to the “Franciscan Month” project by the Franciscan Friars of Brooklyn NY:

My call to the Franciscan life in 2013 was completely unexpected, and since then it has been one surprise after another. In fact, Franciscanism does more than surprise me; it often turns my typical and conventional thinking on its head. The more I dive into the example and teachings of St. Francis and Clare, the more such challenges—sometimes unsettling, often delightful—I find.

Last year during Advent I spent some time each day reading St. Francis’ Admonitions, a set of 28 teachings from the saint collected by the early Franciscan movement. This passage stopped me in my tracks:

Consider, O human being, in what great excellence the Lord God has placed you, for He created and formed you to the image of His beloved Son according to the body and to His likeness according to the Spirit. And all creatures under heaven serve, know, and obey their Creator, each according to its own nature, better than you. (St. Francis of Assisi, Admonitions V)

The first part of this Admonition is beautiful and reassuring: God has honored me as a human being by giving me a spirit that is like His own and a body that has much in common with that of Jesus Christ (any two human beings [share](#) 99.6% of their DNA!).

The second part, however, is surprising: all other creatures serve, know, and obey God better than I do. That's right: the cat who settles on my lap during my morning prayer time, giving herself an elaborate bath, is serving God better than I am. This idea turns conventional thinking upside down: other creatures are not lower than humans; in some ways they are higher. And why? Because they behave "each according to its own nature." Just by being themselves, doing what God created them to do, other creatures are perfectly in tune with God's will. As a human being, on the other hand, too often I betray my true self—the self that shares in God's divine nature and the physical body of Christ—to go off in directions not in harmony with God's will.

Thank you, St. Francis, for this reminder, which is at once startling, humbling, and encouraging---so very Franciscan.

