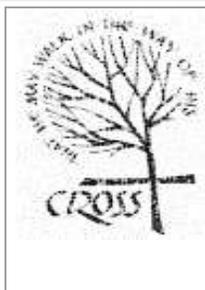


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NEWSLETTER OF THE SAINT BONAVENTURE FRATERNITY SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER

Saint Francis University, Loretto, PA 15940
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CALENDAR

March 2	Blessed Agnes of Prague
March 9	St Frances of Rome
March 14	Daylight Savings Time begins
March 14 1:30 p.m.	Fraternity gathering (virtual)
March 19	Feast of St. Joseph
March 20	First day of Spring
March 24	Blessed Didacus Joseph of Cadiz
March 25	Feast of the Annunciation
March 28	Palm Sunday
April 1	Holy Thursday
April 2	Good Friday
April 4	Easter – He is Risen!

FRATERNITY GATHERINGS

Fraternity gatherings are held the second Sunday of each month. Our March gathering will be held virtually on **Sunday, March 14, at 1:30 P.M.** (Watch for your email invitation).

Please call in if you can't join by video. **If you are not able to attend please contact Mary Jo beforehand.**

During our gathering we will be doing the candle ceremony at home. We will also have ongoing formation by reflecting on questions from the Lamb's Supper reading. **We invite all members and inquirers of St. Bonaventure Fraternity to our gatherings.**

If you are an inactive member but would like to attend or become active again, please let Mary Jo know.



FORMATION NEWS

Initial Formation: St. Bonaventure Fraternity is blessed to have two potential new members in initial formation:

Meg Hough (recent transfer)
Rebecca Richmond (pre-inquirer)

Meg and Rebecca are in different phases of initial formation; therefore, the fraternity has appointed two separate formation teams composed of members who have volunteered to serve in this capacity. Formation sessions will be held via ZOOM, Google Meet or other virtual meeting application.

Ongoing Formation: Please read **Part 2 Chapters 1 and 2** of "The Lamb's Supper" book and reflect on the following questions to be discussed at the March gathering:

1. Have you known Christians who were deeply affected by their reading of the Apocalypse? How did it change their life in the short term? How did it change their life in the long term?

2. With the fall of the Jerusalem Temple, the early Christians saw a "world" coming to an end. What events in history--or in your life--have been comparable to this? What do these experiences suggest about how we understand the end of the world?

3. If you were living in the Church's first generation, would the Apocalypse have brought you comfort or consolation? Why or why not? What does your answer suggest about the application of the Book of Revelation to life today?

Chapter 2 questions will be emailed prior to the gathering.



APOSTOLATE

Our March apostolate will be to support the Dorothy Day Outreach Center's Easter food distribution. Members may drop off donations of Easter baskets, candy, food items such as canned goods, turkeys or hams, and/or health and beauty aids. Financial contributions are also welcome.

In late March or very early April (around Easter time) we will collect puzzle books and other Easter items to give to the friars at St. Francis Friary (Mt. Assisi). Contact Marie Bettwy if you wish to participate.



CELEBRATIONS!!

We wish a Happy 39th Profession Anniversary to **Barb Bender on March 14** as well as a Happy Birthday to **Rita Kline on March 11**.

UPCOMING EVENTS

OFS Summer Seminar St. Francis University via ZOOM **July 8-11, 2021** (tentatively)

The Quinquennial Congress confirmed date: **August 3-7, 2022**

KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

Please pray for restored health for our fraternity members and friends and family members who have been ill, as well as any of our Franciscan brothers and sisters who are in need of God's healing graces. Also pray for those who have passed from this life into the next. And please pray for the men and women who are serving our country in combat areas and for their families. As always, please forward your special intentions to our Fraternity Minister for inclusion in our prayers.

COMMON FUND REMINDER

Just a reminder that even though our fraternity has not been meeting face-to-face, we are still obligated to contribute as our means allow to the common fund.

Please send your monthly contribution to Patricia Serotkin, OFS, Fraternity Treasurer at 1072 N. Center St. Ebensburg, PA 15931.

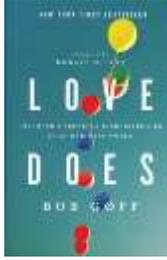
ST. BONAVENTURE FRATERNITY FACEBOOK PAGE

Our Fraternity has a Facebook page! Anyone can find this group.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/652880388194184/?ref=share>

Watch for Fr. Kevin's minute meditations!

SUGGESTED READING



Love Does by Bob Goff (subtitled: Discover a Secretly Incredible Life in an Ordinary World) is an absolute delight for anyone seeking inspiration presented in short, powerful segments. Each chapter stands alone, so you can put the book down, and continue later without missing a beat. Bob Goff knows how to pull you into his own life story with amazing insights framing his experiences with God. One reader called Bob, “A one-man tsunami of grace, a hurricane of love.” I could not think of a more apt description as I read his compelling stories of finding God in the most ordinary of moments of life. Bob Goff’s style of writing reminded me of Bill Bryson, one of my favorite nature writers (*A Walk in the Woods*, for example) whose books are laced with hilarity at every turn. In *Love Does*, the author takes both a serious and a humorous look at the wonders and foibles of his life, a life that finds God ever-present. I think you will enjoy your time with Bob Goff as much as I did. It will be time well spent.

--Bill Duryea, OFS

Note: *Love Does* by Bob Goff, copyright 2012, published by Nelson Books, is available online from Amazon for \$10.

ADMONITION..... Mary Jo, OFS

I am not sure why, but I never realized St. Francis, in addition to the 40 days of Lent, would devote 40 days of prayers and fasting four or five times a year. I always knew he spent hours in prayer, but that is a lot of Lents! There are numerous stories of Francis leaving the friars and retreating to the hills and mountains away from all towns and cities. Thomas of Celano wrote: “in the clefts of the

rock he would build his nest and in the hallow places of the wall his dwelling.” In the 14th century manuscript “Fioretti di San Francesco” or “The Little Flowers of St. Francis” is the story of how Francis spent one Lent completely alone, on an uninhabited small island on Lake Perugia. On Ash Wednesday night with one of his friars, they crossed the lake in a small boat. Francis took only two small loaves of bread. He instructed the friar to tell no one of his location and to come back for him on Holy Thursday. Francis remained alone on the island finding shelter in a thicket of many trees and shrubs. He spent the forty days eating only a half of one loaf of bread. It is believed St. Francis refrained from eating out of reverence for the fasting of Christ, who fasted forty days and nights.

After Francis’s stay on this island many miracles occurred. Men built a large and prosperous village, and the house for the brothers is still called the House of the Island. To this day the people of this village have great reverence and devotion for the spot where St. Francis spent his Lent.

Although my Lent will not be spent on an island by myself, I have been inspired once again by this holy man of Assisi. My prayers are with all of you and may the remaining days of Lent draw you ever closer to our Loving Lord.

