



- the Chimes -

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

P.O. BOX 29506
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20017
MARCH 2024 Vol. LXVIII, No. 3
March 1, 2024

WE WILL MEET ON SUNDAY, MARCH 17, 1:00 PM FOR LUNCH, 1:30 PM MEETING IN THE ST BONAVENTURE ROOM.

Meeting Agenda: Sunday, March 17, 1:00-3:00 pm

- 1:00 - Social and Lunch (please bring something to share)
- 1:30 - Opening Prayer
- Announcements and News of Members
- Ongoing Formation
- Evening Prayer and Closing

Zoom info for our infirm members:

Join by computer:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85476578723?pwd=R9Vpko8Xb44QULDjOKL5Bx6bqS6PgG.1>

Meeting ID: 854 7657 8723 Passcode: 849372

Phone: 301 715 8592 Meeting ID: 854 7657 8723

Fair Share is now due. This is a reminder that each member must pay their Fair Share in the amount of \$40 for each active member and \$20 for each active excused member each year. Please pay your Fair Share for 2024 by check (made out to Mt St Sepulchre Fraternity, with Fair Share in the memo line) or cash by April 30 at the latest. The fraternity is obligated to pay for all members, whether the members pay or not.

Reminder: Register for Chapter of Mats. Register before April 30 to get the early bird rates for our regional Chapter of Mats, to be held Sept 6-8 at the Clagett Center in Adamstown MD. Prices range from \$185-265 for the weekend depending on which accommodation you select. Scholarship funds are available as well as carpooling, so please don't let financial or transportation constraints keep you from participating. Information and registration links here: <https://saintmargaretofcortona.org/upcoming-events/>

Update on Fr. Gardiner. Our spiritual assistant Fr. Gardiner remains in Carroll Manor (behind Providence Hospital in NE DC). Please pray for him daily, call, and visit if you can. He is starting to feel a bit better and enjoys visitors! Carroll Manor permits visitors 9 am-9 pm daily and there is an easy check-in system by kiosk at the entrance as well as easy parking.

Please pray for our members: Maria Louisa Correa and family, Sarah Faizi's friend Ron Harner, Fr. Jim Gardiner, Mary Gigliotti and her brother Thomas Mitchell, Nancy McCleary, Ouida Morrison, John Whipple and his sister Cathy, Donna Wilkes and her brother.

Contacting Council

Minister	Michele Dunne	202-412-1210	micheledunne@gmail.com
Vice Minister	Joseph Gigliotti	202-251-7336	gigliottilaw@gmail.com
Secretary	vacant		
Treasurer	Francoise Bidiki	443-518-6367	kimbekele@gmail.com
Formation Dir	Mary Gigliotti	202-251-7660	mmamsop@aol.com
Spiritual Asst	Fr. Jim Gardiner	763-516-1439	jgardiner@atonementfriars.org

St. Margaret of Cortona Regional Council

Bob Longo (Minister)	blongosfo@gmail.com
Janice Benton (DC Metro Area Councilor)	jbentonsfo@gmail.com

National Fraternity

Jane DeRose-Bamman (Minister)	ofsusaminister@gmail.com
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Our fraternity website:

<https://dcsfo.org/>

March Reflection

Michele Dunne, OFS

One of the wonderful things about being a Secular Franciscan is that we do not walk this path alone. Not only do we have brothers and sisters in our fraternity, as well as in other fraternities in our region, but we have leadership teams at the national and international level who are always working to enrich our spiritual lives and fellowship. To mention just one of them, we have a national formation team that sends out a weekly email—Formation Friday—to all ministers and formation directors. These messages include beautiful short teachings on many topics that can be used as part of ongoing formation by fraternities or by individual members.

Recently, the national formation team sent out a message about the basics of Catholic Social Teaching, which some have called the “best kept secret” of the Catholic Church. How do these principles relate to us as Franciscans? Our national formators cited this from St. Francis:

In the *Legend of the Three Companions* we read: He [Francis] used to tell them: "As you announce peace with your mouth, make sure that greater peace is in your hearts. Let no one be provoked to anger or scandal through you, but may everyone be drawn to peace, kindness, and harmony through your gentleness. For we have been called to this: to heal the wounded, bind up the broken, and recall the erring. In fact, many who seem to us to be members of the devil will yet be disciples of Christ."

Many volumes have been written on Catholic Social Teaching, which has had a profound effect on Christian ethics well beyond the Catholic Church, but it can be summarized as having seven main themes:

- Protect life and dignity of the human person
- Participate in family and community
- Protect human rights and meet human responsibilities
- Put first the needs of the poor and vulnerable
- Preserve the dignity of work and rights of workers
- Be in solidarity with all people; we are our brothers' and sisters' keepers
- Protect the planet; live in kinship with all of creation

The formation teaching goes on to relate each of the themes of Catholic Social Teaching to our Secular Franciscan Rule of Life. To give one example, the theme of "put first the needs of the poor and vulnerable" is related to Article 13 ("Accept all people as a gift of the Lord. Place ourselves on an equal basis with the lowly") and Article 15 ("Be in the forefront of promoting justice") of our Rule.

We are so lucky to have a beautiful Franciscan family, within our larger Catholic family, who are always there to remind, encourage, and care for us. This Lent, take some time to look at the rich resources provided to us on Formation Fridays. They are all posted on a blog at this link: <https://jdpofs.org/resources/formation-fri/>

