

THE FLYER

Newsletter for the St. Joseph Cupertino OFS Fraternity

Theme for 2020

Sanctify yourself & you will sanctify society.



Acting Minister's Message

As the Solemnity of Pentecost is coming, I was reminded of the General Audience that Pope Francis gave on May 31, 2017, which is:

The expression "God of hope" does not only mean that God is the object of our hope, namely Him that we hope to reach one day in eternal life. It also means that God is He that already now makes us hope, rather, He makes us "rejoice in hope" (Romans 12:12): rejoicing now in hope, and not only hoping to rejoice. It is the joy of hoping, now today, and not hoping to have joy. [...] We heard Saint Paul, who attributes to the Holy Spirit the capacity to make us even "abound in hope." To abound in hope means never to be discouraged; it means to hope "against all hope" (Romans 4:18), namely, to hope also when every human motive for hope fails, as it was for Abraham, when God asked him to sacrifice to Him his only son, Isaac, and as it was, even more so, for the Virgin Mary under Jesus' cross.

The Holy Father says "rejoicing now in hope" and "not hoping to rejoice." I again come to reflect on how easily we are trapped in false hopes which produce wishes that eventually strengthen our self-wills. When the wish is fulfilled, we rejoice, but when the wish is not fulfilled, the hope becomes pain. This may not be a true hope, as it is based on our tendency to hope to rejoice. St. Paul teaches us to hope in whatever situation and environment, as our Father is All Good. Let us take time to meditate on hope in the Lord, reflecting what "rejoicing in hope" means for us these days.

The full text of this General Audience is found at:

<https://zenit.org/articles/general-audience-on-the-holy-spirit-and-hope/>

James Kim

Our Fraternity Council for 2019-2022

Acting Minister: James Kim, OFS: 443-458-3361

Acting Vice Minister: Denise Donaldson, OFS: 443-683-2538

Acting Secretary: Jeanne Kerins, OFS 410-227-6497 *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

NEW



Cimabue "The betrayal of Christ"

Greetings from Brother Lawrence

One of the things I am missing at this time, and I am certain that it is for all of you, is Sunday Mass with a homily. I was trying to remember what the last homily I heard was, but I could not remember it at all, sad to say. I suppose that I could say the same thing about any homily that I have heard . . . except for one. It was 20-25 years ago, and I still recall the opening story of the homily and that was more than enough, for I have been thinking about that story ever since. I shall share with you the story.

"It was the end of the world," the priest began, "and everyone who was to be in heaven for all eternity was in heaven and they were all joyously celebrating. However, one jubilant person looked over at heaven's gates and he saw Jesus leaning forlornly on the gates and looking out into the great abyss. So, the person upon seeing this walked over to Jesus and said, "Jesus, what gives? Everyone here is celebrating the end of the world and being here in heaven for all eternity, why are you not happy?" Jesus turned toward his questioner and responded, "I am waiting for Judas." I was, and still am blown away for I had not anticipated that ending to the story, but now I think, perhaps I should have.

It has a familiar ring to it; did not the deacon Stephen say something similar to God about those stoning him? Stephen had called out, "do not hold this sin against them" much as Jesus did at his crucifixion. I have to say, I do not know if anyone there that Sunday morning still thinks about or even remembers that story, but I do know that I have. Jesus and Stephen, in fact all of us are in the 'forgiving business,' if you will. It is not that we ought to forgive, or to expect forgiveness, it is that which we are called to do, loving forgiveness for everyone and it is often tough to do. In the Our Father we know and profess the phrase "forgive us our sins," but do we remember the very next words? They are "as we forgive those who trespass against us."

Yes, I remember a story from a five-minute homily on a Sunday morning two decades or so ago and it has really gotten to me. I do not remember the church, who else the priest said, or even who the priest was, but I do remember that story and think about it quite often. What I have written here is just the tip of an iceberg of my accumulated thoughts on this story. Yes, I have learned much from that one story and I have shared much about it too, but I especially learned lot more about forgiving and forgiving others myself.



In His light,
we can see.

Through His light,
we understand.

With His light,
We turn & grow;
Transformed.

-DW 4/15/20



Please remember The Franciscan Center during the month. In this time of global and local crisis, the needs of the Center have changed a little. The Center is serving triple the number of meals it normally would. While many are stepping up to help (including the National Guard), much remains to be done. 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

Other ways of helping include:

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

 **Treasurer's Report**

April - 2020

Beginning Balance: **\$3,802.34**

Income

Common Fund Contributions \$ 186.00
Total Contributions **\$ 186.00**

Expenses:

Brother Lawrence \$ 200.00
Franciscan Friars \$ 200.00
Fair Share Assessment \$2,320.00

Total expenses **\$ 2,720.00**

Ending Balance: **\$ 1,268.34**

When we consider that God gave himself fully in His Son, all that we give is in accord with our having been created in His image and likeness. It is from our common vocation of our having been created thus to reflect God in our lives by our giving proportionately as He has given to us. This is the glory of the Gospel. "When I was hungry, you gave me to eat..." (Mt 25:35-40). Thank you for your monthly contribution.

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

Contributions are Tax Deductible

Contributions may be mailed to:
Gerry Pinkas, OFS
3810 Marriottsville Road
Randallstown, MD 21133



Please pray for:

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

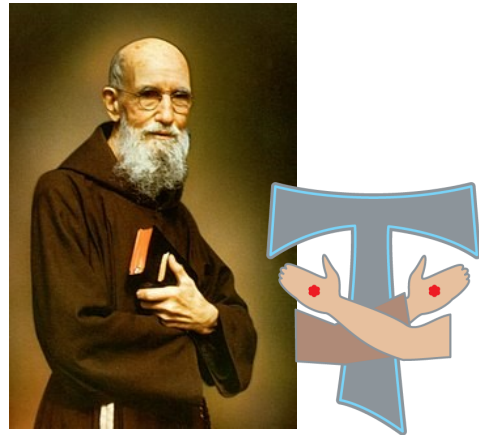
May Magnificat by Gerard Manley Hopkins

May is Mary's month, and I
Muse at that and wonder why :
Her feasts follow reason,
Dated due to season—
 Candlemas, Lady Day ;
But the Lady Month, May,
Why fasten that upon her,
With a feasting in her honour ?
 Is it only its being brighter
Than the most are must delight her ?
Is it opportunist
And flowers finds soonest ?
 Ask of her, the mighty mother :
Her reply puts this other
Question : What is Spring?—
Growth in every thing—
 Flesh and fleece, fur and feather,
Grass and greenworld all together ;
Star-eyed strawberry-breasted
Throstle above her nested
 Cluster of bugle blue eggs thin
Forms and warms the life within ;
And bird and blossom swell
In sod or sheath or shell.
 All things rising, all things sizing
Mary sees, sympathizing
With that world of good
Nature's motherhood.
 Their magnifying of each its kind
With delight calls to mind
How she did in her stored
Magnify the Lord.
 Well but there was more than this :
Spring's universal bliss
Much, had much to say
To offering Mary May.
 When drop-of-blood-and-foam-dapple
Bloom lights the orchard-apple
And thicket and thorp are merry
With silver-surfèd cherry
 And azuring-over greybell makes
Wood banks and brakes wash wet like lakes
And magic cuckoo-call
Caps, clears, and clinches all—
 This ecstasy all through mothering earth
Tells Mary her mirth till Christ's birth
To remember and exultation
In God who was her salvation.

Congratulations to the Blessed Solanus Casey Fraternity!

While we are sad to see them go, the St. Joseph Cupertino Fraternity is pleased that the “new” fraternity is now officially established. Please continue to pray our Secular Franciscan brothers and sisters as they continue this exciting journey:

Amy Kulesa, Kevin Kulesa,
Claudette Lucas,
John Handiboe,
Laurel Swencki,
Mary Karth,
Richard Scott, &
Tom Partenope.



An Attitude of Gratitude

“There is a popular image of Fr. Solanus standing near a grotto of Mary, with book in hand, and praying. According to a caption I came across, it says Solanus is praying the Little Office of the Blessed Virgin Mary. He took this devotion quite seriously, believing when he neglected the Little Office it was a sign of his ingratitude toward the Blessed Virgin who had been so good to him throughout his life. What was the reason for his insistence on praying the Little Office? Perhaps it was in thanksgiving for the grace he received from wearing the scapular, or maybe it was a simple way for him to express his devotion to the Blessed Virgin.”

—taken from “The Marian Devotion of Solanus Casey”
by Fr Edward Loomey (Jan 3, 2018) at
<https://missionmagazine.com/marian-devotion-solanus-casey/>

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

May 18 Patrick Caughy

May 31 Ray Heverling

June 5 Boniface Kim

June 6 Chris Donaldson &

Richard Lam

Please consider checking out this quick video by Fr. David Songy, a Franciscan priest and psychologist who is the President of St. Luke Institute in Silver Spring, MD. They are a mental health program specializing in providing services to Catholic clergy and religious and lay people. Denise Donaldson is one of their contracted therapists and highly recommends it:

THE HEALING CHARISM

CATHERINE OF SIENA

We are all invited to share in the joy of the kingdom of God.

By Rev. David Songy, O.F.M.Cap., S.T.D., Psy.D.

<https://www.sliconnect.org/healing-charism/catherine-of-siena/>



Events at The Shrine of St. Anthony

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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.

Livestream Masses are from 8:30-9 am daily at the Companions of St. Anthony Facebook and YouTube pages.

Do you have a story from your daily conversion, pilgrimage, street evangelization, or social justice activity that you would like to share? Please email Deanna Williston at 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.

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

“When faith becomes the force that supports a person and the person relies entirely on God, then faith automatically becomes love. The great figures of faith—from Paul via Francis of Assisi down to Maximilian Kolbe and Mother Teresa—show us this.” from Teaching and Learning the Love of God—Joseph Ratzinger

What does it mean to be in Fraternity? by Bob Longo

Our world and our Church have been shaken to its very core these past few months. With the onslaught of the coronavirus, and the new experience of a Lenten Season like never before, we have had to make changes in how we live and how we pray. Through all of this, I have come to appreciate my gift of faith as well as the gift of being in fraternity more and more. The song writer, Thomas Haynes Bayly, in his song, "Isle of Beauty", (1939) uses the phrase "absence makes the heart grow fonder..." and so, it does, when we are not able to receive the Sacraments or attend monthly gatherings.

As our lives return to normal and are able to attend monthly gatherings, I want to talk about what does it mean to be in fraternity. I read with interest the 2019 Annual Reports I received from each fraternity minister, many of the fraternity's apostolate(s) were filled with a genuine Franciscan spirit. Although we are not a religious Order but a Secular Order, as such we are a living Franciscan community, therefore, an active fraternity, life is essential for the growth of the Order.



May 2016 Regional Retreat at Priest Field

Our SFO General Constitutions are the foundation of what it means to be in fraternity:

In the fraternity, the brothers and sisters should promote mutual understanding and they should see to it that the atmosphere of their meetings is welcoming and that it reflects joy. They should encourage one another for the good. (Article 26.2)

The fraternity of the SFO finds its origin in the inspiration of Saint Francis of Assisi to whom the Most High revealed the essential gospel quality of life in fraternal communion. (Article 28.1)

The sense of co-responsibility of the members requires personal presence, witness, prayer, and active collaboration, in accordance with each one's situation and possible obligations for the animation of the fraternity. (Article 30.2)

Participation in the meetings of the local fraternity is indispensable presupposition for initiation into community prayer and into fraternity life. (Article 40.3)

Profession does not only commit those professed to the fraternity, but also in the same way it commits the fraternity to be concerned with their human and religious well-being. (Article 42.4)

Fidelity to their own charism, Franciscan and secular, and the witness of building fraternity sincerely and openly are their principal services to the Church, which is the community of love. They should be recognized in it by their "being," from which their mission springs. (Article 100.3)

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Cont...A Fraternity is only as strong and productive as the members who contribute to make it an active and vibrant community. Just as each one of us is on a Franciscan journey, so too, is each fraternity. A fraternity, to remain alive, needs the involvement of each of its members.

Below are suggestions I would like to offer to help your fraternity become an active community:

- ◆ create a spirit of belonging to each of its members, a true sense of community, as participation in fraternity life is essential for belonging to the Secular Franciscan Order
- ◆ communication between the council and the fraternity members is extremely important
- ◆ survey the needs and wants of the fraternity members periodically, for as times change so do the needs of the fraternity
- ◆ the council works for the good of the fraternity and the Order
- ◆ a good formation team is needed to ensure growth and vitality, especially for ongoing formation at monthly gatherings.
- ◆ during initial formation, encourage future professed to be servant leaders by holding an office at the local level and at the regional council level
- ◆ participate in other fraternities' activities
- ◆ nurture the fraternity members' Franciscan vocation, so they may continue seeking the desire to be spiritually fed.
 - a good way to strengthen a fraternity is to have an apostolate, this will help bring members together by being actively involved
 - make use of the talents and special gifts each fraternity member brings with them
 - excused members must not be forgotten, and should never be excluded from the fraternity because of their inability to attend gatherings; we should help them feel they are still connected to their fraternity. Remember, one day, we may also be unable to attend gatherings!

At our October 2019 National Chapter meeting in Corpus Christi Texas, our National Minister, Jan Parker, OFS stated:

“Our National Priority for the next three years is Fraternity. God has called us to this fraternal gathering, a privileged place, where we must listen together to God and to each other, to do the business of the Order, sharing our needs, hopes and joy with each other. To build a fraternity and not just a prayer group, you must build relationships.”

We can also apply Jan's statement within our own fraternity.

As we eventually recover from this coronavirus pandemic, let us pray for the virtue of Hope, that people will return to God and seek a deeper religious experience in living the Gospel life.

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://saintmargaretofcortona.org/> .
- ◆ Check out our national website: <https://secularfranciscansusa.org/> .

Our Lady's Heart

“ Today we are in sore need of this way of beauty [‘that irresistibly expresses the presence of God’s truth’ - Pope Benedict XVI], not only because men are disinclined to believe and obey, but also because, in the realm of human actions that have far-reaching consequences, we are in need of the direction of the prophetic graces that pass through Our Lady’s Heart. If we are forgetful of the unchanging deposit of faith, we are also heedless of the prophet who calls us back to obedience in the here and now. We are indocile to the interventions of Divine Providence. At Guadalupe, Our Lady was God’s prophetess at a moment in which divine intervention was most necessary, as it is today, in our world that tends to forget what the Virgin always holds in her Heart.”

—Taken from “Our Lady of Guadalupe and the Way of Beauty” by Fr. Angelo M. Geiger, OFM Conv* in *Studies in Honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe* edited by Fr. Peter Damien Fehlner, OFM Conv* (*FI at time of publication).



Vision of St. Francis of Assisi by Carducho



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The Virgin Mary, humble servant of the Lord, was open to his every word and call. She was embraced by Francis with indescribable love and declared the protectress and advocate of the family. The Secular Franciscans should express their ardent love for her by imitating her complete self-giving and by praying earnestly and confidently.

“Marian Order”

“Francis believed that the Order he founded was the possession of the Mother of God, the Spouse of the Holy Spirit, who, in conjunction with the Holy Spirit, was the real Minister General, guiding the fortunes of the Order. In a word, the powerful drive of the Franciscan charism is intimately related to the Immaculate Conception and the Marian mode of the absolute primacy of Jesus. The primary requirement of the part of the professed friars for the success of this growth was a total devotion to Mary. Where that was lacking in one way or another, disunity followed, with quarrels arising over the nature and significance of poverty and its implications for fellowship and communion of love, viz. of the significance of the Order as a kind of *ecclesiola* illustrating how the Church should continue to draw closer to Mary as mother and profile. For St. Francis, such were the Marian blueprints for “rebuilding” the Church along the lines laid out by Jesus and first put into practice on Pentecost.”

—Fr. Peter Damien Fehlner, OFM Conv. in *The Theologian of Auschwitz: St. Maximilian M. Kolbe on the Immaculate Conception in the Life of the Church*