

# **THE FLYER**

NEWSLETTER FOR THE  
ST. JOSEPH CUPERTINO FRATERNITY  
OF THE SECULAR FRANCISCANS

SanGiuseppe di Copertino  
Public domain, 18th century engraving



**December 19, 2021**

Theme for the Year:  
*Love is Patient*  
(1 Cor 13:4)

## **2019-2022** **Council**

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LaFlamme,  
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*Bible quotes are from*  
*the Douay-Rheims*  
*translation, unless*  
*otherwise noted.*

## **Christmas Letter 2021 \* Peace and God Bless Us, Everyone, Br. Lawrence**

The world has become transformed for this month of December, for the greatest feast of God becoming human. In my classroom, my students see the creche every day of the school year, but this month becomes special on the 25th. I have always believed that Christmas is a celebration of the most important event in all of human history and we all should take note of that.

Yet, this transformation, for many: lights and trees, Santa and Rudolph, etc. does not have the meaning it should really have. To celebrate a mere “giving-of-gifts festival” may have its origins in God giving the Son to the world as a human being, but this season seems now relegated to the diversion of purchasing, giving, and complaining (that one did not like or receive what one really wanted), is hardly a festival and hardly to be celebrated as such. This idea is what I think is really behind the suffering many go through at this time of year. Many seem to miss the entire point of the season.

God’s sending of the Son in the person of Jesus is a demonstration of humility and sacrifice, but it is also the example of one who lived his life on earth in total obedience to the will of the Father. We remember St. Paul’s statement, “And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross” (Phil. 2:8; New Oxford Annotated Bible with the Apocrypha, Revised Standard Version, 1962). Jesus was sent to do the Father’s will and to give us a path to follow. I remember reading somewhere in St. Augustine’s *Confessions* where he was speaking of God’s will as being the most important thing for each person to discover and follow, and that to fall short of perfect leads to sin. If my reading is correct, then it is incumbent on everyone to seek always to discover God’s will for us and, like Jesus, to do that regardless of the cost.

So, Jesus’ birth is more than just a day to celebrate with gift-giving, it is even more about our taking the gift that God has gave to us so many centuries ago—a model to follow in living our own lives. Ties, socks, perfumes, and, yes, even toys and iPads are nice things but they ought not to be the central feature of the feast. They are more diversionary from what is of most importance for the season that is called Christmas.

## Minister's Message



“But be zealous for the better gifts. And I shew unto you yet a more excellent way.”

It is the last sentence in Chapter 12 of the First Letter to the Corinthians. St. Paul is going to talk about something in the next chapter. We all know what St. Paul is saying in the next chapter. Through chapters 11 and 12, St Paul addresses many issues and advises on the issues. However, he is going to teach an “excellent way” to solve all these issues.

This year's theme is “love is patient,” but we have not talked much about this theme in the gatherings. Actually, being patient is a matter of deed rather than a matter of words. Let's reflect on how we have practiced patience through the year. If we have endured any inconveniences and difficulties for our sisters and brothers, let's offer them to baby Jesus coming to us soon.

Merry Christmas,  
James Kim, OFS



## Treasurer's Report

November – 2021

|                                     |                           |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Beginning (running) Balance:</b> | <b><u>\$ 3675.63</u></b>  |
| Common Fund Contributions           | \$ 780.00                 |
| Directed Don., Christmas Families   | \$ 1118.00                |
| <b>Total Income</b>                 | <b><u>\$ 1,898.00</u></b> |
| <b>Intermediate Subtotal</b>        | <b><u>\$ 5,573.63</u></b> |
| <b>Expenses:</b>                    |                           |
| Spiritual Assistant                 | \$ 100.00                 |
| Franciscan Friars                   | \$ 200.00                 |
| Music for Mass                      | \$ 160.00                 |
| <b>Total Expense</b>                | <b><u>\$ 460.00</u></b>   |
| <b>Ending (running) Balance:</b>    | <b><u>\$ 5,113.63</u></b> |

**Total Offering for the Christmas Families:  
\$2,013.00**

**Thank You from the whole fraternity!**

The average contribution per person estimate for 2021 should be \$156 per year.

**Contributions are Tax Deductible.**

Direct Donation checks to:

**St. Joseph Cupertino Fraternity**

Mail donations to:

Gerard Pinkas  
3810 Marriottsville Rd.  
Randallstown, MD 21133

**You may use your bank's BILL PAY.** Direct payment to:

**St. Joseph Cupertino Fraternity  
c/o address above.**

Contact Gerry with any bill pay questions.

# Happy Anniversary

On the anniversary of your profession:

12 James Soltysiak, OFS 12/16/09

## CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

At our December 19th

Gathering, we are planning to have an in-person Greccio service with readings and music. The celebration should start at 2pm at the Shrine.

*Please bring some individually wrapped snacks to share.*

## Book Club– Admonition 9

Join the online book club and delve more deeply into: St. Francis' Sermon on the Mount: Lessons from the Admonitions by John Michael Talbot.

Friends old and new meet on the first Saturday of every month from 1-3 pm on ZOOM!

Contact Geri Flynn OFS for details:  
Angelbarty@aol.com

**Next meeting is January 1**

# Happy Birthday!

|                        |       |
|------------------------|-------|
| Denise Donaldson, OFS  | 12/10 |
| Joan Bundy, OFS        | 12/15 |
| Edward Burgee, OFS     | 12/17 |
| Diane Witherspoon, OFS | 12/18 |
| Mark McPherson, OFS    | 12/23 |
| Will Potter, OFS       | 12/23 |

*Coming Next Month:*

|                      |       |
|----------------------|-------|
| Mike Hotovy, OFS     | 01/06 |
| Jim Soltysiak, OFS   | 01/26 |
| Br. Lawrence LaFlame | 01/26 |

## Greccio, the Fascinating Site of the World's First Nativity Scene

~Silvia Donati, reprinted from *Italy Magazine* (with permission)



Known by worshippers around the world as the 'Franciscan Bethlehem,' the sanctuary of Greccio is one of the four sanctuaries erected by St. Francis in the so-called Valle Santa (Sacred Valley), in the province of Rieti (Lazio region in central Italy). The Sanctuary of Greccio is a formidable architectural complex that seems to rise from the bare rock. It is located about 15 km from Rieti, at 665 meters above the sea level in the Sabine mountains, close to the ancient medieval village of Greccio, with a splendid view of the surrounding countryside.

The Sanctuary is located at the beginning of the path to the architectural complex. It has a Latin cross plan, windows in Gothic style, and a bell tower. The heart of the Sanctuary is the Cappella del Presepio (the Nativity Scene Chapel), built in 1228, the year Francis of Assisi was canonized; it is located inside a small cave carved into the rock where, on Christmas Eve in 1223, Francis represented the birth of Jesus for the first time in the history of Christianity, thus establishing the first Nativity Scene.

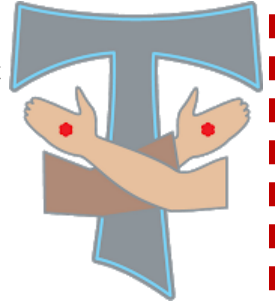
According to legend, St. Francis chose this steep spot after he asked a child to throw an ember, which ended its trajectory on the rocky wall of a small mountain owned by a feudal lord of Greccio, Giovanni Velita. Velita himself urged Saint Francis to give life to a re-enactment, with living characters, of the birth of Christ on Christmas Eve.

The Church of San Francesco is located further on after crossing the square, annexed to the monk's refectory. See the original article at: <https://www.italymagazine.com/featured-story/greccio-fascinating-site-worlds-first-nativity-scene>



## The Rule Review

So that we might more fully live the Gospel Life, Secular Franciscans should not just read *The Rule*, but reflect on and pray with *The Rule*.



15. Let them individually and collectively be in the forefront in promoting justice by the testimony of their human lives and their courageous initiatives. Especially in the field of public life, they should make definite choices in harmony with their faith (*Apostolicam Actuositatem* §14).

15. 회원들을 개인적으로나 집단적으로나 그들의 인간생활의 증거와 활기에 찬 창의력을 보여줌으로써 정의 촉진에 솔선해야 합니다. 특히 사회 생활의 분야에서는 자신의 신앙과 조화를 이루면서 구체적인 선택을 해야 합니다.

The Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order (with citations) may be accessed at anytime at:

<https://secularfranciscansusa.org/the-rule-of-the-secular-franciscan-order/>

Please note that the English and Spanish versions have updated 2020 translations.

### **The Franciscan Center**

#### **Christmas Wishlist on Amazon**

The Franciscan Center has made its holiday wishlist for the citizens of Baltimore. The list includes detangling hairbrushes, hygiene items, and clothing basics for all ages —infant formula is on the list as well. Order from Amazon or another retailer and have delivered to:

**The Franciscan Center (Attn: Sabrina Gay)**  
**101 W. 23rd Street, Baltimore, MD. 21218**

[Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

### **Welcome, Visitors!**

*Want to find out more about the  
Secular Franciscans?*

- ◆ Attend a meeting. We meet (usually) on the third Sunday of the month at 1 pm.
- ◆ Check out our website:  
<http://stjosephcupertino.sfousa.org/our-fraternity/>
- ◆ Check out our regional website:  
<http://saintmargaretofcortona.org/>
- ◆ Check out our national website:  
<https://secularfranciscansusa.org/>

“At that hour the disciples came to Jesus, saying: Who thinkest thou is the greater in the kingdom of heaven? And Jesus calling unto him a little child, set him in the midst of them, And said: Amen I say to you, unless you be converted, and become as little children, you shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, he is the greater in the kingdom of heaven. And he that shall receive one such little child in my name, receiveth me.” Matthew 18: 1-5

## OUR SISTER, JEAN SINGLETON, OFS

~ Jeanne Kerins, OFS



On November 17, Jean (Regina) Singleton was called home; it is no coincidence that our Franciscan Sister passed on the Feast of St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Patroness of the Third Order.

My first memories of Jean are during the 1970s as a statuesque parishioner at St. Mark's in Catonsville, Maryland. Little did I realize, her internal beauty was much greater.

Jean became a Secular Franciscan in 1983. She was a mom of 5 and a Eucharistic Minister for our parish. She moved to Charlestown Retirement Community in the nineties. She was involved in helping with the liturgies at Our Lady of the Angels Chapel there.

After Christmas 2020, Jean entered hospice and we spoke on the phone. She continued to be very "upbeat" and said, "Jeanne, my bags are packed! I'm ready, my family is at peace, and I'm ready when ever He wants me!"

Some of us were delighted to see Jean at Georgianna Papazian's funeral. Knowing Jean was so ill—but she reflected such a light! She was radiant and reflecting perfect Franciscan Joy right into her transition.

Note Bene: Jean's relatives seem to agree with Jeanne's assessment, calling their beloved aunt the "sweetest and most sincere woman" and "happy and positive and just a good role model of how to go through life." Indeed, Jean was in our fraternity from the beginning and was a joyful role model to many.

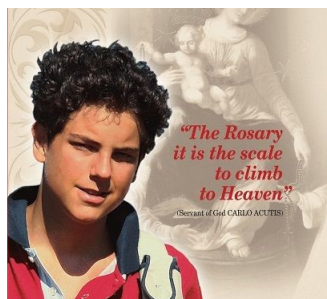
## MOVED or Missing?

Please send any address, phone, or email changes to our sister, Jeanne Kerins, OFS  
(410) 227-6497 or [jmkerins12@gmail.com](mailto:jmkerins12@gmail.com).

Please reach out to our brothers and sisters who have not been attending our gatherings  
& let us know how we can help them reconnect with the fraternity.

### Please Pray for Healing for:

Joan Babin, OFS  
Karan Bevers, OFS  
Gail Bunyan, OFS  
Louise Hotovy, OFS  
Mike Hotovy, OFS  
Sherry Lewis, OFS



Gerry Pinkas OFS  
Lita Maisel, OFS  
Jim Tebo, OFS  
Jerry Yu, OFS

(Image of Blessed Carlo Acutis, from  
[Home \(carloacutis-en.org\)](http://carloacutis-en.org))



## **The Shrine of St. Anthony**

Our service of Prayers, Christmas Carols, and a Living Nativity will take place outside at the red barn with refreshments to follow free of charge! Bring your family and friends and encounter the true meaning Christmas!

### **Annual Greccio Live Nativity**

Saturday, December 11, 2021,

7:30 PM - 8:30 PM

**Please Remember to Drop Off Your Cookies for the Greccio !**

**The Shrine Grounds & Courtyard** are open daily dawn till dusk.

If you have any questions please contact the Front Office at 410-531-2800;  
[www.shrineofstanthony.org](http://www.shrineofstanthony.org)

### **Our Deceased**

#### **Brothers & Sisters:**

Connie Baker, OFS  
Frances Bastress, SFO  
Dea. Tom Bello, OFS  
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  
John Kirby, SFO  
Joy Kubricky, OFS  
Frances Langbehn, SFO  
Bob Lewis, SFO  
Marie Lindung, OFS  
Jean Manning, OFS  
Jim Manning, OFS

Georgianna Papazian, OFS  
Yvonne Proch, SFO  
Nancy Seaton, SFO  
Jean Singleton, OFS  
Don Sweitzer, OFS  
Betty Taylor, SFO  
Bud Tenley, SFO  
Regina Yeager, SFO  
Dorothy Zalewski, SFO  
Fr. Cronin Cantlon, OFM Conv.  
Fr. James Elliott, OFM Conv.  
Fr. Larry Kubera, OFM Conv.

### **UPCOMING GATHERING: December 19 \* Classroom \* 2PM**

- ◆ Our **Christmas Gathering** will include a Greccio Service with readings; Ray Glennon will provide the music.
- ◆ Please bring wrapped snacks to share.
- ◆ Consider our more vulnerable brothers and sisters when making choices regarding social distancing & masks.