

**A Message from our Minister**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Francis and Clare,

Our next Gathering will be on Sunday December 22<sup>nd</sup>, we had to move our gathering date up, an unexpected event is now scheduled on December 15<sup>th</sup> at the friary. At our December Gathering we will celebrate Christmas as a community starting at 1PM. All are asked to bring a covered dish or dessert; you may also bring wine if you wish. We will end our gathering with early evening prayer at 3PM, please bring your Liturgy of the Hours.

This year we would like to take up a collection at our gathering and make a donation to “Grassroots of Howard County”. This organization provides assistance to needy families. As a Christmas offering from our fraternity, we have sent a check for \$400 to Catholic Relief Services to help provide aid for the disaster relief in the Philippines; this money came out of our treasury fund.

As I write this message for this month’s newsletter I cannot get the song “Brother Sun and Sister Moon” out of my head, you know what I am talking about. Each time I hear it, I am reminded about how human I am and what a great gift our humanity is.

Let me give you some of the words to this catchy song:

Brother Sun, and Sister Moon  
I seldom see you, seldom hear your tune.  
Preoccupied, with selfish misery.

Brother Wind, and Sister Air,  
open my eyes, to visions pure and fair.  
That I may see, the glory around me

I am God's creature, of him, I am part.  
I feel his love, awakening my heart.

Brother Sun, and Sister Moon,  
I now do see you, I can hear your tune!  
so much in love, with all that I survey

You see, now you can’t stop humming this thought provoking tune. Like our brother, Francis, we also need to take time to stop and look at God’s creation.

Number 18 of our Rule states: “Moreover they should respect all creatures, animate and inanimate, which “bear the imprint of the Most High,” and they should strive to move from the temptation of exploiting creation to the Franciscan concept of universal kinship.”

This Christmas Eve the most holy of nights, God gave us the wonderful creation of His only begotten Son, Francis knew that this bundle of Love encompassed all of creation. This is why the crèche was Francis’ Christmas gift to the world to remind us that we all came from the one true Father.

“I now do see you; I can hear your tune!  
so much in love, with all that I survey

Let us wish all we meet a MERRY CHRISTMAS and a BLESSED New Year.

**Merry Christmas** -Your Fraternity Council



**Fraternity Council**

- Minister:** Bob Longo, OFS  
410 451-0943
- V. Minister:** Sherry Lewis, OFS  
410-788-5395
- Formation:** Geri Flynn, OFS  
410 730-4395
- Secretary:** France  
Staudenmann OFS  
301-294-3085
- Acting Treasurer:** Jerry Yu, OFS  
410 988-5753
- Councilors:** Lita Maisel OFS  
410 379-2374  
Cindy Mohler, OFS  
410 747-4589  
Jim Manning, OFS  
410 421-9332
- Spiritual Assistant:**  
Br. Lawrence LaFlame, OFM. Conv  
410 531-2802



We will close our  
Christmas party with  
Evening Prayer  
Please bring your  
Liturgy of the Hours

Fourth Sunday of  
Advent



**Please Pray For ...**

- Connie Baker**, OFS
- Donna Belt**
- Donna Duncan**, OFS
- Marlene Feaga**, OFS
- Mary Ferrara**, OFS
- Dolores Fritz**, OFS
- Joy Kubricky**, OFS
- Georgianna Papazian**, OFS
- Gerry Pinkas**, OFS
- Nancy Seaton**, OFS
- Susan Suprock**, OFS
- Jim Tebo**, OFS
- Deacon**
- Will Witherspoon**, OFS



**OUR DECEASED BROTHERS AND SISTERS**

- Frances Bastress**, SFO
- Joe Bezila**, SFO
- Jerry Cichowicz**, SFO
- Shirley Costello**, OFS
- Joe Cykoski**, SFO
- Stella Cykoski**, SFO
- Claire Lee Davison**, SFO
- Adela Duff**, SFO
- Charles Ferrara**, SFO
- Marilyn Gilson**, SFO
- Richard Hall**, SFO
- Frances Langben**, SFO
- Bob Lewis**, SFO
- Jean Manning**, OFS
- Yvonne Proch**, SFO
- Betty Taylor**, SFO
- Bud Tenley**, SFO
- Regina Yeager**, SFO
- Dorothy Zalewski**, SFO

**The St. Joseph Cupertino Bulletin Board Posts from Our Fraternity Members**

**Upcoming Events**

Our Next Book Sharing Meeting – All Are Welcome

Date: Saturday, January 4<sup>th</sup> - 1:30pm (social)  
2:00pm ~ 4:00pm

Place: Geri Flynn's home: 5072 Bucket Post Court  
Columbia, MD  
Tel: 410 730- 4395

Book: "Francis, the Journey and the Dream", by Murray Bodo

Chapters: "Brother Ass"  
"Rain on the Mountain"  
"The Journey Afar"

**Heaven and Earth**

A remarkable display of rare icons, mosaics, frescoes and religious art from Greece is currently on view at the National Gallery of Art in Washington. The contemplation of Beauty is a key Franciscan value which can deepen our awareness of God's presence and strengthen us in our vocation. All are welcome therefore to gather together and experience the power of these rare and ancient windows into adoration and prayer.

<http://www.nga.gov/content/ngaweb/exhibitions/2013/heaven-and-earth.html>

Saturday, January 18th, 2014  
10:00 am

Visitor Information Desk  
Main Entrance, Main Floor  
West Building, on the National Mall  
National Gallery of Art  
Washington DC

There is a Café at the Museum for any who would like to gather for lunch and conversation afterward.

For more information contact Patrick Caughy 410 744 8119  
[ptcaughy@hotmail.com](mailto:ptcaughy@hotmail.com)

**Remembering Your Profession**

- Kevin Corcoran, OFS 12/16/09
- Charlie Hopkins, OFS 12/16/09
- Marie Lindung, OFS 12/16/09
- James Soltysiak, OFS 12/16/09
- Jim Manning, OFS 12/27/73



## Treasurer's Report

If you miss a gathering send your check payable to St. Joseph Cupertino Fraternity c/o:

**Jerry Yu, OFS**  
**2812 Green Shade Ct.**  
**Ellicott City, MD 21042**

**At our gatherings, the common fund box will be in the Refectory.**

Beginning Balance:	<b>\$1270.96</b>
Income	<b>\$ 444.00</b>
Total	<b><u>\$1714.96</u></b>

### Expenses:

Franciscan Friars	<b>\$ 100.00</b>
Brother Lawrence	<b>\$ 50.00</b>
Newsletter Printing and Mailing	<b>\$ 26.00</b>
Fr. Joe (Mass)	<b>\$ 50.00</b>
Music (Mass)	<b>\$ 100.00</b>
Stationery	<b>\$ 80.46</b>
Philippines Fund-CRS	<b>\$ 400.00</b>
Total Expenses:	<b><u>\$ 806.46</u></b>

**Ending Balance: \$ 908.50**

Thank You for your monthly contributions

**Contribution is Tax Deductible**

## December Birthdays



<b>Joan Bundy, OFS</b>	<b>12/15</b>
<b>Edward Burgee, OFS</b>	<b>12/17</b>
<b>Diane Witherspoon, OFS</b>	<b>12/18</b>

### January Birthdays

Marie Lindung, OFS	1/18
John Kirby, OFS	1/25
Jim Soltysiak, OFS	1/26
Br. Lawrence LaFlame, OFM.	Conv.
	1/26

## Franciscans Serving Peace

However imperfectly realized over the succeeding eight centuries, the ministry of peace making—recognizing the primordial presence of God’s peace deep within and serving it with prayer and action—has persisted as a central dimension of Franciscan spirituality. Francis vigorously counseled peace between warring city states and between Christians and Muslims. His devotion to embodied peacemaking and nonviolent intervention is captured paradigmatically in the story of the Wolf of Gubbio where Francis brokered a resolution between an Italian village and a wolf by meeting the needs of both sides. This is even more compellingly demonstrated in visit with Malik-al-Kamil, the sultan of Egypt. During the fifth crusade in 1219, “in the midst of wartime, Francis went to the enemy *unarmed and loved the enemy as a brother.*”

Francis attempted to embody Jesus’ words to “love the enemy” and to face the enemy within. St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi greeted the people of their time with the expression “Pace e bene!” or “Peace and good!” So much was expressed by this little phrase: *May you have the fullness of well-being, may you be secure and happy; may you not want; may your dignity be respected; may the goodness in your inmost being flourish; may the world in which we live know this deep peace.* It was a blessing, a hope, and a way of acknowledging the sacredness of those whom they encountered. During this season of peace, let us make peace within our family and those in our life.

## The Manger Francis Made on the Day of the Lord's Birth

[84] What Francis did on the birthday of our Lord Jesus Christ near the little town called Greccio in the third year before his glorious death should especially be noted and recalled with reverent memory. In that place there was a certain man by the name of John, of good reputation and an even better life, whom blessed Francis loved with a special love, for in the place where he lived he held a noble and honorable position in as much as he had trampled upon the nobility of his birth and pursued nobility of soul. Blessed Francis sent for this man, as he often did, about fifteen days before the birth of the Lord, and he said to him: "If you want us to celebrate the present feast of our Lord at Greccio, go with haste and diligently prepare what I tell you. For I wish to do something that will recall to memory the little Child who was born in Bethlehem and set before our bodily eyes in some way the inconveniences of his infant needs, how he lay in a manger, how, with an ox and an ass standing by, he lay upon the hay where he had been placed." When the good and faithful man heard these things, he ran with haste and prepared in that place all the things the saint had told him.

[85] But the day of joy drew near, the time of great rejoicing came. The brothers were called from their various places. Men and women of that neighborhood prepared with glad hearts, according to their means, candles and torches to light up that night that has lighted up all the days and years with its gleaming star. At length the saint of God came, and finding all things prepared, he saw it and was glad. The manger was prepared, the hay had been brought, the ox and ass were led in. There simplicity was honored, poverty was exalted, humility was commended, and Greccio was made, as

it were, a new Bethlehem. The night was lighted up like the day, and it delighted men and beasts. The people came and were filled with new joy over the new mystery. The woods rang with the voices of the crowd and the rocks made answer to their jubilation. The brothers sang, paying their debt of praise to the Lord, and the whole night resounded with their rejoicing.

The saint of God stood before the manger, uttering sighs, overcome with love, and filled with a wonderful happiness. The solemnities of the Mass were celebrated over the manger and the priest experienced a new consolation.

86 The saint of God was clothed with the vestments of the deacon, for he was a deacon, and he sang the holy Gospel in a sonorous voice. And his voice was a strong voice, a sweet voice, a clear voice, a sonorous voice, inviting all to the highest rewards. Then he preached to the people standing about, and he spoke charming words concerning the nativity of the poor King and the little town of Bethlehem. Frequently too, when he wished to call Christ Jesus, he would call him simply the Child of Bethlehem, aglow with overflowing love for him; and speaking the word Bethlehem, his voice was more like the bleating of a sheep. His mouth was filled more with sweet affection than with words. Besides, when he spoke the name Child of Bethlehem or Jesus, his tongue licked his lips, as it were, relishing and savoring with pleased palate the sweetness of the words. The gifts of the Almighty were multiplied there, and a wonderful vision was seen by a certain virtuous man. For he saw a little child lying in the manger lifeless, and he saw the holy man of God go up to it and rouse the child as from a deep sleep. This vision was not unfitting, for the Child Jesus had been forgotten in the hearts of many; but, by the working of his grace, he was brought to life again through his servant St. Francis and stamped upon their fervent memory. At length the solemn night celebration was brought to a close, and each one returned to his home with holy joy.

[87]The hay that had been placed in the manger was kept, so that the Lord might save the beasts of burden and other animals through it as he multiplied his holy mercy. And in truth it so happened that many animals throughout the surrounding region that had various illnesses were freed from their illnesses after eating of this hay. Indeed, even women laboring for a long time in a difficult birth, were delivered safely when some of this hay was placed upon them; and a large number of persons of both sexes of that place, suffering from various illnesses, obtained

the health they sought. Later, the place on which the manger had stood was made sacred by a temple of the Lord, and an altar was built in honor of the most blessed father Francis over the manger and a church was built, so that where once the animals had eaten the hay, there in the future men would eat unto health of soul and body the flesh of the lamb without blemish and without spot, our Lord Jesus Christ, who in highest and ineffable love gave himself to us, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, God, eternally glorious, forever and ever. Amen. Alleluja, Alleluja. - Thomas of Celano – Chapter XXX Writings about the Life of St. Francis

**ATTENDENCE AT THE GATHERINGS** - All active members should make every attempt to attend the Gathering every month. If you are unable to attend due to illness, work or family obligations, please contact Bob Longo 410-451-0943.

If you are professed and miss a gathering please send your check for the Common Fund to:

Jerry Yu, OFS - 2812 Green Shade Ct., Ellicott City, MD 21042

Editor: Bob Longo, OFS (blongOFS@verizon.net)



## Calendar

**At the Friary**  
**Chapel Open Daily**  
**From 9 AM – 5 PM**  
**Noon Mass everyday**  
**All are Welcome**

**Reconciliation** is on  
Wednesday from 4 - 5pm.,  
and also Monday through  
Saturday at 11:30am.

### Eucharistic Adoration

Every Thursday  
12 pm – 5:30 pm

### Mass Schedules

December 21<sup>st</sup> – Christmas Concert  
**7 – 9pm**  
December 24<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Eve  
**Mass 10pm**  
December 25<sup>th</sup> - **Mass 12 Noon**  
December 31<sup>st</sup> - New Years Eve  
**Mass – 9pm**  
January 1<sup>st</sup> – **Mass 12 Noon**

