



THE FLYER

**Newsletter for the St. Joseph Cupertino
Fraternity of the Secular Franciscans USA**

January 19, 2025
THIRD SUNDAY

FIND HOPE.
BE HOPE.

UPCOMING: January 19, 2025

- ◆ Meetings are third Sunday of the month at 2 pm. (See website for date changes and updates)
- ◆ Check out our website: <https://StJosephCupertino.SFOUSA.org/Welcome-To-Our-Fraternity's-Website>
- ◆ Check out our regional website: <https://SaintMargaretOfCortona.org/>
- ◆ Check out our national website: <https://SecularFranciscansUSA.org/>

Note from Brother Lawrence, OFM Conv.

Happy New Year to one and all!

As we begin a new year it is very much a tradition, at least in some cases, to follow the Roman god Janus. Janus was depicted as a head with a face in each direction, one looking back and one looking ahead. Needless to say, that is why January is the first month of the year—we look back and we look forward as well.

I am certain that there is much which we can look back upon, both good and bad, but there is much to look forward to also. We should pay attention to those past things for we are more certain about them because we know that they actually took place. Not just to see them as good events or bad events but to think about them and the way each event presented itself to us. I know for myself I have looked back on an event from my past that I first thought was to be something bad and after a time I came to realize it was not. My example here is one I may have mentioned at some point along the way but I certainly did not put it on my good list.

I used to tell, my students almost every year why I became a friar. Originally, I would tell the lads how I strived to become a friar and that vocation lasts a lifetime; I guess I have to admit that I never really had a why. So over the last 40 years I have had this as a major issue for me to discover. It was only about four years ago that I began to realize the answer. This answer came about when answering another favorite question that my students raised almost every year. By that time I had come to use the feast of St. Francis to tell my vocation story and the question that they then wanted to know is why did I join the Navy. My answer was always clear—I do not know.

So what I then had with this vocation issue was these two questions. It was about four years ago when I put them together that I was able to answer those annoying questions, for they answered each other. To make this a shorter story I came to realize that I joined the Franciscans because God was calling me to do so and to teach the curious students I had been given. But God being all-knowing knew that until I became more responsible in my life I would never have made it through Franciscan formation so the training that I received in the Navy made me a much more responsible person.

Both questions came together and I was able to answer both.

Br. Lawrence cont.

What I want to point out here is that all of the questions from 2024 I do not expect to be answered in 2025. It may just take a few or many years longer, but eventually I will come to know if God so wishes to inform me. Needless to say, I now think of the Navy experience as a good six years.

God will always answer our prayers and queries if it is his will to do so. So, do not just brush things off with the “I’ll never know” thought; keep asking and perhaps like the gospel story of the person who came to the door at night and kept knocking to be let in- eventually someone will get up and do so.

Brother Lawrence.

Minister’s Note

Our gathering this month will focus on receiving spiritual assistance from saints and prayer partners. Please join us in the chapel at 2 pm. Next month, we will join Ray and Dawn on their trip to Assisi this past fall.

Happy New Year! This year the council has selected the Theme of “**Find Hope. Be Hope.**” in connection with the Jubilee year.

The Holy Father has asked us all to bring Hope to the World. How can we do that as Franciscan brothers and sisters? I was struck by something that I heard recently. “Thoughts become words. Words become actions. Actions become habits. Habits become character. Character becomes destiny.”

It is in the small things that our life is formed. If we truly profess that we are Christians, living out our calling as Franciscan brothers and sisters, then the small things that we do or do not do, matter. Thoughts, words, deeds- all matter to God. Like the good intentions that we have when we start the New Year, we need to have good intentions, so that we remain in relationship with our Heavenly Father.

Are there places in our lives that we could do better? Can we think more kindly, speak more kindly, act more kindly? Our relationships matter at home, at work, at church, at the ball field, on the road etc. Are we meeting our daily commitment to morning and evening prayer? Prayer is foundational in our ability to give hope to others. What does our spiritual reading look like? What are we viewing on television and on social media? We can hear God speak to us through the words of Holy Scripture and the words of others.

These are questions I am asking myself. How can I be hope to others, if I am not cultivating that in myself? How can I give hope if I am not filled with hope?

In this Jubilee year, I want to be filled with hope in all that is good, true, and beautiful. And, I want to give that to others so that they too can experience “... *the peace of God, which surpasseth all understanding...*” (Philippians 4:7)

May this year be one of transformation for all us. May we be filled hope. May we give that hope to others. “*Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing; that you may abound in hope, and in the power of the Holy Ghost.*” (Romans 15:13)

Peace, love, and hope: *Melissa*

Formation Thought of the Month:

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy gave us new birth to a living hope in the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefined and unfading, kept in heaven for you. (1Peter1:3,4)

Thank You!

Our Christmas family is very thankful for everyone’s wonderful and kind generosity.

Thanks you so much for remembering them this Christmas.

Volunteer to help Little Portion Farm at <https://www.LittlePortionFarm.org>

Food grown helps those in need.



Help at the Shrine: Volunteer as a lector, Eucharistic Minister, Usher, especially before our gatherings. Help staff a table to invite interest in the Secular Franciscan Order. Email Melissa.

2022-2025 Council

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



Treasurer's Report

December – 2024

Beginning (running) Balance:	<u>\$ 2,138.19</u>
Income:	
Common Fund Contributions	\$ 1,430.00
<u>Total Income</u>	<u>\$ 1,430.00</u>
Expenses:	
Spiritual Assistant	\$ 100.00
Franciscan Friars	100.00
<u>Total Expenses</u>	<u>\$ 200.00</u>
Ending (running) Balance:	<u>\$ 3,368.19</u>

If you are unable to attend the gatherings, you can send your contributions to the fraternity.

Contributions are tax deductible.

Direct Donation checks to: **St. Joseph Cupertino Fraternity**

Mail donations to:

Jerry Yu
2812 Green Shade Court
Ellicott City, MD 21042

You may use your bank's **BILL PAY**. Direct payment to **St. Joseph Cupertino Fraternity** C/O the address above.

NOTE! FOR BILL PAY, THE ADDRESS HAS CHANGED.

Pray for Deceased Members:

Charles Ferrara 1/1/2010
Yvonne Proch 1/1/2013
Betty Taylor 1/1/2011
Regina Yeager 1/1/2007
Mary Ferrara 1/16/2018

**Remember those who have gone before us.
Grant them peace, Lord. May they reign in
paradise with you. Through Christ Our Lord.
Amen.**



Happy Birthday!

This month:

Br. Lawrence LaFlame, OFM Conv. 01/26

Coming Next Month:

Theresa Lam, OFS 02/06

Charlene Heyden, OFS 02/15

Jerry Yu, OFS 02/26

Book Share-

Thomas A'Kempis' classic Imitation of Christ.

First Saturdays from 1-3 pm on ZOOM!
Contact Geri Flynn OFS for details:
AngelBarty@aol.com

PRAYER LIST

For Healing:

Gail Bunyan, OFS
Lita Maisel, OFS
Bill Siefken, OFS
Teresa Lam, OFS
Rosemary Whelan, OFS
Patrick Caughy, OFS

