

The Flyer

THEME FOR THE YEAR
BE HOLY



July 21, 2019 Gathering

Vocation

A Call From God

I have called you by name.

*You are mine because you are precious in my eyes,
you are honored and I love you (Isaiah 43:1)*

When we love someone we want to be with them. God wants to be with us. The ultimate vocation for all people is union with God. From the beginning of time everyone is in God's plan. "*He chose us in him before the foundation of the world.*" (Ephesians 1:4) We were not made to go it alone. God calls us from all eternity to share in His divine life; to be united with Him. What an awesome God!

By his life, death and resurrection, Jesus did for us what we could never do for ourselves. He gained for all people what they didn't have by nature, a sharing in God's own life. Everyone's primary vocation is to share in that life. This is not something that can be earned. It is pure gift. Everyone has the choice to accept that gift or refuse it. It is most important because other choices are based on that one. ~ National Formation Manual

BE SOLICITOUS TO MAKE YOUR ELECTION PERMANENT



Our Fraternity Council for 2019 – 2022

Minister: Geri Flynn, OFS, 410 730-4395

Vice Minister: James Kim OFS, 443 458-3361

Secretary: Denise Donaldson, OFS, 443 683-2538

Treasurer: Gerry Pinkas, OFS, 410 922-1537

Formation Director: Sherry Lewis, OFS, 410-299-7144

Councilor: Lita Maisel, OFS, 410 747-2374

Spiritual Assistant: Br. Lawrence LaFlame, OFM. Conv. 410 485-5000



Minister's Message

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Francis and Clare,

I know I speak for our newly elected council members when I say a sincere thank you for seeing us as worthy and capable of being fraternity servant leaders for this term.

We have pledged to "animate and guide the fraternity by our example, our virtues and prudent decisions so that the gospel of Jesus, in the spirit of St Francis, may come alive in our community".

We ask the guidance of the Holy Spirit and your cooperation, so that together, as the Family of Francis and Clare, we may witness to the gospel, be instruments of peace and build a more fraternal and evangelical world. (*from the prayer said after the elections*). We will do our very best and are grateful for your support.

Please note the letter sent to us by Bob Longo, OFS, in a recent email on "An Opportunity to Assist Migrants with the Oak Tree Project". Such a wonderful group and opportunity!

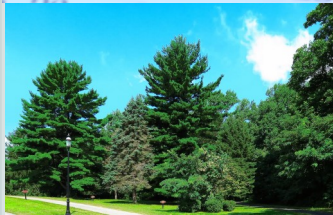
May God continue to bless us all.

Peace and every good,
Geri Flynn, OFS, Minister



Please Pray For ...

Connie Baker, OFS
Marie Lindung, OFS



September 15, 2019

Fraternity Picnic
Where?
The
Shrine of St. Anthony



AT THE SHRINE
Chapel Open Daily
From 9 AM – 5 PM
Noon Mass
every day
For more
Information
call 410 531-2800

Why so quiet?

I arrive in a place where I am greeted warmly by people that genuinely care about my well-being. There is also a community of other patients that has formed. Even if we don't talk to each other much, we recognize and greet each other, and look forward to completing our respective (treatment) journeys with good results. (And isn't that what we are doing here on earth too? Living with each other in community as we complete our life journey, hopefully with good results.)

When I'm called to the treatment room, I give my name and birth date--stating my identity as a unique person with worth and dignity. And I enter a special room and complete the same steps each time. (This is very similar to entering a church and participating in ritual acts, like the Mass.) Once in position on the table, my only job is to relax and remain still. I can do nothing for myself. All I can do is to trust in those who are caring for me. (And trust in God is the basis of a religious life.) For 10-15 minutes I am blessed with solitude and peace, yet I know that I am not alone and assistance is just around the corner if I call. I know that I am being healed through rays of energy that penetrate my body without me perceiving them. There are lots of spiritual connections that can be made here. (And, in fact, I often do pray during the treatment, making this an especially blessed time.)

And when the treatment is over, I am once again greeted warmly and sent on my way with best wishes for a good day.

A spiritual experience indeed!
Ray Glennon, OFS



OUR DECEASED SISTERS AND BROTHERS

- Deacon Tom Bello, OFS
- Frances Bastress, SFO
- Joe Bezila, SFO
- Jerry Cichowicz, SFO
- Shirley Costello, OFS
- Joe Cykoski, SFO
- Stella Cykoski, SFO
- Claire Lee Davison, SFO
- Adela Duff, SFO
- Donna Duncan, SFO
- Charles Ferrara, SFO
- Mary Ferrara, SFO
- Dolores Fritz, OFS
- Marilyn Gilson, SFO
- Richard Hall, SFO
- Joy Kubricky, OFS
- Frances Langbehn, SFO
- Bob Lewis, SFO
- Jean Manning, OFS
- Jim Manning, OFS
- Yvonne Proch, SFO
- Nancy Seaton, SFO
- Don Sweitzer, OFS
- Betty Taylor, SFO
- Bud Tenley, SFO
- Regina Yeager, SFO
- Dorothy Zalewski, SFO

Food for Thought

Hidden Love extends to our spiritual lives. Though it is good to share our thoughts and graces with our neighbor, it is necessary to keep our interior a hidden sanctuary where only God lives, reigns, and to which he alone has access.

~Mother Angelica



Treasurer's Report

June – 2019

Beginning Balance:
\$ 1,761.85

Common Fund Contributions 586.48
Plant Drive 25.00
St. Paul Street Ministry 19.00
Total **\$2,392.33**

Expenses:

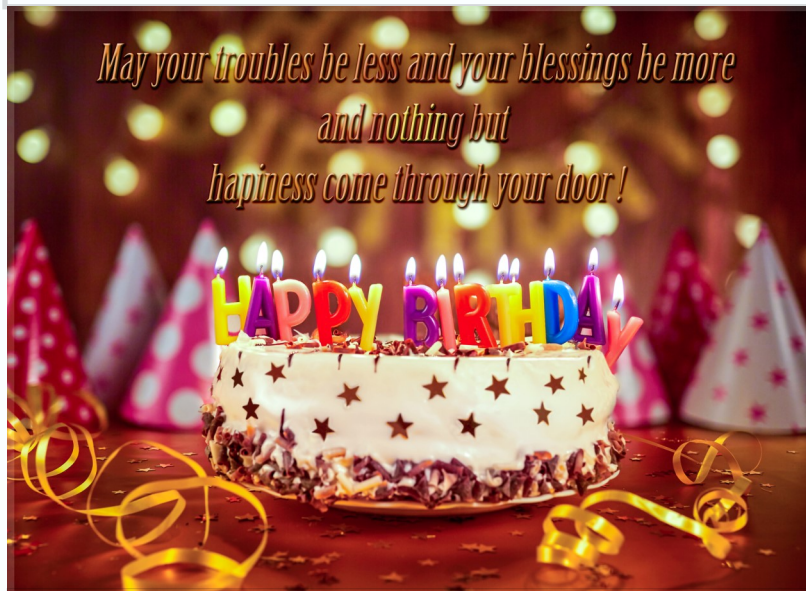
Brother Lawrence 100.00
Franciscan Friars 100.00
Stipend – Election Monitors 200.00
Formation Expense 97.90
Charity – Ghana / Br. Vincent 160.00
Web Fee 15.00
Total **\$ 672.90**

Ending Balance:
\$1,719.43

Thank you for your monthly contribution to the Common Fund

Contributions are tax deductible

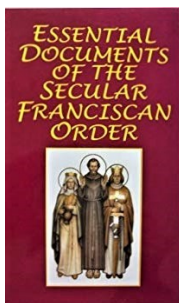
Birthday Blessings Coming Your Way



*May your troubles be less and your blessings be more
and nothing but
happiness come through your door!*

Jeanne Kerins, OFS	07/11
Gerry Pinkas, OFS	07/18
Mary Karth, OFS	07/28
Will Witherspoon, OFS	07/31

General Constitutions of the Secular Franciscan Order



The Form of Life Article 17

1. *Rule 6* Called to work together in building up the Church as the sacrament of salvation for all and, through their baptism and profession, made "witnesses and instruments of her mission", secular Franciscans proclaim Christ by their life and words. Their preferred apostolate is personal witness in the environment in which they live and service for building up the Kingdom of God within the situations of this world.

Our Franciscan Roots

"The Secular Franciscan Order is not just an Order within itself, but plays an important role in the Church and thus helps make up the Church. Therefore, our Franciscan roots allow us to be successors of St. Francis."

Bob Longo, OFS



Book Sharing

Our book share group has decided to break until Fall when we will begin a new book (to be determined) and all are encouraged to come.

~ Geri Flynn, OFS

Enlivened by the Spirit
At Annual Regional Retreat
By John Cusick, OFS

Lord, give me the wisdom to always hear your words in the whisper of the wind, and to receive your peace in prayers. Give us the courage to make time for your word and the ability to reflect on it. Love builds a bridge over which truth can pass.

There's a reason the Franciscan tau does not bear the image of Christ, said Br. Michael Meza, OFM Cap. "We're called upon to climb that cross. We put ourselves on that cross." This is our baptismal vocation as "priests, kings and prophets," he told the Secular Franciscans of the St. Margaret of Cortona Region.

At this year's regional retreat, sisters and brothers from local fraternities in several states gathered for the St. Margaret of Cortona annual regional retreat May 31 to June 2 at Priest Field Pastoral Center to explore the theme of "Deepening Our Vocation."

Our Regional Minister Bob Longo, OFS, exhorted Secular Franciscans of the region to: "Say to people, have a blessed day." It was Bob's way of us sharing our Franciscan joy with others and to make a difference in their day, who knows, perhaps even bringing someone back to God.

Br. Michael led the retreatants through a unified series of talks interspersed with group liturgies, sharing at meals and social hours, and time for personal reflection. He called upon the Secular Franciscans of the region to deepen their communion with the Lord, Jesus Christ. He pointed out that in Confirmation they received the gifts of the Holy Spirit to strengthen them, and that they are people of faith, called to constant conversion. "We must have the conviction of St. Francis that we are people of faith, called to be part of the Church's mission to bring God everywhere." He cited Article 6 of the Secular Franciscan rule, urging us to "go forth as witnesses and instruments of the Church's mission among people," and stating that, "Secular Franciscans proclaim Christ by their lives and words."

Urging them to look at salvation through the lens of St. Francis, he pointed out the uniqueness of the Franciscan charism among those of many spiritual families in the Catholic Church: Greccio, where Francis staged the first live reenactment of the Nativity scene, "the expression of Francis's love for the poor, humble, vulnerable Christ." He cited the Nativity narratives of Luke's gospel, pointing out that, "Mary's 'yes' is our 'yes'" and that Secular Franciscans are called to say 'yes' to whatever God is calling them to do.

Called first to "rebuild ourselves" through continuing formation, they are like Francis, called to "rebuild the Church," at a time when the faith of many has been shaken by scandal. Discerning their roles in this regard is a process, he explained, just as Francis first believed he was called to rebuild the crumbling physical infrastructure of San Damiano and only in time discerned his role to found the spiritual Orders that would stand in sharp contrast to the greed and political power that corrupted the Church in his time.

Francis's exhortation to, "Let us begin anew," said Br. Michael, does not mean that Secular Franciscans need to start over at the beginning, rather, "Let's start something new." Turning to the sacraments for inspiration, he pointed out that it is necessary for us to be in proper relationship to God and neighbor, and that sin "breaks all these relationships of communion." He urged them to frequently make use of the Sacrament of Reconciliation and to receive Christ's body and blood, pointing out that, "We will always know that we are in communion with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit because we receive him in the Eucharist."

Br. Michael urged retreatants to see their fraternities as an extension of their families. "Your gifts have to be used for them and their gifts have to be used by you." Concerning their mission, he cited Pope John Paul II's exhortation to Secular Franciscans from his "Vida Consecrata" (Life of the Consecrated): "Present yourselves to the world as a community of love."

Breakout sessions inspired lively discussion on three questions: "Who is Francis for Me?" How can I inflame Francis in my life and community?" and "How can I show my Franciscan love for everyone: to my children, grandchildren, great grandchildren and those who do not know Christ."

One fraternity member said she enjoyed the group discussions and during reflection time, a walk down by the river that flows past the retreat center near Kearneysville, W.Va. "We talked about how things are going to change in our lives," One fraternity member said she appreciated the several references to the Secular Franciscan rule and statutes included in Br. Michael's talks.

Another sister liked the short breathing exercises and centering prayer with which Br. Michael began each session. "What struck me about Br. Michael's talks was how he emphasized the significance of Baptism. He spoke about how most of us don't recall our Baptism, but we do recall our Confirmation and our saint's name. And he spoke on how we as Catholics renew our baptismal promises every year at Easter."

Retreatants enjoyed plenty of time for reflection and evening social hours, prayed together the Liturgy of the Hours and attended Mass together in the Priest Field chapel.



First Life of St. Francis

Thomas of Celano

CHAPTER IV

Francis sold all his goods and despised the money given him

8. Behold, when the blessed servant of the Most High was thus disposed and strengthened by the Holy Spirit, now that the opportune time had come, he followed the blessed impulse of his soul, by which he would come to the highest things, trampling worldly things under foot. He could not delay any longer, because a deadly disease had grown up everywhere to such an extent and had so taken hold of all the limbs of many that, were the physician to delay even a little, it would snatch away life, shutting off the life-giving spirit. He rose up, therefore, fortified himself with the sign of the cross, got his horse ready and mounted it, and taking with him some fine cloth to sell, he hastened to the city called Foligno. There, as usual, he sold everything he had with him, and, successful as a merchant, he left behind even the horse he was riding, after he had received payment for it; and, free of all luggage, he started back, wondering with a religious mind what he should do with the money. Soon, turned toward God's work in a wondrous manner, and accordingly feeling that it would be a great burden to him to carry that money even for an hour, he hastened to get rid of it, considering the advantage he might get from it as so much sand. When, therefore, he neared the city of Assisi, he discovered a certain church along the way that had been built of old in honor of St. Damian but which was now threatening to collapse because it was so old.

9. When this new soldier of Christ came up to this church, moved with pity over such great need, he entered it with fear and reverence. And when he found there a certain poor priest, he kissed his sacred hands with great faith, and offered him the money he had with him, telling him in order what he proposed to do. The priest was astonished and, wondering over a conversion so incredibly sudden, he refused to believe what he heard. And because he thought he was being deceived, he refused to keep the money offered him. For he had seen him just the day before, so to say, living in a riotous way among his relatives and acquaintances and showing greater foolishness than the rest. But Francis persisted obstinately and tried to gain credence for what he said, asking earnestly and begging the priest to suffer him to remain with him for the sake of the Lord. In the end the priest acquiesced to his remaining there, but out of fear of the young man's parents, he did not accept the money; whereupon this true contemner of money threw it upon a window sill, for he cared no more for it than for the dust. He wanted to possess that wisdom that is better than gold and to acquire that prudence that is more precious than silver.



The Rule of Pope Paul VI for Secular Franciscan

by Benet A. Fonck, OFM

Called to Proclaim Christ

“The rule of Pope Paul VI for Secular Franciscan embodies the same principles as the previous rules. It does, however, have a slightly different approach to the way those principles are expressed and developed.

The past rules were “prescriptive”: spelling out concrete practices that show how deep and lasting a person’s commitment was. The rule of Paul VI is “descriptive” spelling out those basic principles that give rise to practice.

Both are valid approaches, but the second is more in keeping with the thinking of Vatican II and the rapidly changing needs of contemporary society.

The Church has always been committed to the ongoing change of heart or penance as part of our relationship with God. Previously this commitment to penance was expressed by Friday abstinence from meat. Now we are called to express that same commitment in ways that are more suited to our needs and circumstances, like refraining from eating junk foods or from watching violence on television, choosing to give to the poor a donation equivalent of one meal per week, to express a kind word or complement to a person we might not talk to, committing oneself to engaging in vigorous exercise three times a week, or to changing an unhealthy attitude or behavior.

We know from Scripture and the teachings of the Church (especially in Vatican II) that God calls us to a loving and personal relationship of union with him, and in response to God’s invitation we choose to display convictions of faith that are adaptable to our time and place. The principles of faith are constant, the expressions in practical actions are variable yet always in accord with the basic conviction.

The SFO Rule is based on this approach. It gives the basics on “what-it-means-to-be-Franciscan”; it outlines the faith convictions for living the gospel in the spirit of St. Francis, leaving the details of practical action to particular statutes and personal initiative. As such, it is not so much a “how-to-do-it” approach to Franciscan living with concrete practices given in detail.

The SFO Rule is not as specific or as secure as the former rules, but perhaps in the long run it is more demanding. It calls for an intense and personal relationship with God and a mature decision to be responsible for one’s own actions. It suggests a creative mind to seek out new and better ways of acting and an open-ended stance that says, “Just doing this or that isn’t enough for fulfilling the demands of gospel life; my potential is limitless.”

OUR GATHERINGS

All should make every effort to attend our gathering every month. All Candidates and Professed members are to contribute to the common fund box, located in the Shrine refectory during our social time. Everyone is required to sign in; the book is located next to the common fund box. If you are unable to attend one of our gatherings, please mail your monthly common fund to:

Gerry Pinkas, OFS
3810 Marriottsville Rd.
Reisterstown, MD 21133



BEGGING FOR BAGS

Sisters and Brothers in Francis and Clare,

Our sister, Gerri Flynn, OFS, is requesting plastic bags for her plastic mats ministry for our homeless sisters and brothers. Please bring your bags with you at our July 21st gathering.

Making Sleeping Mats out of Plastic Shopping Bags

For several years, our sister, Geri Flynn, OFS has been busy making sleeping mats out of plastic shopping bags for our homeless sisters and brothers for the Franciscan Center in Baltimore.

Geri tells us, “crocheting or knitting these sleeping mats for those who find themselves homeless has been such a pleasure. In addition to providing a lightweight, waterproof surface between the person and the cold, wet ground, they are also an amazingly positive way to utilize plastic bags!”

“Each mat uses up to 500 bags—so much better than the landfill - I find so many people are happy to save their bags for me. Our kids got a kick out of me quietly **removing** bags from our supermarket recycle bin and the Franciscan Center has been happy to receive them.”

“If anyone wishes to join me in this effort, just let me know and will be happy to share the easy Instructions”: angelbarty@aol.com

Below are several pictures of sleeping mats crocheted by Geri:



This is a wonderful ministry any time of the year. It would be great to have other fraternities take on this apostolate. Believe it or not, next winter will be here before we know it. Please ask your fraternity to help us keep our sisters and brothers dry in the spring and summer and warm in the winter.

Sponsored by the St. Joseph Cupertino Fraternity

Editor: Bob Longo, OFS blongosfo@gmail.com Fraternity Website: <http://stjosephcupertino.sfousa.org/>



Franciscan Center

A Ministry of the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi

Sharing Dignity and Hope since 1968

FRANCISCAN CENTER GIVING

Don't forget to bring your donated items to this month's gathering.

Please pick from:

- hand sanitizer
- washcloths
- soap
- handi wipes
- toothbrushes
- toothpaste
- shampoo/conditioner
- men/women deodorant
- disposable razors
- feminine hygiene products

Remember your donations are tax deductible.