



THE FLYER

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

**May 18, 2025
THIRD SUNDAY**

**FIND HOPE.
BE HOPE.**

UPCOMING: May 18, Father Jude to speak. And the Franciscan Crown Rosary

- ◆ 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.

Brother Lawrence is having computer issues. This is from a newsletter written in 2020:

One of the things I am missing at this time, and I am certain that it is for all of you, is Sunday Mass with a homily. I was trying to remember what the last homily I heard was, but I could not remember it at all, sad to say. I suppose that I could say the same thing about any homily that I have heard . . . except for one. It was 20-25 years ago, and I still recall the opening story of the homily and that was more than enough, for I have been thinking about that story ever since. I shall share with you the story.

"It was the end of the world," the priest began, "and everyone who was to be in heaven for all eternity was in heaven and they were all joyously celebrating. However, one jubilant person looked over at heaven's gates and he saw Jesus leaning forlornly on the gates and looking out into the great abyss. So, the person upon seeing this walked over to Jesus and said, "Jesus, what gives? Everyone here is celebrating the end of the world and being here in heaven for all eternity, why are you not happy?" Jesus turned toward his questioner and responded, "I am waiting for Judas."

I was, and still am blown away for I had not anticipated that ending to the story, but now I think, perhaps I should have. It has a familiar ring to it; did not the deacon Stephen say something similar to God about those stoning him? Stephen had called out, "do not hold this sin against them" much as Jesus did at his crucifixion. I have to say, I do not know if anyone there that Sunday morning still thinks about or even remembers that story, but I do know that I have.

Jesus and Stephen, in fact all of us are in the 'forgiving business,' if you will. It is not that we ought to forgive, or to expect forgiveness, it is that which we are called to do, loving forgiveness for everyone and it is often tough to do. In the Our Father we know and profess the phrase "forgive us our sins," but do we remember the very next words? They are "as we forgive those who trespass against us."

Yes, I remember a story from a five-minute homily on a Sunday morning two decades or so ago and it has really gotten to me. I do not remember the church, who else the priest said, or even who the priest was, but I do remember that story and think about it quite often. What I have written here is just the tip of an iceberg of my accumulated thoughts on this story. Yes, I have learned much from that one story and I have shared much about it too, but I especially learned a lot more about forgiving and forgiving others myself.

Minister's Note

*This month we will have Father Jude Winkler speak at the gathering. **Please bring your Franciscan Crown Rosary to end the meeting.** Next month, the meeting is moved to the fourth Sunday due to Father's Day. We will be voting on June 22 for a new council.*

We have a Pope. His first words to us were "Peace be with you." In a time when there are struggles around the world, those words are words of hope.

Jesus said "Blessed be the peacemakers, for they will be called God's children."

I know that I struggle with finding peace and hope when it seems sometimes everything is on fire. Yet, we are called to do just that as followers of Christ.

If we are stewing in anger or outright hatred, it will be impossible to bring peace to others. It will be hard to establish harmony. Proverbs 18: 21 says that our words have power of death and life. This is not just physical death, but also the small deaths that occur when we kill a relationship or murder with our words.

Saint Francis preached peace. It is why as Franciscans our motto is "Pax et Bonum", peace and all good.

May you keep that small prayer close: peace and all good to everyone.

Heavenly Father: We pray for our new pope, Pope Leon XIV. May he find peace and tranquility as he serves your people. Fill him with your wisdom, Lord. Grant him good health, and joy each day. We give you all thanks and praise. Amen

PILGRIMAGE TO SHRINE OF ST ELIZABETH ANN SETON

Please sign up to attend the pilgrimage on May 31. We will meet at 12:45 pm for a tour and prayer. Sign up here:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090C49A9A72AAFF2-56664357-pilgrimage>

PLEASE COME AND VOTE!!!!

In June we will have elections. Please mark your calendar. It is important that every member of the fraternity attend to vote.

If you would like to run for an office, please read the description of each member of the Council at the end of the newsletter. Each member will serve for three years in the elected position.



Formation Thought of the Month:

“ Hope is the lifeline that connects us to God’s mercy and grace.”

St. Faustina



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

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



Treasurer's Report

April – 2025

Beginning (running) Balance:	<u>\$3,113.16</u>
Income:	
Common Fund Contributions	\$ 70.00
Anonymous Donation for Website Fee	180.00
<u>Total Income</u>	<u>\$ 250.00</u>
Expenses:	
Spiritual Assistant	\$ 100.00
Franciscan Friars	100.00
Website Fee	180.00
<u>Total Expenses</u>	<u>\$ 380.00</u>
Ending (running) Balance:	<u>\$ 2,983.16</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:

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

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

Happy Birthday!

This month:

Patrick Caughy 5/18
Mimi Cox-Owens 5/18
Ray Heverling 5/31

Coming Next Month:

*David Garcia 6/3
Richard Lam 6/6*

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.

Councilors—This position may be elected.

- ☐ A fraternity may elect or appoint councilors to strengthen the relationship among members of a fraternity and to assist the council, when deemed necessary due to language barriers, distance, size of a fraternity, or other needs, both administrative and pastoral in nature.
- ☐ If elected, a councilor holds voting privileges and is accountable for all decisions made by the fraternity council.
- ☐ If appointed to a councilor position, the individual does not have voting rights on the council.
- ☐ The councilor collaborates with the council in determining areas of need within the fraternity, and follows through on jobs assigned.
- ☐ Accurate and organized records should be maintained of all communication in regards to assigned duties.
- ☐ Notations or a short summary of important conversations or actions should be kept in a file for future reference.
- ☐ A councilor's binder should be maintained.
- ☐ No councilor should stay on the council in the same position for more than nine years; this causes the fraternity to stagnate. (The attitude becomes: "if it works, why change it"?) It also causes everyone to rely on that one person, which destroys the true meaning of "fraternity."
- ☐ If it is the decision of the voting fraternity members to elect or appoint new councilor(s) position(s), pass the binder to the new councilor(s).
- ☐ If it is not the desire of the voting members to elect or appoint a professed Member to a councilor position, the outgoing councilor will hand over his or her binder to the newly-elected minister.

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

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