



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>

December 18, 2022

*** Christmas Party * 1 pm ***

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

Greetings from Brother Lawrence

Advent comes at the opening of the new liturgical year, as I suppose that it should, but it is also a season that is bidirectional. Have you ever noticed the first two weeks of Advent are looking forward to the second coming of Jesus at the world's end *and* the second two weeks are looking backwards to the first coming in that little town of Bethlehem so many years ago? This leaves Advent to have an anticipation of the second coming and a reminder of the first coming. It is truly a unique season in that sense. There are other unique things that happen with the season. The day before Halloween I had to go to a craft store and there were few Halloween items in the store because they had already been replaced by Christmas decorations and such. Perhaps Halloween is the new Thanksgiving and someday Labor Day may replace Halloween. Strange to think that but, after all, Black Friday events now begins in early November. What a world in which we live.

Being Franciscan, we should find these things repulsive. Being Franciscan should help us to recognize that we are only in this world for a limited time and that it is during this time that we should seek to follow in the path laid out for us by Jesus, and that means following life in accordance with God's Will and not the world's will, if you will. In my religion classes, when I am teaching the sacrament of Baptism, I first cover Jesus' Baptism by John and show that there are, in all four Gospel accounts, the same five events in His Baptism: the actual Baptism with water, the rending open of the sky (for communication from God), the descending of the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove, God's announcement of who Jesus is, and, finally, the Holy Spirit leading Jesus on to His mission for which He was sent. Then I teach the students that these same five things happen with each of us at our own Baptism: the Baptism with water, the opening for communication from God of who we now are, the descending of the Holy Spirit within us for life, God's recognition of us as son or daughter of God, and, finally, the leading of us by the Holy Spirit on our own journey of life (what the scripture often refer to as 'on the path' or 'way'. This last event is a lifetime for each of us in following Jesus in doing God's Will.

Cont. on page 3

2022-2025 Council

Minister:

Melissa Reed-Konigsdorffer OFS
410-552-5750
ScoutsDouglas@yahoo.com

Vice Minister:

Charlie Heyden OFS
410-215-9079
CHeyden2@comcast.net

Secretary:

France Staudenmann OFS
301-366-1769
France.Staudenmann@gmail.com

Treasurer:

vacant

Formation Director:

Jeanne Kerins OFS
410-227-6497
JMKerins12@gmail.com

Councilor 1:

Bob Longo OFS
240-476-5796
BLongoSFO@gmail.com

Councilor 2:

Ray Glennon OFS
443-458-8044
Ray.Glennon@1972.USNA.com

Spiritual Assistant:

Br. Lawrence LaFlame, OFMConv.
410-485-5000
LLaFlame@ArchBishopCurley.org.

Minister's Moment

When we lived in Georgia, the Hispanic community introduced me to Novenas. December starts with the Novena for Our Lady of Guadalupe (Dec 4 to Dec 12), Saint Lucia (Dec 5-13), and then there are the Posadas (Dec 16 to Dec 24). Perhaps the most touching memory I have of that rural community is Joseph and Mary appearing at our door asking to be let in. The tradition has you close the door while they make the request again. (Of course, everyone is then invited in for light refreshments.) How often are we closing the door to the meaning of Christmas? Maybe we are overwhelmed. (Think of Mary making a last-minute trip!) Maybe the house is messy. (Imagine sharing the stable!) Maybe we don't have the right gifts. (Thank goodness for the wise men!) Maybe there really isn't any room at the inn. (Can we get some blow up mattresses?)

Saint Francis had the right idea. We should focus ourselves on the Manger, The *Presepio*. We should breathe in the smells of the stable, feel the crunch of hay under our feet, and hear choir of angels singing lullabies in the sky. We should rock the Babe in our arms. We should heed the words to the shepherds, "Do not be afraid." So, how can we prepare for the Manger? Think about letting go the things that are not serving your life or your neighbors' lives. Simplify. Christmas shouldn't be stressful. Keep the traditions that mean the most, and let the others go. Find some time to serve others. Maybe take some cookies to your neighbors or write a few cards for those in the nursing homes. Take a nature walk. Pet or feed some animals if you don't own any. Finally, set up a nativity scene, even if it is just a picture of one. Immerse yourself in it and know that God did come to be with us and is still with us today. Be gentle with yourselves. If we can make the Incarnation come alive for us as Francis did in Greccio, then Christmas will take on a new meaning. And we can truly open the door for His arrival as a newborn baby.

Have a delightful Advent Season and Merry Christmas!

~Melissa

P.S. The Council announces that our theme for next year is Franciscan Joy! We look forward to you joining us in the new year as we explore how Joy is part of being Franciscan.

Moving, Sick, or Changing Status?

Our sister, Melissa Reed-Konigsdorffer, 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 our Minister with any needs or concerns.

Please email Melissa at:

ScoutsDouglas@yahoo.com

Contributions are Tax Deductible.

Direct Donation checks to:

St. Joseph Cupertino Fraternity

Mail donations to:

Melissa Reed-Konigsdorffer
7681 Swallow Road
Sykesville, MD 21784

You may use your bank's BILL PAY.

Direct payment to:

St. Joseph Cupertino Fraternity

c/o address above.

Contact Melissa with any bill pay questions.

Cont. from page 1: Greeting from Brother Lawrence

Such an idea reminds me that we are called by the Father, to follow the path of the Spirit along the path of the Son, and finally that this is the Holy Spirit that leads us to follow God's Will. I truly believe that St. Francis saw this in his journey of life, following on the path set for us by the Spirit in following the path on which the Spirit had led Jesus. This is our primary journey to our goal of resurrecting someday just as He did.

We are in the world, but we are led on a path quite different from the multitudes who think that this world is all there is, and we should make the best of it the way we can. No concern for the Spirit leading us on the true path, no concern with what God wants of us, no concern for the others who live on this planet with us; it is really a selfish world and life that many seek and follow. Let us answer our call from God daily in our lives putting what God wants us to do for Him, for others close to us and the stranger we pass walking down the street. Forget the worldly way of celebrating these Holidays and follow the path the Holy Spirit has for us on the same one he led Jesus on centuries ago and now wants to lead us if we only would follow the Spirit.

May Christ bless each of us as His follower on the path He followed in living according to God's desire for us and not fall onto the false path of the world.

A blessed Christmas to one and all,

Br. Lawrence

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*. According to Speyer's *The Life of Saint Francis* (FA:ED, vol. 1, p. 414)

"Truly he used to say: "Let us begin, brothers, to serve God. Let us begin," he would say. "And let us make progress, because up to now we have made too little progress."

Prologue: Concerning those who do Penance: ¹All those who love the Lord with their whole heart, with their whole mind, with their whole strength (Mk 12:30) and love their neighbour as themselves, ²who hate their bodies with their vices and sins (Mt 22:39), ³who receive the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁴and who produce worthy fruits of Penance. ⁵O how happy and blessed are these men and women while they do such things and persevere in doing them, ⁶because the Spirit of the Lord will rest upon them (Is 11:2) and make its home and dwelling place (Jn 14:23) among them, ⁷and they are children of the heavenly Father whose (Mt 5:45) works they do, and they are spouses, brothers and mothers of our Lord Jesus Christ (Mt 12:50).

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.



Saint Anthony Garden of Eternity

~Ray Glennon, OFS



The new Saint Anthony Garden of Eternity at the Shrine of St. Anthony is nearing completion and well worth visiting. Endowed by William and Kathleen Cavanaugh, the Garden of Eternity is an oasis of sacred serenity that invites visitors to experience a prayerful mediation of life's deepest values and to contemplate the beauty of eternity. The Saint Anthony Garden of Eternity, under construction throughout most of 2022, beautifully presents *Milestones on the Path of Life: 13 Points of Meditation Based on Themes and Principles from the Writings of St. Anthony*. You can now experience the garden in its fullness and by following its pathway; "it is hoped that you will know yourself more deeply, and have a fuller appreciation of your relationship with God and God's creation." (From the plaque at garden entrance) The garden offers a variety of experiences as the seasons change throughout the year—and as we progress through the seasons of our lives. Set aside the time to journey with the words of St. Anthony in the Garden of Eternity. Your heart will be touched and you will be richly blessed. (Photo by Ray Glennon, OFS)

Our Deceased

Connie Baker, OFS
Frances Bastress, SFO
Dea. Tom Bello, OFS
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
John Kirby, SFO



Joy Kubricky, OFS
Frances Langbehn, SFO
Bob Lewis, SFO
Sherry Lewis, OFS
Marie Lindung, OFS
Jean Manning, OFS
Jim Manning, OFS
Georgianna Papazian, OFS
Yvonne Proch, SFO
Nancy Seaton, SFO

Jean Singleton, OFS
Don Sweitzer, OFS
Betty Taylor, SFO
Bud Tenley, SFO
Regina Yeager, SFO
Dorothy Zalewski, SFO

OFM Conv:

Fr. Cronin Cantlon,
Fr. James Elliott,
Fr. Larry Kubera,



(Photos by Jean-Louis Staudenmann)

Happy Birthday!

Joan Bundy, OFS	12/15
Edward Burgee, OFS	12/17
Mark McPherson, OFS	12/23
Will Potter, OFS	12/23

Coming Next Month:

Mike Hotovy, OFS	01/06
Jim Soltysiak, OFS	01/26
Br. Lawrence LaFlame, OFM Conv	01/26

January Events:

- ◆ Extraction of the Saints
- ◆ **January 15** * **Third Sunday**
- ◆ 2 pm in the Classroom.
- ◆ Come for Mass & stay to socialize.

Book Share– Admonition 17

The Humble Religious

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: January 21.



The Shrine of St. Anthony is currently collecting twin-sized:

Flannel Sheets

Fleece Blankets

Common Fund Account Report

October—2022

Beginning (running) Balance	<u>\$3602.12</u>
<u>Income:</u>	
Common Fund Contributions	\$ 125.00
Total Income:	<u>\$125.00</u>
Intermediate Subtotal:	<u>\$3727.12</u>
<u>Expenses:</u>	
Regional Minister's Meeting:	\$125.00
Picnic	\$282.31
Total Expenses:	<u>\$407.31</u>
Ending (running) Balance:	<u>\$3319.81</u>

The Shrine of St. Anthony



Upcoming Events!

Greccio: Dec 10, 7:30– 9 pm at the Barn

Christmas Celebrations:

24th—Masses: 4 pm & 9 pm only;

25th: Mass at 12 Noon

Tours: 12/11– after Noon Mass

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

If you have any questions please contact the Front Office at 410-531-2800; <https://www.ShrineOfStAnthony.org>

Welcome, Visitors!

*Want to find out more about the
Secular Franciscans?*

- ◆ Attend a meeting. We gather (usually) on the third Sunday of the month from 2 - 4 pm.
- ◆ Check out our website:
<https://StJosephCupertino.SFOUSA.org/Welcome-To-Our-Fraternities-Website>
- ◆ Check out our regional website:
<https://SaintMargaretOfCortona.org/>
- ◆ Check out our national website:
<https://SecularFranciscansUSA.org/>

Christmas Charities

The Franciscan Center of Baltimore:

soap * deodorant * toothpaste * lotion
foot powder * shampoo * disposable razors
disposable diapers * feminine hygiene products
washcloths * bath towels * hand towels

Share Baby:

adult diapers * baby diapers * pull-ups * diaper cream
disposable nursing pads * wipes
masks (adult and child)
pacifiers * teethingers

Please bring your donations to the party.

UPCOMING GATHERING:

*** December 18 * 3rd Sunday ***

- ◆ **Glass Room* 1 pm ***
- ◆ **Come for Mass & stay for the party.**

Christmas Party Potluck

To sign up for potluck, please contact Melissa
or visit: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090C49A9A72AAFF2-christmas>

Please Pray for Healing for:

Karan Bevers, OFS
Gail Bunyan, OFS
Patrick Caughy,
OFS
Harry Ford, OFS
Louise Hotovy,
OFS
Mike Hotovy, OFS
Lita Maisel, OFS
Jim Tebo, OFS
Jerry Yu, OFS

Br. Lawrence, OFM
Conv.



“Whoever really takes (the Eucharist)
as his daily bread experiences EACH DAY
the mystery of Christmas,
the word made flesh!”

~St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross