

THE FLYER

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



November 15, 2020

Theme for the Year:

**Sanctify Yourself & You
Will Sanctify Society**

San Giuseppe di Copertino
Public domain 18th century engraving

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Greetings from Brother Lawrence

Halloween is over and Thanksgiving is well on its way, and then Advent.

As the saying goes, “Tempus fugit!” I tussled with myself as to whether I should speak of Thanksgiving or Advent in this letter and I have decided that in a year like we have had this year, I would write about Thanksgiving and thankfulness.

Thanksgiving is surely the number one holiday in the United States. And I do not doubt that it is because it is a great family celebration in which everyone can participate! It is when family near and far make that special effort to get together, give thanks, and reminisce about days gone by. While Halloween has replaced Thanksgiving as the beginning of the so-called holiday season, I know that “Black Friday” is wearing itself out with so many people shopping online and Thanksgiving seems to getting back its rightful place as a family holiday; I wonder if that is also due to the basic foundation of the holiday — thankfulness.

I really have been thinking about this and I am coming to understand that, even with all the distractions, there has always been a central emphasis on giving thanks. We, first of all, give thanks to God who allows all of the good things in life to come to us and our loved ones. The gifts that he gives to us of family and friends is something which we cannot help but noticing and thanking him for.

Continued on page 2...

Br. Lawrence from page 1...

The graces and blessings God has bestowed on us over the past year are also things that we need to be thankful for — faith, health, happiness, work, leisure, and pleasures such as time for praying, reading, and other activities. These are things for which we are extremely grateful. There may also be someone missing from our family gathering this year, either because they could not make the trip due to the pandemic or other reason or perhaps they may simply be with us no longer and have gone to the Father. Even for them there needs to be thanks to them and to God. First to God who brought him or her into our life and with that some tremendous memories. Then to the person not present but, let us hope, who will be back around the family table next November, we need to think of them on that day and give thanks to God for the love shared between us. For the one(s) who are no longer with us, we thank God for allowing them into our lives, even if for a short time. They are certainly still loved and still praying for us before God. Our time spent together is surely a great blessing we shall remember for years to come.

So, as we consider all the relationships that we have had during the year, with God, with friends and acquaintances, with family and other loved ones, we need to remember them all to the Father in prayer and blessings. They are the people who make up our daily world and without them our world would be so much of a loss. From family: parents, children, grandchildren, aunts and uncles, grandparents, cousins; from neighbors, coworkers, friends and acquaintances, even to the clerk in the Royal Farm store who I pay for my morning cup of coffee; everyone, even those who I meet for as little as five minutes as I check out at the grocery store, or who takes my shopping cart back to the store; the people who too quickly pass into and out of our daily lives; all of them we pray in thanks and blessing to God for them all. That is what Thanksgiving is all about, thanking God who is responsible for everything, every blessing that I have had yesterday, have today and will have on the morrow. By no means last, I thank God for each and everyone of you and ask God to continue to bless you each day.

God bless you all, Br. Lawrence

Happy Birthday to Us! As we close out our 40th anniversary as a fraternity, please consider sharing photos, memories, quotes, or favorite articles from our past. Please email to jtwillis@aol.com (or call 443-745-1109) by December 1 and you may see it in the December 2020 edition of *The Flyer*.

Please use this as a way to share a bit of yourselves with your Franciscan brothers and sisters.

“Sanctify Ourselves and Sanctify the World”

~Denise Donaldson, OFS, LCSW-C

Moreover, they should respect all creatures, animate and inanimate, which bear the imprint of the Most High,” and they should strive to move from the temptation of exploiting creation to the Franciscan concept of universal kinship.

(The Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order, The National Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order, USA: 2017 edition, Rule #18, 29.)

Our theme this year is “Sanctify Ourselves and Sanctify the World” and was meant to direct our thoughts, prayers, and actions toward the responsibility given to us by God in The Garden to care for our natural world. In the Holy Father’s encyclical, *Laudato Si’*, Pope Francis makes this a specific marching order for the faithful. He beautifully and tragically describes the connection between a failure in that stewardship and the rise of poverty, unemployment, pollution, scarcity of natural resources, and sanitation.

(Msgr. Kevin W. Irwin’s Introduction to *On Care for Our Common Home: The Encyclical Letter Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis, Mahwah NJ: Paulist Press, 1 September 2015, 1) I would add to that list an increase in mental health issues. As a psychotherapist I find that one of my first lines of treatment for clients with depression, anxiety, PTSD, ADHD, grief and acedia (the emotion John Cassian wrote about that now seems most particular to this age of isolation and dearth due to COVID-19) is to encourage them to get outside, breathe the air, play in the dirt, allow their vision to enjoy the stretch toward a horizon rather than just a glance across the room, listen in nature, relish the way God’s creation activates the senses He gave us.

My second recommendation is to forget, for now, all their questions of “why?” and to simply trust the process. “Why?” interrupts trust. It interrupts faith. It interrupts the ability to crawl out of the pit, because it is the question that most likely has either infinite answers or no answer at all. Ever ask a toddler why he spilled his milk? Or a teenager why she was late coming home? Or a spouse why they did not remember your anniversary? There are no good answers and likely the true whys are subconscious anyhow. The toddler is just a toddler, developing and clumsy. The teenager is just a teenager and they lose track of time, it’s what they do. The spouse...well....there could be lots of answers to that question and none would be ultimately satisfying. “Why?” is the main question that keeps us depressed and anxious and insecure. It blames. It produces shame which leads to avoidance and inaction. It is asking “why are you the way you are?” It is the question that screams into the void about our *rights* and ignores our *responsibilities*. As such, it does not foster love. Ever ask God, “why?” I have....and mostly His answer to me is “have faith.”

So we need to ask a better question. A question that will lead us to embrace connection with our Creator and His creation. The question that leads us to discover not our *rights* but our *responsibilities*. The better question is “How?” “How?” is the question that allows us a path forward without shame and judgement. It inherently produces a forgiving attitude and a path toward growth and solving the problem. It reminds us that the enactment of our responsibilities *is* an act of love...and that is an honor and a grace. How are we going to be more careful next time we are carrying a glass of milk? How are you going to make sure you come home on time? How are we both going to feel loved and respected when our anniversary comes around? How will I allow God to help me live up to my Christian responsibilities in this gift of creation He has given me?

So often when I am engaged in conversations about our relationship to the Earth, as soon as the question of responsibility is sensed, we revert to the “Why” as a defense against shame instead of the “How” as a commitment to action. Chris and I bought a fun vehicle in the summer of 2019. We bought a Jeep Wrangler with a soft top and WOW was it fun to take that down the shore! (There’s my Jersey Girl coming out!) But this year as we start shifting from “Why we bought the Jeep in the first place” (surely we can find some good answers to that one...answers that would have justified us choosing the Jeep over God’s Earth!) to “How are we going to be more responsible for our world” we joyfully sold it for a hybrid car which we also love. We love owning a hybrid because it helps us intentionally shift from exploitation of Creation (Jeeps are gas guzzlers!) to kinship with Creation.

If you find yourself asking “why” or “why should I” be more conscious of my stewardship of the environment, if you find yourself trying to find reasons to prove or disprove the effects of climate change on our world, if you find yourself doubting whether we can even have a great enough effect on the world to make a difference, if you find yourself contemplating whether or not it is true that climate change, pollution and the abuse of our natural resources are affecting the poor of our civilization disproportionately than the rich, or whether our destruction of the balance of nature may have caused a deadly pandemic to enter humanity, then prayerfully try this.... shift to “how”. That shift is a shift from defensiveness and doubt to trust and faith. It is a shift from asking what my world should do for me to what I should do for my world (to paraphrase JFK).

God obviously appointed us as stewards, not just users.

St. Francis of Assisi showed his Brothers and Sisters how to be family to our Sister, Mother Earth, not to leach onto her.

Pope Francis asked us to experience nature as a manifestation of God with which we can readily interact. For as it says in Colossians 1:16, “All things have been created through Him and for Him” (Pope Francis, Encyclical on Care for Our Common Home *Laudato si’* 24 May 2015, §99).

This Created Earth is a gift from God not only to us, but to His Son. And he allows US to care for it! Allow that to sink in for a moment: God made the animals, the trees, the oceans, the stars for His son Jesus and entrusts it all into *our* keeping. What faith God has in us! So, how can we live up to that faith that God has in us? We do not ask why we must change some habits and ideas that hold us back from being part of the family...that is a depressing, anxiety producing, ego-challenging, shame-inducing, isolating thought exercise and one that interrupts faith. We simply must joyfully contemplate How.

We *sanctify ourselves* by abandoning the need to know why when that is the wrong question at the wrong time. We *sanctify ourselves* by allowing our obedience to guide us more than our politics or our habits or our egos. We *sanctify ourselves* by being rid of defensiveness, anxiety, and blame. And when we sanctify ourselves, we take actions that DO sanctify our Sister, Mother Earth.

*“The divine and the human meet in the slightest detail in the seamless garment of God’s creation,
In the last speck of dust of our planet.”*

(“Global Responsibility and Ecological Sustainability”, Closing Remarks, Halki Summit I,
Istanbul, 20 June 2012 as quoted in *Laudato si’* §9)

*Each creature has its own purpose. None is superfluous. The entire material universe speaks of God’s love,
God’s boundless affection for us. Soil, water, mountains: everything is a caress of God .*

(Laudato si’ §84)

Treasurer's Report

September – 2020

Beginning (running) Balance: \$ 2,326.34

Common Fund Contributions \$ 95.00

Total **\$ 2421.34**

Expenses:

Brother Lawrence \$100.00

Franciscan Friars \$100.00

Total **\$ 200.00**

Ending (running) Balance: **\$ 2221.34**

Thank You for your monthly contributions!

May I never boast of anything save the Cross of our Lord! (Gal. 4:16, NRSV)

Contributions are Tax Deductible. Please mail to:

**Gerry Pinkas, OFS
3810 Marriottsville Road
Randallstown, MD 21133**

Where in the Writings?

"By these and other virtues, they used to sanctify themselves and the place."

(A Collection of Sayings of the Companions of Blessed Francis: FA:ED, vol. 3, p. 121)

Franciscan quotes may also be found by searching the Franciscan Intellectual Tradition website at:

www.FranciscanTradition.org



Please consider donating full & travel-sized toiletries this month.

Lots of people enjoy donating "fun" items, but plenty of practical needs exist. Items needed include:

soap, shampoos, conditioners, toothpaste, toothbrushes, lip balm, deodorant, combs, razors, foot powder, socks, gloves, hats, and underwear.

To donate directly to the Center, please consider visiting their website at <https://fcbmore.networkforgood.com/projects/89510-giving-campaign-2020> and clicking the big, green button.

Welcome, Visitors!

Want to find out more about Secular Franciscans?

- ⇒ Keep an eye on our websites & newsletter so you know when we begin meeting in person again. Secular Franciscans are friendly & do not have secret rites.
- ⇒ Check out our website: <http://stjosephcupertino.sffusa.org/our-fraternity/>
- ⇒ Check out the St. Margaret of Cortona website: <http://saintmargaretofcortona.org/>
- ⇒ Check out our national website: <https://secularfranciscansusa.org/>

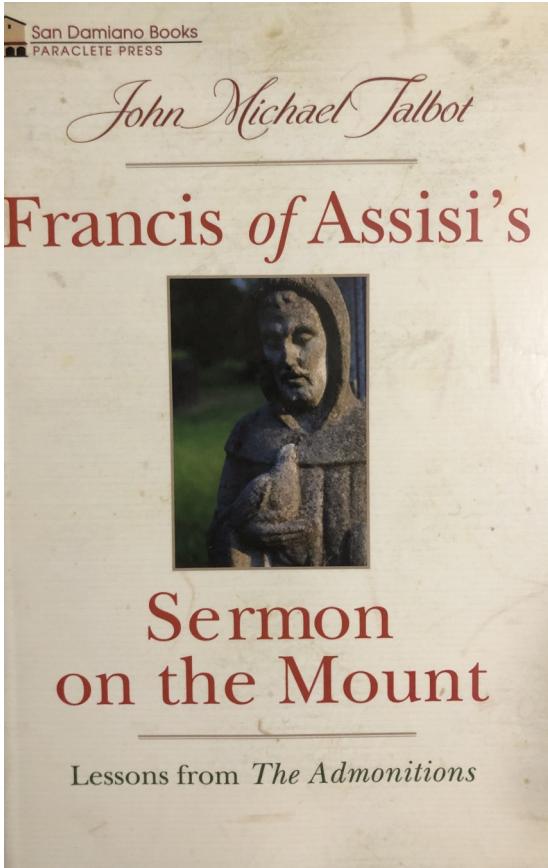


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GOOD NEWS!

The Fraternity Book Study is starting a new book!
It's the perfect time
for those who have wanted to join to do so
and we would so welcome your contributions of
thoughts, prayers and words
as we ponder areas of spiritual growth
from a Franciscan point of view.

We are beginning
**FRANCIS OF ASSISI'S
SERMON ON THE MOUNT
(LESSONS FROM THE ADMONITIONS)**
by John Michael Talbot

Some chapter titles to entice you:
Evil and self will,
Perfect and imperfect obedience,
Exterior mortification,
True humility

We will meet on Zoom every First Saturday from 1-3.
Just write an email to Geri Flynn (Angelbarty@aol.com)
and you will receive an invitation at 12:45 on Saturday.
See you then!!

Please Pray For:

Joan Babin, OFS
Connie Baker, OFS
Karan Bevers, OFS
John Kirby, OFS
Marie Lindung, OFS
Jean Singleton, OFS
Jim Tebo, OFS



November 15, 2020 Gathering

- ◆ 3 pm at the Shrine Chapel
- ◆ Mass of Remembrance
- ◆ Currently, masks must be worn at all times inside the building, but public bathrooms are available. Note that the choir stalls in the Chapel are currently unavailable.

Our Deceased Brothers and Sisters:

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

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*.

12. Witnessing to the good yet to come and obligated to acquire purity of heart because of the vocation they have embraced, they should set themselves free to love God and their brothers and sisters.

13. As the Father sees in every person the features of his Son, the firstborn of many brothers and sisters, so the Secular Franciscans with a gentle and courteous spirit accept all people as a gift of the Lord and an image of Christ. A sense of community will make them joyful and ready to place themselves on an equal basis with all people, especially with the lowly for whom they shall strive to create conditions of life worthy of people redeemed by Christ.

The Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order may be accessed at anytime at:
<https://secularfranciscansusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/RULE.pdf>



EVENTS AT THE SHRINE OF ST. ANTHONY

Mass Times-

Sunday thru Friday at 12 Noon,
Outside of Carrollton Hall,
Please BYO mask & chair.

Adoration:

In the Chapel: Saturday 10am -12 Noon

Outside of Carrollton Hall: Tuesday 11am-11:45am

Confession Schedule- Monday through Friday :

11 am-11:45 Outside of Carrollton Hall

Mondays, 11am-12 Noon in the Conference Room,
Enter through side chapel doors, remember your mask.

Gift Shop Hours

Monday through Saturday from 9:00 am - 4:00pm

Sunday 10:00am - 2:00pm

Currently, masks must be worn at all times inside the building & no public bathrooms are available. If the weather is questionable, please call the Shrine before leaving your house. Note that the choir stalls in the Chapel are currently unavailable.

The Shrine Grounds & Courtyard are open daily dawn till dusk!

If you have any questions please call the Front Office at 410-531-2800; check the website for full details www.shrineofstanthony.org



Photo courtesy of Joanne Patton, OFS

Happy Birthday!

Lorie Chase, OFS	11/05
Sherry Lewis, OFS	11/15
Barbara Levasseur, OFS	11/17
Alice Umugiraneza, OFS	11/20
Ray Glennon, OFS	11/22

Upcoming:

Denise Donaldson, OFS	12/10
Joan Bundy, OFS	12/15
Ed Burgee, OFS	12/17
Diane Witherspoon, OFS	12/18
John Handiboe, OFS	12/18
Mark McPherson, OFS	12/23
Will Potter, OFS	12/23