



THE FLYER

November 17, 2019
Gathering

Newsletter for the St. Joseph Cupertino OFS Fraternity

Theme for 2019: *Be Holy!*

Note Bene: Please note that our beloved brother, Bob Longo has “retired” from the newsletter ministry. This is the first issue edited by Deanna Williston, OFS. Please forgive any mistakes and feel free to share what works best for you and what does not: 443-745-1109.

November, Hope for the Journey

“For our Father Francis, life was to search and strive for union with Christ through faith. Death was for him not a harsh reality, but the door through which he passed towards his ultimate goal—total union with the Father. What Francis sought through faith on earth, he achieved totally after death. The celebration of the death of a Franciscan shows forth the same faith as that which Francis possessed: our belief that death is the gateway to total union with God” (*Secular Franciscan Companion*, p 179).

This belief of St. Francis echoes beautifully CatholicCulture.org’s discussion of November. This website reminds us that November is entirely in Ordinary Time. Speaking of the green liturgical vestments, Catholic Culture explains, “This symbol of hope is the color of sprouting seed and arouses in the faithful the hope of a glorious resurrection.” As we prepare for the celebration of the Incarnation, let us reflect on what hope of the new life of the Resurrection means for us and our loved ones who have gone before.

Our Fraternity Council for 2019-2022

Minister: Geri Flynn, OFS : 410-730-4395

Vice Minister: James Kim, OFS: 443-458-3361

Secretary: Denise Donaldson, OFS: 443-683-2538 *Treasurer:* Gerry Pinkas, OFS: 410-655-2648

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Spiritual Assistant: Br. Lawrence LaFlame, OFM Conv. : 410-485-5000

BEATITUDES OF NATURE

**Blessed is the tree which takes time to sink its roots;
It shows us what we have to do in order to withstand the storm**

**Blessed is the seed which falls on good soil and so produces a rich harvest;
It shows us what happens when we take the Word of God to heart**

**Blessed is the vine which, having been pruned,
becomes all the more fruitful;
It shows us the benefit of self denial.**

**Blessed are the flowers of the fields;
Their beauty gives witness to God's wondrous artistry**

**Blessed are the sparrows;
Their carefree attitude to life gives us a lesson to trust in Providence**

**Blessed is the wind, coming from where we do not know, to set sails in
motion, to breathe life into dying embers;
It reminds us of the mysterious workings of the Spirit of God.**

**Blessed is the rain which falls without favor on all fields;
In it we see a reflection of God's indiscriminate love for all God's children.**

**Blessed are the leaves, which know when to let go,
and do so in a blaze of color;
They show us how to let go.**

**Let us pray,
Praised be God's creation, speaking through Jesus to us.
Praised be God who makes all things possible**

This thoughtful meditation as we, once again, change seasons and sense the presence of our God so very near, was shared by a member of our fraternity.

Thank you!

Geri Flynn, OFS Minister

From a Letter by St. Braulio, Bishop

(A Second Reading in the Office of the Dead's Office of Readings)

"Paul the Apostle does not want us to grieve about those who have fallen asleep. Our faith tells us that all who believe in Christ will never die; indeed faith assures us that Christ is not dead, nor shall we die. The Lord Himself will come down from heaven and there will be the command of the archangel's voice and the sound of the trumpet; then those who were united with Christ in death will rise. Let the hope of resurrection encourage us, then, because we shall see again those whom we lose here below."

Remember, brothers and sisters, that the Office of the Dead is a "liturgical prayer" that we may celebrate as fulfillment of #8 of Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order. Consider choosing the Office of the Dead for some of your daily prayers this month.



Treasurer's Report

October 2019

Beginning (running) Balance: \$2,056.83
Common Fund Contributions 991.00

Total \$ 3047.83

Expenses:

Brother Lawrence	100.00
Franciscan Friars	100.00
Other, St. Paul St Evang.	55.00
Other, PayPal fee	4.76
Other, September Picnic	134.38
Total \$	394.14

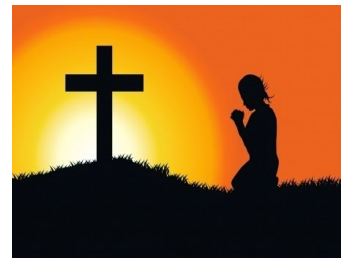
Ending (running) Balance: \$ 2653.69

Thank You for your gracious contributions
We are exiting PayPal. Please use bill pay, cash, or checks for donations.

Contributions are Tax Deductible.

Please pray for:

Connie Baker, OFS
John Kirby, OFS
Barbara Levasseur,
OFS,
Marie Lindung,



Upcoming
mark your calendars

November 17, 2019 Gathering

Including Remembrance Mass

At 3pm.

New at the Shrine Chapel: Korean Mass
with Fr. Tommy - every third Friday 8 pm.
Spiritual Direction also available— call the office.



Events at The Shrine

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Chapel Open 9-5
Daily Noon Mass

Sunday, Nov. 24 1-4 pm

Pre-Advent Afternoon of
Recollection with Fr. Eric

Wed., Nov. 27 7:30 pm

Pre-Thanksgiving Mass with
Dessert Reception Afterwards

Saturday, Nov. 30 1-5 pm

Advent Family Festival

Sat., Dec 8 & Sun., Dec 9

7: 30 pm

Greccio Living Nativity

Please donate cookies!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- Delores Chase (11/05)
- Sherry Lewis (11/15)
- Barbara Levasseur (11/18)
- Alice Umugiraneza (11/20)
- Raymond Glennon (11/22)
- Denise Donaldson (12/10)
- Edward Burgee (12/17)
- Joan Bundy (12/15)
- John Handiboe (12/18)
- Lois Diane Witherspoon (12/18)
- Mark McPherson (12/23)



Our Deceased Brothers & Sisters:



- Deacon Tom Bello, OFS
- Frances Bastress, SFO
- Joe Bezila, SFO
- Mary Chandler, OFS
- Jerry Cichowicz, SFO
- Shirley Costello, OFS
- Joe Cykoski, SFO
- Stella Cykoski, SFO
- Claire Lee Davidson, SFO
- Adela Duff, SFO
- Donna Duncan, SFO
- Charles Ferrara, SFO
- Mary Ferrara, SFO
- Dolores Fritz, OFS
- Marilyn Gilson, SFO
- Richard Hall, SFO
- Joy Kubricky, OFS
- Frances Langbehn, SFO
- Bob Lewis, SFO
- Jean Manning, OFS
- Jim Manning, OFS
- Yvonne Proch, SFO
- Nancy Seaton, SFO
- Don Sweitzer, OFS
- Betty Taylor, SFO
- Bud Tenley, SFO
- Regina Yeager, SFO
- Dorothy Zalewski, SFO

Remembering Your Profession

- Richard Scott, OFS (11/07/82)
- Claudette Lucas, OFS (11/10/11)
- Lita Maisel, OFS (11/16/97)
- Michael Radcliffe, OFS (11/16/97)

“Absence was beginning to be replaced by presence, silence with voices...once he knew God’s will, whether from some voice or from listening to scriptures, he would immediately try to live it out. He was filled with what theologians called, “devotion,” an alacrity in doing God’s will...He knew now that Christ is to be found in unexpected places and people...The practical conclusion of the first teaching of St. Francis is that if we listen and pray, God will show us what we are to do with our lives.” -excerpt from our Book Sharing title *Surrounded by Love: Seven Teachings from St. Francis* by Murray Bodo.



King of the Universe

- James Kim

This happened five years ago; my formation in the fraternity had just started and it was the Thursday *before* was the celebration of Christ the King of the Universe that was just four days *before* Thanksgiving. At that time, I used to say the Office of Readings; the first reading was from Zechariah:

Then I said to them, "If it seems good to you, give me my wages; but if not, withhold them." And they counted out my wages, thirty pieces of silver. Then the Lord said to me, Throw it in the treasury - the handsome price at which they valued me. (Zec 11:12-13).

After reading, I felt bad thinking about how the wage for the Lord could be thirty pieces of silver; it's the same amount Judas received after betraying Jesus. (Mat 26:15).

The next day, Friday evening, I was in a commuter bus coming back home. A guy got on the bus at the Silver Spring stop. He was not a regular bus rider and did not know that he should pay the exact amount of five dollars for the fare. In the bus, he was asking other passengers if they had change for his twenty dollar bill. A lady sitting behind me offered him her bus ticket so that the driver would punch her ticket for him. Seeing this, I was ashamed that I did not act quickly like the lady. Strangely, the reading on Thursday was continuously recollected in my mind throughout the weekend. I thought, "Ah, I do not even pay five dollars for the Lord. What am I doing?"

On Sunday, the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, the Gospel was the story of the least brother. (Mat 25:31-46). I was struck again. The Lord was torturing me with His words. Tears flowed out during Mass. I prayed, "Sorry Lord, but I will get better," however, it was not the end. On Monday, my first daughter, Clara, was coming home from Boston for Thanksgiving. Around four O'clock I thought she might already be in the air, but I got a phone call from her saying that she was late and missed the flight. I would have been upset at such news, but I wasn't. Again the Thursday reading and Sunday Gospel struck me. She might have expected my upset, and said that she would rent a car and drive home that night, hoping her suggestion might calm me down. I asked her if there was any flight available that day. She said the last one had a few seats but it's \$350, too expensive. I told her to buy it before it was too late and to charge it to my credit card.

It was the moment that I was awakened to see the happenings over the last week: truly, the Lord was teaching me by example. The story of the least brother is about my attentiveness and compassion rather than about the status of people. Everybody can be the least brother. The matter is whether I am watchful and compassionate enough to see and act on it, not hesitating but with courage and trust in the Lord. Jesus may appear to me in many different forms. He may be my family member wanting my understanding. He may be a delivery truck driver wanting my patience. He may be a millionaire stuck in snow wanting my help. My wage for our King cannot be counted with material things. My wage for our King is my "contrite, humbled heart" (Psalm 51:19) that I would welcome Him in whatever form He would appear to me.

Do you have a story from your daily conversion, pilgrimage, street evangelization, or social justice activity that you would like to share? Please email to jtwillis@aol.com on the first of the month and you may see it in an upcoming edition of *The Flyer*. *Please use this as a way to share of bit of yourselves with your Franciscan brothers and sisters.*

Book Review of Henri J. M. Nouwen's
Following Jesus – Finding Our Way Home in an Age of Anxiety
-Raymond Glenning

“Are you following Jesus? I want you to look at yourself and ask that question. Are you a follower? Am I?” With those words, Fr. Henri Nouwen began a series of six talks presented during Lent 1985. These never-before published talks were deftly transcribed and faithfully edited by Nouwen archivist and scholar Gabrielle Earnshaw into the recently released book *Following Jesus – Finding our Way Home in an Age of Anxiety*. The words spoken by Nouwen to an ecumenical group in the basement of St. Paul’s Church in Cambridge are not dissimilar to what might have been said by St. Francis of Assisi (Nouwen’s favorite saint) to his brothers at the Portiuncula. And those same words would be a most appropriate at a Secular Franciscan gathering today. Our Rule calls us to follow Jesus in the footsteps of St. Francis of Assisi. This wonderful little book prompts us to listen for Jesus saying, “Follow me. Don’t keep running around. Follow me. Don’t just sit there. Follow me.” We can choose to accept the invitation.

Through Scripture and his keen understanding of human nature and our woundedness, Nouwen gently guides us to follow Jesus in six steps starting with The Invitation (“Come and See”); responding to The Call (“Come Follow Me”); accepting The Challenge (“Love Your Enemies”); bearing The Cost (“Take Up Your Cross”); sharing The Reward (“My Joy Will Be Yours”); and living The Promise (“I Will Be With You Always”). At every step, Nouwen reveals God’s love for us as individuals and as a community of believers and helps us to see how Jesus calls us into relationship with him and his Father.

Although Henri Nouwen is not a Franciscan friar, he is a Franciscan at heart and that comes through clearly in *Following Jesus*. You might consider reading this book yourself during Advent and then giving it as a Christmas gift to those you love. There is no better holiday gift than *Following Jesus* and Henri Nouwen is an trustworthy and spirit-filled guide.



Prayer to St. Elizabeth of Hungary, (Feast Day November 17)
Patron Saint of Secular Franciscans :

Almighty God, by whose grace your servant Elizabeth of Hungary recognized and honored Jesus in the poor of the this world: Grant that we, following her example, may with love and gladness serve those in any need or trouble. In the name and for the sake of and through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, Amen.

Saturday, December 7

1-3 pm

Our book sharing group will meet on the first Saturday of each month at the Shrine (usually the Kolbe Room). We are studying *Surrounded by Love: 7 Teachings from St. Francis* by Murray Bodo, OFM.



Fraternity Christmas Party
at the Shrine

December 15, 2019