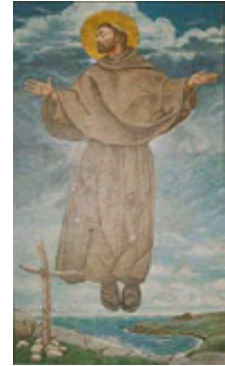


ST. JOSEPH OF CUPERTINO FRATERNITY
Gathering – October 19, 2014

The Flyer

Ministers Message



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Francis and Clare,

God gave us a beautiful day filled with plenty of sunshine for our fraternity picnic. We had the largest turnout of fraternity members and guest that we have ever had. So many of our brothers and sisters from other fraternity's took part in our annual picnic and shared in Franciscan companionship.

Thanks to all for the wonderful job in pulling this picnic together. Without your fraternal love and giving of yourself we could not have succeeded in providing wonderful fellowship with our Franciscan brothers and sisters.

St. Francis was truly present on this beautiful day, with the gathering of so many sisters and brothers and fellowship with the friars made our picnic very special. Believe it or not we are starting to make plans for next year's picnic we have a lot of tweaking to do. If you have any thoughts for next year to make our picnic even more special, please contact a council member with your suggestions.

I would like to give personal thanks to:

Joan Bundy, Ralph Colavilta, Chris Donaldson, Carl Fisher, Geri Flynn, Michael Huether, Barbara Levasseur, Denise Murphy, Michael Radcliffe, Sheila Solomon, Jim Soltysiak, France and Jean Louis Staudenmann, Jerry Yu. If I have left anyone out, please let me know.

At our October Gathering we will welcome into our order, at the Rite of Admission, the following new members, Mary Chandler, Carl Fischer, Charlie (Charlene) Heyden, John Handiboe, Jeanne Kerins, Juliana Kim, Boniface Kim, Mark McPherson, Thom Partenope, Charles Schuler, and Akisha Townsend. Please make every effort to attend to welcome our new sisters and brothers in our fraternity.

Following the Rite of Admission, Father Julio, OFM Conv. will give us a presentation on spiritual direction in the Franciscan tradition. The presentation will be in the Conference Room.

Due to special events in October, November, December and January, we will not be using our ongoing formation book until February or March 2015.

In September a new four month Orientation Class started for the following: Joan Babin, Mick Michieli-Beasley, Reilly Gates, Joanne Hann, Joe Hann, James Kim-Young, and Denise Murphy. Please keep these new aspirants in your daily prayer as they began their Franciscan Spiritual Journey as lived by our beloved St. Francis and his beloved St. Clare. - *Your Fraternity Council*

Letter from Our Spiritual Assistant

Brothers and sisters in Francis,

After a year now of being our spiritual assistant I have finished my 'novitiate' year of sitting back and observing. In this way I hope to have gained a better understanding of exactly what I need to consider and do for your community.

As part of my getting involved more in this and in future times one of the things that I hope to do is to write a letter on some spiritual/theological topic for the monthly community newsletter; and that is what I am begging with this little

Our Fraternity Council

- Minister:** Bob Longo, OFS
410 451-0943
- 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

Rite of Admission

- Mary Chandler
Carl Fischer
Charlie (Charlene) Heyden
John Handiboe
Jeanne Kerins
Juliana Kim, Boniface Kim
Mark McPherson
Thom Partenope
Charles Schuler
Akisha Townsend



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 Langben**, SFO
- Bob Lewis**, SFO
- Jean Manning**, OFS
- Yvonne Proch**, SFO
- Betty Taylor**, SFO
- Bud Tenley**, SFO
- Regina Yeager**, SFO
- Dorothy Zalewski**, SFO

communication.

In writing these I hope that they will be of benefit in some spiritual manner for some (let us hope, many) of you. As always, I am also available to speak with you concerning spiritual/theological and Franciscan matters when you might feel the need to do so.

I have never been one to jump right in and begin to tear apart and build like Teddy Roosevelt, but I have always been one who thinks much before acting and also figures out first how to go about winning people to help me. This is because that I know that I always need God's help and it is you whom God wills us to help me.

This first year has been very insightful for me; it has been a year of listening and learning. I hope to share much with you for there is no greater joy than to help others (including myself) is coming closer to the Lord. I very much believe that that is what Francis did with the community in the beginning. Each of the three orders were established for its members to become true brothers and sister in Christ and, in doing so on a daily basis, to be there for each other in good times and bad for support but also for growing in the Lord.

Let us pray through the intercession of our founder Francis that what he so desperately desired 800 years ago may still be alive in his followers today, primarily a true community of brothers and sisters who are in thought and action true brothers and sisters.

Pax et bonum - Br. Lawrence

The St. Joseph Cupertino Bulletin Board
Posts from Our Fraternity Members

Upcoming Events

Our Next Book Sharing Meeting – All Are Welcome

Date: Saturday, November 8th - 1:30pm (social)
2:00pm ~ 4:00pm

Place: Jerry Yu: 2812 Green Shade Ct.
Ellicott City, MD 21042 Tel: 410 988-5753

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

Chapters: "Of Clothes" - Page 103
"Of the Broken Heart" - Page 104
"A Prayer for Every Weather" - Page 106

Food for Thought

Francis experienced God as the source of all good, the God of unconditional love. Creative, abundant and thoroughgoing nonviolence is another way of describing this unconditional love. Francis sought to live in such a way that this divine goodness and compassion were transparently present in himself, in others, and in all of creation. This divine goodness and compassion is the source of true peace. - *Franciscan Resource*



Treasurer's Report

Beginning Balance:	<u>\$1142.29</u>
Income	854.00
Total	<u>\$1996.29</u>
Expenses:	
Picnic expenses	\$ 287.58
Franciscan Friars	100.00
Brother Lawrence	50.00
Website Fee	15.00
Formation	\$ 124.00
Fat Friars Cookies	\$ 300.00
Franciscan Friars	\$ 300.00
Total Expenses:	<u>\$1176.58</u>
Ending Balance:	<u>\$ 819.71</u>

Thank You for your monthly
contributions

Contribution is Tax Deductible

October Birthday



Brandon Justice, OFS	10/06
Bob Longo, OFS	10/06
Harry Ford, OFS	10/10
Lita Maisel, OFS	10/13
Michael Radcliffe, OFS	10/22
Theresa Heath, OFS	10/30

Remembering Your Profession

Theresa Heath, OFS	10/11/81
Lorie Chase, OFS	10/15/08
John Kirby, OFS	10/16/94
Sherry Lewis, OFS	10/16/94
Edward Burgee, OFS	10/16/11
Geri Flynn, OFS	10/16/11
Rosemary Whelan, OFS	10/16/11
Jerry Yu, OFS	10/16/11
Diane Witherspoon, OFS	10/18/06
Eileen Peregoy, OFS	10/20/03
Amy Kulesa, OFS	10/20/03
Jim Tebo, OFS	10/23/77

Making God Too Small - by Friar Jeremy Harrington, O.F.M.

I'm saddened when people see God as small. They may be talking about guilt or fears or worries. But they make God seem so unsympathetic, unforgiving, distant, or demanding. That is not the Father that Jesus told us about. Maybe they've had poor formation or have not experienced God's love in prayer or through others.

I admit that these days I am focused on St. Francis of Assisi and his wonderful appreciation of God. On September 17, we remembered his encounter in love with Jesus crucified. On October 3, we have a moving service reliving his transitus, his joyful death. On October 4, we celebrate his life of embracing God, sisters, brothers, and all of creation. Then we ask him to bless the animals he loved.

It is not enough to say you believe in God, Scripture scholar Wilfrid Harrington, OP, says in his book *Jesus Our Brother*. "What matters, utterly, is the kind of God in whom one believes. It makes, literally, a world of difference whether one's God is the true God or a distorted image of that God."

Moved by Humility

Francis was graced with the awareness of the God who embraced him. He was "overwhelmed by the goodness of a loving God. In his prayer, "The Praises of God," Francis sees God as "all good, supreme good, totally good, you who are all good . . . from whom comes all good. . . ."

In his "Earlier Rule," Francis gives thanks "to the most high and supreme and eternal God, Trinity, and Unity, indescribable . . . incomprehensible . . . unfathomable . . . gentle, lovable . . . totally desirable above all else forever."

Francis rejoiced that the Father so loved the world that he sent his only Son to become one of us and save us. He was moved by the humility of Jesus in becoming a baby in the womb of Mary, his suffering and death on the cross, and his presence in the Eucharist. For Francis, all of nature reflected the beauty and goodness of God.

He saw himself, of course, as a beggar before God, a penitent and sinner, but forgiven and loved. He was acutely aware that his love did not in any way adequately respond to God's love for him. I'm sad for all those who see a caricature of our bountiful God. They are missing so much love and joy. A feast is offered, but they are eating junk food.

Then I ask myself to what degree I am appreciating the wonders of God. Am I opening myself to God's love and seeing the goodness of my sisters and brothers and the beauty of creation? Francis urges us "to hold back nothing of yourselves for yourselves so that God who gives himself totally to you may receive you totally."

The Mysterious Workings of Grace - by Friar Jim Van Vurst, O.F.M.

When speaking of the word *grace*, it is important to clarify what grace really is. Grace is not something that we get from God. Grace is actually God working *within* our whole person. Sometimes you hear people speak as though God would ladle out grace. Rather, grace is the presence of God within us. Grace is God's presence and strength given to us at particular

times when we are called to act virtuously. But in all cases, grace is a result of our responding to God's inner presence within us or God's assistance in living our lives as Christians. Grace is the dynamic action of God within.

As believers, we try to live out Gospel values to which Jesus calls us each day of our lives. We know that none of us live perfect lives. And it is good to know that perfection is neither a requirement for salvation, nor a possibility. It is good also to eliminate "nearly perfect" from our vocabulary as a precaution, lest we get carried away with our attempts to be good.

Full of Life

When we realize that God's presence within us is dynamic, we begin to realize that there is more going on between God and ourselves than we can imagine. The word *dynamic* means that something is energized or in a state of action or movement. Sometimes we have the idea that unless we are doing something, nothing is happening between us and God. The opposite is true.

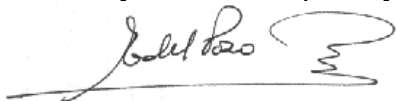
As believers, we are always growing in union with God. Indeed, we seek to live Christian lives and follow Jesus' Word, even when we are not conscious of that fact. We can say that, even in the midst of temptation, our intention is to be faithful to God and live a good life. That intention has nothing to do with our lives of ups and downs. Intention lies in the human heart. And that intention opens us up to the working of God within us. We can say that our intention causes us to always respond to the graces God is giving us. Remember, grace is dynamic, alive.

It is not a matter of "carrying God inside us." That would be too mechanical. It's better to say that we are filled with God's presence within us—along with our weaknesses and imperfections. What this means is that the Lord is always touching our hearts. For example, we may not always remember the Scripture readings at Mass, but our intention to be there will still allow those words to have an effect on us.

The goodness of God's Word has an effect on us, too. We receive Communion and, as it can happen, we discover that we were distracted during those sacred moments. We need not fear that nothing happened during that time. We do not make grace happen in us. We intend each moment to be with God, to live good lives, and to allow God to be active and dynamic within us. We may not feel its effect, but God touches us nonetheless.

Our Mission in the World

"Our mission in the world today consists of living and witnessing to a life characterized by fraternal love because, as we reflect on our vocation, we conclude that indeed it consists in being authentic Christians and Franciscans. In this task, knowing the Church's Social Doctrine is indispensable, ecumenism is a necessity, and family values are a priority. Franciscans must be."



Encarnación del Pozo - Minister General OFS

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

October 20-24 - Iconology Workshop in the Traditional Russian- Byzantine Icon Writing Method

For further information
please visit our Fraternity
Website:

<http://stjosephcupertino.sfousa.org/fraternity-news-events/>

Rule 3 of the Secular Franciscan Order

The rule and life of the Secular Franciscans is this: to observe the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ by following the example of Saint Francis of Assisi, who made Christ the inspiration and the center of his life with God and people.

Christ, the gift of the Father's love, is the way to him, the truth into which the Holy Spirit leads us, and the life which he has come to give abundantly.

Secular Franciscans should devote themselves especially to careful reading of the gospel, going from gospel to life and life to the gospel.