

ST. JOSEPH OF CUPERTINO FRATERNITY

Gathering – August 16, 2015

“Praise be to you, my Lord”. In the words of this beautiful canticle, Saint Francis of Assisi reminds us that our common home is like a sister with whom we share our life and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us. “Praise be to you, my Lord, through our Sister, Mother Earth, who sustains and governs us, and who produces various fruit with colored flowers and herbs” ~ Pope Francis ~ [Laudato Si \(Praise be to you – On Care For Our Common Home\)](#), Paragraph 1

Ministers Message

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Francis and Clare,

I would like to share with you a letter from our National Fraternity Minister, Deacon Tom Bello, OFS:

May the Lord give us Peace!

Please forgive me for letting a week pass to share some (and at the end all) of what our Holy Father Pope Francis said last Sunday, July 12, 2015. It will help if you remember last Sunday’s Gospel (Mark 6:7-13) when the Lord sends, with instructions, the Twelve out on mission, just as the Holy Father himself was on mission in his native Latin America.

As he considered the Lord’s instructions, Pope Francis observed, “it strikes me that one key word can easily pass unnoticed. It is a word at the heart of Christian spirituality, of our experience of discipleship: ‘welcome.’ Jesus as the good master, the good teacher, sends them out to be welcomed, to experience hospitality. He says to them: ‘Where you enter a house, stay there.’ He sends them out to learn one of the hallmarks of the community of believers. We might say that a Christian is someone who has learned to welcome others, to show hospitality.

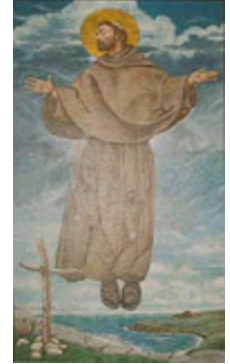
“Jesus does not send them out as men of influence, landlords, officials armed with rules and regulations. Instead, he makes them see that the Christian journey is about changing hearts. It is about learning to live differently, under a different law, with different rules. It is about turning from the path of selfishness, conflict, division and superiority, and taking instead the path of life, generosity and love. It is about passing from a mentality which domineers, stifles and manipulates to a mentality which welcomes, accepts and cares.

“These are two contrasting mentalities, two ways of approaching our life and our mission.

“How many times do we see mission in terms of plans and programs. How many times do we see evangelization as involving any number of strategies, tactics, maneuvers, techniques, as if we could convert people on the basis of our own arguments. Today the Lord says to us quite clearly: in the mentality of the Gospel, you do not convince people with arguments, strategies or tactics. You convince them by learning how to welcome them.

“The Church is a mother with an open heart (as I pray are our individual fraternities). She knows how to welcome and accept, especially those in need of greater care, those in greater difficulty. The Church is the home of hospitality.

The Flyer



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
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Treasurer:** Jerry Yu, OFS
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- Councilors:** Lita Maisel OFS
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- Spiritual Assistant:**
Br. Lawrence LaFlame, OFM. Conv
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EVENING PRAYER



**Twentieth Sunday
Evening Prayer II
Week IV**



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



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

How much good we can do, if only we try to speak the language of hospitality, of welcome! How much pain can be soothed, how much despair can be allayed in a place where we feel at home! Welcoming the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger, the naked, the sick, the prisoner (Mt 25:34-37), the leper and the paralytic. Welcoming those who do not think as we do, who do not have faith or who have lost it. Welcoming the persecuted, the unemployed. Welcoming the different cultures, of which our earth is so richly blessed. Welcoming sinners.”

To me, Pope Francis is not only speaking to evangelization for the whole Church, but he also speaks to outreach for our local fraternities so that both Church and fraternity, both “communities of love” (see Secular Franciscan Rule #22), might better accomplish the mission the Lord has given to us all.

Pope Francis continues: “God never allows himself to be outdone in generosity. So he sends us his Son, he gives him to us, he hands him over, he shares him... so that we can learn the way of fraternity, of self-giving. He opens up a new horizon; he is the new and definitive Word which sheds light on so many situations of exclusion, disintegration, loneliness and isolation. He is the Word which breaks the silence of loneliness.

“And when we are weary or worn down by our efforts to evangelize, it is good to remember that the life which Jesus holds out to us responds to the deepest needs of people. ‘We were created for what the Gospel offers us: friendship with Jesus and love of our brothers and sisters’ (Evangelii Gaudium, 265).

“One thing is sure: we cannot force anyone to receive us, to welcome us; this is itself part of our poverty and freedom. But neither can anyone force us not to be welcoming, hospitable in the lives of our people. No one can tell us not to accept and embrace the lives of our brothers and sisters, especially those who have lost hope and zest for life. How good it would be to think of our parishes, communities, chapels, wherever there are Christians, as true centers of encounter between ourselves and God.

“The Church is a mother, like Mary. In her, we have a model. We too must provide a home, like Mary, who did not lord it over the word of God, but rather welcomed that word, bore it in her womb and gave it to others.

“We too must provide a home, like the earth, which does not choke the seed, but receives it, nourishes it and makes it grow.”

What a beautiful message for all of us! Permit me to repeat the one paragraph that I pray always to carry with me:

“One thing is sure: we cannot force anyone to receive us, to welcome us; this is itself part of our poverty and freedom. But neither can anyone force us not to be welcoming, hospitable in the lives of our people. No one can tell us not to accept and embrace the lives of our brothers and sisters, especially those who have lost hope and zest for life. How good it would be to think of our parishes, communities, chapels, (fraternities), wherever there are Christians, as true centers of encounter between ourselves and God.”

Peace and love to all, Tom



Treasurer's Report

Beginning Balance: \$1530.60
Income **460.00**

Total **\$1990.60**

Expenses:

Franciscan Friars **100.00**
Brother Lawrence **50.00**
Website Fee **15.00**
Stamps **39.20**
Books (formation) **151.00**
2nd pmt of fair share **615.00**
Total Expenses: **\$ 970.20**

Ending Balance: \$ 1020.40

Thank You for your monthly contributions

Contribution is Tax Deductible

August Birthdays



Charles Schuler, OFS 8/09
Jim Manning, OFS 8/17
Jim Tebo, OFS 8/20
Rosemary Whelan, OFS 8/20
Gail Bunyan, OFS 8/21
Sheila Solomon, OFS 8/21

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Mercy does not mean there is no judgment; mercy exists because there *is* a day of judgment. Mercy does not mean there is no Hell; mercy exists because Hell does. Without mercy we are lost. With it we stand a chance, but only if we accept our need for it. ~ Msgr. Charles Pope

Please remember to bring toiletries to our August Gathering for the Franciscan Center in Baltimore.

Your Fraternity Council

Letter from Our Spiritual Assistant – Br. Lawrence LaFlame, OFM. Conv.

Brother Lawrence is away from his desk and is on vacation in New England.

The Journey of Our Lives by Friar Jim Van Vurst, O.F.M.

It's common to describe our lives on this earth as journeys. Each of us weaves a personal history made up of moments in which we are caught up in events—most of which we did not anticipate. And we make decisions and do things that affect others in ways we cannot grasp.

I'm sure that most married couples come to a point in their lives when they, too, are struggling. The honeymoon is long gone; personality quirks arise; boredom can creep in. What we don't understand is that what we all go through is perfectly normal in our journeys. Growth, maturity, and wisdom can feel as if we are fighting through a jungle. It's dark and scary without much light ahead. Maturity brings with it scars and bruises as a result of that journey. That's why there is nothing on earth as soft and tender as an infant. Mature adults have a different kind of skin.

Never Alone

As we grow older on our journeys, we realize two important truths: life is made up of our actions and decisions; and life is also composed of events beyond our control. Major events can occur and lives are changed forever. Think of the one moment before the planes crashed into the Twin Towers on 9/11, and what occurred to all of those people. We use expressions such as "just a second," or "in a moment's time." In the life of a single adult, there are countless moments that are packed with potential for good or ill.

What is so important is that we understand and embrace the truth that not a single one of us walks our journeys alone. When God made us in his image and likeness, he also destined us to eternal life with him. If someone is not saved, it will be by his or her choice, not God's. At the same time, God never wants us to struggle alone.

God will never turn from us during our journeys. Never forget that sometimes when we fall, we actually fall *forward*. The miracle is that when we get up, we are better off for that fall. We mature from it. The fact that we can't make ourselves perfect is trumped by the saving death of Jesus on Good Friday. As we say in modern jargon what Jesus said to each of us: "Just keep doing the best you can even if it's not perfect. Remember, I've got your back. I died for you."

Minority (Humility)

Francis wanted his brothers and sisters always to be minors in contradistinction to the majores (the wealthy and powerful) of his day. He wanted them to be like Christ, humble and truly submissive to all.

Minority means to conform oneself, through a life of penance, to Christ who is the servant of God sent into the world, the place of our redemption. It is the “holy ground” where we live God’s redeeming will with our brothers and sisters. Minority means cherishing life as sisters and brothers, bringing good news to the poor, proclaiming freedom to captives, giving sight to the blind, setting the down-trodden free and announcing God’s year of favor (cf. Lk 4:17–19). Metanoia and Jesus’ announcement of the nearness of the Kingdom (Mk 1:15) and inextricably linked because childlikeness, minority, is the one thing necessary for entrance into the Kingdom (Mt 18:13; Mk 10:16; Lk 18:17; Jn 3). An aspect of Francis’ insight into the gospel was that all the other qualities of gospel life are counsels. “Littleness is an absolute requirement for the Kingdom (Mt 19:14). The adult experience of this “littleness,” or “childlikeness,” before God is the joyful awareness that one is the subject of the pure love and favor of God.

Francis is concerned that we commit ourselves to actual identity with the minores, the poor and powerless. The constant tradition of our Order and the continuing current teaching of the Church calls us to this posture. As Franciscans we are called to live as brothers and sisters with all people, especially with those who are poor, those who are marginalized and those who are without voice in our world. ~ Margaret Carney, OFS, Washington, D.C. Franciscan Federation.

Upcoming Events

Book Sharing

We will start our monthly Book Sharing in September. If there are enough people interested we will meet at the friary on the first Saturday of the month.

We will be using: "Clare A Light in the Garden", by Murray Bodo, OFM. See Lita in the Shrine Gift Shop to order the book or go to Amazon.com to purchase the book. Please let Bob know as soon as possible if you are interested in participating.

August - Kim Hartman, from the Columbia Pregnancy Center, will give a presentation. We will also welcome five aspirants into the Inquiry Program.

September 20 - Fall picnic. The picnic will take the place of our Gathering.

October- We will return to our ongoing formation book "Seeking A Gospel Life".

November - Memorial Mass for our departed Brothers and Sisters.

December - Christmas Party!!

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 are professed 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

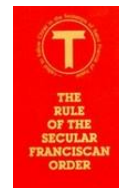
At the Friary
Chapel Open Daily
From 9 AM – 5 PM

Noon Mass everyday

All are Welcome

Reconciliation

Wednesdays from 4 - 5pm., and
Monday through Saturday at
11:30am.



Rule 13 of the Secular Franciscan Order

As the Father sees in every person the features of his Son, the firstborn of many brothers and sisters, so the Secular Franciscans with a gentle and courteous spirit accept all people as a gift of the Lord and an image of Christ.

A sense of community will make them joyful and ready to place themselves on an equal basis with all people, especially with the lowly for whom they shall strive to create conditions of life worthy of people redeemed by Christ.