



THE FLYER

Newsletter for Saint Joseph Cupertino Secular Franciscan Fraternity

FRATERNITY 2026 THEME

***THE LORD GAVE ME
BROTHERS AND SISTERS.***

UPCOMING: Open house after Noon Mass, and Gathering at 2 pm.

Meetings are third Sunday of the month at 2 pm. (See website for date changes and updates)



RULE 5: SECULAR FRANCISCANS, THEREFORE, SHOULD SEEK TO ENCOUNTER THE LIVING AND ACTIVE PERSON OF CHRIST IN THEIR BROTHERS AND SISTERS, IN SACRED SCRIPTURE, IN THE CHURCH, AND IN LITURGICAL ACTIVITY.

THE FAITH OF ST. FRANCIS, WHO OFTEN SAID, "I SEE NOTHING BODILY OF THE MOST HIGH SON OF GOD IN THIS WORLD EXCEPT HIS MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD," SHOULD BE THE INSPIRATION AND PATTERN OF THEIR EUCHARISTIC LIFE.

Minister's Note

When I visited Boston a few months ago, I had the opportunity to visit Walden's Pond where Henry David Thoreau wrote. If you go, you will realize that the pond is by no means isolated. The town of Concord is within a short walking distance! It threw me for a loop. How was this a place of inspiration and contemplation so close to civilization?

This month PBS broadcasted a three- part Ken Burns' series about Thoreau. Thoreau wasn't drawn to Walden because it was remote, but because he was present to what surrounded him. He spent hours sauntering through the woods, noticing what others might easily have passed by. The richness of the place came not from its distance from others, but from his attention to the world in front of him.

Thoreau explained that the word "saunter" was derived from the French exclamation of "à la sainte terre": a description of people who were journeying to the Holy Land or making a pilgrimage. Despite the etymology being debated, I like the idea of "sauntering" as a type of pilgrimage.

In the Gospel of Luke, the two disciples leave Jerusalem and walk a few hours home to Emmaus. Along that familiar path, they encounter a stranger who walks with them, listens, and slowly deepens their understanding of what took place in the prior days. Only later do they realize they had been in the presence of Jesus Christ. The transformation does not come from reaching a new place, but from seeing differently along the way.

Father Terence's recent talks on contemplation extend this insight: we cannot truly encounter who Christ is without learning to be still and attentive. Contemplation asks us to slow down, to enter more deeply into the present moment, and to allow ourselves to be changed rather than just going through the motions of life.

If we saunter, we become attentive to small things: a shift in light, a passing conversation, the quiet sense that Something more is present. Our everyday can become pilgrimages. In his walks, Saint Francis came to see that everything is in relationship to the Father. Nothing stands alone; all of creation is bound together and is a reflection of divine love.

We need to enter our lives with deep attention and contemplation. The sacred is not somewhere else, waiting at the end of a long journey. It is already here, hidden in the ordinary, waiting to be noticed. Let's saunter.

Peace and Love
Melissa

FORMATION THOUGHT FOR APRIL

“Francis wanted this group that God had set apart to be known as a family. Even the name he chose for them, the Order of Friars Minor, the Lesser Brothers, gives us insight into how Francis viewed himself and those with him. They were to form a familial bond among themselves, with the rest of the people in the world and all of creation.”

TERESA V. BAKER

[TO SET THEMSELVES FREE](#), PG. 193

Events at the Shrine of Saint Anthony

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

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



PRAY FOR HEALING

Gail Bunyan, OFS
Lita Maisel, OFS
Bill Siefken, OFS

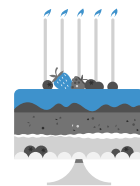
Teresa Lam, OFS
Rosemary Whelan, OFS
Patrick Caughy, OFS
Harry Ford, OFS
Kathy Ford, OFS

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



BIRTHDAY WISHES:

Kathy Ford 4/6

Upcoming

Ron Chrismer 5/4

Mimi Cox-Owens 5/18

Patrick Caughy 5/18

Ray Heverling 5/31



Treasurer's Report

March – 2026 March – 2026

Beginning (running) Balance:
\$ 3,903.56

Income:

Common Fund (Cash)
\$ 80.00

Common Fund (Checks)
35.00

Total Income \$ 115.00

Expenses:

Spiritual Assistant
\$ 100.00

Franciscan Friars 100.00

**Stipend to Fr. Gary for
the Mass of the**

Profession 100.00

Materials for the Profession
169.00

**Annual Fair Share to the
Regional** 1,143.00

Total Expenses
\$ 1,612.00

Ending (running) Balance:
\$ 2,406.56

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.



2025-2028 Council

CONTACT US AT StJosephCupertinoOFS@gmail.com

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