



- the Chimes -

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P.O. BOX 29506
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20017
NOVEMBER 2023 Vol. LXVII, No. 11
November 19, 2023

WE WILL MEET ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1:00-3:00 PM AT THE FRANCISCAN MONASTERY IN THE ST BONAVENTURE ROOM.

Infirm members are invited to join by Zoom:

Join by computer:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81260411008?pwd=K32GBbdqiBmGg1zbapi1YkhlCx7aP7.1> Meeting ID: 812 6041 1008 Passcode: 885795

Phone: 301-715-8592 Meeting ID: 812 6041

Fraternity Meeting Agenda: Sunday, November 19, 1:00-3:00 pm

- Lunch and Social: 1:00 pm (please bring food or drink to share)
- Opening prayer 1:30 pm
- Updates and news of members
- Ongoing formation
- Annual Renewal of Profession
- Office of the Dead and Closing

Preparing for our meeting Please review prayerfully the annual Renewal of Profession, which we will make at our November meeting, and reflect on what your Franciscan profession means to you. You may find the renewal prayer here (pp 15-16): https://secularfranciscansusa.org/wp-content/uploads/Ritual_of_the_Secular_Franciscan_Order.pdf

Save the date: Advent Day of Reflection: Saturday, December 9, 9:30 am-1:30 pm

We will have a special event in December in place of our monthly meeting: a joint event with the St. Anthony of Nagasaki fraternity. Please make note of the date and time, which is different from our usual, but the place will be at the Franciscan Monastery, St. Francis Room (across the hall from our usual room). The theme of the day will be "From Greccio to Bethlehem: An Advent Day of Reflection."

We will have a prayerful reflection on St. Francis' institution of the custom of Christmas creches and what it means to us today, followed by a presentation on current conditions in Bethlehem and a service opportunity related to the Holy Family Hospital in

Bethlehem. Lunch will be included. You will receive more details soon. If you will not be at our November meeting but want to attend the December event, please reach out to Michele by Nov. 20 so we can have an accurate count.

Online Greccio event. Please join the National Fraternity for an online event celebrating the 800th anniversary of Greccio, led by Sr Maryann Dosen, on Sun Nov 19. More details and registration here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwvdOiorDgiGNV6JHtwlN9396-2uXXT7xZd>

Prayer commitment: petitioning Servant of God Julia Greeley. At our September meeting, the fraternity members agreed to support the campaign for canonization of our Secular Franciscan sister Julia Greeley, a formerly enslaved woman who died in 1918 after a life of exemplary service to the poor. We will do that by petitioning Julia daily to intercede for a cure for leukemia for our brother John Whipple. Please find lots of information about Julia and the cause for her canonization here: <https://juliagreeley.org/>.

Please pray for our members: Maria Louisa Correa and family, Sarah Faizi and friend Ron Harner, Nancy McCleary, Carol Petro and family, Helen Walls, John Whipple, Donna Wilkes, Soledad Wong. **Please pray particularly for our Spiritual Assistant Fr. Jim Gardiner, who remains in hospital.**

Contacting Council

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Our fraternity website:

<https://dcsfo.org/>

November Reflection

Michele Dunne, OFS

On November 3, the day after the Feast of All Souls, several fraternity members and I attended the funeral service of our dear brother Bill Richardson at St. Mary of the Assumption Church in Upper Marlboro MD. It was a beautiful mass, concelebrated by eight priests including from the Archdiocese for the Military where Bill worked as well as the Josephites, with whom he lived.

In the days since Bill passed, several fraternity members have called or emailed to share remembrances. He was such a dedicated member of our company for many years. Our sister Susan Zell, who shared the hospitality ministry with Bill, wrote:

“Bill was ‘hospitality,’ and always inviting the stranger. Sometimes, early, when it was just Bill and myself, random people would be in the hallways looking all around. Bill would always engage them in a friendly way and offer them a cup of coffee. And again and again, Bill always took such care to arrange our ‘feast’ to look the most pleasing, and then Bill always was the last to fix his plate.”

Susan’s remembrance very much evoked who Bill was, in my experience: kind, good-humored, humble, consistent, and practical. Bill served on our fraternity’s Council for many years, and I was always impressed by how his input into Council decisions was wise, practical, and well-intentioned. He was also quite funny, often in a self-deprecating way. There was not a selfish, angry, or mean bone in Bill’s body. Despite his many health challenges in recent years, Bill showed up for our fraternity as often as he could, always with a smile and a kind word of appreciation.

Our fraternity is particularly blessed to have spent Bill’s last afternoon with him. Bill participated fully in our October 15 gathering—first a Council meeting at 12 noon, then lunch at 1:00 and our meeting at 1:30. He drove himself home after our meeting ended at 3:00. Apparently, Sister Death came to collect him at some point before 4:30 pm. And I wonder if Bill knew that was imminent. During our Council meeting, Bill mentioned a healing ministry that someone had told him about. I asked him whether he would like to participate in a healing service, saying that I or one of the other Council members would be happy to go with him. He said quietly, “No, I don’t think so.”

We will all miss Bill and we will pray the Office of the Dead for him and others we have lost at our November meeting. I’m sure our meetings will feel a bit empty without him for a while. But let’s remember what Bill taught us about hospitality, generosity, good humor, and humility, and let’s honor his memory by living all those virtues in our interactions with each other and with others. I hope that will bring a smile to our dear brother, who, as Susan wrote in her email, may be “in the company of the saints now.”

