



- the Chimes -

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P.O. BOX 90366

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MAR Vol. LXV, No. 3

March 21, 2021

WE WILL HAVE OUR MEETING BY ZOOM ON MAR 21, AT 1:30pm, THE THIRD SUNDAY OF THE MONTH; SEE SCHEDULE.

FOR SOCIAL TIME, THE CONFERENCE WILL OPEN EARLY, AT 1PM.

TO JOIN BY COMPUTER: LOG ONTO ZOOM, MEETING ID 981 7514 4959

TO JOIN US BY TELEPHONE, CALL 1-301-715-8592, ENTER MEETING ID

Schedule

- 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 **Social time** by Zoom conference, click <https://zoom.us/j/98175144959>
- 1:30pm Fraternity Meeting starts

Fraternity Meeting Agenda

- Opening prayer
- Prayer for vocations – see (<http://dcsfo.org/prayers/vocations/>)
- News of members
- *Fratelli Tutti* discussion – Chapter 2
- Discussion of Article 22 of the Rule
- Evening prayer. In “Shorter Christian Prayer”, see **p122** (Evening Prayer II for Week II) and **p408** (Sunday readings and prayers for Lent).

HAVE YOUR MEETING PRAYERS HANDY!

◆ Theme: **FAMILY** ◆

Bible Quote of the Month



Both the one who makes people holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters. He says, “I will declare your name to my brothers and sisters; in the assembly I will sing your praises.” (*Heb 2:11-12*)

Prayer of the Month

Holy Father, we pray to you for our family – both natural and spiritual – that You may guide us in ways pleasing to You, strengthen us when needed, inspire us to witness to Your name, open our eyes to see You in one another, motivate us to help each other as we would You, and, when we stray, always call us back to Your Son Jesus, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, forever. Amen.



Contact Information

Fraternity Council

Please call before 9pm.



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National Fraternity

ADMONITION OF ST. FRANCIS

3. On Perfect Obedience (cont.)¹

If indeed the prelate precepts anything against his soul, though he is not to obey him, nevertheless let him not give him up. And if he has endured persecution by others for that reason, let him love (*dilectio*) them more for God's sake. For he who will endure persecution rather than wanting to be separated from his brothers, in truth remains continually in perfect obedience, since he lays down "his own life" (cf. Jn 15:13) on behalf of his brothers. For there are many religious, who under the appearance of seeing better things than those which their (see next column)

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 Three, Article 22 of The Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order.

The local fraternity is to be established canonically. It becomes the basic unit of the whole Order and a visible sign of the Church, the community of love. This should be the privileged place for developing a sense of Church and the Franciscan vocation and for enlivening the apostolic life of its members.

The Information Corner – Pope Quote



"All of us are specialists in crucifying others to save ourselves. Jesus, instead, allowed himself to be crucified, to teach us not to shift evil onto others." "Let us pray together that we may experience the sacrament of reconciliation with renewed depth, to taste the forgiveness and infinite mercy of God."²

Papal Intention for the Month

Prayer Intention – **Sacrament of reconciliation.** Let us pray that we may experience the sacrament of reconciliation with renewed depth, to taste the infinite mercy of God.³

Fraternity Finances

\$ Last month we received \$835 in donations and disbursed \$119.87 in expenses. This does not include undeposited checks.

(Admonition continued):

prelates precept, look back (cf. Lk 9:62) and return "to the vomit" of their own will (cf. Prov. 26:11; 2 Pet 2:22); these are murderers and on account of their bad examples cause many souls to perish.

² Mar 1 and 2, 2021. URL <http://twitter.com/pontifex>

³ Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network. Accessed February 7, 2020, URL <http://popesprayerusa.net/popese-intentions/>

The Information Corner

Mar 9th – Feastday of **St. Frances of Rome**⁴



St. Frances of Rome was born into a noble family in 1384. At 12 she married another Roman noble, Lorenzo Ponziani. She would have preferred to become a nun, but obeyed her father and became an exemplary wife and the mother of three children.

Soon after her marriage, St. Frances fell seriously ill, and St. Alexis appeared to her and cured her. From that time, St. Frances began to be conscious of the presence and assistance of her guardian angel.

At the little church of San Francesco a Ripa, near the Ponziani palace, Frances Ponziani was received into the Third Order of St. Francis.

At 17, St. Frances gave birth to her first son, John Baptist. Shortly afterwards her mother-in-law died, and St. Frances was placed in charge of the household; she carried out her duties efficiently but also in a genuinely Christian manner.

During a famine she gave corn to the poor, and gave the family's wine to any who asked. During the civil war which followed the 1410 invasion of Rome, nearby peasants begged St. Frances for food, which she gave readily. She devoted herself to the care of the sick, the starving, and the dying, and organized a group of Roman ladies to assist her.

Her second son, after his death, appeared to her and brought her an archangel to take the place of her guardian angel. The archangel's light was bright enough for her to read by it. When she committed a slight fault, the archangel would hide himself and his light would not shine again until she had made an act of contrition.

(see next column)

⁴ Taken from *The Franciscan Book of Saints*, ed. by Marion Habig, OFM, web site Roman Catholic Saints, accessed 3/2/31, URL <https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/st-frances-of-rome.html>

Larry Leaving

Last month Larry informed members that he and his wife, after considering the matter for over a year, have decided, for multiple reasons, to look for a home in Florida. They plan to visit in May or June for a look-see. Due to this, Larry will not be able to serve in the next Council term, and he may even have to leave the fraternity before the current term has ended. We are in need of volunteers for the web site, *Chimes* editor, and of course, Council positions. See enclosed letter from Council.

(Information Corner continued):

In 1425, St. Frances and other ladies were clothed as oblates of St. Benedict. This apparently did not cancel her membership in the Third Order; for she and a friend made a 100-mile pilgrimage to Assisi, where St. Francis himself appeared to them.

In 1433, after Lorenzo's death, St. Frances and her companions founded a religious community of Oblates. There they worked and prayed for the Holy Father and the peace of Rome, for the city was once more in turmoil.

Returning after a visit to her sick son, St. Frances suddenly became ill and was taken back to the Ponziani palace. She died seven days later, on March 9, 1440.

When her tomb was opened some months later, the saint was incorrupt, and her body gave off a delightful fragrance. In 1638 her tomb was opened again, but only the saint's bones remained.

Pope Paul V canonized Frances in 1608. She is honored as the principal patron of all Benedictine oblates, but is also one of the greatest saints who wore the habit of the Third Order of St. Francis.



April Birthdays

April 6 – William Richardson, 9 – Virginia Lyons, 28 – Saturnino Camposano.

From Our Seminarian

Monthly message from Dylan Prentice



Peace be with you! As we get into the thick of this Lenten season, we can easily become frustrated at ourselves when we fail to keep our various fasts and promises. In this penitential time, we focus intently on our brokenness, sinfulness, and our need for mercy. We now, more than other times, walk with our Lord in His Passion, feeling the blows and heartache he felt. But, I was reminded that although we must remember His Passion and kneel at His feet with all of our weakness, we must also continue to live in the hope and the light of His Resurrection. In fact, this joyful hope is ingrained in our being as creatures of God. Catholic spiritual writer of the 20th century, Caryl Houselander, in her book *The Reed of God*, wrote that “even in ignorance, man tends to fall in love with God.” You see, even in our failures, our weaknesses, our brokenness, our sins, our hearts tend toward God. Even when we aren’t actively seeking Him in every moment, our very hearts, souls, and minds are falling in love with God. It’s just who we are. May each of us, by the power of the Holy Spirit, be made more aware of this tendency of our hearts to fall in love with God, this Lenten season. May we joyfully accept our dependence on His mercy and, as St. Paul says, “may this confession of our faith be what gives us hope.”

From the Mailbox: News of our Family

- **Donna Wilkes** has a new hospital room: **5133**. The rest of her address remains the same. Her full address is 223 - 7th St. NE Room 5133, Washington, DC 20002-7045.



Feastdays of Franciscan Friars

Keep in your prayers friar David Wathen, whose birthday is next month, on April 4.

Called To Serve: Servant Leadership

In September the fraternity is scheduled to elect a new Council. Each of us is called to serve our fraternal family in some manner. The Franciscan spirit of servant leadership, which we learned as part of our initial formation, is to be part of our lives.

What are the traits of a Servant Leader? She or he has right faith, certain hope, perfect charity, wisdom, understanding, and is ready to follow God’s will.



Remember: God doesn’t call the qualified; He qualifies the called. Are you ready to answer?

Region’s Retreat Goes Virtual

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the scheduled Regional Retreat of May 21-23 at the Loyola Retreat Center in Faulkner, MD has been canceled. Instead, there will be a Zoom Regional Retreat on May 22nd, at no charge.

Fr. Kevin Treston, OFM, who used to be our Spiritual Assistant, will be our facilitator. The retreat will start at 9am and end around 4pm or earlier. The theme for the Retreat will be

Secular Franciscans: A Prophetic People

If you would like to attend the Regional Zoom Retreat, please email Bob Longo, blongosfo@gmail.com. On May 22nd, around 8:45am, you will receive an email invite to join the Retreat. We can accommodate call-in’s for folks who do not have computers.

Please Pray For Our Members

Rosemary Bordley’s family; Vilma and Saturnino Camposano; Mary Ann Corr; Maria Louisa Correa; Sarah Faizi and her friend Ron Harner; Jean Fleurival; John Hewitt; Nancy McCleary; Adele Lewis; Fritz Nicolas and his family; Carol Petro; Helen Walls; John and Deneen Whipple; and Donna Wilkes.



A Stitch in Chimes

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

In March of 2001 the fraternity started its support of the family of Thesia Stephen Sebastian Villa under the Franciscan Family Apostolate, received thank-you letters from several charities donations we gave; asked members to update their contact information for the new directory; and reminded members about donations to Gift of Peace House and Ronald McDonald House. Fr. Kevin wrote a reflection on the OFS member's life of service.



Fair Share – What Is It?

Article 25 of the Rule asks us to “contribute toward the expenses of the higher fraternity councils.” The St. Margaret of Cortona Regional Fraternity’s suggested Fair Share donation is \$40 per active member (\$20 for active-excused). If you have not already done so, please include a Fair Share contribution in this month’s envelope, and write “Fair Share” on the envelope or check.

► Please note that this special donation does not go towards the support of our fraternity; your regular, separate monthly donation does this.

Franciscan Feastdays and Memorials

April 2 – Bl. Elisabetta Vendramini, religious, III Order, founder; 3 – St. Benedict the Moor, religious, I Order (Sometimes celebrated on April 4); 6 – St. Crescentia Höss, virgin, III Order; 16 – St. Bernadette Soubirous, cord-bearer of St. Francis; St. Benedict Joseph Labre, cord-bearer of St. Francis; 21 – St. Conrad of Parzham, religious, I Order; 23 – Bl. Giles of Assisi, religious, I Order; 24 – St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen, priest, martyr, I Order; 25 – Bl. Pedro de San Jose Betancur, religious, III Order, founder; 27 – St. Zita of Lucca, virgin, III Order; 28 – Bl. Luchsius, III Order; 30 – Bl. Benedict of Urbino, priest, I Order; St. Benedict Joseph Cottolengo, III Order.

March Reflection

By Larry Bleau, OFS

Foster Father, Head of Family

This month I’ll take up two more titles of St. Joseph, both of which are related to family.

The first is **Foster Father of the Son of God**, actually a compound title, and one with which we are quite familiar. When on a tour of the Monastery’s shrines, we are introduced to St. Joseph as Foster Father of Our Savior. In our society we may consider a “foster” father – a one who takes the place of a father who is absent – as having a negative connotation: the child was not wanted. In St. Joseph, however, we have the best of this concept: a child who is loved so much that his Father gives Him into the care of another highly trusted individual, more akin to a tutor, for his earthly training, to shape the mind, heart and character of the child. There is no greater honor for a man than to be given such a responsibility. St. Joseph shows us how to do it well, and in that sense is an incredibly positive model for all men, in that he put aside his own wants and desires for the sake of the One for whom he cares.

This leads naturally to the other title: **Head of the Holy Family**. St. Joseph not only gives Jesus his all in raising, forming,



and caring for Him, but he also cares for, supports, and loves Mary, the Lord’s Blessed Mother, who was betrothed to Joseph and yet gave her “Fiat” to the angel God had sent. St. Joseph accepted this, and in an honorable and loving manner cared for them both. He kept his family safe from trouble, listened attentively to God’s messages, and instructed his foster son by word and example; things that are the responsibility of the head of a family.

How Mary must have cherished such a man! What a blessed example we have to all men – single and married – as we have in St. Joseph!