

Gathering – Sunday – August 18th, 2013

Editor: Bob Longo, OFS (blongoOFS@verizon.net)

A Message from our Minister

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Francis and Clare,

Our next Gathering will be on Sunday, August 18th, Mass will be in the chapel at 12PM and our social will start at 1PM, please remember to bring your lunch and beverage. Our meeting and ongoing formation will begin at 2PM in the conference room next to the library.

I hope all had the opportunity to see some of the “World Youth Day” events in Rio De Janeiro, Brazil. It was estimated that over three million youth turned out for this wonderful celebration of faith. On the eve of the final closing, the theme was all about St. Francis of Assisi and rebuilding Jesus’ Church, the youth even built the frame of a church in front of the Holy Father. Pope Francis began his talk by recalling how centuries ago St Francis of Assisi heard Jesus’ voice from a crucifix telling him, “Go rebuild my house”. Francis responded “readily and generously to the Lord’s call”, he said, but it took him time to understand that “it was not a question of repairing a stone building” but of “doing his part for the life of the Church”. The event was truly Franciscan.

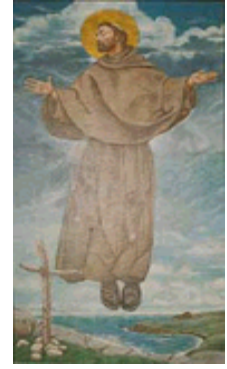
Pope Francis tells the youth that “we are to rebuild Jesus’ Church”. How appropriate in this “The Year of Faith”, that by living the Gospel life each and every day, we are rebuilding Jesus’ Church by our faith. As Franciscans this is what our commitment of profession means, to live the Gospel life and to not keep it to ourselves but to share with others. I was impressed by the number of youth wearing our Tau Cross, what a wonderful way of showing your faith, “a young church still full of hope.”

Starting with our October gathering we will be using the book, “Seeking a Gospel Life”. The cost of the book is \$11.00, please give your money to Lita at our August gathering so that a book can be ordered for you. Since our Fraternity picnic will be in September we need to order the books early. If you are unable to attend our August gathering please mail your check to Lita Maisel, 9 Somerset Road, Catonsville, MD 21228 410-747-2374. All are expected to purchase “Seeking a Gospel Life” in order to participate in our group discussions.

Speaking of our upcoming picnic on September 15th all are requested to bring a covered dish and something to drink. Sign-up sheets will be available at this months gathering for setting-up and cleaning-up. We are in need of a greeter and a person to replenish the food tables, please let me know if you can help.

At our council meeting we talked about members visiting our homebound, elderly and sick members, if you would like to take this on as a ministry please contact me. I was at Charlestown Retirement Center recently and saw several of our members and they were so delighted to see me, they ask how our fraternity was doing and asked about several of those they knew. So please think about this ministry and call me at 410-451-0943 if you are interested.

Our fair share funds are due to the Region in September please be generous to this months common fund box. *Your Fraternity Council*



Fraternity Council

Minister: Bob Longo, OFS
410 451-0943

V. Minister: Sherry Lewis, OFS
410-788-5395

Formation: Geri Flynn, OFS
410 730-4395

Secretary: France
Staudenmann OFS
301-294-3085

**Acting
Treasurer:** Jerry Yu, OFS
410 988-5753

Councilors: Lita Maisel OFS
410 379-2374
Cindy Mohler, OFS
410 747-4589
Jim Manning
410 421-9332

Spiritual Assistant: Vacant



20th Sunday in
Ordinary Time
Week IV



Please Pray For ...

- Connie Baker**, OFS
- Donna Duncan**, OFS
- Marlene Feaga**, OFS
- Mary Ferrara**, OFS
- Dolores Fritz**, OFS
- Joy Kubricky**, OFS
- Jim Manning**, OFS
- Georgianna Papazian**, OFS
- Gerry Pinkas**, OFS
- Nancy Seaton**, OFS
- Susan Suprock**, OFS
- Jim Tebo**, OFS
- Deacon**
- Will Witherspoon**, OFS



OUR DECEASED BROTHERS AND SISTERS

- Frances Bastress**, SFO
- Joe Bezila**, SFO
- Jerry Cichowicz**, SFO
- Joe Cykoski**, SFO
- Stella Cykoski**, SFO
- Claire Lee Davison**, SFO
- Adela Duff**, SFO
- Charles Ferrara**, SFO
- Marilyn Gilson**, SFO
- Richard Hall**, SFO
- Frances Langben**, SFO
- Bob Lewis**, SFO
- Jean Manning**, OFS
- Yvonne Proch**, SFO
- Betty Taylor**, SFO
- Bud Tenley**, SFO
- Regina Yeager**, SFO
- Dorothy Zalewski**, SFO

**The St. Joseph Cupertino Bulletin Board
Posts from Our Fraternity Members**

I received the below petition URL from our brother, Patrick Caughy, to participate in signing to support "Safer Food from Field to Fork". This would be of great benefit to the poor as well as to our own families.

<http://action.ufw.org/page/m/3bed9ce0/14531b22/47daa71f/2b44f372/34903236/VEsO/>

A Prayer Composed by our late sister, Shirley Costello, OFS



May the power of the Father govern and protect us and darken my intellect to all things that are not of God and shed light on all things that are of God.

May the wisdom of the Son teach and enlighten us and empty my memory of all things that are not of God and fill it with all things that are of God.

May the love of the Holy Spirit renew and quicken us and increase my passionate desire for tender, gentle, humble, loving and joyful obedience to the will of the Father in union with the incarnated, crucified, resurrected and ascended Christ and his Blessed Mother.

Increase my capacity for intimacy, trust, docility, joy and gladness in relationship with you. Open my heart and the hearts of my loved ones to awareness of your presence, your love, your grace, your mercy. Help us know ourselves and our neediness of you and to love and to serve you in this life and to be happy with you forever in the next.

May the blessing of the all Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with us now and remain with us forever.



“The Wisdom of the Desert”

While cleaning and reorganizing some of my book shelves, I came across a book about a group of people who had decided that the world was a shipwreck from which they had to escape. They knew that one could not drift along passively and accept the tenets and values of a world careening towards disaster. No, this isn't current history, nor another story about Francis and his followers. This story took place about 900 years before Francis was born. It was not in the hill country of Assisi, but in the desert of Egypt. “The Wisdom of the Desert” by Thomas Merton (New Directions) is a very simple and straight forward book. It makes no pretense about being an intellectual treatise, but simply a “book designed for the reader’s interest and edification.” It begins with a brief, about 20 pages, summary of what the desert fathers were about, and then has 150 quotes, in no specific order or meaning, from the desert fathers. Interestingly, since I never bothered to translate the Roman numerals before, I just noticed that the number of quotes is the same as the number of Psalms. In many of the quotes, one can almost see Francis. For example,



Treasurer's Report

Please be generous. If you miss a gathering send your check payable to St. Joseph Cupertino Fraternity c/o:

Jerry Yu, OFS
2812 Green Shade Ct.
Ellicott City, MD 21042

Donations are Tax Deductible

If you attend the gathering, please place your contribution in the common fund box in the Refectory.

| | |
|---|------------------|
| Beginning Balance: | \$ 361.79 |
| Income | \$ 272.00 |
| Total | \$ 633.79 |
| Franciscan Friars | \$ 100.00 |
| St. Margaret of Cortona Region for May - Fair Share | \$ 432.00 |
| Newsletter Printing and Mailing | \$ 15.00 |
| Total Expenses: | \$ 547.00 |
| Ending Balance: | \$ 86.79 |

August Birthdays



| | |
|-----------------------------|-------------|
| Jim Manning, OFS | 8/17 |
| Jim Tebo, OFS | 8/20 |
| Rosemary Whelan, OFS | 8/20 |
| Sheila Solomon, OFS | 8/21 |

September Birthdays

Jean Singleton, OF 9/28

“They said of Abbot Pambo that in the very hour when he departed this life he said to the holy men who stood by him: From the time I came to this place in the desert, and built me a cell, and dwelt here, I do not remember eating bread that was not earned by the work of my own hands, nor do I remember any thing for which I was sorry even unto this hour. And thus I go to the Lord as one who has not even made a beginning in the service of God.” The book, which is only 81 pages long, did leave me curious for more information and in amazement of what these early monks achieved.

Harry Ford, OFS

Upcoming Events

Our Next Book Sharing Meeting – All Are Welcome

Date: Saturday, August 31, 2013
 Time: 1:30pm (social and gathering)
 2:00 ~ 4:00pm
 Place: Kevin Corcoran's Home
 12232 Fawnhaven Court,
 Ellicott City – Down from the Friary
 Tel: 410 401- 3007

Book: "Francis, the Journey and the Dream", by Murray Bodo
 Chapters: "Of Leo and Francis"
 "Francis Before the Sultan"
 "Of Citizens and Beggars"

Fraternity Picnic

The St. Joseph Cupertino Fraternity picnic will be on Sunday, September 15 from 1PM – 4PM, Mass in the chapel will be at 12PM. All fraternity members are requested to bring a covered dish and a beverage. Our fraternity's Fair Share is due to the Region in September, \$514.00, the common fund box will be on a table at the picnic, please be generous. Thanks

Regional Retreat – October 11-12 2013

Fr. Gene Pistacchio, OFM, of St. Anthony Shrine, Boston, Holy Name Province Spiritual Assistant for the Secular Franciscan Order will be our speaker for the retreat. At this time we have double occupancy rooms available at \$180.00 and Dormitory accommodations for \$158.00.

MAX PICARD – Author of “Destroyed and Indestructible World”

"St. Francis of Assisi was completely and totally an exceptional man-exceptional in the immediacy of his love of Christ. With him, one did not find a path to Christ, immediacy had absorbed every path. In Francis, one finds immediacy in itself, absolute immediacy. Only love can be this absolute immediacy. Love, like immediacy, has no genesis, no development and no history; genesis, development and history are all absorbed in the being of love."

FEAST OF ST. CLARE – August 11th

Clare became aware of the fresh ideals of Francis and his brothers, who were trying to lead a radical following of Christ in utter poverty. She longed to become a member of the new movement, but she was a noble woman, and her only choice would have been that of joining one of the great monastic Orders for females, notably the Benedictines. An apostolic and itinerant life for a noble woman was not a common thing in the Middle Ages. After a period of reflection, during which Clare met Francis on some occasions, and most probably with the consent of bishop Guido of Assisi, Clare decided to choose a life of radical evangelical poverty.



During the night of Palm Sunday, Clare escaped from her family's home in Assisi and hurried down to the Porziuncola, where Francis gave her the habit of penance at the feet of the altar of the Virgin Mary of the Angels. That same night Clare was escorted to the Benedictine monastery of San Paolo in Bastia Umbra, where she was protected by papal interdict against possible intrusion by her family to take her back home by force. After some weeks Francis transferred Clare to another monastery at the foot of Mount Subasio, Sant'Angelo di Panzo. There Clare was joined by her sister Caterina (Sister Agnes). All attempts by the paternal uncle Monaldo to take back the two girls by force proved futile.

Francis then sent Clare and Agnes to the small church of San Damiano and gave them a Form of Life, which is the basis of the Rule of St. Clare. San Damiano was to be the place where Clare lived a cloistered contemplative life, but with great apostolic horizons, until the day of her death in 1253. The first sisters to join her would be called the Poor Ladies of San Damiano. Although compelled to accept the title of Abbess in 1215, a year later Clare asked Pope Innocent III to approve the Privilege of Poverty, by which the Poor Ladies were bound to live without property like the Friars Minor. This Privilege was confirmed by Gregory IX in 1228.

RETURN TO THE GOSPELS

"In the fullest meaning of the word Clare was truly Francis' * sister light * Not only by her advice and prayers, but also by the transparent beauty of her life and her whole being. When everything seemed to be crashing down around Francis, she was the living example of fidelity to his primitive ideal, to pure Gospel simplicity. She lived in God's time, like the stars, *clear, lovely and beautiful.* Without many words she made Francis understand that peace of heart was the highest form of poverty, the peace that comes from total surrender of self to God"

Eloi Le Clerc



Calendar

At the Friary
Chapel Open Daily
From 9 AM – 5 PM
Noon Mass every Saturday

Reconciliation is on
Wednesday from 4 - 5pm.,
and also Monday through
Saturday at 11:30am.

Mass at 12 noon Monday
through Friday. Saturday
Mass is at 12 noon, and
Sunday Mass is also at 12
noon. All are welcome.

Eucharistic Adoration

Every Thursday
12 pm – 5:30 pm



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

“A spiritual joy is the
greatest sign of the divine
grace dwelling in a soul.

St. Bonaventure

**Regional Retreat - October 11-12 2013
Form**

Where: Priest Field Pastoral Center, 4030 Middleway Pike, Kearneysville, WV
25430-3742

When: October 11-13, 2013

Who: All Secular Franciscans, including candidates, inquirers and spiritual assistants

Presenter: Fr. Gene Pistacchio, OFM, of St. Anthony Shrine, Boston, Holy Name Province Spiritual Assistant for the Secular Franciscan Order

Registration Form Instructions:

1. Submit form no later than September 13, 2013
2. Please type or print all information clearly.
3. Only one participant per registration form.
4. NON-REFUNDABLE deposit of \$50.00 must accompany this form.
5. **Make your check payable to ST. MARGARET OF CORTONA REGION* and mail this form with payment to:** Mary Lou Coffman, ofs - 2862 Beechtree Lane Woodbridge, VA 22191
Phone: 703.221.1846 - email: marylousfo@gmail.com

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Home Phone _____ - _____

E-mail _____

Fraternity _____

Please check room requirement:

Rooms are designed for double occupancy for maximum attendees.

A) Double occupancy room: \$180.00

B) Dormitory: \$158.00

†Select single occupancy only if there is a serious or medical reason. Thank you!

Please indicate any special needs you have: _____

Please choose a roommate, or one can be assigned for you.

Name of preferred roommate: _____

Amount enclosed with this form \$_____._____