

ST. JOSEPH OF CUPERTINO FRATERNITY

Gathering – June 28, 2015

Ministers Message

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Francis and Clare,

Another summer is almost upon us and lots of vacations will be taken that allows us to have more time with family and friends. This week our brother Patrick Caughy, OFS and I spent a wonderful afternoon with our sisters, Jean Singleton, OFS, Sheila Eberhardt, OFS and Georgianna Papazian, OFS at St. Joseph's Nursing Home in Catonsville, MD. Georgianna is loving her new home, run by Polish Franciscan Sisters and feels she has finally found peace. If you have some spare time this summer, please try to visit our retired Secular Franciscan sisters at both St. Joseph's Nursing home and at Charlestown. If you would like more information, please contact our brother Patrick at: ptcaughy@hotmail.com or: 410 744-8119.

Please remember to bring toiletries to our June 28th Gathering for the Franciscan Center in Baltimore. Chris Donaldson, OFS, thanks so much for making sure the many bags of toiletries from last month's Gathering were delivered to the Center.

For our ongoing formation this month, we will include fraternity members sharing their favorite saints known for their meditative practices.

On another note, I am often asked, what does a Secular Franciscan do once professed? I often say, we offer our time and talents to church ministries as Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, music services, working in soup kitchens and shelters etc.

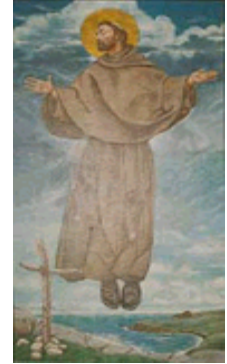
Speaking of ministries, I want to share with you a ministry mentioned in the June issue of the "Assisi Newsletter":

Franciscans are at the forefront against trafficking of human beings and for climate protection in the United States. Franciscan voices are heard in the United States on "hot" issues: such as ecology, human rights, poverty and peace and justice. The Franciscan Action Network, (FAN), was born in Baltimore, a non-profit organization based in Washington. This organization is composed of Franciscan nuns, friars, Secular Franciscans, and others. In all there are about 150 people involved. A network inspired by St. Francis of Assisi, who wants to raise his voice on sensitive issues on which the Church over the coming decades will have a central role.

FAN is driven by active volunteers throughout the country, supported by a small staff that acts as a control room. Steering FAN is a national minister of the Secular Franciscans, three Franciscan nuns, five Franciscan friars (by several orders: Friars Minor, Friars Minor Conventual, Friars Minor Capuchin, Third Order Regular), and four lay people.

The project has managed to integrate some fifty Franciscan groups, while Catholics make up a majority of the network, inside there are also members of inspiration Lutheran, ecumenical and non-Catholic Franciscan groups.

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



In case of rain, we will have evening prayer in the chapel.

Evening Prayer

Thirteenth Sunday in
Ordinary Time



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

FAN promotes the positions of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, including advocacy for immigration reform and a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants, legislation to reduce greenhouse gases and mitigate climate change, and economic policies to help the middle and lower class. FAN also maintains a stance on "pro-life" and its members participate in the annual March for Life in Washington.

On the immigration front, following the teachings of St. Francis of Assisi, FAN directs a significant part of its efforts to promote immigration reform, arguing that immigrants should be able to obtain citizenship and that there are political families ready to support its future as an active citizen in the United States.

In terms of climate change there is an activity for the organization to avert global warming. Currently there are vigils, seminars, meetings organized between all the networks in the United States, in view of the expected arrival of Pope Francis on the 24th of September. - Gelsomino Del Guercio – Assisi Newsletter

As you can see these are issues that need to be addressed not only by Pope Francis, Religious and Secular Franciscans, but by all of God’s people. Let us first begin by praying for peace and justice in our world and second, to get involved with organizations that will create this peace and justice for all.

Your Fraternity Council

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

Dear brothers and sisters in Francis,

This is a troubling time of year. During the holidays there are many who are homeless and/or without food and many generous people make heartfelt donations to assist them. The donations of food and clothing for warmth are a little comfort for them who could use much more.

Today, we are in late spring and moving rapidly toward summer but the need is still just as real as in December. True, the weather is warmer but the need for clothing and food and shelter is just as great. Let us all remember even today when the holidays are long past and long to come that there is still a desperate need that needs to be filled. Our father, Francis, saw the needs and met them as he could whenever they arose. Vacation time is coming for many of us, but there is no vacation from hunger, lack of clothing and shelter. May we always remember that our love and generosity must be all-the-year-round.

Peace - Br. Lawrence

Hiding from God

by Friar Jeremy Harrington, O.F.M.

The response of Adam and Eve to their tragic sin would be almost comical if it didn’t indicate how we deal with guilt and try to hide—or at least hide our sin—from God. “When they heard . . . the Lord God moving about in the garden . . . the man and his wife hid themselves.” God called, “Where are you?” Adam answered, “I heard you in the garden; but I was afraid, because I was naked,



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



Treasurer's Report

Beginning Balance: \$ 403.60
 Income 721.00
 Total **\$1124.60**

Expenses:

History of SFO DVD 15.00
 Franciscan Friars 100.00
 Brother Lawrence 50.00
 Website Fee 15.00
 Total Expenses: **\$ 180.00**

Ending Balance: **\$ 944.60**

Thank You for your monthly contributions

Contribution is Tax Deductible

so I hid myself" (Gn 3:8-10).

An incident came to my mind. When I was 4 or 5 years old, all my siblings were in school. My mother was busy at her sewing machine. I was playing with her yardstick, trying to wedge it in a doorway. She told me if I try to force it, it will break. What do mothers know? And then it broke! I ran to the back of a closet and hid. Amused rather than angry, she coaxed me out. No punishment.

We humans know the temptation of following our own plans, even when they are contrary to God's. We know better and have to try our way. If it creates a mess, shame can prompt us to try to hide our sin from God.

The profound truth is that we cannot hide from God. Psalm 139 expresses it movingly: "Where can I hide from your spirit? From your presence, where can I flee? If I ascend to the heavens, you are there; if I lie down in Sheol, you are there too. If I say, 'Surely darkness shall hide me'. . . Darkness is not dark for you."

Why Run?

"God's very being is love" (Catechism of the Catholic Church). God is not a spy—a security camera capturing our every movement. "God does not abandon his creatures to themselves. At every moment, he upholds and sustains them in being" (CCC 301). His love is like the warming sun. We are embraced by it. "In him we live and move and have our being," Paul reminds the Athenians.

The feasts of May and June are a "liturgical love feast," helping us appreciate this personal and pervasive love of God.

On Pentecost, May 24, we received the Holy Spirit who pours the love of God into our hearts. In the Sacrament of Reconciliation, the priest prays: "God the Father of mercies, by the death and resurrection of his Son, has reconciled the world to himself, and sent the Holy Spirit among us for the forgiveness of sins."

The following Sunday, we celebrated the Blessed Trinity. "God himself is an eternal exchange of love, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and he has destined us to share in that exchange" (CCC 221).

The feast of the Body and Blood of Christ, June 7, celebrates the real, personal presence of Christ with us in the Eucharist. Out of love, he gave us the gift of himself. He is always available, ready to listen, to support. Why run away?

June 12 is the feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. In the revelations to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, Jesus promised, "Sinners shall find in My Heart the source of an infinite ocean of mercy. I will console them in all their troubles." Who needs to hide?

June Birthdays



Boniface Kim, OFS	6/05
Kevin Corcoran, OFS	6/06
Chris Donaldson, OFS	6/06
Elena Spitzer	6/08
Mary Chandler, OFS	6/18
Eileen Peregoy, OFS	6/26



Barbara Levasseur, OFS	6/03/02
Bob Longo, OFS	6/15/96
Kevin Kulesa, OFS	6/15/07
Patrick Caughy, OFS	6/24/12
Cindy Mohler, OFS	6/24/12
France Staudenmann OFS	6/24/12

The Paradox of Holiness

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

It is understandable that most people struggle with the desire to be holy. And that struggle exists because of a misunderstanding of what holiness really is. The best way to understand holiness is to think of this basic fact: holiness is our relationship with God. In other words, we can't make ourselves holy. Holiness is really a sharing in God's holiness *within* us. We need to seek God's will in all things. Obviously, none of us can do that perfectly. We are born wounded. God knows this. That's why Jesus gave his life for us in love.

We must be open to God working within. And then we grow in holiness! Your next question might be, "But how do I know that I am growing in holiness?" The answer is this: most people won't know. In fact, if someone is always looking for signs of holiness in himself or herself, he or she will be sorely disappointed. The fact is that saints never knew they were saints. They thought of themselves as great sinners. Read any autobiography of a saint and you will find that theme frequently in their writings.

Growth in holiness will not be felt. Holiness is a result of struggle, hard work, and dedication to what the Gospels ask us to do. Sometimes there is more blood, sweat, and tears than any wonderful, ecstatic experiences. This means that our journey through life is indeed a life of faith.

Grace of God

Just look around you and within the circumstances of your life. You will find the path to holiness, though at times it may feel more like a struggle.

What is essential to understand is that God is with us. The Spirit is always leading us, inspiring us, and enlightening us. Jesus, our Lord, is always leading us along the way. Husbands and wives, mothers and dads: they all find holiness in their vocation. I, as a Franciscan priest, find it within the circumstances of my calling. It may look as though I have some special graces that others do not. But that is not true. God gives each person the specific grace needed for his or her life.

In the end, that will be part of the revelation of eternity—a never-ending, mind-blowing understanding of our earthly journey with God revealing every graceful detail of our journey with him. It should be utterly wonderful.

Upcoming Events

Book Sharing

We will start our monthly Book Sharing in July. If there are enough people interested we will meet at the friary on Saturday, July 11th. The first Saturday this month falls on July 4th, so we have moved to the second Saturday.

We will be using: "Clare A Light in the Garden", by Murray Bodo, OFM. See Lita in the Shrine Gift Shop to order the book or go to [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) to purchase the book. Please let Bob know as soon as possible if you are interested in participating.

On June 22nd to the 26th an Ecumenical Scripture workshop will be offered at Priest Field Pastoral Center in Kearneysville, West Virginia, the theme for this workshop is "Coping with change...When you are not in charge". If you would like to participate in this workshop, contact Bob at: blongosfo@gmail.com or call: 410 920-0040 for more information.



Calendar

At the Friary

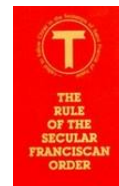
At the Friary
Chapel Open Daily
From 9 AM – 5 PM

Noon Mass everyday

All are Welcome

Reconciliation

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



Rule 11 of the Secular Franciscan Order

Trusting the Father, Christ chose for Himself and His mother a poor and humble life, even though He valued created things attentively and lovingly. Let the Secular Franciscans seek a proper spirit of detachment from temporal goods by simplifying their own material needs. Let them be mindful that according to the gospel they are stewards of the goods received for the benefit of God's children.

Thus, in the spirit of the Beatitudes, and as pilgrims and strangers on their way to the home of the Father, they should strive to purify their hearts from every tendency and yearning for possession and power.

Celebrating their 225th Anniversary

The Carmelite Sisters of Baltimore, located at, 1318 Dulaney Valley Rd, Towson, MD 21286, are celebrating their 225th anniversary and have programs planned throughout the year based on St Teresa of Avila's prayer life.

The schedule is:

July 19- 9AM Liturgy for Our Lady of Mt Carmel

Sept 19- 9:30-4P- Seminar: "Teresian and Ignatian Spiritualities in Conversation"

Oct. 17- 2P- Sandra Schneiders, IHM

Oct. 18- 9A- Closing liturgy for St Teresa

ST. FRANCIS AND THE EUCHARIST

By Pat McCloskey, O.F.M.

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.

What does it mean for Secular Franciscans "to observe the gospel"?

Emanuela De Nunzio, OFS, former Minister General of the Secular Franciscan Order on the "Twentieth Anniversary of the Rule," *The Cord* 48.3 (1998)

Above all it means to know God as Father, to have Jesus Christ as the inspiration, model, and criterion of our every action, and to allow ourselves to be guided by the Spirit of the Lord. It also means to realize in our apostolates the love of others in a spirit of service; to work in a context proper to our secular state, witnessing a life of penance as continual conversion to the gospel; to realize a universal fraternity in Christ; to dedicate ourselves to the works of mercy, to the promotion of justice and peace, and to the safeguarding of creation.

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/>