



April 2020

THE FLYER

Newsletter for the St. Joseph Cupertino OFS Fraternity

Theme for 2020

Sanctify yourself & you will sanctify society.

Outgoing Minister's Message

Dear brothers and sisters in Francis and Clare,
James has encouraged me to write a final message for the newsletter- so here I am!
I wish the new council all peace and good and the blessings of good health.

As I sit here in our quiet and peaceful home and see the delicate pink petals from our cherry tree falling to the ground in its usual spring time way, I find it almost easy to put the healthcare crisis that is enveloping our precious world and its people out of my mind. But that cannot be. We know, in faith, that if only one person suffers (and there certainly are many more) we all suffer as well.

St. Teresa of Avila's wise words come to my mind as they have so often in my life
Let nothing disturb you, let nothing frighten you. All things pass.
God does not change. Patience achieves everything.
Whoever has God lacks nothing. God alone suffices.

So we should do as she advises- be responsible in our actions as they can affect so many others and turn it all over to the good God who is very much in charge.

On a personal note, please know that our move to Florida has been postponed (of course) so I am hoping to be able to attend a Gathering before we go (late summer I hope). How good it would be to join with you one more time but "patience achieves everything". We shall see....
May God bless and keep each of us and our families during this very challenging time. geri

Our Fraternity Council for 2019-2022

Acting Minister: James Kim, OFS: 443-458-3361 *Vice Minister:* Vacant

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

*** Acting Minister's Message ***

“Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord. Praise and exalt him above all forever” (Daniel 3:57). We must be familiar with this canticle, as we say this in Sunday morning prayers. The three young men sang this canticle after they realized they were not burnt from fire in the white hot furnace into which they were pushed as punishment for disobeying the king (Daniel 3). It's the moment that the three holy men saw fire obeying God's command. So, they kept singing:

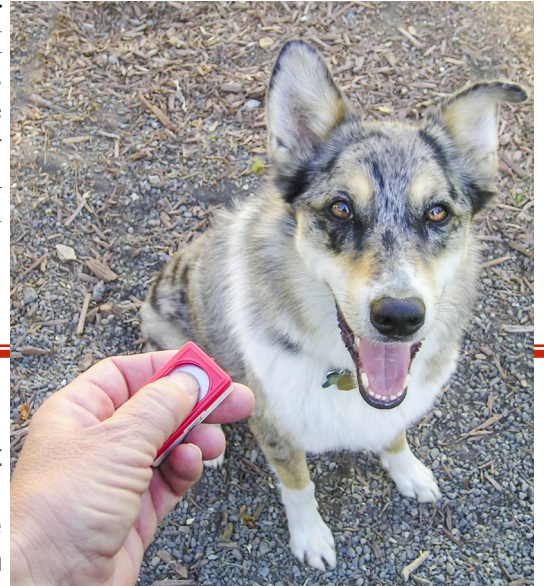
“Sun and moon, bless the Lord; praise and exalt him above all forever. Stars of heaven, ... Every shower and dew, ... All you winds, ... Fire and heat, ... “ (Daniel 3:58-88).

They have seen fire obedient to God. What a great wonder and joy!

So was the same for St. Francis in Gubbio when he called the wolf a brother. St. Anthony must have known that the brother donkey would obey God. Israelites saw waters obedient to God. Peter saw all diseases and disabilities obedient to God. When we see DNA in our bodies obedient to God, we may call it conversion. When we see created things obedient to God, we call it miracles.

When I think of our seraphic father, St. Francis, I ask myself if I have the courage to say “sister coronavirus, why do you harm us and drive us into fear? We are God's children and you are God's creature. Let us together give thanks and praise to God, our Father. Our Father may grant you ways to survive without harming us.” However, I am weak and we are too weak to have this courage. Jesus knows this. So, in the Olive garden, He said to His disciples to encourage us “Watch and pray that you may not undergo the test” (Matthew 26:41). Let us continually offer our prayers and hearts with confidence to our merciful Father, and let us encourage each other.

James Kim



Greetings from Br. Lawrence

Carpe diem! I realize that all of us have much more time at home these days than perhaps we have had in the past. Such a scenario for an old Latin teacher like me brings the Latin quote above to my mind— “seize the day!” I am somewhat certain that you have been overwhelmed, as have I, about the virus so I am not going to write about that here; what I really would like to say is “Carpe diem!”

I am using my extra time in two ways—preparing classes online for my students (which takes much more time than traditional classes), and more time in prayer and meditation. This latter part is what I suggest for us all (I am presuming that for prayer). Basically, I have given more time now to my daily meditations on the readings for the day's Mass. Perhaps I bring up something I want to share or discuss with one of my confreres. It is becoming a wonderful experience which I have not had in a long time. I have also expanded my daily spiritual reading and meditation on that as well.

That is just what I am doing more in these troublesome days and it my suggestion for you as well. If there are several people at home perhaps inviting them to share with you and you with them could be a wonderful moment. I have to confess that in the last four decades or so I have not been much of a TV watcher, but that has even lessened more for me now. So again my thoughts for this month—“Carpe diem!”

God bless, keep you healthy and protect you all, Peace,

Brother Lawrence



Upcoming Regional Events?

Most regional events have been cancelled. Instead, consider these online resources & books:

- www.franciscanintellectualtradition.org
- Lenten Retreat 2020 at www.franciscansisters.tor.org
- Metanoia series at <https://thewildgooseisloose.com/metanoia>
- Review your *Franciscan Journey* formation manual
- The biographies of Francis & Clare by Bret Thoman
- *Franciscan Prayer* by Ilia D'Elio, OSF
- *Saying Yes* by Albert Haas, OFM
- *Ten Evenings with God* by Ilia D'Elio
- *Life of Christ* by Fulton J. Sheen
- *Francis of Assisi and the Future of the Faith* by Dan Horan, OFM
- *The Seven Storey Mountain* by Thomas Merton
- *Surrounded by Love* by Murray Bodo, OFM (our book share book)

Thanks to Secular Franciscan USA on Facebook!



Please remember The Franciscan Center during your week. In this time of global and local crisis, the needs of the Center have changed a little. To donate directly, please click on this link: <https://fcbmore.networkforgood.com/projects/89510-giving-campaign-2020>. Additionally, checks may be mailed to:

The Franciscan Center
101 W. 23 Street
Baltimore, MD 21218



Treasurer's Report

March - 2020

Beginning Balance: \$3,741.21

Income

Common Fund Contributions \$ 96.00

Total Contributions \$ 96.00

Expenses:

Miscellaneous (Checks) \$ 34.95

Total expenses \$ 34.95

Ending Balance: \$ 3,802.30

Thank You for your contributions to the work of Our Secular Franciscan Fraternity *especially* in our Time of Trail. God bless you!

We will be paying a \$2,320 per capita payment to the National Fraternity by 5/1/2020.

Please make all Checks payable to:
St. Joseph Cupertino Fraternity.

Contributions are Tax Deductible

Contributions may be mailed to:

Gerry Pinkas, OFS
3810 Marriotsville Road
Randallstown, MD 21133

Other ways of helping include:

- ◇ Prayer cards to put into the pantry bags for the clients,
- ◇ Bottled water.



Please pray for:

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



Events at The Shrine

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Please check the website or call the Shrine for details (410-531-2800).

The grounds are still open for reflective worship and prayer; social distancing is expected.

Various livestreamed events are available from the website as well as the Facebook page.

*“As long as he lived,
this was his highest philosophy,
this his highest desire;
to ask from the wise and
from the simple,
the perfect and the imperfect,
the young and the old,
how he could more effectively arrive
at the summit of perfection.”*

-The Major Legend of St. Francis

Remembering Your Profession

April 10, 2005

Raymond Heverling

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

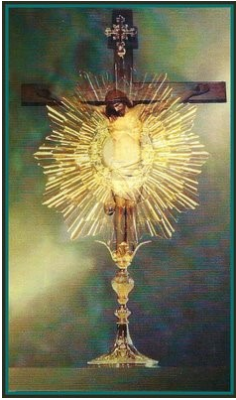


HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Kathy Ford —April 6

Geri Flynn –April 26

Juliana Kim —April 28



The Real Presence of Our Lord Jesus Christ -Jeanne Kerins

Our book sharings are such a joy to me!! Our small group gets into some wonderful discussions about the chapter that we're reading—but there are “tangents” that we take! The last meeting, I shared a “story” about, when in 1995, Saint John Paul the Great visited several places in the U.S. He had a very tight agenda; everything was planned, down to the minute.

Being “JP II,” he also needed some time to listen to the Lord. After visiting St. Mary's Seminary (and the seminarians!), he wanted to spend time in the chapel—this was NOT planned. Security quickly “cased the joint”! They, along with their trained dogs, went to the chapel. These dogs, you have to understand, are trained to sniff out humans (possibly under rock slides, snow, debris, etc.). Upon reaching the chapel, the dogs began to bark. The guards looked—there was no one in the chapel. The dogs ran up the aisle, all the while continuing to bark...they stopped only at the Tabernacle, holding their stance and barking!

This miraculous story has been reported and talked about for years, the most recent story is to be found in the January 2020 edition of the *Catholic Digest*.

Note: While book club is on hiatus during the crisis, it's a wonderful time for everyone to purchase the book and catch up to us. We are reading Murray Bodo, OFM's 2018 release of *Surrounded by Love: Seven Teachings from Saint Francis* and have stopped just shy of “Chapter Six: God's House is All of Creation.”

“And further, every creature is made holy in the mystery of God's presence among us in Jesus. Jesus sanctified all of creation by becoming, though he was God, one with creatures and among creatures, animate and inanimate.”

-Murray Bodo, *Surrounded by Love*

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.*

“Amid the present time of turmoil, let's now find greater mercy and greater glory in the greatest of the Gospels. Let's get back to the original source, the Word of God, and let it set us free from our hypocrisy so we might become authentic witnesses of Christ and the beauty of the Church. Let's learn from the apostle who rested his head on the Heart of Jesus and there discovered the deepest mysteries of the Father's love.”

-Fr. Michael Gaitley, MIC
From *33 Days to Greater Glory*



Wikimedia Commons: Simon Ushakov's *Last Supper*

The Challenges and Joys of a Hermit Vocation

—Brother Pascal O'Brien of the Divine Mercy, Er. Dio.

Answering a call directed in the eremitical life, to serve the Church as a hermit, is a response that is very courageous and submissive. Its demands may number as many or few, depending on how you may yield to the calling and how you totally give to the Lord and His Church. Within the vast scope as a hermit, there can be a variety of either many challenges or joys, depending on how you approach this calling. In accepting the many challenges of eremitical life, there is a strong sense in trusting in Our Lord's Divine Providence, sometimes expecting the unexpected. This could be either joyous or melancholic. Joyous in accepting the invitation from Our Lord to perpetually love and serve Him. Our love for Jesus, is reciprocal, offering love for love combating a periodic threat of loneliness, which is a lot different than spiritual solitude, which is more beneficial towards this chosen soul. What is so rewarding about the opportunity (to serve and not be served), is the complete and deep eagerness to be in constant union with Our Lord, not on a periodic basis, but on a daily one, as we attempt to strive towards authentic holiness with Jesus, as our example and as our model of holiness. This allows us to become another Christ, or Jesus personified.

When we communicate towards Our Lord in constant prayer in this hermit way of life, through this response we should never feel lonely or abandoned, as long as our spiritual life is kept in complete healthy check. This reminds us to direct our thoughts and prayers to Our God, as a sincere means as giving ourselves unconditionally to Him, as He will to us. St. Catherine of Sienna, a Celibate Dominican Tertiary in her total totality, was gifted with mysticism and her reward from Jesus was a Mystical marriage, in complete union with Him. He even offered her a wedding band in heaven, for complete union with Him in heaven, while Our Blessed Mother looked on to the right of Catherine.

As a Hermit, we lovingly and voluntarily offer ourselves as a victim to becoming a vessel or instrument, for others we exhibit self-sacrifice, for the good of others, without counting the cost, putting others first and yourself last, for the common good of His Kingdom. In conclusion, (more few than often), Satan tries to infiltrate himself, within the very depths of one's spiritual duties and way of life. He does his best to distract and create havoc within a given situation, to the point where we could hold our vocation in question, but the real reward is when something nice happens, it makes us realize even more, that we were glad to accept Our Lord's calling and with complete reservation, that we did the right thing, not only for our own good, but for the advantage of others.



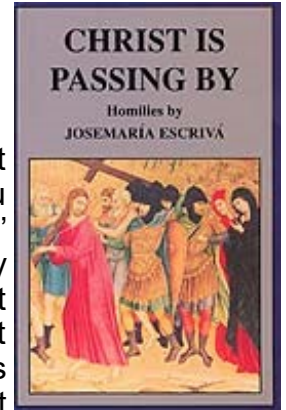
Paul the Simple (social distancing hermit style) Miniature from the *Menologion of Basil II*

Feast of **St. Joseph, the Worker:** May 1

St. Joseph's two feast days: March 19, St. Joseph, the Spouse of Mary, & May 1, St. Joseph, the Worker.
I'd like to share an excerpt from the homily given by St. Josemaria Escriva on March 19, 1963.
-Submitted by James Kim

IF YOU WANT TO BE USEFUL, SERVE

by St. Josemaria Escriva



If we want to live this way, sanctifying our profession or job, we really must work well, with human and supernatural intensity. I would like to remind you now, by way of contrast, of a story from the apocryphal gospels: "Jesus' father, who was a carpenter, made ploughs and yokes. Once," the story continues, "a certain important person asked him to make a bed. But it happened that one of the shafts was shorter than the other, so Joseph did not know what to do. Then, the child Jesus said to his father: 'Put the two shafts on the ground and make them even at one end.' And Joseph did so. Jesus got at the other end, took the shorter beam of wood and stretched it until it was the same length as the other. Joseph, his father, was full of astonishment at this miracle and showered embraces and kisses on the Child, saying: 'How fortunate I am that God has given me this Child!'"

Joseph would give God no such thanks, he would never work in this way. He was not one for easy solutions and little miracles, but a man of perseverance, effort, and, when needed, ingenuity. The Christian knows that God works miracles, that he did them centuries ago, that he has continued doing them since, and that he still works them now, because "the Lord's hand is not shortened." But miracles are a sign of the saving power of God, not a cure for incompetence nor an easy way to dodge effort. The "miracle" which God asks of you is to persevere in your Christian and divine vocation, sanctifying each day's work: the miracle of turning the prose of each day into heroic verse by the love which you put into your ordinary work. God waits for you there. He expects you to be a responsible person, with the zeal of an apostle and the competence of a good worker.

And so, as the motto of your work, I can give you this one: If you want to be useful, serve. For, in the first place, in order to do things properly, you must know how to do them. I cannot see the integrity of a person who does not strive to attain professional skills and to carry out properly the task entrusted to his care. It's not enough to want to do good; we must know how to do it. And, if our desire is real, it will show itself in the effort we make to use the right methods, finishing things well, achieving human perfection.

Welcome, Visitors!

Want to find out more about the Secular Franciscans?

- ◆ Once this pandemic crisis is over, 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.
- ◆ Check out our fraternity's website: <http://stjosephcupertino.sfousa.org/our-fraternity/> .
- ◆ Check out our regional website: <http://saintmargaretof cortona.org/> .
- ◆ Check out our national website: <https://secularfranciscansusa.org/> .



Blessed Luchedio Modestini - The First Secular Franciscan Feast Day: April 28

Blessed Luchedio Modestini was a merchant in the little town of Poggibonzi in Tuscany. More than most merchants, he was so entirely and solely concerned with material success that he was generally reputed to be an avaricious man. His wife, Buonadonna, was of a similar disposition.

Then the grace of God touched the husband. Luchedio realized how foolish it is to strive only for worldly goods, of which he could take nothing with him to eternity, meanwhile forgetting about his soul's salvation, as he had, unfortunately, been doing until then. He began to practice works of mercy and to perform his religious obligations with fidelity; he succeeded in winning his wife over to a similar outlook on life.

Since they had no one to care for but themselves, and Luchedio feared that in conducting his business he might relapse into covetousness, he gave up his business entirely. He and his good wife divided everything among the poor and retained for themselves only so much acreage as would suffice for their support. Luchedio tilled this with his own hands.

About this time St. Francis came to Tuscany. After his sermon on penance, hosts of people desired to leave all and enter the convent. But the saint admonished them calmly to persevere in their vocation, for he had in mind soon to give them a special rule according to which they could serve God perfectly even in the world.

At Poggibonzi Francis visited Luchedio, with whom he had become acquainted through former business transactions. St. Francis greatly rejoiced to find this avaricious man so altered, and Luchedio, who had already heard about the blessed activities of St. Francis, asked for special instructions for himself and his wife, so that they might lead a life in the world that would be pleasing to God.

St. Francis then explained to them his plans for the establishment of an order for lay people; and Luchedio and Buonadonna asked to be received into it at once. According to tradition, they became the first members of the Order of Penance, which later came to be called the Third Order of St. Francis.

In the year of 1221, Pope Honorius III approved this rule verbally. For this reason the year 1221 is often given as the date of the founding of the Third Order of St. Francis.

(Used with permission <https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com>)

Closing Thoughts

As I read over all the submissions for this month's newsletter, I am struck by the generosity and wisdom of our fraternity. We have been blessed over and over. During this tough time, one Facebook meme sums up a lot of our feelings, "This is the Lentiest Lent I have ever Lented." The joy is that, while we have been spending so much time with the Lord through Bible studies, prayer, mediation, and even livestream Masses and Adoration, we are truly preparing for Easter! Pondering this, however, makes me wonder what will happen during our time after—our time in the "Upper Room" as we wait for the Holy Spirit. Will we seize the day and take advantage of the silence to grow closer to God, will we use the time to check in with our neighbors and deepen our relationships, will we work on service projects and emerge as a more fraternal society, might we even learn a new language to communicate the Good News to others (when our release of Pentecost finally arrives)? I, for one, am excited to find out; let us cry out in one voice,

"Let the Fire Fall!"