

**ST. JOSEPH CUPERTINO FRATERNITY**  
**Enkindle the Fire of Mercy in our Hearts**  
**Gathering – February 21, 2016**

*Laudato Si (Praise be to you – On Care For Our Common Home)*, Paragraph 11

‘If we feel intimately united with all that exists, then sobriety and care will well up spontaneously. The poverty and austerity of Saint Francis were no mere veneer of asceticism, but something much more radical: a refusal to turn reality into an object simply to be used and controlled.’ ~ Pope Francis

**Ministers Message**

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Francis and Clare,

Our fraternity was scheduled to have its regional and pastoral visitation this month, we will need to reschedule. When I attend this month Regional Council Meeting, I will have a better idea as to when these regional visitations will take place.

The St. Margaret of Cortona Annual Retreat will be held on April 22 – April 24 at PriestField in Kearneysville, West Virginia (half hour past the Maryland line). The registration form can be found on the last page of this month’s newsletter. If you have any questions, please contact Bob Longo, OFS, at 410 921-0040.

In May we will be holding our council elections and in our March newsletter I will be posting, from our Constitution, the duties expected from each voting office. Hopefully at our April Council Meeting we will be able to put together a slate for the May elections. Please email or call a current council member if you are interested in holding a position on the council. We are so fortunate to have so many of you who would make excellent council members for our fraternity. Please give some thought and prayer for a possible position as a servant leader for the next three years.

In reading my morning prayers from the Liturgy of the Hours I always pray for vocations to the religious life. After watching the closing of ‘The Year of Consecrated Life’ from Vatican City it struck me that I too should be praying for vocations to lay orders as well. Our Holy Father, Pope Francis states, “[We] focus on...the sanctuary, rather than bringing the Gospel to the world.” The call of the laity is “to live and spread the faith in their families, workplaces, schools, neighborhoods and beyond...to be a leaven of the love of God in society itself.... [The layperson] is to create and sow hope, to proclaim the faith, not from a pulpit, but from...everyday life.”

What a powerful statement to meditate on, what powerful words to take with us as we journey on in our everyday lives out in the world. With a world becoming more secular day by day, we Franciscans need to be even more present in the world, not to hide our light under a bushel basket. We were not called to live in convents and monasteries, but to live in the world as our holy father Francis wished to live. You and I were called to make a difference, “let us begin to do what is ours to do”.

*Your Fraternity Council*

**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  
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



In the Chapel the Stations of the Cross will take the place of Evening Prayer from the Liturgy of the Hours

## A Message from Br. Lawrence



### **Please Pray For ...**

**Connie Baker**, OFS  
**Donna Duncan**, OFS  
**Marlene Feaga**, OFS  
**Mary Ferrara**, 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  
**Joy Kubricky**, OFS  
**Frances Langbehn**, SFO  
**Bob Lewis**, SFO  
**Jean Manning**, OFS  
**Yvonne Proch**, SFO  
**Betty Taylor**, SFO  
**Bud Tenley**, SFO  
**Regina Yeager**, SFO  
**Dorothy Zalewski**, SFO

Brothers and sisters in Francis,

If you think that we just celebrated Christmas and Ash Wednesday is already upon us, you are correct. It seems that the old Latin proverb (Tempus fugit – Times flies) is certainly a truism in Roman times as well as our own. It reminds me that when people refer to the ‘good ol’ days’ as being better than the present that that idea was written (whether for the very first time or not I do not know) by St. Augustine 1500 years ago. My point, using another old adage, is that the more things change the more they stay the same.

We think that things were better in the past, in the ‘good ol’ days’ but there really is no difference now that then for the problems and joys we experienced then are still there in the sense that there are still problems and joys, of course, they may be different ones. We cannot avoid problems and we shall always experience joys. What we need to do is to try to lessen the problems and increase the joys. Surely a tough task but one on which I think that we all need to work.

There is also another way of doing this. With the problems that arise we might be able to learn how to deal with them better. Yes, the problem has not gone away but I have learned to handle it better. I remember Parents Night when I was teaching high school up north in the Buffalo area. I dreaded the irate parent who was going to come after me because little Ildephonse was not doing so well in my class; surely that must be my fault. It did happen at times but I eventually discovered a way of dealing with it that left me much more comfortable when the parent stepped up and in a loud and angry voice said, “Ildephonse is not doing well in your class and it’s the only class he is not doing well in. Why don’t you like my son? He’s angry at you, and I’m angry at you too. What are you going to do about this?” Now, at this point I know that they already have the next anger burst to throw at me after I, of course, answer back in an angry way and blame little Ildephonse. I learned to answer with this response, “I would be angry too if that was the case we need to take a look at that.” I find at that point that there is usually a shocked expression because I did not defend myself as the parent expected, and, believe it or not, the conversation from that point was much more civil.

As “time flies” for us let us remember that we cannot necessarily avoid what will or will not happen but we can learn how to deal with it much better. To do so will begin to make the problems less, or at least more manageable, and the joys more. There is much wisdom from the past that can help us if we take the time to look beyond the internet for solutions for, most likely, much of what is on the internet probably originated with an ancient Roman, Chinese or Persian. It is good advice not to forget the past for as a thinker from several centuries back stated, “Those who fail to learn their history are condemned to repeat it.” Peace, Br. Lawrence



## Treasurer's Report

February - 2016

<b>Beginning Balance:</b>	<b>\$1500.71</b>
Income	1222.00
Total	<u>\$2722.71</u>
<b>Expenses:</b>	
Franciscan Friars	100.00
Brother Lawrence	50.00
Website Fee	15.00
Fr. Daniel for Rite of Admission	100.00
Ink and Envelopes	84.78
Formation	15.96
Total Expenses:	<u>\$365.74</u>
<b>Ending Balance:</b>	<u>\$2356.97</u>

Thank You for your monthly contributions

**Contribution is Tax Deductible**

## Upcoming Events

**February 21, 2016** – for ongoing formation, Br. Lawrence will speak to us on “Mercy”

**March 20, 2016** – We will read a chapter from our book, “Seeking the Gospel Life”, chapter to be determined

**April 17, 2016** – Volunteers needed to give a five minute talk on their saint received at January’s Extraction of Saints.

**May 15, 2016** – Election of Council Members

### THE MEANING OF THE EXPERIENCE AMONG LEPERS

Demonstrating that God acts in history, St. Francis played an important role in medieval society’s developing a social consciousness.

We moderns, however, should take care that we do not impose our own spirituality onto historical figures, such as Francis and Clare.

It is important for modern Franciscans to understand Francis’ and Clare’s mentality and approach to important concepts, some of which have been altered over the centuries.

### February Birthdays



**Charlene Heyden, OFS 02/15**  
**Jerry Yu, OFS 02/26**  
**Kevin Kulesa, OFS 02/26**  
**James Kim, OFS 02/27**



### Remembering Your Profession Anniversaries

Will Witherspoon, OFS 2/08/04  
Joan Bundy, OFS 2/16/14  
Chris Donaldson, OFS 2/16/14  
Harry Ford, OFS 2/16/14  
Kathy Ford, OFS 2/16/14

Francis’ message was deeply radical. Although there were many steps in his conversion process, the truly pivotal event was his encounter with the lepers. He began to see the lepers as fellow human beings. He had been socialized to avoid lepers, who were invisible, excluded members of society, throw-away people.

Francis’ unique insight was that all people are creatures created by the same creator God. This led him to develop the concept of the universal fraternity of all creatures.

Francis understood that the human person has a sacred character. Sin ruptures the sacred fraternity among people, and between people and God. The Medieval concept of penance, as Francis understood it, was to distance oneself from acts that fray the fraternity. The Latin term misericordia (to do mercy) really means the “heart aches because of the pain you feel for others’ sufferings”.

Thus, conversion really means a radical re-orientation of values learned in the world (and an effort to pull closer to God’s vision of the Kingdom of Heaven).

Penance is more than confession or the practice of penitential acts. It is an active effort seeking to right wrongs that fray human-God relationships.

~ Assisi Newsletter

# Offering Up Our Suffering

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

I suspect that most of my readers have heard of the expression “offering it up.” Someone asked me just what it means. It was a good question. There is a fundamental truth that helps us understand this expression. In all of God’s creation, there is a single word that describes who and how we are: *relationship*. The whole of creation: the universe, all the galaxies, stars, and planets (including our own), are in relationship with each other.

The basic laws of the universe, such as gravity, tell us that we all affect one another. But when it comes to God’s creation of humankind, the idea of relationship takes on unimaginable proportions. We are all created out of love: we are made in God’s image and likeness. And we are related to one another in ways we cannot comprehend. We are more deeply linked together in an interpersonal relationship with God and with each other.

That interpersonal relationship can be seen in the lives of moms and dads who feel hurt when their children are injured or experience rejection: their children’s pain becomes their own. That’s why the word *interpersonal* describes such a powerful aspect of our human experience—in times of joy and sadness.

## God's Family

Offering it up means doing something for those we love. It is the basis for Jesus’ own suffering on the cross. Sometimes we mistakenly think that Jesus died for the sins of humankind. Jesus did not die for something. He died for us all—his brothers and sisters. And in that, we were redeemed. In other words, we did not *do* anything ourselves to accomplish that. It was only Jesus who could perform such an act of love. Imagine if God had told us to do that on our own. Not a chance!

Offering up something means that, as brothers and sisters in the Body of Christ, we can help one another. We don’t know how it all works or what effect it has on others. That is where faith comes in. We don’t look at ourselves as martyrs in these situations, but as helpers in the lives of others.

It really is a magnificent understanding of how closely we are linked to each other as God’s family. Offering it up can be placed in the same category as prayer. Offering up our own inconvenience, pain, or struggle becomes part of our Christian faith and love for others. It is exactly what Jesus did on the cross. What a privilege that can be for us, too.

**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:

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

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



Calendar

## At the Friary

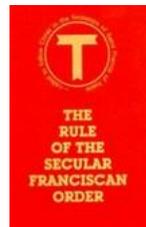
Chapel Open Daily  
From 9 AM – 5 PM

Noon Mass everyday

All are Welcome

## Reconciliation

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



## Rule 19 of the Secular Franciscan Order

Mindful that they are bearers of peace which must be built up unceasingly, they should seek out ways of unity and fraternal harmony through dialogue, trusting in the presence of the divine seed in everyone and in the transforming power of love and pardon.

Messengers of perfect joy in every circumstance, they should strive to bring joy and hope to others. Since they are immersed in the resurrection of Christ, which gives true meaning to Sister Death, let them serenely tend toward the ultimate encounter with the Father.

## Annual Retreat 2016

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

**When:** April 22-24, 2016

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

**What:** Mercy: The Heart of God: Mercy: The Heart of Francis

**Presenter:** Father Michael Heine

**Registration Form Instructions:**

1. Submit form no later than April 8, 2016
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

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 \$** \_\_\_\_\_