



- the Chimes -

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P.O. BOX 29506
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20017
JUNE 2024 Vol. LXVIII, No. 6
June 1, 2024

WE WILL MEET ON SUNDAY, JUNE 16, 1:00 PM FOR LUNCH, 1:30 PM MEETING IN THE ST BONAVENTURE ROOM.

Meeting Agenda: Sunday, June 16, 1:00-3:00 pm

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

Zoom info for our infirm members:

Join by computer:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89365829126?pwd=KPR9upQAQ6rfyAHNLLWLFbacFJOaMg.1>

Meeting ID: 893 6582 9126 Passcode: 276022

Telephone: 301 715 8592

Fraternity status update: Following our last meeting, our Minister has engaged with the Regional Fraternity regarding the fact that we do not have a slate for elections in June. Regional Minister Gary Burton has asked the current fraternity Council to extend their time in office for three months—through September—while deactivation is considered. There will be a fraternal and pastoral visitation from the region at some point during the next few months; stay tuned for updates. We will discuss further at our June meeting.

Please pray for our members: Amy Bilyeau, Maria Louisa Correa and family, Sarah Faizi's friend Ron Harner, Fr. Jim Gardiner, Mary Gigliotti and family, Nancy McCleary, Connie Ramseth's brother, John Whipple, Donna Wilkes and her brother Hollis.

Contacting Council

Minister Michele Dunne 202-412-1210

micheleddunne@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

Gary Burton (Minister)	garyjburton@outlook.com
Mary Badjo (Counselor)	mftchida@yahoo.com

National Fraternity

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

<https://dcsfo.org/>

June Reflection: In Life-Giving Union

Michele Dunne, OFS

“The Franciscan family, as one among many spiritual families raised up by the Holy Spirit in the Church, unites all members of the people of God—laity, religious, and priests—who recognize that they are called to follow Christ in the footsteps of Saint Francis of Assisi. In various ways and forms but in life-giving union with each other, they intend to make present the charism of their common Seraphic Father in the life and mission of the Church.” (The Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order, Article 1)

Dear sisters and brothers, this is a challenging time for us as a fraternity. After a process of discernment and discussion since January, it has become clear that there are not enough members who are able to take on Council responsibilities for the coming three years. Many fraternities are facing similar situations.

Rereading our Rule as I consider what comes next—likely deactivation and transfer of our members to another fraternity—I am struck by a phrase in Article 1: “in various ways and forms but in life-giving union with each other, they intend to make present the charism of their common Seraphic Father.” My vocation and yours is not just to belong to a certain fraternity. In fact, whatever “various ways and forms” Franciscans are organized into, what is important is that we continue to be “in life-giving union” with each other and focus on our intention “to make present the charism” of our common father, St. Francis, within the life and mission of the Church.

As we move forward together in this journey toward new “ways and forms” of living out our vocation as Secular Franciscans, most likely as members of a new fraternity, let’s remember that it is God’s will for us to continue to be in **life-giving union**. We will still be in union with each other but also with the members of a new fraternity, our whole Order, and all Franciscans. And the point of that union is not to be an exclusive Franciscan club but to bring the gifts of our Franciscan charism to the whole Church and the whole world. May God continue to show us what is ours to do in this new phase of our lives together!