



THE FLYER

Newsletter for Saint Joseph Cupertino Secular Franciscan Fraternity

FRATERNITY 2026 THEME

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

UPCOMING:

September – Annual Picnic

October 3- Transitus with Archbishop Lori

October- Planning for Sister Death with Will Potter



Picnic: Our annual picnic is this month. We have invited our sister fraternities to come as well.

Please let someone on the Council know that you will attend. Bring a dish to share. Hamburgers and Hotdogs will be provided.

Picnic to follow the Noon Mass on September 20.

Minister's Note

This month we will celebrate with our fellow fraternities at the annual picnic. Bring a dish to share. Hamburgers and hotdogs provided.

FELIX CUPA

Bob Ross called mistakes “happy little accidents.” Catholic theology has the phrase *felix culpa*- happy fault. At the Easter Vigil, we hear “O happy fault that earned for us so great, so glorious a Redeemer.” God does not cause evil, but he can permit it and bring a greater good from what is broken. The fall of Adam was the source of original sin, but God used it as the occasion for the redemption gifted by Christ.

Thomas Aquinas in *Summa Theologica* wrote, “God allows evils to happen in order to bring a greater good therefrom.”

There is suffering in the world that we cannot explain away. A young mother is killed by a stranger on her first day back to work after maternity leave. A children’s hospital is bombed. Hundreds disappear under a mudslide and flash flooding while on pilgrimage in the Himalayan mountains.

Suffering is not the only thing we see. We also see people responding with extraordinary courage and compassion. Many people went into action and saved the man that was also stabbed when the mother was stabbed. Many responded to care for those who are suffering from the effects of war, and famine. Many rescuers dug through the mud, and pulled out survivors.

We cannot call the suffering itself “happy.” Perhaps this is where the mystery of *felix culpa* becomes visible. God can use suffering, even suffering we would never have chosen, to transform the people who encounter it.

Saint Francis's own suffering became part of the way God transformed him. Undoubtedly, Saint Francis was shaped by his time as a prisoner of war after the battle between Assisi and Perugia. He was wounded, and held in a dark dungeon for a year. He suffered a long illness after his release and spent much time in prayer and contemplation. His experience affected how he viewed those who were suffering from long illnesses, the imprisoned and the importance of how they were ministered to and understood. He embraced the leper. What was bitter was transformed to sweetness.

This is one of the mysteries of suffering. We may never understand why a particular tragedy is permitted, but we can see what people do in response to it. Suffering can harden the heart, but it can also open it. It can divide, but it can also draw people together. It can reveal courage, compassion, sacrifice, and love.

Earlier this year, Pope Leo wrote about St. Francis. “In this age, marked by so many seemingly interminable wars, by internal and social divisions that create mistrust and fear, he continues to speak. Not because he offers technical solutions, but because his life points to the authentic source of peace.”

This is the lesson of Saint Francis and of *felix culpa*. We are not called to explain every suffering or pretend that tragedy is somehow good. We are called to meet suffering with love, to enter into the wounds of others, and to trust that God can bring good even from what appears to be only profound loss.

We may not be able to prevent every “accident.” However, with God's grace, we can become part of the good that happens next.

Our Lady of Sorrows, pray for us.

Peace be with you all.: *Melissa*

FORMATION THOUGHT FOR SEPTEMBER

“Father, you helped our seraphic father Francis reflect the image of Christ through a life of poverty and humility. May we follow your Son by walking in the footsteps of Francis of Assisi and by imitating his joyful love.

Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. Amen”

CONCLUDING PRAYER FOR THE OFFICE OF READINGS ON OCT. 4
(THE SOLEMNITY OF FRANCIS OF ASSISI)

Events at the Shrine of Saint Anthony

The Shrine has many upcoming events that you may want to attend:
<https://www.shrineofstanthony.org/calendar>



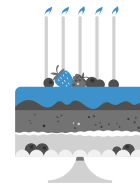
PRAY FOR HEALING

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

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

Book Share

Thomas A’Kempis’ classic Imitation of Christ.
First Saturdays from 1:30 -3:30 pm on ZOOM!
Contact Geri Flynn OFS for details: AngelBarty@aol.com



BIRTHDAY WISHES:

Dawn Glennon, 9/5
Michael King 9/25
Melissa R-K 9/24

Next month:

Bob Longo 10/6
Harry Ford 10/10
Lita Maisel 10/13
Milande Watson 10/25



August – 2026

Beginning (running) Balance: **\$ 2,821.54**

Income:

Common Fund (Cash) \$ 0.00

Common Fund (Checks) 50.00

Total Income **\$ 50.00**

Expenses:

Spiritual Assistant \$ 100.00

Franciscan Friars 100.00

Franciscan Center 200.00

Total Expenses **\$ 400.00**

Ending (running) Balance: **\$ 2,471.54**

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

Mail donations to:

Jerry Yu
2812 Green Shade Court
Ellicott City, MD 21042



2025-2028 Council

CONTACT US AT StJosephCupertinoOFS@gmail.com

Minister:

Melissa Reed-Konigsdorffer OFS

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Charlie Heyden OFS

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Ray Glennon, OFS

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Jerry Yu, OFS

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Jeanne Kerins, OFS

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Will Potter, OFS

Councilor 2:

Ed Burgee, OFS

Spiritual Assistant:

Br. Lawrence LaFlame, OFM Conv.



Contributions are tax deductible.

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

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.