



# THE FLYER

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

June 23, 2024

Fourth SUNDAY

“Gaze upon Him; consider  
Him; contemplate Him, as  
you desire to imitate Him.”

*Saint Clare*

## UPCOMING: June: Speaker Fr. Gary Johnson

**Gather after mass for fellowship in the Dining Room. Meeting at 2 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-Fraternitys-Website>
- ◆ Check out our regional website: <https://SaintMargaretOfCortona.org/>
- ◆ Check out our national website: <https://SecularFranciscansUSA.org/>

## **Brother Lawrence, OFM Conv.**

Well, it's nearly half way through the year and, to me, it's been a fast one.

As you are all aware this one is very much different for me as I end my teaching career and it ended just yesterday (7 June). But I recognize that nothing is over; I still have much to do. I still have two fraternities to work with and much reading and learning to do.

Some of my students informed me they would be coming to see me in EC next month and I have no doubt that they will. My working with high schoolers goes on except that they are now collegians or older. I received an email from a student who graduated from St. Francis in the middle nineties. Married, twin daughters and he is the age I was when I taught him. Things continue but we keep becoming more experienced people.

Let's use our experiences and continue to help guide them just as I began when they were just freshmen. God bless them as well as those who may no longer be with us.

Br. Lawrence

## Minister's Note

Please give a warm welcome to our guest writer this month: Deacon Michael King, OFS.

When St. Clare of Assisi looked into a mirror, she didn't see herself. Instead, she saw the Image she was made into – that of Christ. St. Clare was learning to see her heart conforming to the Heart of Christ behind the face in the mirror. St. Clare and The Poor Clares followed the burning heart of Christ by emptying themselves of self-interest through the example of “*Jesus' love and the joy of poverty,*” as preached by St. Francis.

**"Called ... to be conformed to the image of his Son"** (Rom 8:28-29).

As St. John reminds us, God is love (see 1 Jn 4), the One who empties himself out for others, desiring our eternal salvation, seeking out the lost and carrying the wandering sheep home. St. Clare and The Poor Clares conformed their life to Christ. They could be found tending to the needs of the ill, washing the wounds of lepers, working the garden, and weaving clothes for the sick. Every word, action, gesture and attitude of Jesus manifests a perfect, pure and selfless love for each human person. If love means willing the good of the other, completely free of self-interest, we see the perfection of such charity in the burning heart of Christ. Clare and The Poor Clares reflected the image of God and of the burning heart of Christ to their community.

**"He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver"** (Malachi 3:3) and **"I will turn my hand against you, and refine your dross in the furnace, removing all your alloy"** (Is 1:25). These verses puzzled some women in a Bible study, and they wondered what this meant about the character and nature of God. One of the women offered to find out the process of refining silver and get back to the group at their next Bible Study.

That week, the woman called a silversmith and made an appointment to watch him at work. She didn't mention anything about the reason for her interest beyond her curiosity about the process of refining silver.

As she watched the silversmith, he held a piece of silver over the fire and let it heat up. He explained that in refining silver, one needed to hold the silver in the middle of the fire where the flames were hottest as to burn away all the impurities.

The woman was silent for a moment. Then she asked the silversmith, "How do you know when the silver is fully refined?" He smiled at her and answered, "Oh, that's easy – ***it is fully refined when it becomes shiny like a mirror, and I can see my image in it.***"

My prayer is that God will continue to refine us with His love and watch over us till “*he can see His image in us.*” May we continue to follow the example of St. Clare and continue to look into the mirror for the image we are being made into – that of Christ.

Deacon Michael King, OFS

*Formation Thought of the Month:*

“I beg you, in the name of the Lord, to always include me in your holy prayers. I am your servant, lowly as I am, and with the sisters of San Damiano, we are devoted to you in prayer. May we all experience the mercy of Jesus Christ, now, and the everlasting vision of heaven, to come.” St. Clare of Assisi

(From The St. Clare Prayer Book by Jon M. Sweeney p. 136)

St Margaret of Cortona CHAPTER OF MATS  
Registration is **NOW OPEN** for our **September 6-8, 2024**  
**Chapter of Mats** to be held at the beautiful  
**Claggett Center** in Adamstown, Maryland. Under the theme  
of **The Next 800** Years, we will explore where we have  
been, where we are now,  
and where we are going.



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

Food grown helps those in need.



**Help at the Shrine:** Volunteer as a lector, Eucharistic Minister, Usher, especially before our gatherings. Help staff a table to invite interest in the Secular Franciscan Order. Email Melissa.

**2022-2025 Council**

**Minister:**

Melissa Reed-Konigsdorffer OFS  
410-552-5750  
Scoutsdouglas@yahoo.com

**Vice Minister:**

Charlie Heyden OFS  
410-215-9079  
CHeyden2@comcast.net

**Secretary:**

France Staudenmann OFS  
301-366-1769  
France.Staudenmann@gmail.com

**Treasurer (Acting):**

Jerry Yu OFS  
443-514-5007  
bravo0226@yahoo.com

**Formation Director:**

Jeanne Kerins OFS  
410-227-6497  
JMkerins12@gmail.com

**Councilor 1:**

Bob Longo OFS  
240-476-5796  
BLongoSFO@gmail.com

**Councilor 2:**

Ray Glennon OFS  
443-458-8044  
Ray.Glennon@1972.USNA.com

**Spiritual Assistant:**

Br. Lawrence LaFlame, OFM Conv.  
410-485-5000  
LLaFlame@ArchBishopCurley.org

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



## Treasurer's Report

May – 2024

<b>Beginning (running) Balance:</b>	<b><u>\$ 2,569.28</u></b>
<b>Income:</b>	
Common Fund Contributions	\$ 105.00
Annual Website Fee Donation	180.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b><u>\$ 285.00</u></b>
<b>Expenses:</b>	
Spiritual Assistant	\$ 100.00
Franciscan Friars	100.00
Annual Website Fee	180.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b><u>\$ 380.00</u></b>
<b>Ending (running) Balance:</b>	<b><u>\$ 2,474.28</u></b>

If you are unable to attend the gatherings, you can send your contributions to the fraternity.

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.

## REMEMBER OUR DECEASED MEMBERS:

Jerry Cichowicz 6/10/2003  
Donna Duncan 6/25/2015



## Happy Birthday!

This month:  
Richard Lam 6/6

Next month:  
Jeanne Kerins 7/11  
Gerry Pinkas 7/18

## Happy Anniversary

Patrick Caughy 6/24/12  
France Staudenmann 6/24/12  
Robert Longo 6/15/96  
Cindy Mohler 6/24/12

### Book Share--

Thomas A' Kempis' classic Imitation of Christ.

First Saturdays from 1-3 pm on ZOOM!  
Contact Geri Flynn OFS for details:  
AngelBarty@aol.com

### PRAYER LIST For Healing:

Gail Bunyan, OFS  
Lita Maisel, OFS  
Bill Siefken, OFS  
Teresa Lam, OFS  
Rosemary Whelan, OFS  
Patrick Caughy, OFS  
Will Potter, OFS

