

ST. JOSEPH OF CUPERTINO FRATERNITY

Gathering – January 17, 2016

[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”. His response to the world around him was so much more than intellectual appreciation or economic calculus, for to him each and every creature was a sister united to him by bonds of affection. That is why he felt called to care for all that exists. ~ Pope Francis

Ministers Message

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Francis and Clare,

Wow, can you believe we have started a new year, I pray all had a most blessed Christmas and I wish you and your family a most joyous New Year.

It is always an honor to welcome into our community of Secular Franciscans new members. A “Rite of Admission” ceremony for four of our inquirers; Joan Babin, Denise Donaldson, James Kim-Young and Mick Michieli-Beasley will take place at our January gathering. The St. Joseph of Cupertino Fraternity welcomes our four new brothers and sisters in Francis and Clare. What are the qualities of a Secular Franciscan?

“This [Secular Franciscan] life-style is basically typified by littleness and openness on a personal level (obedience, poverty, and purity of heart), together with others (community), and in an out-reach of service after the example of Jesus Christ the “Man for Others.”

“Littleness” is the quality which expresses the Secular Franciscans’ desire to be conformed to Christ in his self-emptying and to follow the Lord in humility and meekness, at the service of everyone, even to the point of taking the lowest place, not vying for power or prestige, and out of boldness risking ‘misunderstanding and non-acceptance for the sake of the gospel. “Openness” is the quality which expresses the Secular Franciscans’ desire to be receptive and adaptable to the creative, inspiring, and transforming power of God’s presence revealed to us in the word and sacraments, the Church and the Social situation, other people and all of nature. ~ Benet A. Fonck, OFM, [Called to Follow Christ: Commentary on the Secular Franciscan Rule](#) (SFO Resource Library, Vol. 1)

This year Catholic Lobby Night in Annapolis will be on Tuesday, February 9th starting at 3 PM. Please note this is a different night from previous years. Several important issues will be before the legislators, such as the physician assisted suicide bill. We have been encouraged by Pope Francis to take part in the political process and this is a great opportunity to make our presence known.

To attend Catholic Lobby Night in Annapolis you must register and more information can be found at www.mdathcon.org. You can also go to the St. Joseph Cupertino Fraternity website at: <http://stjosephcupertino.sfousa.org/fraternity-bulletin-board/> to register as well.

Your Fraternity Council

The Flyer



Our Fraternity Council

Minister:	Bob Longo, OFS 410-921-0040
V. Minister:	Sherry Lewis, OFS 410-788-5395
Formation:	Gerri 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

Extraction of Saints



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

A Message from Br. Lawrence



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

Dear sisters and brothers in Francis,

A blessed New Year to one and all!

Let us begin this new year of 2016 in a spirit of prayer and a search for mercy. I know that the Holy Father has proclaimed this Church year to be a year of mercy but there is another aspect of this proclamation that I wish to remind everyone of here.

Mercy is not just something that we receive from God but it is also something that we receive and give to each other. I think that this is a very powerful challenge and a very arduous one as well. Early in his pontificate Francis asked everyone to stop being judgmental and this is what I, personally, find to be so difficult. Judging others is a very easy habit in which to fall. Oftentimes I think that I believe that I am judging justly when I am doing no more than judging others according to my likes and dislikes, my understanding of beliefs. Let's call what I am doing what it really is 'shopping market' judgmentalism. I am picking and choosing to judge others as I have said above. That leads me to pick and choose what I am going to judge and like or judge and dislike. Why am I setting myself up as the great determiner of what should be; am I not at that point 'playing God'? Yes, I think so. Still it is so hard to overcome that tendency. God is the one to judge for he knows the person and what they know, believe and understand. The hardest part is when I judge another according to established moral principles, especially those proclaimed by the Church. That is not my place. I may consider myself to be "on the right side," but it is still not my place – "Let the one who is without sin cast the first stone" Jesus tells us.

I have decided that this is a good way to observe this Year of Mercy. This will not stop me from helping others to learn the way of Jesus when I think that one is off course but that is in no way judging that person, it is helping that person. It will take much prayer and meditation to discover the difference as to where guidance leaves off and judging begins but it is my main concern for this Year of Mercy.

I am not in the habit of making New Year's resolutions (for they often do not last the week) but this is my quest for this Year of Mercy. Perhaps I view it not as a resolution to the year but a promise to God of what I am going to work on with his help and guidance.

I invite all of you to do something in this Year of Mercy beyond the seeking of mercy from God for oneself, which is indeed good. Take that extra step and see what freedom it can bring to us as we walk this year of mercy with God and with our brothers and sisters setting an example for all whose paths we cross.

May God bless you through the intercession of Mary, Francis and Clare,

Br. Lawrence



Treasurer's Report

January - 2016

Beginning Balance:	\$1786.78
Income	508.47
Total	<u>\$2295.25</u>
Expenses:	
Franciscan Friars	100.00
Brother Lawrence	50.00
Website Fee	15.00
To Shrine (meat)	100.00
Formation	29.54
Donation to Christmas family	500.00
Total Expenses:	<u>\$ 794.54</u>
Ending Balance:	<u>\$1500.71</u>

Thank You for your monthly contributions

Contribution is Tax Deductible

Upcoming Events

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

February 21st – Regional and Pastoral Visitation.

Francis and the Franciscan Trilogy

"The Franciscan Trilogy [the Three Orders] is the first (and only) religious experience, preordained to apostolic life, born simultaneously, and designed to include all states of life.

"Francis received from Christ very precise directions: "go, repair my house..." The Pope clearly confirmed this directive for Francis and his followers: to accomplish in themselves conversion and preach it to others (facere et predicare pœnitentiam).

"Francis began work immediately and put all his confidence in the Spirit. He did not deliberately intend to found three Orders. However, in the institution of his three Orders, Francis let himself be guided solely by the Spirit of the Lord. He welcomed this reality as it flourished in his hands, without any predetermined plan."

"Essentially, Saint Francis gave his three orders only one rule: a more perfect observance of the Gospel, according to their state of life.

"The commitment of a permanent conversion to the Gospel (facere pœnitentiam) must permeate the life of all three Orders.

"In view of their preordained apostolic mission, the three Franciscan Orders are not related among themselves hierarchically, but from their very beginning, are equal and need to recognize both their spiritual interdependence and their need for mutual assistance.

"Within the context of the Fourth Lateran Council, St. Francis is the first person to found a religious trilogy that provided for living a religious life regardless of a person's state of life." *Taken from "For Up to Now" (FUN Manual) – Nature of the Secular Franciscan Order, pages 6 and 7*

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

"The world calls for and expects from us simplicity of life and the spirit of prayer, charity towards all, especially to the lowly and the poor, obedience and humility. Without that mark of holiness our word will have difficulty in touching the heart of modern men, it risks being vain and silent." – Blessed Pope Paul VI

January Birthdays



Claudette Lucas, OFS	01/07
Marie Lindung, OFS	01/18
John Kirby, OFS	01/25
Jim Soltysiak, OFS	01/26
Br. Lawrence LaFlame	01/26



Remembering Your Profession Anniversaries

Jean Singleton, OFS 1/18/83

ST. FRANCIS AND THE EUCHARIST

by Pat McCloskey, O.F.M. on Mar 31, 2015
in Featured, Franciscan, Saints

We have two versions of St. Francis' "Exhortation to the Clergy." The earlier text was probably written before 1219; the other text dates from 1220. The first version reflects the concerns of the Fourth Lateran Council in 1215 that all priests show more reverence for the Eucharist, especially by making sure that churches are kept clean and that altar linens and vessels are worthy of the body and blood of Jesus in the Eucharist. Proper care is also needed for books containing the Scriptures.

The second version of Francis' text shows the influence of a decree that Pope Honorius III issued on November 22, 1219, urging greater attention to the cleanliness of churches, reserving the Eucharist in a worthy and secure place, and teaching their people to bow when the consecrated host is elevated during Mass.

The bishops at the Fourth Lateran Council felt the need to require Catholics to receive the Eucharist at least once a year and to confess mortal sins at least yearly. Francis of Assisi did his best to encourage reverence for the Eucharist. May we follow his example.

Your Guardian Angel – Padre Pio, OFM.Cap.

May your good guardian angel always watch over you, and be your guide on the rough path of life. May he always keep you in the grace of Jesus and hold you up with his hands so that you may not hurt your foot on a stone. May he protect you under his wings from all the deceits of the world, the devil and the flesh.

Have great devotion to this beneficent angel. How consoling it is to know that we have a spirit who, from the womb to the tomb, never leaves us even for an instant, not even when we dare to sin. And this heavenly spirit guides and protects us like a friend, a brother.

But it is very consoling to know that this angel prays unceasingly for us, and offers God all of our good actions, our thoughts, and our desires, if they are pure.

Oh! For goodness' sake, don't forget this invisible companion, ever present, ever disposed to listen to us and even more ready to console us. Oh, wonderful intimacy! Oh, blessed companionship! If only we could understand it! Keep him always before your mind's eye. Remember this angel's presence often, thank him, pray to him, always keep up a good relationship. Open yourself up to him and confide your suffering to him. Be always afraid of offending the purity of his gaze. Know this, and keep it well present in your mind. He is easily offended, very sensitive. Turn to him in moments of supreme anguish and you will experience his beneficent help.

Never say that you are alone in the battle against your enemies; never say that you have no one to whom you can open your heart and confide. It would be a grave injustice to this heavenly messenger.

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

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Calendar

At the Friary

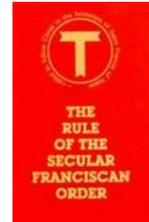
**Chapel Open Daily
From 9 AM – 5 PM**

Noon Mass everyday

All are Welcome

Reconciliation

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



Rule 18 of the Secular Franciscan Order

Moreover they should respect all creatures, animate and inanimate, which "bear the imprint of the Most High," and they should strive to move from the temptation of exploiting creation to the Franciscan concept of universal kinship.