



- the Chimes -

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

P.O. BOX 90366

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20090-0366

JUL Vol. LXIV, No. 7

July 19, 2020

**THIS MONTH WE WILL HAVE A CONFERENCE CALL MEETING ON JUL 19,
THE THIRD SUNDAY OF THE MONTH; SEE SCHEDULE BELOW.**

ON SUNDAY 1:20pm CALL 605-313-5421, CONFERENCE CODE 844330

Schedule – July 19

- 10:30am **Sunday Mass:** Dish or Direct TV subscribers Ch. 50; Comcast Ch. 23 in DC and Montgomery County, Ch. 3 in Prince George's County and Southern Maryland; RCN Ch. 15; Verizon Fios Ch. 3
- 12:00pm Mass livestreamed from the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception: <https://www.nationalshrine.org/mass/>
- 1:00pm Franciscan Crown Rosary at home (optional)
- 1:20pm Fraternity Meeting by telephone conference call; see above.

Fraternity Meeting Agenda – July 19

- Opening prayer (in your binder)
- Prayer for vocations – see (<http://dcsfo.org/prayers/prayer-for-vocations/>)
- News of members
- Racial injustice – A sharing
- Discussion of Article 15 of the Rule – a review in light of our discussion
- Evening prayer If you have the book “Shorter Christian Prayer”, see **p267-272** (Evening Prayer II for Week IV) and **p520** (antiphon for 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time).
- Closing prayer (in your binder).

HAVE YOUR BINDERS HANDY!

◆ Theme: **RACIAL JUSTICE** ◆

Bible Quote of the Month

Therefore, if you bring your gift to the altar, and there recall that your brother has anything against you, leave your gift there at the altar, go first and be reconciled with your brother, and then come and offer your gift. (*Mt 5:23-24*)



Prayer of the Month

Lord, help me to be more aware of the needs and sufferings of my brothers and sisters, and forgive me for the times I have, even unintentionally, hurt them by my words, deeds, or omissions, for they are all made in Your image, and I wish to love them all dearly, just as You do. Amen.

Contact Information

Fraternity Council

Please call before 9pm.



Larry Bleau (Minister) 301-474-1338

minister@dcsfo.org

Michele Dunne (Vice Minister) 202-412-1210

vice-minister@dcsfo.org

Bill Richardson (Secretary) 301-848-7390

secretary@dcsfo.org

Vilma Camposano (Treasurer) 301-557-0271

treasurer@dcsfo.org

Adele Lewis (Formation Dir.) 239-839-5489

formation@dcsfo.org

Fr. Jim Gardiner, S.A. (Spiritual Assistant)

202-526-6800 x374 spiritual@dcsfo.org

Larry Bleau (Chimes Editor) 301-474-1338

chimes@dcsfo.org

Also visit our web site: <http://dcsfo.org/>

St. Margaret of Cortona Regional Council

Bob Longo (Minister) blongosfo@gmail.com

Mary Bibro (DC Metro Area Councilor)

bibromc@mac.com

National Fraternity

Jan Parker (Minister) jansfo@yahoo.com

ADMONITION OF ST. FRANCIS

24. On true love ¹

Blessed (is) the servant, who would love (*dilectio*) his own brother as much, when he is infirm to the point that he cannot repay him, as when he is a healthy (brother), who can repay him.



Blessed (is) the servant, who would so love and fear his own brother, when he is far from him, as when for example he is with him, and would not say anything behind him, which he cannot, with charity, say before him.

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 15 of The Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order. (Same as last month.)

Let them individually and collectively be in the forefront in promoting justice by the testimony of their human lives and their courageous initiatives. Especially in the field of public life, they should make definite choices in harmony with their faith.

The Information Corner – Pope Quote



“Evil never gives peace. It causes frenzy first then leaves bitterness. Instead, God’s voice never promises cheap, easily acquired joy. He invites us to go beyond our ego to

find that true good: peace.” “Christian joy flows from listening to, and accepting, the Good News of the death and resurrection of Jesus. Whoever believes this message knows that life is born of the love of God the Father.”²

Papal Intention for the Month

Prayer Intention – Our Families. We pray that today’s families may be accompanied with love, respect and guidance.³

Fraternity Finances

\$ Last month we deposited \$255 in donations and disbursed \$172.47 in expenses. This does not include checks from June or July, which have been delayed.

Feastdays of Franciscan Friars

Keep in your prayers the following friars, whose feast days are this coming month: August 6 – Fadi Azar, and 14 – Maximilian Wojciechowski.

² Jul 1 and 3, 2020. URL <http://twitter.com/pontifex>

³ Pope’s Worldwide Prayer Network. Accessed June 29, 2020, URL <http://popesprayerusa.net/popese-intentions/>

The Information Corner

Mother Theodore Williams⁴

Founder, **Handmaids of the Most Pure Heart of Mary**⁵, 1868-1931

Elizabeth Williams was born in 1868 to a large Catholic family in Baton Rouge. Though she felt called to religious life, there were at the time few options available for an African American woman in the South. For some years she worked as a receptionist for a convent of white nuns in Washington, DC. Then, in 1916, she was approached by a French priest, Fr Ignatius Lissner, who was serving the Black Catholic community in Savannah. At the time, laws were under consideration that would prevent white teachers, like the sisters in Lissner's parish school, from teaching Black children. In response, Fr. Lissner wished to start a congregation of Black sisters. In Williams, he found an enthusiastic partner. She took her vows as Theodore Williams, and became the founder and superior of the Handmaids of the Most Pure Heart of Mary.



The Handmaids took over one school, and operated a laundry to support themselves. The response from the local community, Black and white, was largely positive. But one exception came from white nuns, who did not trust her and whose racism affected even their perception of another sister.

In 1923, Archbishop Patrick Hayes invited the Handmaids to relocate to Harlem. There, besides teaching, they operated a soup kitchen,

⁴ Extracted from *The Franciscan Saints*, by Robert Ellsberg, published in 2017 by Franciscan Media, ISBN 1632531941, as well as *Patheos* article *From Savannah to Harlem: Mother Theodore Williams*, by Pat McNamara, Apr 11, 2011, URL

<https://www.patheos.com/resources/additional-resources/2011/04/from-savannah-to-harlem-mother-theodore-williams-pat-mcnamara-04-12-2011>. Image

also obtained from patheos.com .

⁵ Web site <https://franciscanhandmaids.com/>

a kindergarten, and a shelter for homeless children. In 1929, Mother Theodore affiliated her community with the Franciscans. During the Great Depression, with few resources, Mother Theodore began a soup kitchen that ran most of the day. She died on July 14, 1931.

In the face of unimaginable obstacles throughout life, Mother Theodore never gave up on her vocation. Since her death the Handmaids, although never a large group, have expanded their ministry back to the South, and across to Africa. Now over 100 years, they continue to bring God's love to the people of Harlem and beyond.

“God knows how many souls they reached.” – Fr. Ignatius Lissner on Mother Theodore and the Handmaids.

Remote Meetings Are Fraternity Meetings



We do not know for how long we will have to continue to meet remotely. Even after the Monastery reopens, our meeting rooms may not be available, and many of us may not want to hazard out in a group until a vaccine is available.

Council therefore has decided to continue remote meetings for the foreseeable future. These are not “optional” meetings; they are the required monthly fraternity meetings. If you cannot attend, please inform a Council member as you would for an in-person meeting.

Please Pray For Our Members

Roberto Alvarez; Donna Wilkes and her brother, Hollis; Rosemary Bordley and her family; Mary Ann Corr and her family; Maria Louisa Correa; Sarah Faizi's friend, Ron Harner; Mary Jo Fehr and her family; Jean Fleurival; John Hewitt; Adele Lewis; Nancy McCleary; Margaret Murphy and her family; Fritz Nicolas and his family; Carol Petro; Cecilia Thieman and her family; John and Deneen Whipple.



From Our Region – JPIC Update

Editor's note: The following letter was sent from our Region's JPIC Chair to all local fraternity Councils. Due to our selection of theme for this month, your Council thought it appropriate to share it with you.

By Gil Donahue, OFS, Regional JPIC Chair

During the past month, American society has been seized with many issues surrounding



racism. That includes demonstrations in favor of Black Lives Matter, protests aimed at deposing memorials and statues of historical figures deemed to be racist, anguish regarding poor treatment of individuals by law enforcement, and renewed vocal concerns about systemic racism.

Several council members have discussed these issues and are considering ways to address them in our region. We are considering publishing a regional statement about racism. We are also considering holding a session on this theme at this year's chapter of ministers. We would like to have a dialog with local fraternities regarding concrete steps we can take to address this issue. One way for this to start is for every local fraternity to hold a discussion about racism as part of the ongoing formation program. This issue can also be included in the initial formation program.

Minister Bob Longo and I are available as resources on this issue. Please feel free to contact us for guidance or any questions you may have. We would appreciate your suggestions on programs or other steps to consider regarding this important issue.

August Birthdays

August 4 – Susan Zell, 8 – David Weir, 11 – Francoise Bidiki and Wendy Enderson, 12 – Ronald McElligott, 13 – Alberto Gamez, 16 – Lewis Remlin, 29 – Christopher Cropper, and 30 – Roberto Alvarez.

From Our Seminarian

The traditional motto of the United States of America reads “*e pluribus unum*,” meaning “out of the many one.” We, especially today, are aware of our different-ness. Though the founders of this country designed this motto because one country rose out of fourteen colonies, still I believe they had an inkling of the greatness to come. The strength of this diverse, varied country lies in its many races, ethnicities, nationalities, cultures, and languages. The eminence of this land lies in its many peoples precisely because we become one by sharing streets and neighborhoods, exchanging waves and conversation, and building friendships with each other. This, too, is part of our task as Christ's disciples: to show love to our neighbors no matter who they are, where they come from, or where they have been. We, though many parts, are meant to become one Body in Christ. So, our country's motto takes on a much more profound meaning, especially in the state of our homeland today: may we all humbly, out of many, become one. May God bless you all abundantly,



Dylan Prentice.

A Stitch in Chimes

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

In July of 2000 the fraternity prayed the Franciscan Crown, viewed the video “The Small Miracle”, reminded members of the upcoming retreat and memorial Mass for deceased member Anne Cowal, and remembered deceased relatives of our members Edward Lyons (husband of Virginia Lyons) and Elizabeth Jensen (aunt of Charles Flachbarth(d.)), Fr. Kevin wrote a reflection about July 4.

