



THE FLYER

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

September 17, 2023

THIRD SUNDAY
Our Theme for the Year:
Franciscan Joy

UPCOMING: September 17: Picnic All friends and family are invited. Starts after the noon mass.

- ◆ 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,

I was supposed to begin to write about Solanus Casey this month but I am postponing that until October as I feel the need to write about the need to think about the prospect of vocation to Franciscanism. I was quite pleased to see so many interested visitors at the last several meetings and I am encouraged that the fraternity may be moving to grow more in this post-COVID age. I am also encouraged by the increase in students at Curley who are thinking about vocation to priesthood or brotherhood in the Franciscan Order. I see a turn to more vocations from the younger generation and I believe that God is still calling people to these various vocations.

I must admit that for most of my religious life this has not been very encouraging but it now seems to be moving in that direction. I remember my Church history teacher in my graduate studies in theology say that the vocation "crisis" was not really a crisis but that a return to the normal level of vocations after most of the 20th century being much higher than ever before. Fr. James Hennessy often times in class speaks of this and so I think that now we are returning to a better interest in vocations by the young. I have discussed this with some of my students who approach me and this is most encouraging.

It is most important that the fraternity continue to seek and invite new members to your fraternity and way of life. I truly believe that there are people out there whom God is calling to be Secular Franciscans. Sometimes I am surprised about who comes to talk to me in school about it and, of course, they do not all accept such a call but their very interest is encouraging. God has not stopped the calling to vocations within the Church but it seems now that more people are beginning to consider that call. So let us continue to pray for those vocations today and, as promised, God will provide.

God bless,

Br. Lawrence

Minister's Note

I read an interesting article this month that posed the question of "How much stuff do we really need?" If we are to live in a way that is simpler, does our stuff hold us back? Maybe there are other things in life that are filling our calendars and hearts that are not helping to the goal of becoming a saint.

A call to living a simple life isn't easy. We want our homes to be comfortable and welcoming to others. But all too easily these items can become clutter. They leave less room for joy and ease. Last week, I filled and donated a truck bed full of knick-knacks and other tchotchkes from our nook and crannies. I don't miss any of those items.

Beyond the material items, we can also stuff our calendars so full that there is no time to be still, or to find joy. We are marking off the to-do list in the name of "productivity," but not really being present in our own lives. There is no time for long conversations or time to really reflect on our call to live out the Gospel. I can't add to my calendar without looking at what is already there. I started to delete some of those not so necessary commitments.

Saint Francis opened the Gospel three times, and heard "Get rid of things; take nothing for the journey, and Follow Me." For myself, I believe that we need to take not only physical action, but also spiritual action to rid ourselves of the things that are not helping us to get to heaven.

Maybe it is gossip. Maybe it is an addiction. Maybe it is the hundreds of books that line the shelves that no one will read again. Maybe it is events that do not promote the Gospel way of living. We need to look at what is cluttering our lives without filling us up with good things.

A call to the simple life as a Secular Franciscan will look different for each person. We are to live out our vocation in our ordinary lives. I hope that you will consider what you are filling your life with and ask: "Is it True? Is it Beautiful? Is it Good?" Those are the things that should be filling our homes and hearts.

Peace and goodness,
Melissa

PS Don't forget about the picnic at our September gathering. I look forward to seeing everyone there.

Do you have an article for the newsletter? Please send your input to Melissa. The word count should be under 500 words. Share your insights and thoughts with the fraternity.



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Au-

The St. Joseph of Cupertino Fraternity will have our annual picnic on Sunday September 17th from 1 pm to 4pm
The location of the picnic is in the courtyard.
This picnic will be our September Gathering.

Please sign up by contacting Charlie Heyden at cheyden2@comcast.net or 410 215 9079 no later than **September 15th**

Formation Thought of the Month:

“The suffering of adversity does not degrade you but exalts you. Human tribulation teaches you; it does not destroy you. The more we are afflicted in this world, the greater will be our joy in the future.”

St. Isidore of Seville

Father Noel Danielewicz, OFM Conv., former director of the Shrine of St. Anthony, would like to organize a pilgrimage next year to Assisi, La Verna, Greccio, and Osimo, where St. Joseph of Cupertino spent the last years of his life. The pilgrimage would take place in October 2024. Father Noel would like to know if members of our fraternity would be interested.

Email Melissa if you think you would be interested in going.



WINE AT THE
SHRINE

Wine at The Shrine benefits the Franciscan Center and Little Portion Farm.

More information and tickets available at <https://www.wineattheshrine.org/>



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.

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

August 2023

Beginning (running) Balance:	\$ 1451.35
Income:	
Common Fund Contributions	\$ 854.00
Donation for the Fraternity Banner	100.00
Total Income	\$ 954.00
Expenses:	
Fraternity Banner	\$ 300.00
Carrollton Hall Tour	150.00
Spiritual Assistant	100.00
Franciscan Friars	100.00
Total Expenses	\$ 650.00
Ending (running) Balance:	\$ 1755.35

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.

Happy Anniversary

Gerry Pinkas, OFS 09/16/1979

Happy Birthday!

Dawn Glennon, OFS 09/05
Bill Siefken, OFS 09/06
Melissa Reed-Konigsdorffer, OFS 09/24
Mike King, OFS 09/25

Coming Next Month:
Mimi Cox Owens, OFS 10/01
Bob Longo, OFS 10/06
Harry Ford, OFS 10/10
Lita Maisel, OFS 10/13
Michael Radcliffe, OFS 10/22
Theresa Heath, OFS 10/30

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. Admonition 26 "Be Respectful of clergy". 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: Oct 7

PRAYER LIST



For Healing:

Gail Bunyan, OFS
Lita Maisel, OFS
Bill Siefken, OFS
Teresa Lam, OFS
Rosemary Whelan, OFS
Michael Radcliff, OFS

For our deceased:

Loretta Joy Kubricky 9-7-2016