

# ST. JOSEPH OF CUPERTINO FRATERNITY

## Gathering – December 20, 2015

# The Flyer



[Laudato Si \(Praise be to you – On Care For Our Common Home\)](#), Paragraph 11

“Francis communed with all creation, even preaching to the flowers, inviting them to praise the Lord, just as if they were endowed with reason”. ~ Pope Francis

### Ministers Message

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Francis and Clare,

As a follow-up to our Holy Father’s encyclical “Laudato Si”, our Minister General is asking us to take action in support of Pope Francis’ “On Care for our Common Home”. I have been asked, both by our new National Minister, Jan Parker, OFS and our Regional Minister, Patrick Martin, OFS, to look at “The Global Catholic Climate Movement” website and for us Franciscans to respond to it. The link is: <https://catholicclimatemovement.global/month-climate-action/>

Many of us have joined Franciscans around the world in reading and studying “Laudato Si: On Care for our Common Home”. Here is what our Catholic Bishops are saying about this encyclical:

From: Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz, Archbishop of Louisville, Kentucky, President, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (as found on the USCCB website): “In Laudato Si’, the Holy Father invites us to reflect deeply on all points of human activity, whether we consider care for creation at the level of our individual choices or in the public square. The need for urgent action is clear and he appeals to us to become “painfully aware” of what is happening to the world and “to grow in solidarity, responsibility and compassionate care.” The Holy Father makes it clear that we were given the earth as a gift from our Creator. It is our responsibility to avoid contributing to a culture of acquisitiveness, individualism, or exploitation. Pope Francis repeatedly urges us to renewed and urgent action and honest dialogue about our environment – both social and ecological.” Pope Francis urges us to action and dialogue. Our Bishops say, “the need for urgent action is clear”. Our OFS leaders are asking us to take action.

What can we do?

1. Explore the Catholic Climate Movement website, watch the video of Pope Francis and read what our Bishops are saying about the care for creation
2. Let us get involved in cleaning up communities, both in our neighborhoods and areas that badly need cleaning
3. Sign the Petition
4. Let us pray, and let us do the best we can in responding to this request.
5. Together we can make a difference in bringing the important issue of climate justice to the attention of world leaders and the whole Catholic Church

### Theme for 2016

The council would like to thank all for the many suggestions for our 2016 Theme for the year. It was decided to join two of your suggestions to make up our theme,

### Our Fraternity Council

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410 730-4395

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410 747-4589

**Spiritual Assistant:**  
Br. Lawrence LaFlame, OFM. Conv  
410 531-2800



We will close our Christmas party with Evening Prayer  
Please bring your Liturgy of the Hours

Fourth Sunday of Advent



**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

“Enkindle the Fire of Mercy in our hearts”.

**Christmas Family**

We have selected a family for our Christmas Giving, many thanks to Denise Donaldson for suggesting a family in need. The fraternity will make a monetary donation and we are asking all to bring a non-perishable food item to the fraternity Christmas gathering. Thank you for your Franciscan generosity.

*Your Fraternity Council*

**A Message from Br. Lawrence**

Dear sisters and brothers in Francis,

I have been thinking quite a bit about the idea of mercy lately as we get ready to begin the Year of Mercy as proclaimed by Pope Francis. I have found it to be an extremely interesting topic with many different places where I might take prayer and meditation, but right now I would like to share with you that area of mercy which is one where I think everyone could use a little prayer and meditation.



**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

If you remember the story of the woman caught in adultery in John 8 you are most likely impressed with how Jesus defused the situation of those who wished to stone her. Often when this story is brought up I hear the question asked as to where the man involved is, but that really has nothing to do with the story as I understand it. It is also not good practice to take modern thoughts and concepts and to place them on previous ages as we shall soon see. The real message seems to be that Jesus handles the situation with the woman with mercy; he did not judge her nor condemn her, rather he said quite the opposite, “neither do I condemn you.” It is a demonstration of mercy and not a demonstration of judging. To judge another is to speak to them from a higher position, whether it be a higher moral position or a higher societal position does not really matter; it is simply a looking down upon another. Jesus shows us in this story that it is no one’s place to do this. Society may choose people to act in roles of judging but that is dealing with the orderliness of society and civil laws. Civil laws are not the same as moral laws. The only one who can judge moral situations is God and in this story we find that God acts with mercy. Such mercy is found all over the scriptures in both testaments. I said earlier that we should not use our thought to judge those who lived before us and the reason that I expressed that is that it is another example of looking down from a, supposedly, higher moral position upon people who have a different understanding of some moral positions.

In spite of all of this there is one other element that I would like to point out from this story from John’s gospel account. After Jesus responds as I stated above he immediately follows it with another statement, “but from now on avoid this sin.” Part of our acting with mercy is to gently help one another to see what is God’s way, what is God’s will in life. This must also be done without speaking from on high, so to speak. The tradition of the Church is to “hand down” from one generation to the next its moral teaching but that



## Treasurer's Report

<b>Beginning Balance:</b>	<b>\$1233.78</b>
Income	718.00
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>\$1951.78</u></b>

### Expenses:

Franciscan Friars	100.00
Brother Lawrence	50.00
Website Fee	15.00
<b>Total Expenses:</b>	<b><u>\$165.00</u></b>

**Ending Balance:** **\$1786.78**

Thank You for your monthly contributions

**Contribution is Tax Deductible**

does not mean that one does so in a “greater than thou” attitude. We express the tradition in love.

Let us spend some time during this Advent season considering these elements of mercy – not judging others while still expressing God’s message to them gently. Read the story from John 8 and think, pray and meditate on these two points within the story. In addition, I would be most interested to hear from any of you as to other elements of mercy that you find in this story as well. Peace - Br. Lawrence

## Upcoming Events

**December 20th** - Christmas Party!!

**January 17th** - We will have the Franciscan tradition of the Extraction of Saints and will welcome our inquirers into the order with the “Rite of Admission” Ceremony in the Chapel.

**February 21<sup>st</sup>** – The Regional and Pastoral Visitation.

## Life Is Like Parachuting

by Friar Jim Van Vurst, O.F.M.

## November and December Birthdays



<b>Barbara Levasseur, OFS</b>	<b>11/17</b>
(Oops)	
<b>Joan Bundy, OFS</b>	<b>12/15</b>
<b>Edward Burgee, OFS</b>	<b>12/17</b>
<b>Diane Witherspoon, OFS</b>	<b>12/18</b>
<b>John Handiboe, OFS</b>	<b>12/18</b>
<b>Mark McPherson, OFS</b>	<b>12/23</b>



## Remembering Your Profession Anniversaries

<b>Kevin Corcoran, OFS</b>	<b>12/16/09</b>
<b>Marie Lindung, OFS</b>	<b>12/16/09</b>
<b>James Soltysiak, OFS</b>	<b>12/16/09</b>

Margaret Mead, the famed social anthropologist, coined a very thought-provoking statement. She said: “Living is like parachuting. You have to do it right the first time!” There is hardly a truer statement than that. We have only one life to live. We live, we die, and then we experience eternity.

### Walking with God

Our goal is to make our way in this life so that when our journey comes to an end, we put ourselves in God’s hands and say, “Lord, here I am.” We have faith and trust that God has always been by our side. Our lives have had ups and downs, successes and failures. We all die sinners. But who were Jesus’ friends? Sinners, of course! He was at home with them all. But we are blessed to know that our ultimate goal is to be with God for all eternity—as well as our loved ones who have gone before us.

Death is not the end of life. It is merely the moment between two journeys: our temporary life on earth and our eternal life with the Lord. It’s not about saving ourselves. After all, Jesus did that with his loving sacrifice on the cross. We simply try to love and serve him as best we can, which is never perfect. But neither was that of Dismas, the good thief, nor were Jesus’ fragile and at times unfaithful disciples. And it is always the greatest saints who proclaim their own woundedness.

In other words, doing the right thing in our lives is simply walking hand-in-hand with the Lord. One thing we know for sure is that he will never let us go.

## Food For Thought

"None of us get out of life alive, so be gallant, be great, be gracious, and be grateful for the opportunities you have. Moral strength is about making a conscious decision to be a person who doesn't give up when it would be easy to, to be lesser because the journey is less arduous. The future is truly in our hands. Forget about having long-term dreams. Let's be passionately dedicated to the pursuit of short-term goals. Work with pride on what is in front of us. We don't know where we might end up, or when it might end." Jake Bailey – (An 18 year old dieing from cancer)

### On Meditating

It is shown that the brain never rests, not even when you leave your mind free. Why would not having mental activity: thinking not just to think, reflect and remember in a conscious and deliberate, but also to imagine, fantasize, take care and be carried by free association.

Empty your mind of all this is impossible, because our brain never rests: in the mid-90s, at the Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, it was discovered a circuit of brain regions (called "default mode network ", or" default brain network") is activated when it's not making any cognitive effort and let the mind wander. It consumes about 20 times more brain power than that used for a simple response to an external stimulus, such as chasing away a mosquito, and it is speculated that it may be the seat of consciousness.

Chill out, when one tries not to think about something, you get just the opposite effect. It has been shown by Daniel Wagner, Harvard psychologist, that subjects of his research try not to think about something, for example a movie just seen, they ended up thinking about it often. However, those who practice meditation can assume a more serene detachment to their thoughts, or to interrupt the flow, focusing only on specific content. So when meditating go with the flow, do not fight those good thoughts. When you fight the good thoughts, you only allow more thinking process to occur. *Assisi Newsletter*

**OUR GATHERINGS** –Members 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:

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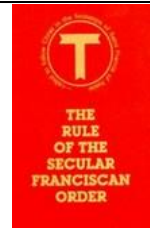
Calendar

### At the Friary Christmas Eve Mass

Thursday 4pm. in the Chapel and the Glass Room. Christmas Caroling at 9:30 PM. in the Chapel and Mass at 10 PM

### Mass on Christmas Day

At 12 PM in the Shrine Chapel



### Rule 17 of the Secular Franciscan Order

In their family they should cultivate the Franciscan spirit of peace, fidelity, and respect for life, striving to make of it a sign of a world already renewed in Christ.

By living the grace of matrimony, husbands and wives in particular should bear witness in the world to the love of Christ for His Church. They should joyfully accompany their children on their human and spiritual journey by providing a simple and open Christian education and being attentive to the vocation of each child.