



THE FLYER

December 15, 2019
Gathering

Newsletter for the St. Joseph Cupertino OFS Fraternity

Theme for 2019: *Be Holy!*

Note Bene: Please note that our beloved brother, Bob Longo has “retired” from the newsletter ministry. This is the third issue edited by Deanna Williston, OFS. Please forgive any mistakes and feel free to share what works best for you and what does not: 443-745-1109.

Advent Advice from Br. Lawrence

A blessed Advent season to one and all.

If you closely pay attention to the readings of Advent up until the 17th of December then you might ask yourself what is going on here. These first-half readings do not seem to have much about the upcoming Christmas, and that is so. We in the Church are celebrating two comings of which Christmas is the latter for us. We most certainly celebrate this great feast later this month, but right now we are concentrating another celebration of hope: the second coming. The Father did not just send his Son once, but He will send Him again, a second time. That is why we hear readings of the yet to be future coming. It is the one we anticipate now when God will take all of his followers with him everlastingly in heaven.



I would say that it is from our faith in God and His Word that we know that it is our hope of this most certain hope of God’s future promise being fulfilled and our joining him in Heaven. So, listen to these readings in Mass and in the Daily Office and until we hear that first “O” antiphon at Evening Prayer later this month, let us focus our attention on the future second coming of the Son. Then, when the “O” antiphon is first said at Evening Prayer, let us turn our attention from our future hope to our faith which gives us hope in what He has promised for our future. Amen, Come, Lord Jesus.

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: 410-655-2648

Formation Dir.: 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 write to you in this most beautiful and profound
of seasons. Come Lord Jesus!

You may be familiar with this piece from
Meister Eckhart (sermons 1-3). I recently read it
again and always am moved by his words:

DIVINE BIRTH IN THE SOUL
There is a huge silence
inside each of us
that beckons us into itself,
and the recovery of our own silence
can begin to teach us
the language of heaven.

What good is it to me
that Mary gave birth to the son of God
fourteen hundred years ago
if I do not also give birth
to the Son of God?

We are all meant to be
mothers of God,
for God is always needing to be born,
Cherish in yourself the birth of God

In this Birth, you partake
in the divine stream,
Christ is conceived in your core,
your inmost recess,
where no idea ever glowed.

In this Birth, God pours into you,
and the light at the core of your soul
grows so strong, it spills out.
The light overflows into your body,
which becomes radiant with it.

For the eternal Birth,
which occurred at one point in time,
occurs every day
in the inmost core
of the soul"

This is a prayerful time of waiting and expectation. One of our sisters, Louise Hotovy, shared a very simple but effective way to practice this mindfulness. She suggests placing an alarm on our phones in the middle of each morning and each afternoon with a label "time to pray" or something similar. It works! Each day I am reminded to whisper a prayer of love and trust to the God who created us. What could be better?!

I wish you each a blessed, serene and holy Christmas.
geri



What is a Servant Leader? By Anne Mulqueen, OFS in TAU Spring 2013

A Secular Franciscan Servant Leader:

- ◆ Demonstrates spiritual and psychological maturity,
- ◆ Shows respect for every member of the fraternity,
- ◆ Demonstrates the Franciscan charism by their actions,
- ◆ Is compassionate and just,
- ◆ Is humble and open to the wisdom of others,
- ◆ Is willing to collaborate with and EMPOWER others,
- ◆ Possesses good communication skills,
- ◆ Is willing and able to share necessary information with the entire fraternity.

Talents of a Servant Leader:

- ◆ Is willing to accept new ideas as suggested by members of the fraternity,
- ◆ Is able to communicate a sense of ownership and accountability to fraternity members—collaboration and teamwork (develops commitment),
- ◆ Is able to develop new leaders while leading,
- ◆ Is able to focus and mobilize the energy of the fraternity,
- ◆ Possesses communication skills that pull

Please pray for:

- Connie Baker, OFS
- Karan Bevers, OFS
- John Kirby, OFS
- Barbara Levasseur, OFS,
- Sherry Lewis, OFS
- Marie Lindung, OFS
- Joanne Patton OFS
- Jim Tebo, OFS



Treasurer's Report

November – 2019

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|----------------|
| Beginning (running) Balance: | \$ | 2653.69 |
| Common Fund Contributions | | 661.00 |
| Christmas Family Adoptions | | <u>714.00</u> |
| Total | \$ | 4028.69 |

Expenses:

| | | |
|----------------------------|-----------|---------------|
| Brother Lawrence | | 100.00 |
| Franciscan Friars | | 100.00 |
| Stipend – Remembrance Mass | | 100.00 |
| Other, PayPal fee | | <u>4.76</u> |
| Total | \$ | 304.76 |

Ending (running) Balance: **\$3723.93**

Thank You for your monthly contributions

Please see article on page five.



Upcoming
mark your calendars

December 15, 2019 Gathering

(Drop off food before or after Mass.)

1:30-4 Christmas Party

(Including Welcoming Ceremony of Inquirers)

~4 pm Evening Prayer in the Chapel



Events at The Shrine

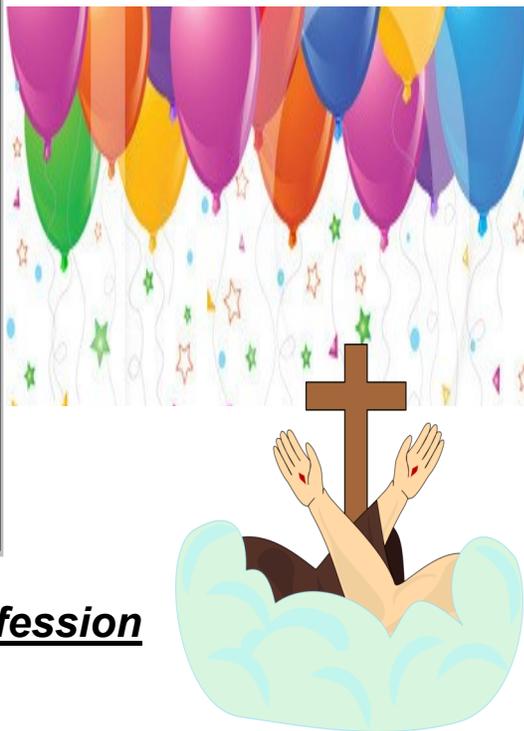
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Chapel Open 9-5
Daily Noon Mass

Saturday, Dec. 14 7-8:30 pm
Christmas Concert with the
Archbishop Curley's Boys' Choir
Sunday, Dec. 15 12-1:30 pm
Healing Mass
Friday, Dec. 20 8-9 pm
Korean Mass
Saturday, Dec. 21 7-9 pm
Simbang Gabi Mass
with reception afterwards
Tuesday, Dec. 24 4,6,&10 pm
Christmas Eve Services
Tuesday, Dec. 31 9-11 pm
New Year's Adoration & Vigil
Mass for the Solemnity of the
Mother of God
Please call the Shrine for details.

410-531-2800

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- Denise Donaldson (12/10)
- Edward Burgee (12/17)
- Joan Bundy (12/15)
- John Handiboe (12/18)
- Lois Diane Witherspoon (12/18)
- Mark McPherson (12/23)
- Mike Hotovy (01-06)
- Claudette Lucas (01-07)
- Marie Lindung (01-18)



Our Deceased Brothers & Sisters:



- Deacon Tom Bello, OFS
- Frances Bastress, SFO
- Joe Bezila, SFO
- Mary Chandler, OFS
- Jerry Cichowicz, SFO
- Shirley Costello, OFS
- Joe Cykoski, SFO
- Stella Cykoski, SFO
- Claire Lee Davidson, 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

Remembering Your Profession

- Laurel Swencki, OFS (12/14/08)
- James Soltysiak, OFS (12/16/09)
- Marie Lindung, OFS (11/16/97)

WELCOME!

At the December meeting, the St. Joseph Cupertino Fraternity will be pleased to welcome John Park-Jung and Will Potter as Inquirers.



“Who has not heard Dostoyevsky’s oft-quoted remark: ‘Beauty will save us?’ Usually people forget to mention, however, that by redeeming beauty Dostoyevski means Christ. He it is whom we must learn to see. If we cease to know him only through words but are struck by the arrow of his paradoxical beauty, then we will truly come to know him and will no longer merely know about him secondhand. Then we will have encountered the beauty of truth, of redeeming truth. Nothing can bring us into contact with the beauty of Christ himself more than the world of beauty created by faith and the light that shines upon the faces of the saints, through which his own light becomes visible.”

-Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger from *On the Way to Jesus Christ*

Methods of Contribution to the Fraternity

Cash:

If you wish to donate cash and need a tax receipt, you can write your name (and address preferably) on an envelope in the basket. The record of your donation will be kept.

Checks:

Checks are written to "St. Joseph Cupertino Fraternity."

Bill Pay:

Most banks offer online banking with a Bill Pay service. Bill pay can be on a one-time or a periodic basis such as annually or monthly. Bill pay information is as follows:

Payee: St. Joseph Cupertino Fraternity
C/O Gerard A. Pinkas, Treasurer
3810 Marriottsville Rd.
Randallstown, MD 21133



Please include annotation: Common fund or directed donation or etc. as proper to the donation. Otherwise Bill Pay donations will be directed to the common fund.

If you wish to donate directly into our account through Bill Pay, please contact Gerry Pinkas (gsongsparrow@sysmatrix.net) for the banking and routing numbers.

Donation Receipt for Tax Stewardship:

If your tax stewardship requires a donation receipt for income tax purposes, you can request the receipt from the treasurer during tax time.

Do you have a story from your daily conversion, pilgrimage, street evangelization, or social justice activity that you would like to share? Please email to jtwillis@aol.com on the first of the month and you may see it in an upcoming edition of *The Flyer*. *Please use this as a way to share of bit of yourselves with your Franciscan brothers and sisters.*

Sermon of St. Fulgentius on the Feast of St. Stephen

(The Second Reading of the Office of Readings on the 26th of December)

Yesterday we celebrated the birth in time of our eternal King. Today we celebrate the triumphant suffering of his soldier. Yesterday our king, clothed in his robe of flesh, left his place in the virgin's womb and graciously visited the world. Today his soldier leaves the tabernacle of his body and goes triumphantly to heaven.

Our king, despite his exalted majesty, came in humility for our sake; yet he did not come empty-handed. He brought his soldiers a great gift that not only enriched them but also made them unconquerable in battle, for it was the gift of love, which was to bring men to share in his divinity. He gave of his bounty, yet without any loss to himself. In a marvelous way he changed into wealth the poverty of his faithful followers while remaining in full possession of his own inexhaustible riches.

And so the love that brought Christ from heaven to earth raised Stephen from earth to heaven; shown first in the king, it later shone forth in his soldier. Love was Stephen's weapon by which he gained every battle, and so won the crown signified by his name. His love of God kept him from yielding to the ferocious mob; his love for his neighbor made him pray for those who were stoning him. Love inspired him to reprove those who erred, to make them amend; love led him to pray for those who stoned him, to save them from punishment. Strengthened by the power of his love, he overcame the raging cruelty of Saul and won his persecutor on earth as his companion in heaven. In his holy and tireless love he longed to gain by prayer those whom he could not convert by admonition.

Now at last, Paul rejoices with Stephen, with Stephen he delights in the glory of Christ, with Stephen he exalts, with Stephen he reigns. Stephen went first, slain by the stones thrown by Paul, but Paul followed after, helped by the prayer of Stephen. This, surely, is the true life, my brothers, a life in which Paul feels no shame because of Stephen's death, and Stephen delights in Paul's companionship, for love fills them both with joy. It was Stephen's love that prevailed over the cruelty of the mob, and it was Paul's love that covered the multitude of his sins; it was love that won for both of them the kingdom of heaven.

Love, indeed, is the source of all good things; it is an impregnable defense, and the way that leads to heaven. He who walks in love can neither go astray nor be afraid: love guides him, protects him, and brings him to his journey's end. My brothers, Christ made love the stairway that would enable all Christians to climb to heaven. Hold fast to it, therefore, in all sincerity, give one another practical proof of it, and by your progress in it, make your ascent together.

St. Fulgentius of Ruspe (462 or 467—527 or 533), bishop of the city of Ruspe, a Roman province of North Africa in modern-day Tunisia, staunchly & repeatedly defended the Church against Arian heresies.

Saturday, January 4

1-3 pm

Our book sharing group will meet on the first Saturday of each month at the Shrine. We are currently discussing Chapter 3 of *Surrounded by Love: 7 Teachings from St. Francis* by Murray Bodo, OFM.



Extraction of the Saints

at the Shrine ~ January 19, 2020

All should make every effort to attend our gathering every month.

All Candidates & 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. Those unable to attend should see article on pg 5.