



# THE FLYER

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

January 2026

Third SUNDAY

The Lord gave me brothers  
and sisters.

## UPCOMING: Extraction of Saints

- ◆ 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/>

January 18, 2026

We will have our annual drawing of saints and  
prayer partners for the year.

After the drawing, please join us for evening  
prayers.



## Upcoming Events:

February 15 Meeting: Profession for our Candidates. Mass at 2 pm. Reception to Follow.

**21st Quinquennial Congress**– Lexington, KY 29 July-02 August 2026. More information: <https://ofs-usa.regfox.com/21st-congress-secular-franciscan-order-usa>

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## MINISTER'S NOTE

Our Rule states that “The local fraternity is to be established canonically. It becomes the basic unit of the whole Order and a visible sign of the Church, the community of love.” (Rule, Article 22)

We are the community of love. Nothing is greater than this– to love one another. It is a gift for us to come together each month. It is a gift for us to be able to be present for our brothers and sisters.

On his deathbed, Saint Francis did not say that he founded an order or gathered followers. Instead, he spoke in gratitude and humility:

“The Lord gave me brothers.”

That single line says everything about Franciscan love.

Saint Francis understood his life as a gift received. He did not have disciples, but brothers that God entrusted to him. He then challenged the brothers to do what Christ intended: to love and serve.

This year as you take your saint and prayer partner for the year, think about all the ways that you can be present for them over the coming months.

Our Franciscan brothers and sisters are our family. It is important that we care for one another. This is a sacred obligation.

In Fratelli Tutti, Pope Francis wrote: “Here we have a splendid secret that shows us how to dream and to turn our life into a wonderful adventure. No one can face life in isolation... We need a community that supports and helps us, in which we can help one another to keep looking ahead. How important it is to dream together...”. (Fratelli Tutti, paragraph 8)

Let our fraternity become a place where care abounds. Let us support each other in life’s adventures. Let us be a community of love.

**“The Lord gave me brothers and sisters”** is our reminder for the year to be love.

Peace and love,

Melissa

## ***Formation Thought of the Month:***

Article 1 of the Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order

“The Franciscan family , as one among many spiritual families raised up by the Holy Spirit in the Church, unites all members of the people of God-laity, religious, and priests - who recognize that they are called to follow Christ in the footsteps of Saint Francis of Assisi. In various ways and forms but in life-giving union with each other, they intend to make present the charism of their common Seraphic Father in the life and mission of the Church.”

## **Events at the Shrine of Saint Anthony**

The Shrine has many upcoming events that you may want to attend:

<https://www.shrineofstanthony.org/calendar>



**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.

## **2025-2028 Council**

**CONTACT US AT [StJosephCupertinoofs@gmail.com](mailto:StJosephCupertinoofs@gmail.com)**

**Minister:**

Melissa Reed-Konigsdorffer OFS

**Vice Minister:**

Charlie Heyden OFS

**Secretary:**

Ray Glennon

**Treasurer :**

Jerry Yu OFS

**Formation Director:**

Jeanne Kerins OFS

**Councilor 1:**

Will Potter

**Councilor 2:**

Ed Burgee

**Spiritual Assistant:**

Br. Lawrence LaFlame, OFM Conv.



## Treasurer's Report

December – 2025

<b>Beginning (running) Balance:</b>	<b><u>\$ 2,297.55</u></b>
<b>Income:</b>	
Common Fund & Gift to the Shrine (Checks)	\$1,130.00
Common Fund & Gift to the Shrine (Cash)	393.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b><u>\$ 1,523.00</u></b>
<b>Expenses:</b>	
Spiritual Assistant	\$ 100.00
Franciscan Friars	100.00
Christmas Gift to the Shrine	661.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b><u>\$ 861.00 (running)</u></b>
<b>Balance:</b>	<b><u>\$ 2,959.55</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.**



Next Month

Jerry Yu 2/26  
Theresa Lam 2/5  
Charlie Heyden 2/15  
James Kim 2/27

### 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

## Pray for Deceased Members:

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

Mary Ferrara 1/16/2018  
Betty Taylor 1/1/2011  
Regina Yeager 1/1/2007

### 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  
Kathy Ford, OFS

