



- *the Chimes* -

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P.O. BOX 90366

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SEP Vol. LXIII, No. 9

September 15, 2019

Schedule

- 8-10am Breakfast Ministry – Cap College
9:00am Council meeting – Sacred Heart Room
10:30am Candidate Session (2018&2019) – Sacred Heart Room downstairs
11:15am Franciscan Crown Rosary in St. Bonaventure Room
12:00pm Mass in Monastery church
1:00pm Fraternity Social Gathering – St. Bonaventure Room – downstairs in the Friary. Bring your own lunch, light refreshments will be provided.
1:30pm Fraternity Meeting – St. Bonaventure Room
3:00pm Council meeting (if needed)

Fraternity Meeting Agenda

- Opening prayer
- News of members, housekeeping
- Short Teaching – Conversion
- Discussion of the Rule – Article 7
- Closing Evening prayer. If you have the book “Shorter Christian Prayer”, please bring it with you.

DON'T FORGET YOUR BINDERS!

Reminder: If you are unable to attend the fraternity meetings for more than one month, please notify one of the Council members. The criteria for Active-excused and Lapsed member status is explained in the Fraternity guidelines. Thank you.

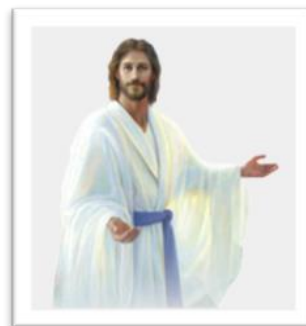
◆ Theme: **WHO AM I?** ◆

Bible Quote of the Month

...God, who is rich in mercy, because of the great love he had for us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, brought us to life with Christ (by grace you have been saved), raised us up with him, and seated us with him in the heavens in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not from you; it is the gift of God; it is not from works, so no one may boast. For we are his handiwork, created in Christ Jesus for the good works that God has prepared in advance, that we should live in them. (*Eph 2:4-10*)

Prayer of the Month

Heavenly Father, we humbly seek your grace, that through it we may overcome our weakness and turn our hearts towards you, so that we may more fully follow you and be with you and



your Son, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit in the heavenly home you have prepared for us. This we ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

Contact Information

Fraternity Council

Please call before 9pm.



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ADMONITION OF ST. FRANCIS

16. On cleanliness of heart ¹

“Blessed (are) the clean of heart, since they themselves shall see God” (Mt 5:8). Truly are they clean in heart who despise earthly things, seek heavenly ones and do not ever withdraw from adoring and beholding Our Lord, living and true, with a clean heart and soul.

Fraternity Finances

\$ Last month we received \$318 in donations and disbursed \$253.72 in expenses, of which \$225 were donations. This does not include undeposited checks.

¹ *The Writings of St. Francis of Assisi*, tr. by Paschal Robinson (1905), accessed September 9, 2017, URL <http://www.sacred-texts.com/chr/wosf/wosf03.htm>.



The Rule

Chapter Two, Article 7 of The Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order.

United by their vocation as brothers and sisters of penance, and motivated by the dynamic power of the gospel, let them conform their thoughts and deeds to those of Christ by means of that radical interior change which the gospel itself calls conversion. Human frailty makes it necessary that this conversion be carried out daily.

On this road to renewal the sacrament of reconciliation is the privileged sign of the Father's mercy and the source of grace.

The Information Corner – Pope Quote



“Whoever draws near to God will not stumble, but strives ahead: beginning anew, trying again, rebuilding.” “This is the season to reflect on our lifestyles and to undertake prophetic actions.”²

Papal Intention for the Month

Prayer Intention – **The Protection of the Oceans.** That politicians, scientists and economists work together to protect the world's seas and oceans.³

Support the Knights

The Knights of Mount St. Sepulchre are once more having a raffle ticket fundraiser. Tickets are \$10 each. The drawing will be on September 28; you need not be present to win. Contact Larry Bleau (301-474-1338) for more info. Tickets will be sold before and after the fraternity meeting.



² Aug 22 and Sep 1, 2019. URL <http://twitter.com/pontifex>

³ Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network. Accessed Aug 23, 2019, URL <http://popesprayerusa.net/popese-intentions/>

The Information Corner

Sep 17th – Feast of the Stigmata⁴

Two years before the great Saint Francis of Assisi died, and when he was forty-two years old — one year after he had built the first crib in honor of Our Lord — he went off to a lonely mountain called Mount La Verna, to prepare



himself by forty days of fasting and prayer for the feast of Saint Michael, whose feast day is September 29. On the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross on September 14, Saint Francis received in his hands, feet and side the Sacred Wounds from Our Lord's own body. Never was a saint more beautifully loved by Jesus than Saint Francis of Assisi. The wounds Jesus gave him stayed in his hands, feet and side, and continually bled for two more years, until he died in 1226. The day on which Saint Francis received the Five Wounds of Our Lord was September 14, but so that this beautiful event might have a feast day for itself, the Stigmata of Saint Francis are commemorated on September 17.

⁴ Source: Catholicism.org, Sep 17, 2000. Accessed Sep 2, 2019, URL <https://catholicism.org/the-stigmata-of-saint-francis-of-assisii-1224.html>

A Stitch in Chimes

Here's a look at our fraternity 20 years ago:

In September of 1999 the fraternity discussed article 10 of our Rule, we reminded members of the upcoming retreat, informed them about the Fair Share amounts suggested by the National Fraternity, shared letters written to the fraternity by remote members, and Fr. Kevin wrote a reflection on the gift of the stigmata given to St. Francis.



News of our Family



Helen Walls, whom Larry visited last month, is doing well and says hello to all the members; she keeps you in her prayers. Please keep her in yours.

Fraternal Visitation

This month we will have both a Fraternal and Pastoral Visitation. Please give a warm welcome to our Visitors: Metro DC Area Regional Councillor **Mary Cate Bibro, OFS**, and our Region's Spiritual Assistant, **Fr. Charley Miller, OFM**. If you want to share any comments or observations, you may call or email Mary Cate (see p2 for contact info), speak with her after the meeting, or write to her at 15401 Bassett Ln. #2C, Silver Spring, MD 20906.

October Birthdays

October 6 – Margaret Murphy; 17 – Cornelia Hart; 18 – Constance (Connie) Ramseth; and 22 – Gerda Biglin.

Feastdays of Franciscan Friars

Keep in your prayers our very own Spiritual Assistant, Friar James Gardiner, whose birthday is September 21.

September Reflection

By Larry Bleau, OFS

In the recent movie *Overcomer*, one of the main characters is asked, “Who are you?” He responds that he is a basketball coach, a history teacher, a husband, a father. If all these are taken away (and here the fate of Job comes to mind), *then* who are you? He finally says he is a Christian. He is then asked why God was only fifth on the list, and not mentioned first.

Two things come to mind at this point: The “who” as distinct from the “what”, the latter being attributes of our lives but not of its essence; and the manner in which the question was asked, as though Jesus was posing a question to his examiners, to get them to think more clearly.

Without giving anything away, I can say the man examines his life in a new way.

This examination, reflection, discernment about one’s life – where we are weak, where we have failed, how we can improve – and our resolve to change, to come closer to what God has called us to be – the Church calls conversion. It is something every Christian is called to do. Franciscans, especially, are called to daily conversion, to take up our cross – whatever it may be that day – each day and follow our Lord. That we Secular Franciscan are called to do so in a special way is made clear by our Rule.

In a similar way, we may be asked who we are, on our deepest level. How would we respond? Loving mother or father? Faithful employee? Reflecting upon this scene in the movie, we hope we would all say a follower of Christ Jesus, imitating him in the manner of our seraphic father, St. Francis, who sought nothing more than to be united to our Lord.



Transitus Ceremony, Oct 3

The Transitus ceremony celebrates the passing of St. Francis from this world to his heavenly reward. You are invited to join the friars for this very special ceremony at the Monastery on Thursday, October 3, at 7pm.



Please Pray For Our Sick

Gerda Biglin; Vilma Camposano; Polly Howard; Amy Bilyeau; Rosemary Bordley and her family; Mary Anne Corr and her niece, Patricia Corr; Maria Louisa Correa; Lourdes Corso and her family; John Hewitt; Nancy McCleary; Margaret Murphy and her husband Jim; Fritz Nicholas and his family; Carol Petro; Cecilia Thieman and her family; Helen Walls; John and Deneen Whipple; and Donna Wilkes and her family.

Franciscan Feastdays and Memorials

October 3 – St. John of Dukla, priest, I Order; 4 – Our Holy Father Francis, deacon, Founder of the Three Orders; 5 – St. Anna Schäffer, OFS (on ciofs website, she died on Oct 5th); 6 – St. Mary Frances of the Five Wounds, virgin, III Order; 10 – St. Daniel, priest, and companions, martyrs [Angelus, Samuel, Donulus, Leo, Hugolinus and Nicholas], I Order; Bl. Mother Mary Angela Truszkowska, III Order; 11 – Bl. John XIII, pope, III Order; 12 – St. Seraphin of Montegrano, religious, I Order; 13 – Bl. Honorat Kozminski, priest, I Order, founder; 16 – The Servant of the Lord—James of the Rosary; 20 – Bl. James of Strepas, bishop, I Order; Bl. Contardo Ferrini, III Order; 21 – Bl. Josephine Leroux, virgin, martyr, II Order; 22 – St. Peter of Alcantara, priest, I Order; 23 – St. John of Capestrano, priest, I Order; 25 – Saint Antonio de Santa Ana (Frei Galvao); Bl. Maria Jesus Ferragut, virgin, and companions, martyrs of Valencia (Maria Veronica Masiá, Maria Felicity Masiá Ferragut, Isabel Claduch Rovira, Milagros Ortells Gimeno), II Order; 26 – Bl. Bonaventure of Potenza, priest, I Order; 31 – Bl. Angelo of Acri, priest, I Order.