



THE FLYER

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

March 16, 2025
THIRD SUNDAY

FIND HOPE.
BE HOPE.

UPCOMING: March 16, 2025– OPEN HOUSE and Celebrating the Canticum of the Creatures

- ◆ 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-Fraternity's-Website>
- ◆ Check out our regional website: <https://SaintMargaretOfCortona.org/>
- ◆ Check out our national website: <https://SecularFranciscansUSA.org/>

Note from Brother Lawrence, OFM Conv. Will return

The observance of Lent is the very badge of the Christian warfare. By it we prove ourselves not to be enemies of the cross of Christ. By it we avert the scourges of divine justice. By it we gain strength against the princes of darkness, for it shields us with heavenly help. Should mankind grow remiss in their observance of Lent, it would be a detriment to God's glory, a disgrace to the Catholic religion, and a danger to Christian souls. Neither can it be doubted that such negligence would become the source of misery to the world, of public calamity, and of private woe" (Pope Benedict XIV in 1741).

Minister's Note

This month we will host an open house for visitors. Visitation will be after noon mass with light refreshments, followed by a Reflection on the Canticle of the Creatures. We will end in time for the fraternity to attend the Lenten Vespers from 4- 6 pm at the Shrine. Please note that the fraternity meeting will move from the Third Sunday to the Fourth Sunday in April due to Easter. We will participate in Divine Mercy Sunday.

In his Papal address for Lent this year, the Holy Father, Pope Francis asks us to journey together on our Christian walk. The fraternity is a good place for this to happen. Rule 22 states that the fraternity is a “privileged place for developing a sense of Church and the Franciscan vocation and for enlivening the apostolic life of its members.”

What are we doing with this privilege? How we are committed to our brothers and sisters, and our Franciscan vocation?

As minister, I wonder about all the names that are on the fraternity lapsed list. What caused them to leave the fraternity when this is a life long profession? (I have sent invitations to the last known addresses...)

What are some barriers for you to attend the meetings regularly? How can members of the fraternity help you?

How can you help the fraternity? Do you have a special talent or something that you would like to share with the fraternity? Can you help visit some of our sick or elderly members?

I don't think that our profession is passive. We should not be sitting back and thinking that others will take on every role. (In June we will have elections. You can see those roles and descriptions at the end of the newsletter.)

The fraternity needs to be a place where people can feel that they can grow in their mission of following Christ in the footsteps of Saint Francis.

Over the next few weeks, I invite you to think about what do you desire from the fraternity meetings. Are there things that you miss? Are there things that we should be doing, but are not?

We should be actively seeking how to make this a vibrant, faith community. We are in this together, and together it should be our mission to make this a privileged place.

You can send your thoughts, concerns, and most importantly prayers to any of the Council members.

You do not walk alone.

Peace, love, and hope, *Melissa*

Formation Thought of the Month:

“ Give me correct faith, sure hope and perfect charity with understanding and knowledge.”

St. Francis of Assisi Prayer before the Crucifix



Rule 18:

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.



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

February – 2025

Beginning (running) Balance:	<u>\$ 3,168.19</u>
Income:	
Common Fund Contributions	\$ 465
<u>Total Income</u>	<u>\$ 465</u>
Expenses:	
Spiritual Assistant	\$ 100.00
Franciscan Friars	100.00
<u>Total Expenses</u>	<u>\$ 200.00</u>
Ending (running) Balance:	<u>\$ 3,433.19</u>

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.

Pray for Deceased Members:

Happy Birthday!

*Remember those who have gone before us.
Grant them peace, Lord. May they reign in
paradise with you. Through Christ Our Lord.
Amen.*

This month:

Mick Michieli-Beasley, OFS 03/05
Deanna Williston, OFS 03/05
John Johnson, OFS 03/11
Cindy Mohler, OFS 03/13
Kelly Neale, OFS 03/13
Karan Bevers, OFS 03/21
France Staudenmann OFS 03/29

Coming Next Month:

Kathy Ford 4/6

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
Harry Ford, OFS



Every three years the fraternity holds an election to establish the Fraternity Council. Here are the job descriptions of each position that should be elected. Our elections will be in June. The SFO Constitutions lists the job descriptions in Articles 51-52

<https://saintmargaretofcortona.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/SFO-Constitution.pdf>

The Offices in the Fraternity

Article 51

1. While firmly upholding the co-responsibility of the council to animate and guide the fraternity, **the minister**, as the primary person responsible for the fraternity, is expected to make sure that the directions and the decisions of the council are put into practice and will keep the council informed about what he or she is doing.

2. The minister also has the following duties:

a. to call, to preside at, and to direct the meetings of the fraternity and council; to convoke every three years the elective chapter of the fraternity, having heard the council on the formalities of the convocation;

b. to prepare the annual report to be sent to the council of the higher level after it has been approved by the council of the fraternity;

c. to represent the fraternity in all its relations with ecclesiastical and civil authorities. When the fraternity acquires a juridical personality in the civil order, the minister becomes, when possible, its legal representative;

d. to request, with the consent of the council, the pastoral and fraternal visits, at least once every three years.

e. to put into effect those acts which the Constitutions refer to his or her competence.

Article 52

1. **The vice-minister** has the following duties:

a. to collaborate in a fraternal spirit and to support the minister in carrying out his or her specific duties;

b. to exercise the functions entrusted by the council and/or by the assembly or chapter;

c. to take the place of the minister in both duties and responsibilities in case of absence or temporary impediment;

d. to assume the functions of the minister when the office remains vacant [34] .

2. **The secretary** has the following duties:

a. to compile the official acts of the fraternity and of the council and to assure that they are sent to their respective proper recipients;

b. to see to the updating and preservation of the records and the registers, noting admissions, professions, deaths, withdrawals, and transfers from the fraternity [35] ;

c. to provide for the communication of the more important facts to the various levels and, if appropriate, to provide for their dissemination through the mass media.

Offices of Fraternity Continued

3. **The master of formation** has the following duties:

- a. to co-ordinate, with the help of the other members of the council, the formative activities of the fraternity;
- b. to instruct and enliven the inquirers during the time of initiation, the candidates during the period of initiation formation, and the newly professed;
- c. to inform the council of the fraternity prior to profession, concerning the suitability of the candidate for a commitment to live according to the Rule.

4. **The treasurer, or bursar**, has the following duties:

- a. to guard diligently the contributions received, recording each receipt in the appropriate register, with the date on which it was given, the name of the contributor, or the one from whom it was collected;
- b. to record in the same register the items of expense, specifying the date and the purpose, in conformity with the directions of the fraternity council;
- c. to render an account of his or her administration to the assembly and to the council of the fraternity according to the norms of the national statutes.

5. The provisions regarding the rights and duties of the vice-minister, the secretary and the treasurer apply, with the appropriate adaptations, to all levels.

You may read more about the Council Members duties in the handbook:

<https://saintmargaretofcortona.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/2025-Council-Members-Handbook-Final.pdf>