



THE FLYER

January 19, 2020
Gathering

Newsletter for the St. Joseph Cupertino OFS Fraternity

Welcome to 2020!

Time to reflect on 2019's theme of "Be Holy." How did we increase in holiness? What worked and what did not? Where do we need more help? Please plan to attend all fraternity meetings and share your thoughts during social time.

Greetings from Br. Lawrence:

Happy New Year one and all,

My greeting is indeed a familiar one. We oftentimes join it together with Merry Christmas to express a general, wishful seasonal greeting (and, personally, I certainly prefer it to a generic and vague greeting of "Happy holidays"). I, however, wish to offer a different view of greeting.

It is an important point to notice that the Church has put these to dates together in a much different view. Every 25th of December is Christmas and every 1st of January is New Year's but they are also something else.

First of all the make up what the Church calls the "octave" of Christmas, i.e. the period of the 8 days if the Christmas season proper, for Christmas is not just a single day, but rather a series of 8 days (just as Easter is). It reminds us that Christmas is much more than a single-day celebration because of what is being recalled here. I have often told my students that it is the singularly most important day in human history being celebrated when God became man. That singular event radically altered our relationship with God.

I also want to point out that this so-called "New Year's day" has nothing to do with the octave outside of a coincidence. The Church has established this octave as finishing on the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God. That is what we celebrate as Church, and, let us hope, as individuals. It was Mary's "fiat" that allowed God's plan to happen. We recall the human person whose trust in God was necessary for the Incarnation to happen. For this willing acceptance by Mary of God's response by her as a representative of all of humanity we need to spend time in meditation and dialogue of our blessed mother who accepted her place in God's plan in her hope and in hope for all of us. I, myself, see this as an important event on that day both for the Church and for individuals, especially Franciscans. May God, through the intercession of Mary, give you peace.

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 wish us all a most happy and blessed New Year!

Aren't fresh starts profoundly beautiful!? We Secular Franciscans, and all Catholics, know this from our frequent encounters with Jesus in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. It is yet another much appreciated new start as we turn, once again, toward our heavenly home.

"We are but travelers on a journey without, as yet, a fixed abode" wrote st Augustine. "Let us continue on our way.... so that we may ultimately arrive at our destination".

This new year holds many possibilities- challenges, both spiritual and earthly, sorrow, delight and so much more all meant to help us to arrive safely home as we know that God is with us always.

May we see these circumstances and events for what they are- a true way of strengthening our faith and benefiting others through our humility and sacrifice- and may we remain always faithful to our God and Creator always and everywhere. We are fellow pilgrims and companions in eternity- happy news!!

Peace and all good, geri

P.S. Please note that I am in no need of plastic bags this month.

In the first beginning of the Order, when there was as yet but few brothers and no convents established, St. Francis went, out of devotion, to San Giacomo di Galicia, taking with him Brother Bernard and one or two other brothers. As they traveled on together, they met by the way a poor sick man. St. Francis, moved with compassion at the sight of his sufferings, said to Brother Bernard: "My son, I will that thou stay here, and take care of this sick man." ~ The Little Flowers of Saint Francis



Easy Bible Reading Plan for Secular Franciscans

By Gerard Pinkas

In a single year, if we read the full four Volume Liturgy of the Hours, we read the majority of the Bible (except the Gospels). Secondly, by attending daily Mass, over the 2 year cycle of readings we read most of the Bible. Thirdly, in the Sunday Mass on the three year cycle we read most of the Bible. The Liturgy of the Hours is the perfect compliment to the Liturgy of the Word!

In the Catechism of the Catholic Church, the number of Scripture references in the Scripture Index (avoiding redundancies) is 4,237 references to the Bible including 874 Old Testament and 3363 New Testament references. The number of verses referenced was 6,490 including 3713 New Testament and 2777 Old Testament verses. This does not include the multitude of Scripture references from the writings of Sacred Tradition which could easily double these numbers. The Catechism references are expanded in the Companion to the Catechism of the Catholic Church to their full lengths including Papal documents, writings of the Saints, Writings of the Councils, etc. As Catholics, we know not only WHAT we believe, but WHY we believe what we believe.

By praying both the Liturgy of the Hours and the Liturgy of the Word as well as reading the Catechism of the Catholic Church and its many references, Secular Franciscans will keep fresh the fullness of their faith.

For Your Consideration

- ◆ A Day of Recollection to be held at the Shrine on April 4.
- ◆ There will be a Regional retreat at Priestfield, WV. May 29- May 31. All are invited.
- ◆ The annual seminar at Loretto, PA (St Francis University) to be held July 9-12.
Check the website; updates will appear as available. Otherwise, check future newsletters.



Treasurer's Report

December – 2019

Beginning (running) Balance:	\$3,723.93
Common Fund Contributions	486.00
Directed donations	<u>737.00</u>
Total	\$4946.93
Expenses:	
Brother Lawrence	100.00
Franciscan Friars	100.00
Christmas gift Br. Lawrence	100.00
Farewell gift, Fr. Eric	100.00
Christmas family adoptions	1451.00
Formation materials	25.41
PayPal Fee	<u>4.26</u>
Total	\$ 1880.67

Ending (running) Balance: **\$ 3066.26**

Our Christmas family adoption donation totaled \$1451.00! God promises to reward the generosity of your “widow’s mites” and “kings pence” and everything in-between (which is most of us)!

Thank You for your monthly contributions.

Contributions are Tax Deductible. Please let Gerry Pinkas, your Treasurer know if you need a donation statement for tax stewardship.

Please pray for:

Connie Baker, OFS

Karan Bevers, OFS

Gail Bunyan, OFS

John Kirby, OFS

Sherry Lewis, OFS

Marie Lindung, OFS

Joanne Patton OFS

Jim Tebo, OFS



Upcoming
mark your calendars

January 19, 2020 Gathering

12 pm Mass (optional)
1 pm Social/brown bag lunch
2 pm (short) Business Meeting
Franciscan Traditional Extraction of Saints
3:45 pm Evening Prayer



Events at The Shrine

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Chapel Open 9-5

Daily Noon Mass

Friday, January 20 8-9 pm

Korean Mass

Sunday, Jan. 19, 26, & Feb. 16

Healing Mass 12-1:30 pm

Pietra Fitness

M & Th 9:30-10:30 am

Th 7-8 pm

Wed. Jan. 22 6:30-8:30 pm

Little Portion Book Club

Sat. Jan 25 1-6 pm

Icon Guild

Saturday, February 1 10-Noon

1st Saturday Devotions to Our Lady

Saturday, February 8

St. Valentine's Day Dinner

Many more events...Please check the website or call the Shrine for details.

410-531-2800



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Mike Hotovy (01-06)

Claudette Lucas (01-07)

Marie Lindung (01-18)

John Kirby (01-25)

James Soltysiak (01-26)

Br. Lawrence LaFlame (01-26)

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Theresa Lam (02-06)

Thom Partenope (02-06)

Charlie Heyden (02-15)

Remembering Your Profession

Jean Singleton (01/18/83)

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

Welcome, Visitors!

Want to find out more about the Secular Franciscans?

- ◆ Attend a meeting. Franciscans are friendly & do not have secret rites. We meet (usually) on the third Sunday of the month from Noon~4:30pm (for details, see Upcoming Events box in this newsletter or our website).

- ◆ Check out our national website:

<https://www.nafra-sfo.org/NationalMinister/Welcome2014.html>

- ◆ Check out our fraternity website:

<http://stjosephcupertino.sfousa.org/our-fraternity/>



St. John (Don) Bosco, OFS



St. John (Don) Bosco, priest and OFS, was born near Castelnuovo in the diocese of Turin in 1815. His early years were most difficult, and so once ordained to the priesthood he dedicated himself to the education of the young, founding Salesians Society. He died in 1888.

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From a letter by St. John Bosco, priest and OFS
(The second reading of the Office of Readings on January 31, Memorial of St. John Bosco)

First of all, if we wish to appear concerned about the true happiness of our foster children and if we would move them to fulfil their duties, you must never forget that you are taking the place of the parents of these beloved young people. I have always laboured lovingly for them, and carried out my priestly duties with zeal. And the whole Salesian society has done this with me.

My sons, in my long experience very often I had to be convinced of this great truth. It is easier to become angry than to restrain oneself, and to threaten a boy than to persuade him. Yes, indeed, it is more fitting to be persistent in punishing our own impatience and pride than to correct the boys. We must be firm but kind, and be patient with them.

I give you as a model the charity of Paul which he showed to his new converts. They often reduced him to tears and entreaties when he found them lacking docility and even opposing his loving efforts.

See that no one finds you motivated by impetuosity or willfulness. It is difficult to keep calm when administering punishment, but this must be done if we are to keep ourselves from showing off our authority or spilling out our anger.

Let us regard those boys over whom we have some authority as our own sons. Let us place ourselves in their service. Let us be ashamed to assume an attitude of superiority. Let us not rule over them except for the purpose of serving them better.

This was the method that Jesus used with the apostles. He put up with their ignorance and roughness and even their infidelity. He treated sinners with a kindness and affection that caused some to be shocked, others to be scandalized, and still others to hope for God's mercy. And so he bade us to be gentle and humble of heart.

They are our sons, and so in correcting their mistakes we must lay aside all anger and restrain it so firmly that it is extinguished entirely.

There must be no hostility in our minds, no contempt in our eyes, no insult on our lips. We must use mercy for the present and have hope for the future, as is fitting for true fathers who are eager for real correction and improvement.

In serious matters it is better to beg God humbly than to send forth a flood of words that will only offend the listeners and have no effect on those who are guilty.

~submitted by James Kim

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 a bit of yourselves with your Franciscan brothers and sisters.*

Regional Minister's Message:

Sisters and Brothers in Francis and Clare,

What is Franciscan Joy? In order to understand Franciscan Joy, we need to start at the very beginning of our Franciscan journey. Why did we become Franciscan? What were we searching for? What was to be our ultimate goal? All of us can come up with a handful of reasons for coming into the Order. Once professed, we are expected to put these reasons into practice and ultimately experience Franciscan Joy.

As human beings, we are all searching for happiness, and what does happiness bring? It brings joy. According to the Webster dictionary, "joy is the emotion of great delight or happiness caused by something exceptionally good or satisfying; to be glad; rejoice, to gladden."

Does your Franciscan joy fit into any of the above definitions? If yes, how, if no, why? Each and every one of us experiences joy in a variety of ways and at different levels; it all depends on where we are on our Franciscan Journey.

As Franciscans, our joy comes from the Holy Spirit, who gives us peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, and love. Our Franciscan commitment fosters growth in a very special way, to live the Gospel life, the source of our joy.

When you experience the Holy Spirit within you, you have joy and peace that others see and desire. St. John Paul II often told us, "Be not afraid." Let us be not afraid to share this beautiful gift of joy with others, not only at Christmas but throughout the year.

Peace and joy are gifts from God, and these gifts dwell within us. True joy is contagious. It needs to be set free so that it can be shared with others. Our Pauline Rule and our General Constitutions tell us to "be messengers of Joy and Hope".

Joy is God within us. If we are filled with joy, the Holy Spirit can use us as His instrument to overcome the evil in our midst. In our joy we bring hope to the hopeless and comfort to those in need of comfort, for joy brings peace not only to us but to all we meet. Joy is the love we give to others. As Saint Augustine tells us, "we become what we receive." He is talking about the Eucharist, but we can apply this to our joy as well.

Wishing you and your family a most joyous New Year.

Your Franciscan brother in Christ,
Bob Longo, OFS
Minister, St. Margaret of Cortona Region

Saturday, February 1

1-3 pm

Our book sharing group will meet on the first Saturday of each month at the Shrine. We are currently discussing Chapter 4 of *Surrounded by Love: 7 Teachings from St. Francis* by Murray Bodo, OFM.



Meeting at the Shrine -

February 16, 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.