

ST. JOSEPH CUPERTINO FRATERNITY
2018 Theme for the Year "Living Our Charism Within Our Culture"
Gathering – February 18, 2018

The Flyer



Laudato Si (Praise be to you – On Care For Our Common Home),

Paragraph 42 - "Greater investment needs to be made in research aimed at understanding more fully the functioning of ecosystems and adequately analyzing the different variables associated with any significant modification of the environment. Because all creatures are connected, each must be cherished with love and respect, for all of us as living creatures are dependent on one another. Each area is responsible for the care of this family. This will require undertaking a careful inventory of the species which it hosts, with a view to developing programs and strategies of protection with particular care for safeguarding species heading towards extinction" ~ Pope Francis

Lent

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Francis and Clare,

How quickly time fly's, we are already in the season of Lent, it seems like yesterday that we were celebrating the season of Christmas.

Random House Dictionary describes "Lent" and "Sacrifice" as:

Lent: is the period of forty days lasting from Ash Wednesday to Holy Saturday, observed as a time of penance and fasting commemorating Jesus' fasting in the wilderness.

Sacrifice: a surrender of something of value as a means of gaining something more desirable.

Our Holy Father, Pope Francis asks us the question, "Do You Want to Fast this Lent?"

Below Pope Francis gives us some suggestions:

Do You Want to Fast this Lent?
In the words of Pope Francis

- Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
- Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
- Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
- Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
- Fast from worries and have trust in God.
- Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.
- Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
- Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy.
- Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.
- Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
- Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.

May you have a Holy and Blessed Lenten Season ~ *Your Fraternity Council*

Our Fraternity Council 2016 - 2019

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Br. Lawrence LaFlame, OFM. Conv
410 531-2800

Evening Prayer



First Sunday
of Lent

Words of Encouragement from our Spiritual Assistant – Br. Lawrence



Please Pray For ...

Connie Baker, OFS
Marlene Feaga, OFS
Marie Lindung, OFS
Jim Manning, OFS
Georgianna Papazian, OFS
Jim Tebo, OFS



OUR DECEASED BROTHERS AND SISTERS

Deacon Tom Bello, OFS
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
Donna Duncan, SFO
Charles Ferrara, SFO
Mary Ferrara, SFO
Dolores Fritz, OFS
Marilyn Gilson, SFO
Richard Hall, SFO
Joy Kubricky, OFS
Frances Langbehn, SFO
Bob Lewis, SFO
Jean Manning, OFS
Yvonne Proch, SFO
Nancy Seaton, SFO
Don Sweitzer, OFS
Betty Taylor, SFO
Bud Tenley, SFO
Regina Yeager, SFO
Dorothy Zalewski, SFO

One day it feels like a spring day and the next we are back in the frigidness of a winter day. Poor Mother Nature cannot seem to make up here mind. She could throw in an occasional summer day if she is that confused. What makes me think about is about my own confusion, after all, a human being is always moving from one thing to another it seems. That thought led me to my own spiritual life and whether it was also in such a state.

Am I, even if only occasionally moving about spiritually from one thing to the next? I would certainly have to say that it does happen for I can be extremely attentive one morning at Mass and the next day thinking about something else (being distracted). It happens! So that led me to look at my spiritual life overall and the confusion that there is and how can I help to lessen it. Thinking of what St. Paul wrote I realize that little to no confusion is what I want to have but, somehow, I cannot do it. I suppose that I need to add this to my examination of conscience during night prayer and really work on it. And I think that that is something that all of us could do, at least occasionally during the week. I also think that that is a main component of that opening examination of conscience piece that allows us to consider ourselves during that day.

So, my brothers and sisters, take the opportunity with me to include a reflection on our day to see if we have suffered from moving from one thing to another, a helter-skelter movement from my union with God during the day to a movement to union in myself at other times. If we suffer from this then we need to think of what we can do to stay with God and that is tough indeed for us to do, but it is easy for God to do. I think that I need to do it; not really, all I need to do is to ask God to keep me close to him and not wandering about by myself. To leave myself open to his coming into me; my being an empty glass to be filled with his spirit. Yes, I think that this confusion come for us from trying to “run the show myself,” and I am surely guilty of that at times. So, empty myself and just let God be God in me. Peace ~ Br. Lawrence



June 29 – July 1, 2018
Chapter of Mats – Priest Field Center

Our Franciscan Center Apostolate

Don't forget to bring your donated items to this month's gathering, please pick from below. Remember your monthly donation(s) are tax deductible.

Hand sanitizer	Soap
Toothbrushes	Toothpaste
Shampoo & Conditioner	Washcloths
Deodorant	Disposable razors
Feminine hygiene products	

Your donations are tax deductible.



January – 2018

Beginning Balance:	\$ 1,123.34
Income	<u>1,559.00</u>
Total	\$ 2,682.34

Expenses:

Brother Lawrence	100.00
Franciscan Friars	100.00
Retreat/Workshop	260.00
Web Fee	<u>15.00</u>
Total	\$ 475.00

Ending Balance: \$ 2,207.34

Thank You for your monthly contributions

Contributions are tax deductible

Francis of Assisi was content with what he was. He did not want to be older, did not want to be healthier, did not want to be born in France, nor wished he had attended the University.

He contented himself with the qualities God had granted him and did not complain that he did not possess what God had denied him. He wanted to know and measure his possibilities to be able to bring them to perfection. In the providential division that God makes of his gifts, he will be content with the talents given to him. He wanted to increase them and develop them to bring the greatest fruit possible. Compliance with the gift that one possesses is the maximum wisdom possible. Envyng what one does not have and cannot have, produces an internal imbalance and discontent. Francesco wanted to make the most of his sickly temperament, of his slim body, to make a gigantic work.

He was a man largely endowed with inner natural goods, prodigal of his wealth, very human, extremely affable, skilled in business and in the relationships of social life; grandiose, magnanimous according to the story of Tommaso da Celano, who completes his personality, showing that he was the enemy of anything that could be injurious to others. Saint Bonaventure adds some precious touches: "... Although he lived among lascivious youngsters and was inclined to pleasures, he did not follow the unbridled instincts of the senses and, although he lived among avaricious merchants and was intent on gains, he did not put his hope in money and treasure. " He felt a generous compassion towards the poor; patience, kindness and affability of ways were habitual. Of course, not everything in him was gold: in his youth he did little to do with divine things and piety.

Always, Celano writes, he overcame all his peers in vanity; he struggled to be the first in elegance and vainglory, in games, in whims, in cheerful and vain words, in songs and in luxurious and comfortable clothes; dilapidator of his money. God had not created him impeccably or holy. His excellent human qualities contrasted with the many great human faults. He studied himself with uncommon intensity; his first disciple where often surprised to see him spend the night wondering, with restlessness, "Who are you, Lord? And who am I? ". He wanted to know deeply God, but also himself in order to understand what he had to change in himself to be the portrait of God, in Jesus Christ the visible model of holiness.

February Birthdays



Thom Partenope, OFS	02/06
Theresa Lam, OFS	02/06
Charlene Heyden, OFS	02/15
Jerry Yu, OFS	02/26
Kevin Kulesa, OFS	02/26
James Kim, OFS	02/27
Laurel Swencki, OFS	02/28

Remembering Your Profession



Will Witherspoon, OFS	02/08/04
Joan Bundy, OFS	02/16/14
Chris Donaldson, OFS	02/16/14
Harry Ford, OFS	02/16/14
Kathy Ford, OFS	02/16/14

He was not born a saint. He improved through a continuous study of his qualities and his defects, taking himself as he was, not envying the possibilities of others, but always trying to fill his deficiencies and increase his personal talents. (*Assisi OFM*)

Apostolate

Growing Produce for the Franciscan Center in Baltimore Joanne Patton, OFS

My apostolate is to grow produce for the Franciscan Center. In 2017, we made half a dozen trips to the Center and donated a few hundred pounds of squash, carrots, watermelon, green beans and bell peppers. For 2018, I have offered to grow seedlings which will be planted at The Shrine of St. Anthony's 3-acre plot that will also be destined for the Franciscan Center. I will be talking with Father Laskey and Father Michael Heine, to get an update on the progress of converting the land from conventional to organic farming, and help in any way I can.

Separately, I would love to have someone from the Shrine and even the Franciscan Center come visit the farm and bless it and our work. I also am going to consecrate the farm to Jesus, through Mary.

Food for Thought

Being Pro-Life
By Fr. James Martin, SJ

Being "pro-life" means defending the lives of the unborn and the sick, the poor, the homeless the aged, the mentally challenged, the inmate, the refugee and the person or people you hate.

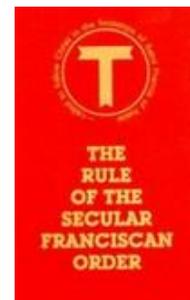
Being pro-life means reverencing all human life. Because it's all from God.

OUR GATHERINGS – All should make every effort to attend our gathering every month. If you are unable to attend due to illness, work or family obligations, contact a council member (see page 1 for telephone numbers). If you are a candidate or are professed and miss a gathering, please send your check for the Common Fund to:

Michael Radcliffe, OFS
7911 Westpark Drive, Apt 2709
Tysons Corner, VA 22102

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General Constitutions of the Secular Franciscan Order December 8, 2000



The Form of Life Article 12

1. Gaining inspiration from the example and the writings of Francis and, above all, filled with the grace of the Holy Spirit, each day the brothers and sisters faithfully live the great gift which Christ has given: the revelation of the Father. They should bear witness to this faith before all:

- in their family life;
- in their work;
- in their joys and sufferings;
- in their associations with all men and women, brothers and sisters of the same Father;
- in their presence and participation in the life of society;
- in their fraternal relationships with all creatures.

Regional Council



April 21, 2018
Holy Land Monastery
9:30 AM

Is the Lord calling you to seek a position on the St. Margaret of Cortona Regional Council for 2018 – 2021? Please let me know, blongosfo@gmail.com

The Duties of the Regional Council

The Duties of the Regional Minister, who is the person primarily responsible to ensure that the directions and decisions of the regional council are put into practice. He or she will keep the council informed concerning his or her activities. The regional minister also has the following duties:

- to call, to preside at, and to direct the meetings of the council; to convoke every three years the elective chapter.
- to prepare the annual reports to be sent to the council of the higher level;
- to request, with the consent of the council, the pastoral and fraternal visits, at least once every three years;
- to put into effect those acts which the Constitutions refer to his or her competence;
- the minister represents the region in all its relations with ecclesiastical and civil authorities. In addition, when the regional council acquires a juridical personality in the civil order, the regional minister becomes, when possible, its legal representative.

The Regional Vice-Minister has the following duties:

- to collaborate with the regional minister in a fraternal spirit and to support him or her in carrying out the duties proper to him or her;
- to exercise those functions which are entrusted to him or her by the council and/or by the assembly or chapter;
- to take the place of the regional minister in both his or her competencies and responsibilities in case of absence or temporary incapacity;
- to assume the functions of the Regional Minister when the office remains vacant.

The Secretary has the following duties:

- to compile the official acts of the council and to assure that they are sent to their respective proper recipients;
- to see to the updating and preservation of the records and the registers, noting admissions, professions, deaths, withdrawals, and transfers from local fraternity.

The Director of Formation, has the following duties:

- to provide guidance and advice when needed at the local level;
- to attend seminars and workshops required at the National level.

The Treasurer, or bursar, has the following duties:

- to guard diligently the fair share funds received twice a year from the local fraternity level, recording each receipt in the appropriate register, with the date on which it was given, the name of the contributor, or the one from whom it was collected;
- to record in the same register the items of expense, specifying the date and the purpose;
- to render an account of his or her administration to the regional council according to the norms of the national statutes.