



# THE FLYER

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

February 16, 2025  
THIRD SUNDAY

FIND HOPE.  
BE HOPE.

## UPCOMING: February 16, 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.**

I hope that you realize that this month is the half-way point of the winter season. I say this because we can begin to look for, hopefully, an early arrival of spring. The flowers blooming, the trees returning to their decorated foliage, wildlife starting to come back to life in the forests and mountains; yes, it is our hope that the beauty of our world will be returning to us very soon. Where would we be without that hope for spring's return.

Pope Francis has declared this Church year as of a Jubilee year of hope. Hope is the second of the three theological virtues. Last month, I wrote a bit about the first virtue which is faith, and now we are going to concentrate on the second virtue which is hope. Both faith and hope lead to the last of the virtues which is love, the one virtue that is lasting. Once we arrive at love we are beyond faith and hope, but still we need to go through faith and hope before we can come to consider that of love which is the one virtue that there will be with us in heaven.

Why is this so? Should we not have faith and hope in heaven.? Paul tells us that the virtues are faith, hope and love and that the greatest of these is love. It is the only one which lasts. Faith and hope are the ones that lead us on our way to love. It starts with faith because we need to have faith in God and in our situations during life that we come to know the reason why faith is there. There are no real proofs of God, for example; we come to be aware of God through our faith in his existence and this guiding us through life is the way which is best for us. We have faith that God sent his only Son, Jesus, to us so we have the perfect example of how faith works and guides us.

When we come to see this, that is where we begin to see that there is hope for us to live a good life, to be in the image of Jesus, to be led by the Holy Spirit from baptism to the life God has for us to live. Just as the Spirit led Jesus after John's baptism of him to his life so we, after our own baptism will be guided to our life according to God's desire for each of us. This is how we should look at the idea of hope. When each of us comes to realize that we are on a journey throughout our life we are sharing in the hope that we are on the right road, led by the Holy Spirit that God is giving to us.

This is a good way to begin to try to understand faith and hope. As these next couple of months go by I will have more to say about the virtue of hope.

Looking forward to Spring,

**Br. Lawrence**

### *Minister's Note*

*Our meeting this month will include choosing our saint for the year. We also will have a renewal ceremony and hear from Ray about his recent trip to Assisi . Next month we be hosting an open house for visitors.*

#### Preparing for Lent

Franciscan tradition holds that Saint Francis would go on pilgrimage during Lent, often to La Verna or Greccio. He would observe the traditional practices of fasting, prayer, and penance. Saint Francis believed greatly that in order to deepen his faith, he needed time away. Jesus did this as well. In the Gospels, we read of Jesus withdrawing to the desert to prepare for his ministry, or climbing a mountain to pray deeply to the Father.

In Chapter XI of Thomas of Celano's account of Saint Francis' life we hear that Saint Francis went to a place of prayer and stayed there for a long time. He kept repeating the phrase, "Lord, be merciful to me a sinner." A "sweetness and light" overwhelmed him during that time, and joy filled his heart. (See [Francis of Assisi The Saint- Early Documents pg. 205](#))

As we get ready for the Season of Lent, how can we withdraw from the busyness that fills our lives, so that our faith is deepened, and our relationship with the Father grows stronger? Certainly, we can take advantage of the Shrine of Saint Anthony. There are many quiet places to get away for a little while including the trails and the new Garden of St Anthony.

Also, the Shrine is a pilgrimage spot for the Jubilee year.

There is a plenary indulgence available for visiting the Shrine, and meeting the following conditions 1) Be free from sin, 2) go to communion, 3) Go to confession, and 4) Pray for the intentions for the Holy Father. One may also receive an indulgence for performing spiritual and corporal works of mercy, or by doing works of penance. (More information and suggestions here: <https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/257672/how-to-obtain-a-plenary-indulgence-during-the-2025-jubilee>)

As we prepare for the Lenten season, think about how this Lent can be different from all the other Lents in our lives. Lent is supposed to be a time that we grow in virtues. It should also be a time that we, like Saint Francis, look for ways to serve those less fortunate than ourselves. How can we push ourselves outside our normal comfort zone to make this Lent extraordinary? How we make room to be so overwhelmed by the "sweetness and light" that joy fills us like it filled Saint Francis?

May God fill us with joy and hope this Lent, and all the days of our lives.

Peace, love, and hope,

*Melissa*

*Formation Thought of the Month:*

“Consult not your fears but your hopes and your dreams. Think not about your frustrations, but about your unfulfilled potential. Concern yourself not with what you have tried and failed in, but with what it is still possible for you to do.”

Pope John XXIII

# Happy Anniversary

Harry Ford 2/16/2014

Kathy Ford 2/16/2014

Deacon Michael King 2/16/2020

Melissa Reed-Konigsdorffer 2/16/2020

Mimi Cox-Owens 2/16/2020

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

**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 (Acting):**

Jerry Yu OFS  
443-514-5007  
bravo0226@yahoo.com

**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, OFM Conv.  
410-485-5000  
LLaFlame@ArchBishopCurley.org

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



## Treasurer's Report

January 2025

|                                     |                           |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Beginning (running) Balance:</b> | <b><u>\$ 3,368.19</u></b> |
| <b>Income:</b>                      |                           |
| Common Fund Contributions           | \$ 0.00                   |
| <br>                                |                           |
| <b>Total Income</b>                 | <b><u>\$ 0.00</u></b>     |
| <b>Expenses:</b>                    |                           |
| Spiritual Assistant                 | \$ 100.00                 |
| Franciscan Friars                   | 100.00                    |
| <br>                                |                           |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>               | <b><u>\$ 200.00</u></b>   |
| <b>Ending (running) Balance:</b>    | <b><u>\$ 3,168.19</u></b> |

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:

# Happy Birthday!

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

*Connie Baker 2/27/21  
Jean Manning 2/8/2013*

*This month:*

*Theresa Lam, OFS 02/06  
Charlene Heyden, OFS 02/15  
Jerry Yu, OFS 02/26*

Coming Next Month:

Mick Michieli-Beasley, OFS 03/05  
Deanna Williston, OFS 03/05  
Cindy Mohler, OFS 03/13  
Karan Bevers, OFS 03/21  
France Staudenmann OFS 03/29

### 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  
Harry Ford, OFS

