

ST. JOSEPH OF CUPERTINO FRATERNITY

Gathering – January 18, 2015

Ministers Message

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Francis and Clare,

At our January Gathering, we will continue the tradition in the Franciscan Order the “Extraction of Saints”. All will receive the name of a Franciscan Saint, a scripture quote for meditation and his or her new prayer partner to pray for in the coming year.

Often, the “Extraction of Saints” is accompanied by much joviality on the part of the fraternity – lots of “oohs” and – “aahs” for the members who are lucky enough to be honored with a famous Franciscan saint – like St. Francis or St. Clare – as their patrons.

When you receive your prayer partner, some people prefer to keep it a secret; you can do that if you like or you may want to let your prayer partner know that you will be praying for them throughout the year.

Here are some suggestions to remember your prayer partner throughout the year:

- Get to know your prayer partner better
- Ask your prayer partner if he or she has any special intentions for which you can pray
- Check with your prayer partner periodically to see how things are going
- Send your prayer partner a birthday card
- Send a card, or give a call if your partner becomes ill

Remember, we are Christ’s hands and feet in this world! Let’s reach out in prayer and action to our prayer partner this year.

Thanks to all who donated to the Resource Exchange Program at St. Vincent de Paul Church in Baltimore for the homeless. We would like to give those who were unable to attend our Franciscan Christmas celebration a chance to contribute to this worthy cause. If you would like to send a check for the St. Vincent de Paul Program, please make your check out to “St. Joseph of Cupertino Fraternity” **and in the memo area, please put “St. Vincent de Paul Donation”** and send to: Jerry Yu, 2812 Green Shade, Ct., Ellicott City, MD 21042

Our brother, Patrick Caughy, will have some of his pottery included in an exhibit in Westminster, January 8 – February 28, 2015. The exhibit, "Reach" is featured at the Carroll Art Center: 91 Main Street, Westminster, MD - 410 848 7272

http://www.carrollcountycouncil.org/eventdetail.asp?event_id=1231

An article about the exhibition is at The Carroll County Times under the title, "Bringing Art Together" <http://www.carrollcountytimes.com/news/local/ph-cc-cac-art-exhibits-20150108,0,4094330.story> - All are Welcome

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
410 379-2374
Cindy Mohler, OFS
410 747-4589

Spiritual Assistant:
Br. Lawrence LaFlame, OFM. Conv
410 531-2802

Extraction of Saints



*The Fraternity will
conduct the traditional
Extraction of Saints in
the Chapel*



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

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

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Francis,

I was thinking just the other day that 2015 has arrived and it did not seem so long ago that the new millennium was being anticipated (Y2K and all the rest). The ancient Romans remind us *tempus fugit* (i.e., “time flies”) and don’t we all know it.

Where that leaves me is with the thought that we cannot keep putting things off for, before we know it, it will be 2020 and we’ll still be saying “I still need to do (start!). . . . This is especially important in our daily lives, but even more important in our spiritual lives. Our relationship with God must be of primary importance whether we are 15 or 85. We ought not to delay. Why? Well there are at least two reasons that I can think of and I like to choose one of those.

If we are to have a relationship with God, if we are to align ourselves in love with God why would we ever want to delay? God is the most important of anything comprehensible. It is God who has created each and every thing in the universe and that includes us. This divine Creator is wanting to love us and to have us love reciprocally. God is the source of our very being for without God we would cease to be anything, we would not even be nothing.

As we begin this New Year of 2015 let us remember to spend some time with our Divine Lover daily. Let us work towards doing so through prayer, meditation, etc., but also in the God we find existing in all things. This is St. Francis’ view – that God, as Creator, is responsible and in each and every thing he has created and so we must search for him in everyone we meet. Look for the good in the other, even people whom you do not like, for that is where you will begin to find God in them.

Finally, as we begin this year the fraternity has decided to put some extra effort in continuing formation in elements of meditation or contemplative prayer. As we go through this year, and if you have never tried or have not “been satisfied” with your attempts we shall all be striving to work on this area of our lives together. Take opportunities to encourage each other, discuss contemplation with each other, basically to make this a true *fraternal* activity.

Have a wonderful and blessed 2015! Peace and good, Br. Lawrence

Upcoming Events

Our Next Book Sharing Meeting – All Are Welcome

Date: Saturday, February 7th - 2:00pm ~ 4:00pm

Place: Geri Flynn’s Home: 5072 Bucket Post Court, Columbia
Tel. 410 730-4395

Book: "Francis, the Journey and the Dream", by Murray Bodo

Chapters: "Of Violence" - Page 111
"Breaking Point" - Page 112
"On the Road" - Page 113



Treasurer's Report

Beginning Balance: \$ 573.71

Income **345.00**

Total **\$ 918.71**

Expenses:

Franciscan Friars **100.00**

Brother Lawrence **50.00**

Gift to Br. Lawrence **50.00**

Gift to Br. Gerry **50.00**

Gift to Fr. Michael **50.00**

Formation **37.42**

Ink Cartridge **13.77**

Website Fee **15.00**

Total Expenses: **\$ 366.19**

Ending Balance: \$ 552.52

Thank You for your monthly contributions

Contribution is Tax Deductible

January Birthdays



Claudette Lucas, OFS 1/07

Marie Lindung, OFS 1/18

John Kirby, OFS 1/25

Jim Soltysiak, OFS 1/26

Br. Lawrence LaFlame 1/26



Remembering Your Profession

Jean Singleton, OFS - 1/18/83

ON THE VALUE OF THE THIRD ORDER

Consider how Divine Providence made use of St. Francis to renew the world. Sensuality and avarice had shaken the very foundations of Christian life. To counteract them, St. Francis founded his order on poverty and renunciation. The First Order of the Friars Minor and the Second Order of the Poor Clares were to practice these virtues by taking vows and living in religious communities. Those called to the religious life in either of these two orders were to be outstanding examples and incentives to the world. The Third Order was intended for Christians living in the world who were desirous of assuring their salvation and supplied ways and means by which they, too, could counteract the dangers of sensuality and avarice.

The late Popes from Pius IX to Pius XII have declared that nothing could be more pleasing to them than that the Third Order be spread far and wide.

Consider how the Third Order protects its members from the dangers of the world. Pope Leo XIII revised the rule, so that its practices of piety and mortification can be more easily observed by every Christian, also by those who belong to the working class. Twelve Our Fathers are said daily; holy Mass is attended daily; if possible, the sacraments are received frequently; and two extra fast days are observed during the year. Wise precepts are laid down for the practice of virtues which will counteract sensuality and avarice, as well as promote submissions to temporal and spiritual authority. Modern Christians who are really interested in their salvation do well to unite in Christian brotherhood to achieve these purposes. -- Ask yourself whether you are really living according to the rule.

Consider the powerful aids which are provided in the Third Order. In it people associate with others who have the same purpose in mind and publicly pledge themselves to that purpose. Their example encourages them mutually, their common association is a constant stimulus. The members say a common prayer, and God looks upon that common prayer of millions with favor. At the monthly meetings we receive useful instruction. We are joined in one spiritual family and in a certain communion of graces with all the children of St. Francis, even with our Seraphic Father and the numerous saints of his three orders who have already been glorified. With what confidence may the Tertiaries call upon their sainted forebears to assist them! -- As a Secular Franciscan do not forget to recommend your intercession for the souls of the departed members of the order. --

National Fraternity

The Most Reliable Understanding of Heaven

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

I have to say that I have never been to heaven and returned to describe it. But God has given us an understanding of what it will be like. Of course, heaven will be infinitely better than anything we can describe. The key element is that love is the central concept that best describes our relationship with God. Therefore the most perfect description of heaven is perfect and

eternal union with Him. We can best understand God's love by our loving relationships with each other—imperfect as they yet will be.

We know that heaven is not a place or location. It is, in essence, union with God. This union perfects us as humans, but in spirit. There remain no imperfections and nothing that could detract from that perfect union with God.

If we are all in perfect union with God, then we are all in perfect union with each other. We cannot comprehend that in terms of experience, but it definitely makes sense based on what we know of God and what Jesus has revealed to us. Heaven is perfection—no matter how we look at it.

Love One Another

I've talked with more than a few Christian fundamentalists. Their concept of heaven could best be described as "union with God—no one else." Their rationale is that once we have completed our earthly journey, we don't need anyone else to make us happy. Others would just get in the way and detract from our giving glory to God. Whenever I hear that explanation, I think they have created a rather insecure God who wants all our attention for eternity. It is such a shrunken image of the magnificence of heaven that God has prepared.

John spoke God's word in a perfect statement that answers the question: "Beloved, let us love one another, because love is of God" (1 Jn 4:7).

Amazing, isn't it? God is telling us to love one another. We might automatically assume that our most important love should be directed to God. But no! God says that our love must be directed to one another!

Think of it this way: What mother or father would not be ecstatic to see how much their sons and daughters love one another? What could make them happier? Would loving parents tell their children that they must concentrate on them and not one another? Truly loving parents would say, "Loving one another is the greatest gift you could give us."

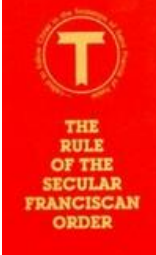
And so it would appear that heaven will be union with God and with each other in perfect love. It means that eternity will be the revelation not only of all God's love and goodness, but also of all that we have meant to each other. It pleases God when we love one another.

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 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 blongoOFS@verizon.net Fraternity Website: <http://stjosephcupertino.sfousa.org/>

	Calendar
At the Friary	
St. Valentine Dinner	
at the Shrine of St. Anthony	
6PM – 9PM	
Tickets are \$40 per person.	
Please RSVP by	
Wednesday, February 4th.	
410 531-2800	
http://www.shrineofstanthony.org/event/	

	Rule 6 of the Secular Franciscan Order
They have been made living members of the Church by being buried and raised with Christ in baptism; they have been united more intimately with the Church by profession. Therefore, they should go forth as witnesses and instruments of her mission among all people, proclaiming Christ by their life and words. Called like Saint Francis to rebuild the Church and inspired by his example, let them devote themselves energetically to living in full communion with the pope, bishops, and priests, fostering an open and trusting dialogue of apostolic effectiveness and creativity.	