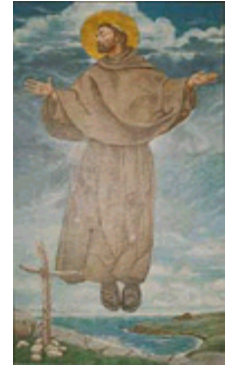


ST. JOSEPH OF CUPERTINO FRATERNITY
Gathering – April 19, 2015

The Flyer



A Blessed Easter Season to All

Ministers Message

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Francis and Clare,

Our Regional Chapter of Mats was held at Priest Field on March 20 thru March 22nd. We had a wonderful speaker, writer and translator of Vatican documents, Father Regis Armstrong, OFM Cap., who spoke on several Franciscan topics. Fr. Armstrong is probably best known as the editor-in-chief of the four volume work, "Francis of Assisi: Early Documents." Those in attendance also viewed a one hour CD on the history of the Secular Franciscan Order and how we have evolved throughout the ages, I am trying to obtain a copy of the CD to show at a fraternity Gathering.

A **BIG thanks** for all who brought toiletries at last months Gathering for the Franciscan Center in Baltimore. We have been asked, if possible, to continue this monthly donation to the Center. The council agreed that we should continue bringing toiletries to our monthly Gatherings and our brother, Patrick Caughy, OFS, will take the donations to the Franciscan Center each month. Thank you so much for your monthly generous charity to the Center.

A seminar on "Servant Leadership" will be offered at St. Francis University in Loretto, PA., July 9 – 12, 2015. You do not need to be in a leadership position to take this course, I will have handouts available at this months Gathering.

Your Fraternity Council

Francis' Oldest Prayer
by Pat McCoskey, OFM

The oldest writing of St. Francis is probably his "Prayer before the Crucifix," which dates to 1205 or 1206—very early in his conversion process. In this short prayer, after Francis asks God to enlighten the darkness of his heart, he requests "true faith, certain hope, and perfect charity, sense, and knowledge" (translation in Francis of Assisi: Early Documents). With these gifts, Francis will be able to carry out God's "holy and true command."

This is a very open-ended prayer, acknowledging God as the source of these gifts and Francis as the one responsible for allowing them to bear fruit through his actions. What it meant for Francis in his 20s grew into a much more profound prayer by the time Francis died at the age of 44. In his 1226 "Testament," Francis asked the friars to use this prayer whenever they entered a church or even saw one from afar: "We adore you, Lord Jesus Christ, in all your churches throughout the whole world, and we bless you because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world."

May we imitate Francis' deep and honest prayer!

Our Fraternity Council

- Minister:** Bob Longo, OFS
410-921-0040
- 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
410 747-2374
Cindy Mohler, OFS
410 747-4589
- Spiritual Assistant:**
Br. Lawrence LaFlame, OFM. Conv
410 531-2800

EVENING PRAYER



Third Sunday of Easter

Evening Prayer II

Week III



Please Pray For ...

- Connie Baker**, OFS
- Donna Duncan**, OFS
- Marlene Feaga**, OFS
- Mary Ferrara**, OFS
- Joy Kubricky**, OFS
- Marie Lindung**, OFS
- Jim Manning**, OFS
- Georgianna Papazian**, OFS
- Nancy Seaton**, OFS
- Jim Tebo**, OFS

Upcoming Events

April 18, 2015 - Sixth Annual Day of Reflection - The Regional Annual Day of Reflection for Inquirers, Candidates and Newly Professed, will be held on April 18, 2015 at St. Anthony Shrine, Ellicott City, Md.

April 25, 2015 — Regional Council Elections - The Regional Council will hold elections of officers at the Franciscan Monastery, Washington, D.C. on April 25, 2015. If you would like to hold a position at the regional level, please contact Bob Longo, OFS as soon as possible.

July 9 – 12, 2015 - Servant Leadership Seminar” will be offered at St. Francis University in Loretto, PA..

July 1 – 6, 2016 - 2016 Quinquennial Congress – Denver, CO – “Save the date, make plans, and come journey with your brothers and sisters in the Mile-High City,” The “Q” will focus on “relationship” and will feature “Dating God” author Fr. Dan Horan, OFM, as a keynote speaker. Not only will the “Q” help you journey in the footsteps of St. Francis, but also in the footsteps of Saint John Paul II –who visited Denver for World Youth Day in 1993 and confirmed Francis of Assisi as patron saint of Colorado in 2000.

Just How Big Is God? - by Friar Jim Van Vurst, O.F.M.

It sounds like a strange question to ask because, by definition, God is infinite. But in our human experience, we have no idea what infinite really means. Consider this: as big as our own universe is, it is still created by the infinite God.

To begin with, we can estimate that our whole universe is about 14.6 billion years old. Our Milky Way, of which our solar system is a part, is estimated to be 6.4 billion years old. And all of this is said to have started with the Big Bang—an explosion of so much energy that all of what we see came from it over billions of years.

Deep Sense of Awe - None of us would be able to understand the formulas needed for measuring the stars in our universe. Every new telescope developed takes us further into space. But no matter how many light years our galaxy extends, what we are told by scientists is that there may actually be more universes than just our own. Imagine: another billion universes we don’t even know about!

I marvel at how non-believing scientists seem to shrink the size of God into nonexistence. For we who believe, every new discovery only brings us to a deep sense of awe in God. And in a figure of speech, God holds each of us in the palm of his hand. And for the size of the universe, one single human being is of infinitely greater value than all the immeasurable universes out there.

The reason is simple: each life is made in God’s image and likeness. Value is never based on size. All that God created, including the universe, is good. But we, as children of God, are valued most. Jesus did not die for the material universe. Jesus died for you and me. As children of God, Jesus died for his brothers and sisters.

How big is God? The best way to measure God is to remind us of what the Scriptures tell us: “God is love.” And there is no measuring stick for love.



OUR DECEASED BROTHERS AND SISTERS

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



Treasurer's Report

Beginning Balance: \$ 732.02
 Income 427.00
 Total **\$1159.02**

Expenses:

Ink & Copies 77.24
 Franciscan Friars 100.00
 Brother Lawrence 50.00
 Website Fee 15.00
 Total Expenses: **\$ 242.24**

Ending Balance: \$ 916.78

Thank You for your monthly contributions

Contribution is Tax Deductible

15 Simple Acts of Charity that we frequently forget

By Luisa Restrepo

“He is interested. in each of us; his love does not allow him to be indifferent to what happens to us.” Pope Francis.

Below is a list of simple acts of charity. They might seem small, but in reality they are true, concrete manifestations of God’s love. A heart conformed to God cannot remain permanently indifferent towards others.

Do not cut the world off from your smile, your laughter, and the hope of God that is in you! The world needs it.

1. A Smile! A Christian is always full of laughter and happiness!
2. Listen to someone else’s story with love, not judgment.
3. Remember to tell others how much you love them.
4. Always be thankful (even when you don’t “have to”)
5. Greet people you see every day with a smile.
6. Help out when it’s needed so others can rest.
7. Clean up after yourself at home.
8. Correct others using love, rather than fear.
9. Stop to help. Be aware of who needs your help.
10. Celebrate other people’s success.
11. Pick out what you don’t use and give it away to someone in need.
12. Speak to your parents over the phone or through other means.
13. Help others overcome obstacles.
14. Lift someone’s spirits.
15. Notice details.

April Birthdays



Kathy Ford, OFS 4/06
Geri Flynn, OFS 4/26
Julianna Kim, OFS 4/28



Remembering Your Profession

Ray Heverling, OFS 4/10/05

I Will Never Take Back My Love

by Friar Jeremy Harrington, O.F.M.

It was recently Valentine’s Day. “I will never take back my love,” is a message from God in Psalm 89. The words struck me as I was praying the Office of Readings. They are appropriate for reflection during Lent.

In Psalm 89, God is speaking to his people, the Israelites, and the specific reference is to King David and his dynasty. “I will never take back my love from David and his people, even if they violate my laws and my covenant with them.”

By way of extension, I applied it to myself. “Jeremy, I will never take back my love for you.” That was a mantra for me. Maybe it speaks to *your* heart. To apply the words of the psalm to yourself is not misusing Scripture or wishful thinking. God’s unfailing love for us is pervasive in Scripture. In Chapter 31 of Jeremiah, God says, “I have loved you with an everlasting love...” (*New Jerusalem translation*).

“God is love,” the Letter of John declares. The Trinity is one “dynamic circle” of Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit loving and receiving love from one another. God, who is love, created the universe and created us to share goodness and love. God created each of us in union with our parents and sustains us hour by hour by his love. God loves us now and invites us to an eternity of love.

What about sin—David’s and ours? Does our sin stop God’s love? Doesn’t God punish us? Psalm 89 says, “I shall punish their [David’s sons] offenses with the rod, their guilt with the whip, but I shall never withdraw from him my faithful love” (NJ 31,32). As a loving parent, God may punish us to help us shun evil and choose good, but never withdraws his love from us. Even if I opt out by serious sin, God keeps loving me. We punish ourselves when we realize how foolish we were in refusing God’s love. Our conscience makes us miserable until we, once more, open our hearts to God’s mercy. Sometimes our sinful action brings its own punishment.

God’s promise, “I will never take back my love,” was captured in a popular song, “I’ll Never Stop Loving You.” Composed for the 1955 film *Love Me or Leave Me*. “I’ll Never Stop Loving You” can describe married love and friendship, as well as God’s love. Can you think of anything more wonderful?

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

God speaks in the singular, no one’s Christian by chance

“We are all sinners but we must “go forward with the Lord”

“God accompanies us, God calls us by name, God promises [there will be] a line of heirs. This is something of ‘the surety of the Christian. It is not a coincidence; it is a call - a call that keeps us going,”

“The one thing Christians can be certain of is that the Lord never leaves us alone and asks us to carry on, even when we have problems.”

“Being a Christian is a call of love, friendship, a call to become a child of God, brother of Jesus, to become fruitful in the transmission of this call to others, to become instruments of this call. There are so many problems, so many problems, there are difficult times, Jesus had many of His own! But always with that confidence: ‘The Lord has called me. The Lord is like me. The Lord has promised me,” “The Lord, is faithful, for He can never deny Himself: He is faithfulness,”
- Pope Francis

OUR GATHERINGS – Active members should make every attempt to attend our Gathering every month. If you are unable to attend due to illness, work or family obligations, please contact a council member (see page one for telephone numbers). If you are a candidate or professed member and miss a gathering, please send your check for the Common Fund to:

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

Editor: Bob Longo, OFS blongosfo@gmail.com Fraternity Website: <http://stjosephcupertino.sfousa.org/>



Calendar

At the Friary

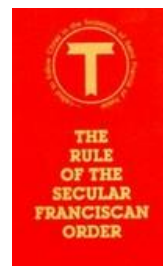
Chapel Open Daily
From 9 AM – 5 PM

12 PM Mass everyday

All are Welcome

Reconciliation

Wednesdays from 4 – 5 PM.
and Monday through
Saturday at 11:30am.



Rule 9 of the Secular Franciscan Order

The Virgin Mary, humble servant of the Lord, was open to his every word and call. She was embraced by Francis with indescribable love and declared the protectress and advocate of his family. The Secular Franciscans should express their ardent love for her by imitating her complete self-giving and by praying earnestly and confidently.