

ST. JOSEPH OF CUPERTINO FRATERNITY

Gathering – May 17, 2015

Ministers Message

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Francis and Clare,

I have been going over in my mind the events of these past weeks, the unrest, the uncertainty of our nation's city's' future. I happened upon a quote from our Holy Father, Pope Francis that provides in part a remedy to this concern:

"The **dialogue** is so important, but to dialogue requires two things: the identity as a starting point and empathy with others. You can not talk if not starting from their own identity, and empathy, that is not to condemn. Every man, every woman has something of their own to give us, every man, every woman, has its own history, their own situations and we have to listen to it. Then the prudence of the Holy Spirit will tell us how to respond. Starting from their own identity to dialogue, but the dialogue is not do apologetics. Dialogue is what being human is, souls dialogue, and this is so important! Do not be afraid to talk to anyone" (Pope Francis)

Edoardo Scognamiglio, Theologian writes:

"We need to educate the new generations in dialogue, encounter, respect for diversity, freedom of religion, while respecting the rights of all, especially of ethnic and religious minorities. We need to overcome prejudices and stereotypes, phobias: humanity lives of deep conflicts that seem unsolvable without the commitment of each person to peace, justice, respect for differences. Even before the desire of Jesus - which carries with it the dream of the Father, that is, to see men and women of every time and place to be brothers and sisters to each other -, Saint Francis becomes a model of unity, an instrument of peace, a witness and a prophet of dialogue and communion. In fact, he had understood that only pacifying the hearts, minds and souls, i.e. themselves, it would be possible to live in this world with joy and remain in communion with others and in harmony with all creatures of Heaven and Earth. Francis, the Poor Man, is true witness of those who, finding peace in itself - reconciling with the "self" - is able to detect the presence of the brothers and sisters as a gift received for himself and born directly from the Almighty Lord."

"The unit is the sign of a very long journey of humanity - and not only the Churches and Christian communities - has yet to accomplish in daily life, through simple gestures but precious of welcome, of forgiveness, of confrontation, of charity, solidarity and fraternal communication and serene. Unity among people must become a way of life that is a profound tension - more than a feeling - that shapes and animates the daily work of all of us for the Gospel, for the mission, for peace."

"During these troubled times let us be instruments of peace and let us pray for one another for understanding."

On April 25, 2015 our Regional Council held its election of new council members, Sharon Hare, OFS is the new Regional Executive Councilor for our area. Sharon will oversee our election of new council members at next years May Gathering and conduct a regional visitation tour for our fraternity in the future. Sharon will also be our go to person when our fraternity council is unable to resolve issues or problems that may arise.

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

The Crown Rosary



Will be recited
Bring your Rosary



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

A big **THANK YOU** to our sister, Sheila Solomon, OFS, for her service as Regional Executive Councilor for our area, as Franciscans we are all called to serve in one way or another to foster growth in both our local, regional and national fraternity's. Again, thanks Sheila for your past leadership.

As a **new apostolate** for our fraternity we are asking that members bring toiletries to our monthly Gatherings for the Franciscan Center in Baltimore. Please drop off your items in the refectory on the middle table where the name tags are located, thank you for your Franciscan charity.

At our May Gathering, for our ongoing formation, Joe Hamilton will speak to us on the topic of "Food Justice" and how our Franciscan life applies to this topic. He will address the many facets of the earth's abundance and blessings as it pertains to the most vulnerable among us- those without a voice- (this includes the earth and the elements).

Your Fraternity Council

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

Brothers and sisters in Francis,

As we continue through the Easter season time moves forward and we may have already forgotten the joy that the Easter season brings. In our world where we zoom progressively ahead and quickly forget the past, even the recent past, we need to use this season of the Church year to its fullest. We need to keep in our minds and hearts the joy that we celebrated just a few weeks ago as well as that which the apostles and disciples felt in those first few weeks after the first Easter morning.

At this point along the way, the apostles and disciples were barely beginning to realize the wonder and joy of the Resurrection. It was still new to them; it was still something that they had, in all likelihood, not yet fully grasped the meaning for themselves, for the Jewish people, and even for the world at large. It is truly an awesome event, but it is one that takes some really prayer and meditation to begin to appreciate.

I often wonder how much we concentrate upon the Easter morning event without any looking in a forward direction as to exactly what that brings to humanity. Yes, the event of the actual day are extremely important and need to be proclaimed from the rooftops, but the ramifications of that event need to be considered as well. We need to ponder the significance of what change that brings to our world. What was the situation of humanity after Easter as opposed to only 24 hours before? If we do not see that as being a most gigantic leap for humanity in its relationship with God, then, I dare say, we have a problem.

There is not much `time` left in the Easter season 2015. Let us use that time to consider the changes that came about from this most momentous event. Like those first apostles and disciples who were most likely filled with joy we need to consider this Easter event in a way that shows us a future filled with hope for all of us. Pentecost is coming! The Holy Spirit will be bringing us the strength to take our Easter reflections and embolden us to sharing them both through our daily lives as well as in our words and thoughts.

Have a blessed and prayerful remainder of the Easter season as we move forward to the coming of the Holy Spirit to us. Pax et bonum, - Br. Lawrence



Treasurer's Report

Beginning Balance: \$ 916.78
 Income **557.00**
 Deposit Correction **20.00**

Total **\$1493.78**

Expenses:

Snacks **10.18**
 2nd Q Donation **300.00**
 1st Pmt of Fair Share **615.00**
 Franciscan Friars **100.00**
 Brother Lawrence **50.00**
 Website Fee **15.00**
 Total Expenses: **\$ 1090.18**

Ending Balance: 403.60

Thank You for your monthly contributions

Contribution is Tax Deductible

Just How Big Is God? - by Friar Jim Van Vurst, O.F.M.

It sounds like a strange question to ask because, by definition, God is infinite. But in our human experience, we have no idea what infinite really means. Consider this: as big as our own universe is, it is still created by the infinite God.

To begin with, we can estimate that our whole universe is about 14.6 billion years old. Our Milky Way, of which our solar system is a part, is estimated to be 6.4 billion years old. And all of this is said to have started with the Big Bang—an explosion of so much energy that all of what we see came from it over billions of years.

Deep Sense of Awe - None of us would be able to understand the formulas needed for measuring the stars in our universe. Every new telescope developed takes us further into space. But no matter how many light years our galaxy extends, what we are told by scientists is that there may actually be more universes than just our own. Imagine: another billion universes we don't even know about!

I marvel at how non-believing scientists seem to shrink the size of God into nonexistence. For we who believe, every new discovery only brings us to a deep sense of awe in God. And in a figure of speech, God holds each of us in the palm of his hand. And for the size of the universe, one single human being is of infinitely greater value than all the immeasurable universes out there.

The reason is simple: each life is made in God's image and likeness. Value is never based on size. All that God created, including the universe, is good. But we, as children of God, are valued most. Jesus did not die for the material universe. Jesus died for you and me. As children of God, Jesus died for his brothers and sisters.

How big is God? The best way to measure God is to remind us of what the Scriptures tell us: "God is love." And there is no measuring stick for love.

Upcoming Events

Book Sharing

We will start our monthly Book Sharing in June. If there are enough people interested we will meet at the friary on the first Saturday of the month. 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 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.

May Birthdays



Jim O'Brien, OFS 5/14
 Lynne Float, OFS 5/17
 Patrick Caughy, OFS 5/18
 Carl Fischer, OFS 5/26
 Ray Heverling, OFS 5/31



No Professions in May

THE CONFRATERNITY OF THE CORD

How did this confraternity originate? It is well known that St. Francis of Assisi girded himself with a coarse cord in remembrance of the cord with which our dear Lord was girded. St. Dominic, the very close friend of our holy Father St. Francis, requested and obtained from the latter his cord and thereafter wore it steadfastly. This custom was soon imitated by many of the faithful. So it was that the Franciscan Pope Sixtus V established the Arch-confraternity of the Cord-bearers of St. Francis in the Franciscan basilica at Assisi in 1585. Sixtus and other popes as well, enriched the confraternity with privileges and indulgences.

What obligations did the members of the confraternity assume? They were supposed to recite daily six Our Fathers, Hail Mary's, and Glory Be's (five in honor of the Five Wounds of Jesus, one for the intention of the Holy Father to gain the indulgences). Then, too, they wore the blessed cord. Moreover, on the feasts of St. Francis, St. Clare, St. Anthony, and the Stigmata of St. Francis, they received the General Absolution, or the so-called indulgenced blessing, and on the feast of the Immaculate Conception, the Papal Benediction. There were, therefore, only a few obligations imposed upon the members of the Confraternity of the Cord, but the favors conferred were great.

What was the spirit of the Confraternity of the Cord-bearers? At their reception the members were admonished to be mindful of the bonds of our Lord Jesus Christ. The cord was for them a reminder of the fear of God, of temperance, and of purity. Finally, they considered themselves as joyfully bound to the commandments of God. Love of Christ and virtue and fidelity to God that was the spirit of the Confraternity which the members fostered in imitation of St. Francis and under his guidance. It was, it seems a preparatory school for the Third Order.

St. Bernadette Soubirous and St. Benedict Joseph Labre were cord-bearers.

Did You Know

There are 15 Secular Franciscan Community's in Cuba?

The Secular Franciscan Order in Cuba has 318 perpetually professed (men and women, single and married, lay people, deacons, priests and a bishop) who are committed to live the Gospel according to the charism of St. Francis of Assisi in 15 fraternities on the island. From April 16 to 19 in Havana celebrated their National Chapter, to evaluate the last three years of work and identifying the challenges for the future.

The SFO is clearly growing on the Caribbean island and in a few years the number of fraternities has increased from 6 to the current 15, and their members are actively engaged mainly in various fields of ministry in parishes, catechesis, liturgy, the assistance to the poor. Their work is considered very valuable and important in recent years that have marked a greater freedom of the Church and the growth of the Fraternity's. - *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

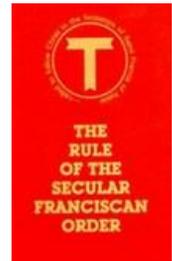
At the Friary
Chapel Open Daily
From 9 AM – 5 PM

Noon Mass everyday

All are Welcome

Reconciliation

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



Rule 10 of the Secular Franciscan Order

Unit themselves to the redemptive obedience of Jesus, who placed his will into the Father's hands, let them faithfully fulfill the duties proper to their various circumstances of life. Let them also follow the poor and crucified Christ, witness to him even in difficulties and persecutions.