



THE FLYER

**Newsletter for the St. Joseph Cupertino
Fraternity of the Secular Franciscans USA**

June 25, 2023

FOURTH SUNDAY
Our Theme for the Year:
Franciscan Joy

UPCOMING: * June 25* 4th Sunday *St. Anthony Garden of Eternity. Glass Room 1-4 pm

- ◆ Meetings are third Sunday of the month at 2 pm. (See website for date changes and updates)
- ◆ Check out our website: <https://StJosephCupertino.SFOUSA.org/Welcome-To-Our-Fraternities-Website>
- ◆ Check out our regional website: <https://SaintMargaretOfCortona.org/>
- ◆ Check out our national website: <https://SecularFranciscansUSA.org/>

Greetings from Brother Lawrence, OFM Conv.

Good day all,

For me the time is winding down this school year and the summer is near at hand. I have always enjoyed the summer, I consider it second only to the autumn. It gives me freedom from the structure of the classroom and time to evaluate this past school year and get ready for the next one. Without the summer I do not believe the school year coming would come out as well as they do!

I have wondered why this is so and I suppose it is that I have a good amount of time to look and evaluate and, most importantly, the time to think. Yet, I still have time for my other favorite things - reading, baseball and photography. It is truly a relaxing time. Still, there is one area of life from which one is never allowed to vacation from—working on a relationship with God. This is the single most important of everything that we do in life and it is, therefore, our building of ourselves into a follower of Jesus himself. When I say this I am speaking of the divine Jesus who in his human form perfectly adhered to everything that the Father asked of him. This is what we are called to do as well. Our following of Jesus is to be totally obedient to the will of the Father as he was. Of course, I think that we, being human, will slip up sometimes but those can be used as learning moments!

Prayer life is most important here. Why? How would we come to know what the Father is asking of each of us if we did not have a prayerful relationship with God? We could not if we were not listening. Yes, we need to pray daily but the better part I believe is the meditation part where we sit and listen to God when he talks to us. He does not do this every time we pray but he speaks when it is his will to do so, not necessarily when it is our will to listen. As I tell my students “God always initiates, we always respond.” We cannot begin the process, God will begin when he is ready and we are ready to listen which he knows better than we ourselves. If we begin the process it is really only our mind putting in thoughts they are not likely from God. We need to stand and wait for God; we need to get out of God’s way and let God be God! This is something to think about; letting God be God and not ourselves, or others who propose praying in a way when God will always answer. God initiates, we respond, basically this is so because God is God and we are his obedient children!

Have a good summer,

Br. Lawrence

Minister's Note

Summer Reading

When I was growing up, summer meant that I could read as many books as I wanted. We would go to the library and I would check out as many books as I could carry. Books were a way that I traveled to different countries, learned new things, and whiled away the summer days.

Favorite books from my childhood included Caddie Woodlawn, The Borrowers, and The Little House on the Prairie Series. I did not grow up watching television because of the remote places where we lived. I read and that included reading the Bible.

My parents gave me my first Bible when I was in the fourth grade, a beautiful red leather-bound Bible. I set out to read it from the front to the back. The begets took me a long time to get through. I was reading one of the greatest stories ever told, yet for a large part I did not quite understand the story that was being told from those earlier readings.

The average person reads around 12 books a year, reading just 15 minutes or so per day. I know that I am in the minority when I confess to reading about 80 books in the past six months. Only a handful of those books were religious in orientation. One was a directed reading of Archbishop Fulton Sheen's To Know Christ Jesus, and another was a re-reading of Father Mark-Mary Ames' Habits for Holiness. Nowadays, I find myself listening to the Bible either through Father Mike Schmidt's *Bible in a Year* series, or through the *Pray as You Go* podcast. It is a rare occasion when I pick up an actual copy of the Bible and read the readings of the day, even though I now understand that the begets trace the genealogy of Jesus and our own genealogy in God's family.

Several years ago, I would attend an annual Catholic Religious Education Conference. There was always a new crop of authors to hear, and books to buy. How do we find a good book to read? Or maybe even a bad book that challenges us spiritually? Mark and Kristin Wilison run a website called *The Catholic Bard*. They have articles and synopsis on recently published books. <https://www.patheos.com/blogs/catholicbard?s=catholic+books> (This is not a sole endorsement of their site. There are many others that you can find on-line.)

A dear friend recently sent me a copy of The Third Spiritual Alphabet by Fray Francisco De Osuna that I am working my way through. It is a book on contemplative prayer that influenced St. Teresa of Jesus.

We have a book club headed by our dear friend and sister, Geri Flynn. They meet on-line, so you can attend from the comfort of your own home. You can reach out to her to see what new book they are reading together. Our newsletter also notes the book that is being read.

I hope that this summer is a little different. One where I spend time not just immersed a good thriller, but also in books that stretch me spiritually. And, where I pick up a physical copy of the Bible a little more often to hear what words of wisdom God has just for me. What books have you found inspiring?

Peace and goodness

Melissa

Formation Thought

Daily Meditations by Mother Teresa

“Our lives to be fruitful must be full of Christ. To be able to bring His peace, joy and love we must have it ourselves for we cannot give what we have not got, Like the blind leading the blind.”

Love: A Fruit Always in Season

(St. Teresa of Calcutta)

Thank you Deanna for your hard work and dedication!

Dear brothers & sisters in Francis and Clare,

The past 3 1/2 years you have entrusted The Flyer into my hands and it has been a privilege to connect our Excused and Active members. The time has come, however, for me to hand the task back to the Council. Thank you for all your support and kind words.



Deanna Williston, OFS



Please bring diapers and personal hygiene products to the gathering. The items will go to the Franciscan Center.



Volunteer to help Little Portion Farm at <https://www.LittlePortionFarm.org>

Food grown helps those in need.

2022-2025 Council

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



Treasurer's Report

May – 2023

Beginning (running) Balance:	\$ 3546.30
Common Fund Contributions	\$ 90.00
Other income	0.00
Total Balance Before Expense	\$ 3636.30
Expenses:	
Spiritual Assistant	\$ 100.00
Franciscan Friars	100.00
Annual Fair share to Regional	1400.00
New checkbook order	34.95
Stipends to Regional visitation (for both)	200.00
Total Expenses	\$ 1834.95
Ending (running) Balance:	\$ 1801.35

Contributions are Tax Deductible

Direct Donation checks to: St. Joseph Cupertino Fraternity

Mail donations to:

Jerry Yu
2812 Green Shade Court
Ellicott City, MD 21042

You may use your bank's BILL PAY. Direct payment to St. Joseph Cupertino Fraternity C/O the address above.

NOTE! FOR BILL PAY, THE ADDRESS HAS CHANGED.

Happy Anniversary

Bob Longo, OFS	06/15/1996	(27 yrs)
Patrick Caughy, OFS	06/24/2012	(11 yrs)
Cindy Mohler, OFS	06/24/2012	(11 yrs)
France Staudenmann OFS	06/24/2012	(11 yrs)



Happy Birthday!

Boniface Kim, OFS	06/05
Richard Lam, OFS	06/06

Coming Next Month:

Jeanne Kerins, OFS	07/11
Gerry Pinkas, OFS	07/18

Book Share– Admonitions 23 True Humility

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

We are seeking suggestions for a new book.

First Saturdays from 1-3 pm on ZOOM!

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

Next meeting: July 1.

PRAYER LIST



Anniversary of Death:

Donna Duncan 6/25/2015

Healing:

Gail Bunyan, OFS
Lita Maisel, OFS

Please send any updates to Melissa.