

ST. JOSEPH CUPERTINO FRATERNITY

2017 Theme for the Year: Living Our Spirit-Filled Rule

Please Note: Our Next Gathering **April 9, 2017**

Laudato Si (Praise be to you – On Care For Our Common Home), Paragraph 34

“It may well disturb us to learn of the extinction of mammals or birds, since they are more visible. But the good functioning of ecosystems also requires fungi, algae, worms, insects, reptiles and an innumerable variety of microorganisms. Some less numerous species, although generally unseen, nonetheless play a critical role in maintaining the equilibrium of a particular place.” ~ Pope Francis

Lent

MINISTERS MESSAGE

Dear sisters and brothers in Francis and Clare,

This past Christmas, my parish “Sacred Heart Church” in Bowie, Maryland, gave each household a book titled: “The Lamb’s Supper” written by Scott Hahn, a convert to the Catholic Church. Scott Hahn sheds new light on the sacredness of the Holy Mass and how the book of Revelation mirrors the sacrifice and celebration of the Eucharist. Once I started reading this beautifully hidden treasure I could hardly put it down. Here is a brief synopsis of Scott Hahn’s book.

“Of all things Catholic, there is nothing that is so familiar as the Mass. With its unchanging prayers, the Mass fits Catholics like their favorite clothes. Yet most Catholics sitting in the pews on Sundays fail to see the powerful supernatural drama that enfolds them. Pope John Paul II described the Mass as "Heaven on Earth," explaining that what "we celebrate on Earth is a mysterious participation in the heavenly liturgy.””

“The Lamb’s Supper reveals a long-lost secret of the Church: The early Christians' key to understanding the mysteries of the Mass was the New Testament Book of Revelation, with its bizarre imagery, its mystic visions of heaven, and its end-of-time prophecies.”

I found this beautifully written book, an easy read and in clear direct language. The “Lamb’s Supper” helped me see the Mass with new eyes, and to pray the liturgy with a renewed heart. I now feel that I participate more fully, enthusiastically, intelligently, and more powerfully the Mass than ever before. If you decide to add this book to your Spring/Summer reading I pray you too receive many blessings and new insights in this most sacred of prayers the “Eucharist of our Lord”. ~ *Bob Longo, Minister*

The Flyer



Our Fraternity Council

- Minister:** Bob Longo, OFS
410-921-0040
- V. Minister:** Ed Burgee, OFS
410-788-2718
- Formation:** Geri Flynn, OFS
410 730-4395
- Secretary:** France
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Radcliffe OFS
301 310-5204
- Councilor:** Lita Maisel OFS
410 747-2374
- Spiritual Assistant:**
Br. Lawrence LaFlame, OFM. Conv
410 531-2800



Evening Prayer
Video and Meditation

“The Via Dolorosa
Experience”

No need to bring your Liturgy
of the Hours

Message from Our Spiritual Assistant – Br. Lawrence



Please Pray For ...

Connie Baker, OFS
Marlene Feaga, OFS
Mary Ferrara, OFS
Marie Lindung, OFS
Jim Manning, OFS
Georgianna Papazian, OFS
Jim Tebo, OFS



OUR DECEASED BROTHERS AND SISTERS

Deacon Tom Bello, OFS
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
Donna Duncan, SFO
Charles Ferrara, SFO
Dolores Fritz, OFS
Marilyn Gilson, SFO
Richard Hall, SFO
Joy Kubricky, OFS
Frances Langbehn, SFO
Bob Lewis, SFO
Jean Manning, OFS
Yvonne Proch, SFO
Nancy Seaton, SFO
Don Sweitzer, OFS
Betty Taylor, SFO
Bud Tenley, SFO
Regina Yeager, SFO
Dorothy Zalewski, SFO

Brothers and sisters,

“In the first place for the blessed Brother Sun
Who gives us the day and enlightens us through you.
He is beautiful and radiant with his great splendor,
Giving witness to you, most Omnipotent One.”¹

After a month’s insertion of thinking about beauty I am returning to the Cantic of the Creatures with the first of seven creatures of creation. The first one, Brother Sun, is a fixed part of creation that is singular. Wind and fire, for example, are not singular because today’s wind is not the same wind we will encounter tomorrow. Let’s begin by seeing what Francis has to say about our brother.

He presents us with three characteristics. The first of these may actually be viewed as many medievals would have as giver of day (light for us to see creation) and enlightener of us (light for us to understand creation). Let me explain. As human beings we require two sources of light not just one. Of course the one that everybody knows is our sun. Life would be impossible without the sun. There would be no heat, nothing would grow, we would walk into each other or into trees, etc. Light is necessary for our eyes to function properly. It is necessary for us to be successful at living in this world. But we also require an inner light. A light for our inner senses that parallels the light for our outer senses. Just as we need a source of light for our outer senses of vision to work, so our inner sense of seeing, that allows us to come to know things, requires an inner vision that requires an inner light. Since the medieval period in Francis’ day was, theologically, very Augustinian this only makes sense, for it was Augustine of Hippo who spoke of the inner senses. Bonaventure would later pick this up as well. So Francis praises God for his gift to us of what is needed first and foremost – the sun, the giver of light.

This sun is also beautiful and radiant. I wrote last month about beauty – it is the reflection of the beauty of God. Just as God allows us to see and act and learn through the sun so it is a beautiful part of creation reflecting all that God truly gives to us. Yet, we do not need to search for it in order to find it, nor is it some dim candlelight in an obscure corner of the room – no, it is radiant. It shines everywhere and is readily visible. We do not need to go looking for the sun to find light by which we can see. Even on the cloudiest of days the light of the sun somehow manages to break through for us to carry on with our daily existence. It is the most magnificent of all of God’s creation. In a sense, it is the foremost of all of creation; no wonder it is used to refer to the Son, Jesus.

Oh yeah, it gives witness to God just as Jesus did. It gives us the light to see and carry out our daily lives just as Jesus shared his wisdom of light so that we may carry out our lives with God. Surely there is much more to be said here but I wanted to give you food for thought. As you think about these words and ideas, may the Lord enlighten you with this Franciscan view concerning the most prominent of all of God’s creation – Brother Sun. ~ Br. Lawrence

¹ Green, Julien. *God’s Fool: The Life and Times of Francis of Assisi*. Trans. by Peter Heinegg. San Francisco: Harper and Row, Publishers, 1985.



Treasurer's Report

March – 2017

Beginning Balance:	\$ 859.71
Income	<u>1,296.67</u>
Total	\$2,156.38

Expenses:

Brother Lawrence	100.00
Franciscan Friars	100.00
Web Fee	15.00
Stamps	39.20
Formation Books	<u>185.00</u>

Total **\$ 439.20**

Ending Balance: **\$1,717.18**

Thank You for your monthly contributions

Contributions are Tax Deductible

Our Franciscan Center Apostolate

Don't forget to bring your donated items to this month's gathering, please pick from below. Remember your monthly donation(s) are Tax deductible.

Hand sanitizer	Soap
Toothbrushes	Toothpaste
Shampoo & Conditioner	Washcloths
Deodorant	Feminine hygiene products
Disposable razors	



April 9th Gathering

Br. Manny, OFM. Conv.
"Us Turning To God"

Br. Lawrence, OFM. Conv.
"The Growth of our Fraternity"

April 28-30, 2017

Regional Retreat
(see last page of this newsletter)

May 21st

Regional Visitation and Pastoral Visitation

Our Ongoing Formation
"Presentation of the "Rule"

August 20th

Fr. Douglas will talk to us on Social Justice

October 6-8, 2017

Formation Directors Weekend.
Loyola Retreat House, Faulkner, Md.

That St. Francis

Francis of Assisi is a saint whose charm does not pass with time. Assisi, which houses his tomb, is a symbolic place of peace and dialogue for believers of non-Christian religions. Pope Francis taking the name of the saint, was linked in particular to its testimony of poverty and peace. Yet so long ago, nearly eight centuries - since that October 4, 1226, when Francis died near the church of the Portiuncula near Assisi (now incorporated in the great basilica of Santa Maria degli Angeli). Typically the time ages and also it makes obsolete the models of holiness. Many figures of saints,

April Birthdays



Kathy Ford, OFS	04/06
Geri Flynn, OFS	04/26
Julianna Kim, OFS	04/28



Remembering Your Profession Anniversary

(12 yrs.)

Ray Heverling, OFS **4/10/05**



Our April gathering will be moved to Sunday, April 9th.

Easter this year is April 16th, our normal third Sunday gathering.

April 23rd is Divine Mercy Sunday.

also very revered, fade with their time. Francis instead remains popular and attractive.

What is the secret of his stay through the ages? It seems strange to talk of "secret" for a figure so transparent. Yet all is not easy even for a man "simple" like him. Chiara Mercuri, a valid historical and fascinating narrator, reconstructs the story in Francis of Assisi, The denied history, published by Laterza. Francis and his companions had chosen to live in poverty, without possessing convents or property, but also to be close to the poor and on the road between people. It was a revolution: there was such a different religious choice by the friars from the monks of their day. The Friars Minor explained the Gospel, not from the top of the chair, but among the people.

The Order of Francis (men and women) grew rapidly, while new problems emerged: it was necessary to preserve the condition of the poor and "minor" in the company or adapt to doing mitigated forms played a role by friars in the Church? These, especially priests and intellectuals, often did not share the approach of Francis, considering it simplistic compared to the potential of the Franciscan movement.

On the death of the saint, the debate was played on the reconstruction of its history. It became decisive writing the biography, which became a model for the friars. Much of the image of the saint, for several centuries, was linked to the biography written by the minister general of the Order, Bonaventure, that the Chapter of Paris in 1266 made official, imposing the destruction of the other previous texts. Bonaventura - according Chiara Mercuri - describes an angelic Francis, simple and ignorant, "Without a precise personality, without backbone, as if he had his own strength." In fact, since 1219, Francis had expressed a different orientation on the Order.

He was linked to poverty, very connected to Chiara and her companions. Surprisingly in 1221 he gave up the friars driving without controversy. But he said: "If you brake and amend the vices I cannot, I will not become an executioner who strikes and scourges as do the authorities of this world." Various aspects of the less conformist life of Francis amounted to sources dating from the closest companion, Brother Leo. They decided not to destroy the unofficial texts, as intimated chapter of Paris, but kept them secret. The work of historians, along the twentieth century, has also enhanced these sources rebuilding a more vivid figure of Francis.

Among other things, shows his original desire to overcome the logic of conflict between Crusaders and Muslim troops, trying a different contact with Islam. The centuries-old history of the Franciscans, which certainly inspired by him, is a complex affair, which also responds to the needs of the Church. So Francis is first of all a great figure of Christianity: a "rich young man" of the thirteenth century Umbrian who lives and hears the Gospel, using the model of Jesus of Nazareth. In strong evangelical character, - in my opinion - it is the secret of a character who does not age. The radical nature of faith, the simple life close to the poor, sympathy for all and attention to make it created an eloquent figure even beyond sectarian affiliations. Today, despite the past eight centuries, has better understood this simple and complex figure. (Andrea Riccardi - Seven - Corriere della Sera)

OUR GATHERINGS – All should make every effort to attend our gathering every month. If you are unable to attend due to illness, work or family obligations, contact a council member (see page 1 for telephone numbers). If you are a candidate or are professed and miss a gathering, please send your check for the Common Fund to:

Michael Radcliffe, OFS
6324 Morning Time Lane
Columbia, MD 21044

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

Noon Mass everyday

Seder Meal – April 6th
6:00 – 8:30 pm (\$30 per person)

Easter Egg Hunt (April 15th)
10:30 am – Rain or Shine

Friars, Eucharist and Dinner
Second Thursdays (May, June
and July - 6:00 – 7:30 pm)

For more Information call:
410 531-2800



General Constitution of the Secular Franciscan Order December 8, 2000

Article 4

2. The Rule establishes the nature, purpose, and spirit of the SFO.

Annual Retreat April 28 – 30, 2017

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

When: April 28-30, 2017

Who: All professed Secular Franciscans, candidates, inquirers aspirants and spiritual assistants

Theme: Breaking Free. The Transformation of Daily Life

Presenter: Father Bernie Tickerhoof, TOR

Registration Form Instructions:

1. Submit form no later than April 14, 2017
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:**

Peter Noyes, ofs
 2917 Shepperton Terrace
 Silver Spring, MD 20904
 Phone: 301-384-8424 tty
 email: pnoyesofs@yahoo.com

**Please make checks payable to St. Margaret of Cortona, Region, not to Peter Noyes or to PriestField. Thank you.*

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ E-mail _____

Fraternity _____

Please check room requirement: Rooms are designed for double occupancy for maximum attendees.

A) Single occupancy room: \$243.00 †

B) Double occupancy room: \$223.00

C) Single occupancy cabin: \$277.00

D) Double occupancy cabin: \$252.00

E) Dormitory: \$179.00

F) Days Only: \$121.00

† **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 \$ _____