

THE FLYER

NEWSLETTER FOR THE ST. JOSEPH CUPERTINO FRATERNITY OF THE SECULAR FRANCISCANS

A Miracle of Saint Joseph of Cupertino, Public domain, Placido Costanzi, The Metropolitan Museum of Art https://metmuseum.org

May 22, 2022

Our Theme for the Year is: The Eucharist: The Lord's Body & Blood

"Jesus Never Invites Us To Failure!"

Servant Leadership in the Secular Franciscan Order

This past August offered me the joyful opportunity to make a Visitation to the Divine Mercy Region with our National Spiritual Assistant Friar Stephen Gross, OFM Conventual. It was the 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time, and the Sunday Gospel included, in part, the famous story of Peter's walking on the water, found only in St. Matthew. It is a Gospel we all know well, and I have been blessed to preach on this Gospel on occasion. However, I have never explained or heard the Gospel explained as did Friar Stephen. With apologies that I do not have enough of his exact words, here is what I remember: "Jesus never invites us to failure!" When Jesus called Matthew from being a tax-collector, He did not invite him to failure. When Jesus called Andrew and Peter, James and John to "Follow me!" He did not invite them to follow Him to failure. So, when Jesus said to Peter, "Come." He did not invite him to come and sink.

It always surprises me when I attend a fraternity election, and someone whom everybody else says will be the right person for the job, the right fit for the position, and that person tells me, "I'm not ready." Or "I'm not worthy." Or, my favorite, "But I'm a sinner." Where's our faith? Don't we all know by now that Jesus really does have the love and the mercy to help and to save one more sinner like me or you? Doesn't He? What have we not understood about "Immediately Jesus stretched out His hand" or the very last words of the same Gospel: "And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20).

Brothers and Sisters who say No! to Servant Leadership at fraternity elections do not give the rest of the fraternity, with the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, a chance to choose for themselves if they would like a FELLOW SINNER to serve them. We do not give God Himself the chance, as the saying goes, not so much to call the qualified as to qualify those whom He is calling. Sisters and Brothers, please give the Holy Spirit, and your own fraternity family a chance to say No! Who knows? They may say Yes! Now, I readily admit there are legitimate reasons why one may decline Servant Leadership, and we all have to answer to our own consciences; but as Friar Stephen went on to explain, all service to the Lord and to His people will be successful if only we can trust and love the Lord more. One of the great deceits of the devil, the flesh and world is to trick us into convincing ourselves, for whatever reason, of our obvious sinfulness and unworthiness. Of course, we are all sinners and unworthy! But our hearts lack sufficient faith, hope and love of God and neighbor to keep out the self-doubts, fears and distrust. It's not really about us. We don't trust God enough. We think God doesn't love us enough, and thus we cannot trust Him or ourselves to step out into an admittedly new service to Him and neighbor. We will fail, we are sure, so we never try. We never accept Christ's invitation. We never say Yes! Shame on us! "Jesus never invites us to failure!" Let us hold Friar Stephen's words in our minds and examine our lives. It can be our Secular Franciscan life, our married and family life, our work life, whatever. What should we do when we feel called out of our comfort zone by the Lord? I pray that we can say Yes! That's the answer Mary and all the saints gave sooner or later. We should surrender our wills to Christ and stay focused on Christ, never minding the storms and rough seas around us or the weaknesses and fears within us.

That's why I usually say at all elections, "If you have been nominated for Servant Leadership in the Secular Franciscan Order, the default position is Yes!" We have to trust that Jesus is not inviting us to failure. Well, then, why do we fail? Why did Peter start by walking on water, and then begin sinking like a rock? Again, I think Friar Stephen is correct. From my own personal experience and observation, our hearts are, my heart is, not full enough of the love of God and neighbor, and we, I, get easily distracted. Why shouldn't we be distracted? Like Peter on the sea, the storms do rage, water is always fluid, and the correct way seems often uncertain and even dangerous. Internally, who wouldn't feel self-distrust? In fact, we are all sinners, we are all weak and we have all failed.

Will we fail again? Only when we don't trust the Lord enough, don't pray enough, and start focusing on ourselves or on the difficulties enough to take our eyes off of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Well, what about if the Lord really isn't calling us to service, what about if it's our own ego alone? Okay, if it's only about our egos, that's usually a sure indication of failure, but honestly, after over 30 years in the Secular Franciscan Order, I haven't seen many Servant Leaders invited to service by their own egos! I mean, have you been misinformed? Being an officer in a Secular Franciscan Fraternity at any level is not about fame, power or fortune. If you are currently an officer at any level, how many people in the greater world know or care what you do? How many people in your own family know or care? How many people in your own fraternity kowtow to your every word and gesture? How much are you paid? Please!

Of the hundreds of elected and appointed officers that I have met in Local, Regional and National Fraternities and in the International Fraternity, the vast, vast majority of the people are holding office not out of ego, but out of service, out of love of the Order and out of accountability to their brothers and sisters, to God and to themselves. That service is from the Lord, and that invitation is not one to failure. Now, yes, will there be suffering? Indeed. Will that suffering give us pain on occasion? Hello? What have we not understood about the Cross? We are all called to follow Christ to the Cross. Do we have a Feast Day entitled "The Failure of the Cross"? No, every September 14, even if it falls, as happened this year, on a Sunday, we have the Feast Day entitled "The Triumph or Exaltation of the Holy Cross."

We do not fail when we suffer in doing the Lord's work. We do not fail when we carry our crosses yoked to the Lord. Deep down in our Christian faith, we must know that without the Cross, there can be no Resurrection. Don't be afraid of suffering in service to God and neighbor. Don't be afraid of the Cross. Be afraid of not doing what the Lord wants us to do. Be afraid of walking away from what only we can do if we surrender to the Lord and fill our hearts with trust of Him, hope in Him, love with Him. How many times have we all missed opportunities to step out and serve our brothers and sisters, and in doing so, missed serving the Lord Himself (see Matthew 25:45)?

Let us pray. God, why are we so afraid at times of Servant Leadership in the Secular Franciscan Order? Why do we say No! and turn our backs? Help us to trust more, to hope more and to love more. May we keep our eyes and minds and hearts always on You. May we not focus on the stormy waves outside or the raging fears inside. And even if we begin to sink, may we always remember and believe that You never invite us to failure, and we need only pray three simple words, "Lord, save me!" And immediately You will stretch out Your hand and catch us. We pray in Jesus' name.

This is an excerpt from a series of articles by the late Deacon Tom Bello, OFS, former Minister of the National Secular Franciscan Order – USA. "Many of these essays were originally published in TAU-USA, our national newsletter," said Jan Parker, OFS, current National Minister. "They are excellent for reflection and ongoing formation." Jan helped Tom publish these essays in book form. It is called For All The Saints: St. Francis's Five-Point Plan for Salvation and is available at https://TauPublishing.com. These excerpts will appear several times a week at https://www.SecularFranciscansUSA.org.



April – 2022

Beginning (running) Balance: \$\frac{\$4100.15}{}\$

Common Fund Contributions \$ 215.00

Total Income \$ 215.00

Intermediate Subtotal \$4315.15

Expenses:

Spiritual Assistant \$ 100.00 Franciscan Friars \$ 200.00 Fair Share \$1840.00

Total Expense \$2140.00

Ending (running) Balance: \$2175.15

Thank You from the whole fraternity for your contributions!

"It is possible for the rich man to prefer the riches of love to the love of riches." Pope St. Paul VI (the Pope Speaks, Guitton) The annual average donation per person for 2022 is \$176.

Contributions are Tax Deductible.

Direct Donation checks to:

St. Joseph Cupertino Fraternity

Mail donations to:

Gerard Pinkas 3810 Marriottsville Rd. Randallstown, MD 21133

You may use your bank's BILL PAY.

Direct payment to:

St. Joseph Cupertino Fraternity c/o address above.

Contact Gerry with any bill pay questions.

Salutation to the Blessed Virgin Mary

Hail, O Lady, Mary, holy Mother of God: you are the Virgin made Church and the one chosen by the most holy Father in heaven whom He consecrated

with His most holy beloved Son and with the Holy Spirit the Paraclete,

in whom there was and is

the fullness of grace and every good

Hail His Palace!

Hail His Tabernacle!

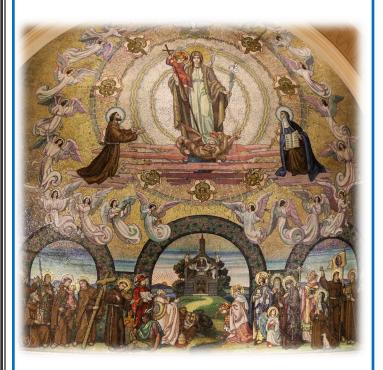
Hail His Home!

Hail His Robe!

Hail His Servant!

Hail His Mother!

And (hail) all you holy virtues which through the grace and light of the Holy Spirit are poured into the hearts of the faithful so that from their faithless state you may make them faithful to God. Amen ~St. Francis of Assisi



Queen of the Friars Minor, Great Mosaic from the aspe of the Church of Saint Francis of Assisi in NY. Created by Joseph Wild & Rudolph Margreiter, 1925; Image by Lawrence OP, cc2.0, edited to fade frame

https://flic.kr/p/MPH2Zy

Greetings from Brother Lawrence

Good day to one and all,

As the weather warms up from the nasty, cold winter season, we are able to be up and about quite a bit more. We can get outside, enjoy the newly blooming plants and the warm breezes of spring and into summer. Of course, such wonderful weather can also cause us to forget about things other than beautiful weather and that could cause some problems. For myself, I can get so involved in photographing the spring sports games and the plants and wildlife in the area, that I can forget to keep up my daily prayer life. I cannot forget and miss my spontaneous prayer, but I do not always have the Divine Office with me and that causes things like Evening Prayer at 10 PM sometimes. Of course, I do have an app on my phone of the Office and that helps (if I carry my phone which I do not do when out looking for wildlife). That is my particular difficulty and I have to learn to deal with it and, for the most part, I do.

However, for others there are other issues which arise which may not be so simple to adjust too. I am sure that everyone has something(s) which would be of concern and, if you do, my best advice is to make the best of it by first not forgetting. Also, you may have a watch or phone with can serve as a reminder for you. Use them! Do make a list to remind you! Do whatever it takes because prayer is our communion with God and we need it. A short reminder that we need to control what we can control ourselves. Just a friendly reminder to help us along the way.

Br. Lawrence

2019-2022 Council

Acting Minister: Acting Vice Minister: James Kim, OFS:

Acting Secretary: Denise Donaldson, OFS: Jeanne Kerins, OFS 410-227-6497

Treasurer: Gerry Pinkas, OFS:

410-655-2648

443-458-3361

443-683-2538

Spiritual Assistant:

MD/DE Area Councilor: Mary Tchida Badjo, OFS

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

Lita Maisel, OFS

Councilor:

Br. Lawrence LaFlamme, OFM Conv. 410-485-5000

mftchida@yahoo.com

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Bible quotes are from the Douay-Rheims translation, unless otherwise noted.

The Rule Review



So that we might more fully live the Gospel Life, Secular Franciscans should not just read *The Rule*, but reflect on and pray with *The Rule*.

20. The Secular Franciscan Order is divided into fraternities of various levels — local, regional, national, and international. Each one has its own moral personality in the Church. These

various fraternities are coordinated and united according to the norm of this Rule and of the Constitutions. 21. On various levels, each fraternity is animated and guided by a council and minister (or president) who are elected by the professed according to the Constitutions. Their service, which lasts for a definite period, is marked by a ready and willing spirit and is a duty of responsibility to each member and to the community. Within themselves the fraternities are structured in different ways according to the norm of the constitutions, according to the various needs of their members and their regions, and under the guidance of their respective council.

20. 재속 프란치스코회는 각 단위, 지구, 국가 및 국제 등 규모에 따라 여러 등급의 형제회로 구분되며, 교회 안에서 각각 법인체로 인정받습니다. 각 등급 형제회들은 서로 일치하며, 이 회칙과 회헌의 규정에 따라 결합되어 있습니다.

21. 여러 등급의 각 형제회는 회헌에 따라, 서약한 회원이 선출한 평의회원과 회장(혹은 의장)에 의해서 지도를 받고 활기를 띄게 됩니다. 이들이 봉사는 기한부이며 각 회원과 공동체에 대하여 신속하고 관대한 마음과 책임감을 가지고 수행합니다. 형제회의 내부 조직은 회헌 규정에 따라, 그들 회원과 그 지역의 필요에 따라, 또 각 평의회의 지도하에서 다양하게 구성됩니다.

The Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order (with citations) may be accessed at anytime at:

https://secularfranciscansusa.org/the-rule-of-the-secular-franciscan-order/

Please note that the English and Spanish versions have updated 2020 translations.

The Franciscan Center

For the 27th year, the Franciscan Center will host its Charity Golf Tournament this July, reaching out to area corporations and individuals to raise funds for the Center's programs. Chesapeake Employers' Insurance Co. is the driving force behind this Charity Golf Tournament, assisting in coordinating the event and serving as its Presenting Sponsor. Corporations from throughout the Baltimore area participate in this important event as sponsors and golfers.

We hope you will consider joining us at our NEW LOCATION out at Turf Valley Resort this year on July 19, 2022.

For tickets, go to:

https://fcbmore.networkforgood.com/events/38029-27th-annual-charity-golf-tournament



Spring At Little Portion Farm Please check out the website below for:

- Sustainable Agriculture Film Series
- Book Club
- * Watering Volunteers
- * Mowing/weed trimming Volunteers

https://www.LittlePortionFarm.org/news/

A Reason for Hope

Sisters and Brothers in Francis and Clare,

Spring is bursting out all over and soon the dog days of summer will be upon us. Spring is that season of the year when mother nature wakes us up from our winter slumber and helps us to embrace the beauty that surrounds us and to take in the smell of the flowers in God's new creation. It is also a time of renewal in hope, faith and joy. Why hope? From his book, *God or Nothing*, Robert Cardinal Sarah states "hope is nothing other than Christian optimism. It allows man to remain firm in the faith, fully assured by God's promises. In hope, God is the guarantor of my future and of my serene stability." God has given us the gift of hope not only for ourselves but to inspire others. I am always amazed by the number of people who, each year, come together to defend the unborn at the March for Life in Washington, DC. This gives me hope for the future of our Church.

As Franciscans, we are to be messengers of hope and joy; our Rule & General Constitutions tells us: *Rule 19* Following the Gospel, secular Franciscans, therefore, affirm their hope and their joy in living. They make a contribution to counter widespread distress and pessimism, preparing for a better future.

Article 27.2 Secular Franciscans should commit themselves to create in their environment and, above all, in their fraternities, a climate of faith and hope...We know that God is the God of hope, as St. Paul tells us in Romans 15:13, "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may

overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit". Hope is tied to faith. Where there is faith, there is hope. "By the death of your Son, you have given us hope, born of faith, by his rising again fulfill this hope in the perfect love of heaven". (Holy Week – Liturgy of the Hours)

Our lives hang on the reality of hope, hope in our family, to be firm in faith, and hope in eternal life. Hope turns us away from despair because where there is hope there is faith in what we constantly seek. "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." **Hebrews 11:1.** Hope sustains us when we feel all is lost, especially when we face trials and tribulations in our lives. Again, St. Paul tells in **Romans 5:5** "Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us." By having hope, we are drawn nearer to God.

From the Catechism of the Catholic Church:

1818 - The virtue of hope responds to the aspiration to happiness which God has placed in the heart of every man; it takes up the hopes that inspire men's activities and purifies them so as to order them to the Kingdom of heaven; it keeps man from discouragement; it sustains him during times of abandonment; it opens up his heart in expectation of eternal beatitude. Buoyed up by hope, he is preserved from selfishness and led to the happiness that flows from charity.

So, during these turbulent times in which we live, let us not give way to despair but be patient. We may not see it now, but God is certainly in control, as we have faith and hope to guide us on our way, to totally rely on God's plans for us. Therefore, hope is trusting in the Lord. Blessed are they who hope in the Lord." -

Psalm 1:1

Your Franciscan brother in Christ,

Bob Longo, OFS

The Shrine of St. Anthony

The Shrine Grounds & Courtyard are open daily dawn till dusk.

If you have any questions please contact the Front Office at 410-531-2800;

www.shrineofstanthony.org

Happy Birthday

Patrick Caughy, OFS 05/18 Ray Heverling, OFS 05/31

Coming Next Month:
Boniface Kim June 5
Richard Lam June 6
Chris Donaldson June 6
Dale Edmunds June 25

June Events:

Eileen Peregoy June 26

Gathering * **ELECTIONS!**

- June 26 * Fourth Sunday
- 2pm in the Glassroom
- Consider becoming a servant-leader in our fraternity.
- Active members are needed to attend & vote.

Moving or Changing Status?

Our sister, Jeanne Kerins, OFS, needs to know of any change of your contact information, but also, would like to be able to pray with you for any changes in your health or living situation. Please contact her:

(410) 227-6497 or jmkerins **12**@gmail.com.

Please reach out to our brothers and sisters who have not been attending our gatherings & let us know how we can help them reconnect with the fraternity and/or any services they may need.

St. Bonaventure University Offers Summer Franciscan Formation

St. Bonaventure University has announced its summer line-up of formation offerings. Many will be offered through Zoom. A detailed description of all the courses is available on the St. Bonaventure conference website.

"The Crib, the Cross, the Eucharist: A Secular Franciscan Spirituality" is one of several courses available. Beginning Saturday, May 14, this series of sessions will be presented monthly on Zoom. Attendees will learn how these three great mysteries of Christ's life became the foundational mysteries of the Franciscan movement. Other sessions will be held on June 11 and July 9. Each will be held from noon to 2 p.m. EST. For more information,, go to:

https://www.SecularFranciscansUSA.org

Welcome, Visitors!

Want to find out more about the Secular Franciscans?

- Attend a meeting. We meet (usually) on the third Sunday of the month at 2 pm.
- Check out our website: http://stjosephcupertino.sfousa.org/our-fraternity/
- Check out our regional website: http://saintmargaretofcortona.org/
- Check out our national website: https://secularfranciscansusa.org/

Book Share- Admonition 13

Patience

Join our online book sharing and delve more deeply into: *St. Francis' Sermon on the Mount: Lessons from the Admonitions* by John Michael Talbot.

Friends old and new usually meet on the first Saturday of every month from 1-3 pm on ZOOM!

Contact Geri Flynn OFS for details: Angelbarty@aol.com

Next meeting is June 4

Elections on June 26 (fourth Sunday). Please consider serving your fraternity.

The Fraternity Council (from the Constitutions)

- **Article 49** 1. The Council of the local Fraternity is composed of the following offices: Minister, Vice-Minister, Secretary, Treasurer, and Teacher of Formation. Other offices may be added according to the needs of each Fraternity. The Spiritual Assistant of the Fraternity forms part of the Council by right.
- 2. The Fraternity, meeting in an Assembly or Chapter, discusses questions regarding its own life and organization. Every three years, in an Elective Assembly or Chapter, the Fraternity elects the Minister and the Council in the way established by the Constitutions and Statutes.

Article 50 1. It is the duty of the Council of the local Fraternity:

- to promote the initiatives necessary for fostering fraternal life, for improving the human, Christian, and Franciscan formation of its members and for sustaining them in their witness and commitment in the world;
- to make concrete and courageous choices, appropriate for the situation of the Fraternity, from among the numerous activities possible in the field of the apostolate.
- 2. The duties of the Council are also: a) to decide on the acceptance and admission to Profession of new brothers and sisters;
- b) to establish a fraternal dialogue with members in particular difficulties and to adopt subsequent measures;
- c) to receive the request for withdrawal and to decide on the suspension of a member from the Fraternity;
- d) to decide on the establishment of sections or groups in conformity with the Constitutions and the Statutes;
- e) to decide on the use of available funds and, in general, to deliberate on matters concerning financial management and economic affairs of the Fraternity;
- f) to assign duties to the Councillors and to the other professed members;
- g) to request from the competent Superiors of the First Order and the TOR suitable and prepared religious as Assistants;
- h) to perform such other duties as are required by these Constitutions or which are necessary to carry out its proper purposes.

The Offices in the Fraternity

Article 51 1. While firmly upholding the co-responsibility of the Council to animate and guide the Fraternity, the Minister, as the primary person responsible for the Fraternity, is expected to make sure that the directions and the decisions of the Fraternity and of the Council are put into practice and that he or she will keep the Council informed about the work being done.

2. The Minister also has the following duties:

a) to call, to preside at, and to direct the meetings of the Fraternity and Council; to convoke every three years the Elective Chapter of the Fraternity, having complied with the requests of the Council on the formalities of the convocation;

- b) to prepare the annual report to be sent to the Council of the higher level after it has been approved by the Council of the Fraternity;
- c) to represent the Fraternity in all its relations with ecclesiastical and civil authorities. When, and if, the Fraternity acquires a juridical personality in the civil order, the Minister becomes, when possible, its legal representative;
- d) to request, with the consent of the Council, pastoral and fraternal visits, at least once every three years.
- e) to put into effect those acts which the Constitutions refer to his or her competence as Minister.



Article 52

1. The *Vice-Minister* has the following duties:

- a) to collaborate in a fraternal spirit and to support the Minister in carrying out his or her specific duties;
- b) to exercise the functions entrusted to him or her by the Council and/or by the Assembly or Chapter;
- c) to substitute for the Minister in both duties and responsibilities in case of absence or temporary impediment;
- d) to assume the functions of the Minister when the office remains vacant.

2. The Secretary has the following duties:

- a) to compile the official acts of the Fraternity and of the Council and to assure that they are sent to their respective proper recipients;
- b) to keep the records and the registers up to date and file them, noting admissions, professions, deaths, withdrawals, and transfers from the fraternity;
- c) to provide any communication of relevant facts to the various levels and, if appropriate, to disseminate through the mass media.

3. The Teacher of Formation has the following duties:

- a) to co-ordinate, with the help of the other members of the Council, the Formation activities of the fraternity;
- b) to instruct and animate the aspiring members during the time of initiation (before admission), the candidates during the period of initial formation, and the newly professed;
- c) to inform the Council of the Fraternity prior to Profession, concerning the suitability of the candidate for a commitment to live according to the Rule.

4. The *Treasurer*, or Bursar, has the following duties:

- a) to guard diligently the contributions received, recording each receipt in the appropriate register, with the date on which it was given, the name of the contributor, or the person who collected it.
- b) to record in the same register the items of expense, specifying the date and the purpose, in conformity with the directions of the Fraternity Council;
- c) to render an account of his or her administration to the Assembly and to the Council of the Fraternity according to the norms of the National Statutes.
- 5. The provisions regarding the rights and duties of the Vice-Minister, the Secretary and the Treasurer apply, with the appropriate adaptations, at all levels.



Please Pray for Healing for:

Karan Bevers, OFS Gail Bunyan, OFS Louise Hotovy, OFS Mike Hotovy, OFS Sherry Lewis, OFS Lita Maisel, OFS Jim Tebo, OFS Jerry Yu, OFS



Image of Blessed Carlo Acutis, from (carloacutis-en.org)

Our Deceased	Donna Duncan, SFO	Georgianna Papazian, OFS
Brothers & Sisters:	Charles Ferrara, SFO	Yvonne Proch, SFO
Connie Baker, OFS	Mary Ferrara, SFO	Nancy Seaton, SFO
Frances Bastress, SFO	Dolores Fritz, OFS	Jean Singleton, OFS
Dea. Tom Bello, OFS	Marilyn Gilson, SFO	Don Sweitzer, OFS
Joe Bezila, SFO	Richard Hall, SFO	Betty Taylor, SFO
Mary Chandler, OFS	John Kirby, SFO	Bud Tenley, SFO
Jerry Cichowicz, SFO	Joy Kubricky, OFS	Regina Yeager, SFO
Shirley Costello, OFS	Frances Langbehn, SFO	Dorothy Zalewski, SFO
Joe Cykoski, SFO	Bob Lewis, SFO	
Stella Cykoski, SFO	Marie Lindung, OFS	Fr. Cronin Cantlon, OFM Conv.
Claire Lee Davidson, SFO	Jean Manning, OFS	Fr. James Elliott, OFM Conv.
Adela Duff, SFO	Jim Manning, OFS	Fr. Larry Kubera, OFM Conv.

UPCOMING GATHERING:

* May 22 * 4th Sunday * * Chapel * 3PM *

Mass for our living members with renewal of Profession

Fr. Bogus (Bogusław) Dąbrowski, OFM Conv. will celebrate the Mass.

"Enrich your soul in the great goodness of God. The Father is your table, the Son is your food, and the Holy Spirit waits on you and then makes His dwelling in you."

-St. Catherine of Siena



Echange des coeurs by Ventura Salimbeni, 16th century; public domain