

ST. JOSEPH OF CUPERTINO FRATERNITY

Gathering – July 19, 2015

I do not want to write this Encyclical without turning to that attractive and compelling figure, whose name I took as my guide and inspiration when I was elected Bishop of Rome. I believe that Saint Francis is the example par excellence of care for the vulnerable and of an integral ecology lived out joyfully and authentically. ~ Pope Francis ~ [Laudato Si \(Praise be to you – On Care For Our Common Home\)](#), Paragraph 10

Ministers Message

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Francis and Clare,

For our ongoing formation, we will be using our book “Seeking a Gospel Life”. As we continue to explore the gift of contemplative prayer in our lives, we will read Chapter Four - "A Look At Prayer" and we will break out into small groups and discuss the questions at the end of our small group session. Please come prepared. If you do not have a book, please get in touch with Geri, our Formation Director at: angelbarty@aol.com.

For our ongoing theme for the year “Contemplative Prayer” below are several quotes from St. Theresa of Avila to help us on our journey in deepening our prayer life:

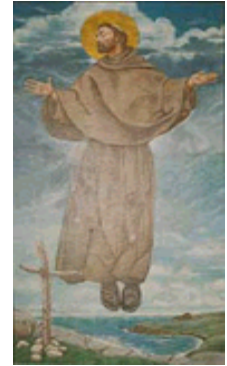
1. "Vocal prayer . . . must be accompanied by reflection. A prayer in which a person is not aware of Whom he is speaking to, what he is asking, who it is who is asking and of Whom, I don't call prayer-----however how much the lips may move."
2. "Mental prayer in my opinion is nothing else than an intimate sharing between friends; it means taking time frequently to be alone with Him who we know loves us."
3. 'One must not think that a person who is suffering is not praying. He is offering up his sufferings to God, and many a time he is praying much more truly than one who goes away by himself and meditates his head off, and, if he has squeezed out a few tears, thinks that is prayer."
4. "Suffering is a great favor. Remember that everything soon comes to an end . . . and take courage. Think of how our gain is eternal."
5. "The most potent and acceptable prayer is the prayer that leaves the best effects. I don't mean it must immediately fill the soul with desire . . . The best effects [are] those that are followed up by actions-----when the soul not only desires the honor of God, but really strives for it. "
6. "I would never want any prayer that would not make the virtues grow within me."

As you can tell, St. Theresa offers us great meditation material as well as other Saints.

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

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

EVENING PRAYER



**Sixteenth 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

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

Brothers and sisters in St. Francis,

I have just returned from a trip to Atlanta to take one friar there and bring another back to Baltimore. While there I saw Fr. Joe Dorniak who was soaked from having been caught in his garden in a cloud burst. He is doing well and sends his regards to all.

Since I was also thinking about this month’s letter at the time of seeing him in Atlanta the thought came to me and I thought about it a bit concerning any of us being caught in a cloud burst of sorts concerning our lives. We go from day to day in a somewhat regular routine, but occasionally in our lives there are unexpected cloud bursts that disrupt us or our routine. Whether it be a shower or a deluge we are going to get soaked from these bursts. Still, there should be no fear of this for as Christians and Franciscans we remember that no matter what happens, good or bad, ultimately it is God who is in control. God guides us in all things and God looks out for us as well. When I am asked a question as to why I joined the Navy so many years ago my answer is quite simply that God led me to that situation for I now realize that without the training and self-development that I went through there I would never have been able to live in the Conventual community. I did not know it at the time but God was in control.

As we go through our days this summer (and beyond) when the cloud bursts come let us remember that God is in control and we need to reflect and meditate about what God wants me to understand from this experience. So let us all try to stay dry but when the cloud burst comes let us remember that it is from a God who guides and looks out for us and it is certainly a moment for us to reflect and rediscover his love and concern for us.

Have a wonderful summer!

Pax et Bonum ~ Br. Lawrence

Upcoming Events

August- hopefully Fr. Julio will speak with us.

September- Fall picnic

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!!

It is the hope of the formation team and fraternity council that this will be a most fruitful year of spiritual growth and love for the Trinity and each other, as modeled by Saints Francis and Clare, so that we may share the fruits of the Spirit with all.



Treasurer's Report

Beginning Balance:	\$ 944.60
Income	1101.00
Total	\$2045.60

Expenses:

Franciscan Friars	100.00
Brother Lawrence	50.00
Website Fee	15.00
Joe Hamilton	50.00
Franciscan Ctr	300.00
Total Expenses:	\$ 515.00

Ending Balance: \$ 1530.60

Thank You for your monthly contributions

Contribution is Tax Deductible

God Needs You!

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

This title may strike some as rather strange and even unorthodox. After all, we know that God is infinite in wisdom, knowledge, and goodness. But it would be incorrect to say that God doesn't need anything or anyone. We say that because of the most perfect definition and description of God: "God is love" (1 Jn 4:8).

Let's look at it from this direction: imagine a husband and wife reading the newspaper. Suddenly, their 4-year-old son bursts into the house scared to death. The little child runs with his arms open and yells out in a frightened voice, "Mommy, Daddy, I need you!" Any mom or dad would drop whatever they were doing and embrace the frightened child and say, "Don't worry. I've got you."

If we understand that humans—for all of our weakness, frailty, and sinfulness—are made in God's own image and likeness, then we realize that often we respond to our loved ones just as God responds to us in times of struggle. A fearful child running to his parents is saying, in effect, "My life depends on you. Help me!"

If that is true, then we can truly understand that God needs us because of his love for us. We cannot comprehend our value in God's eyes. One way to understand this is that if you were the only person who needed Jesus' death on the cross, God would have asked his son Jesus to make that sacrifice.

God Is Salvation

I know that it makes no sense at all: Jesus' life for another's? How can that be? The only explanation is that love causes people—and even God—to do unreasonable acts to show that love.

That is why it is disrespectful to imagine God as an angry judge. That image is totally false. God is not the judge; God is salvation itself. Any parent can hate some act that his or her child might commit. But no true parent can ever hate his or her child. The parent may be hurt, disappointed, and probably fearful for that child. But the love is still there.

Instead of God watching in condemnation as someone sins and hurts others, we should picture God as telling the sinner, "I love and need you. Don't do that."

We should take to heart what is written in Scripture: "The Lord does not delay his promise . . . but he is patient with you, not wishing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance" (2 Pt 3:9). God's love for us is infinite.

July Birthdays



Jeanne Kerins, OFS 7/11
Gerry Pinkas, OFS 7/18
Mary Karth, OFS 7/28
Will Witherspoon, OFS 7/31

Remembering Your Profession



Angela Schuler, OFS 7/13/08
Brandon Justice, OFS 7/18/07

Every person on this earth is born with a mission to accomplish. For their own good, or of all humanity. The task of Francis was to spread the word of Christ in every corner of the world and, at the same time, to rebuild with lime and stones those places of worship in which are contained the symbols of Christianity and where any Christian is usually recognize.

With the passage of time St. Francis began to cultivate his passion for the art wall, he learned perhaps in fatal circumstances of the destruction of the fortress. On the basis of its valuable knowledge, he did not hesitate to roll up his sleeves to assemble all that was necessary so that he rebuilt the church of San Damiano. He decided to take to the streets, asking passers - with melodic vocals and sweetness - only small stones or rock material.

Anyone who worked to help Francis, who in the meantime had begun working day and night just to bring to light the buried treasure of San Damiano. He ate very little, and what little food he ate was the result of incessant labors that allowed him to walk around with a bowl in his hands to collect food. Despite the ire of his father, contrary to the alms of the son (willing to give new life to the chapel), Francis never lost his strength of mind, since he felt within himself the love of the Lord which has the power to transform even foods more bitter and disgusting into something delightful and delicious.

Francis was willing to suffer the scorn of those aimed at criticizing recklessly his way of life, his choice - laudable and courageous - of poverty. In fact went confidently on his way, trusting to the call of his heart telling him not to fear anything. Tirelessly continued the work in the church, getting as a result of numerous efforts, all the stones and even the oil that was used to light the candles.

Once the work of rebuilding the church of San Damiano, Francis decided it was time to start over, so he came down at the foot of the Umbrian city and equipped with new tools and new energies began the work of restructuring of the basilica of Saint Mary of the Angels, also called the Portiuncula. From the execution of the work undertaken by St. Francis of Assisi in the two main churches rise, as pillars, insights and lessons of life.

The Lord gives each of us a mission, so no one should oppose this will or limit the freedoms of others and impeding the wishes of those who have a vision of Creation different from ours. Everyone should live together with Hope, who is the sister of enthusiasm and strength. The enthusiasm that comes within Jesus, the joy of our heart, and the fortress, manifested in the soul of those who can withstand before the difficulties of this fragile existence.

Each of us is called to live in obedience to those principles of accountability and justice, according to which we must cultivate the good dodging evil because they bring to fulfillment the spirit of the gospel and the Lord's will. Silvia Ceccarelli – Assisi Newsletter

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 blongosfo@gmail.com Fraternity Website: <http://stjosephcupertino.sfousa.org/>



Calendar

At the Friary

At the Friary

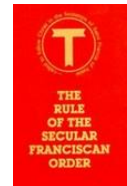
**Chapel Open Daily
From 9 AM – 5 PM**

Noon Mass everyday

All are Welcome

Reconciliation

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



Rule 12 of the Secular Franciscan Order

Witnessing to the good yet to come and obligated to acquire purity of heart because of the vocation they have embraced, they should set themselves free to love God and their brothers and sisters.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

“Above all the grace and the gifts that Christ gives to his beloved is that of overcoming self.”

St. Francis of Assisi