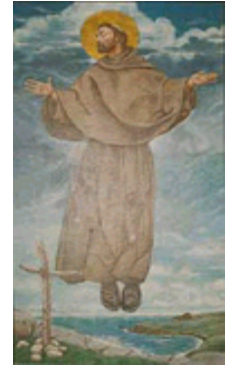


ST. JOSEPH OF CUPERTINO FRATERNITY

Gathering – November 15, 2015

The Flyer



Laudato Si (Praise be to you – On Care For Our Common Home), Paragraph 11

“Francis helps us to see that an integral ecology calls for openness to categories which transcend the language of mathematics and biology, and take us to the heart of what it is to be human. Just as happens when we fall in love with someone, whenever he would gaze at the sun, the moon or the smallest of animals, he burst into song, drawing all other creatures into his praise”.

~ Pope Francis

Ministers Message

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Francis and Clare,

At our November 15th gathering, we will celebrate the Mass for the Dead (2 PM) where we will honor our Franciscan sisters and brothers and Spiritual Assistants who have passed on.

At our December gathering, we will have our annual Christmas pot-luck get together. All are asked to bring a covered dish or dessert, a sign-up sheet will be in the refectory at this months gathering.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR GRECCIO ON DECEMBER 12TH & 13TH
7:30 PM – 9 PM AT THE FRIARY**



Come and celebrate the Christmas story with the Friars and fellow fraternity members! The Birth of Jesus will be re-enacted with carols and readings. This living Nativity in the Franciscan tradition is called “Greccio.” It is the name of the little town in Italy where the Nativity was first re-enacted by St. Francis of Assisi.

We have been asked to help supply cookies for refreshments at Greccio, please bring two packages. If you are unable to attend, please consider bringing your cookies to the November gathering so we can give to Br. Gerry for Greccio. Thanks for your Franciscan generosity.

Your Fraternity Council

A Message from Br. Lawrence

Dear sisters and brothers in Francis,

You may know that I am currently conducting a book discussion group on Bonaventure’s Major Life of St. Francis. It is a wonderful and in 1266 was approved as the “official” biography of Francis by the First Order. The text we are reading is found in a book of the title of Such is the Power of Love and includes the Minor Life and several sermons which Bonaventure gave on St. Francis. If you have never read it, I certainly encourage you to do so, but with a caveat: it is not “biography” as we understand it today.

Our Fraternity Council

Minister: Bob Longo, OFS
410-921-0040

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
410 747-2374
Cindy Mohler, OFS
410 747-4589

Spiritual Assistant:
Br. Lawrence LaFlame, OFM. Conv
410 531-2800



**We will be
remembering our
deceased sisters and
brothers in the
celebration of the Holy
Eucharist at our
November Gathering**



Please Pray For ...

- Connie Baker**, OFS
- Donna Duncan**, OFS
- Marlene Feaga**, OFS
- Mary Ferrara**, OFS
- Joy Kubricky**, OFS
- Marie Lindung**, OFS
- Jim Manning**, OFS
- Georgianna Papazian**, OFS
- Nancy Seaton**, OFS
- Jim Tebo**, 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
- Dolores Fritz**, OFS
- Marilyn Gilson**, SFO
- Richard Hall**, SFO
- Frances Langbehn**, SFO
- Bob Lewis**, SFO
- Jean Manning**, OFS
- Yvonne Proch**, SFO
- Betty Taylor**, SFO
- Bud Tenley**, SFO
- Regina Yeager**, SFO
- Dorothy Zalewski**, SFO

Bonaventure’s biography is what I call a spiritual biography and needs to be read not with the external senses and the mind, but the inner senses (the spiritual senses) and the heart. The Francis that Bonaventure presents to his readers is a Francis who is being held up to his followers, remember it is the “official” biography of the Order, as a perfect model of Christ for them to emulate. This way of following in the footsteps of Francis is not a literal way of doing so for that would be from the external senses, rather it is a following from the heart, a following that goes along with emphasizing the underlying spiritual reasons for any action.

Let me explain a bit as an example. When we arrive at the chapter on Francis and prayer (10) the very end of the chapter gives to us the now-famous Greccio and the reenactment of the Nativity of Christ. Oftentimes I am very disappointed in the Greccio that I attend each December because they seem to see the Greccio experience with the external senses and therefore become more concerned with the animals and the songs and the decoration of the “set,” etc. Greccio ought not to be seen as a “stage performance” for Bonaventure is quite clear that Greccio is a prayer experience.

When Bonaventure presents Greccio he is presenting it as prayer. We need to read it and understand it as an element of prayer given to us by Francis. If we attend a Greccio experience and are not moved in a prayerful way then I think that it has become merely an external performance and has not brought us toward a prayerful union with God. When we attend Greccio this year let us all attend it as a prayer experience and not as a stage performance.

Peace - Br. Lawrence

Upcoming Events

Book Sharing

Our Next Book Sharing Meeting will be December 5, 2015

November 15th - Memorial Mass (2 PM) for our departed Brothers and Sisters.

December 12th and 13th - Greccio – 7:30 – 9:00 PM both days-**bring cookies.**

December 20th - Christmas Party!!

January 17th - We will have the Franciscan tradition of the Extraction of Saints and will welcome our inquirers into the order with the “Rite of Admission” Ceremony in the Chapel.

St. Francis, Lover of All Creation

"Lord, make us to walk in your way: Where there is love and wisdom, there is neither fear nor ignorance; where there is patience and humility, there is neither anger nor annoyance; where there is poverty and joy, there is neither greed nor avarice; where there is peace and contemplation, there is neither care nor restlessness; where there is the fear of God to guard the dwelling, there no enemy can enter; where there is mercy and prudence, there is neither excess nor harshness; this we know through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord." (Prayer of Francis of Assisi, 1182-1226)



Treasurer's Report

Beginning Balance: \$1943.78
Income 355.00

Total **\$2298.78**

Expenses:

Franciscan Friars 100.00
Brother Lawrence 50.00
Website Fee 15.00
Friary (picnic) 400.00
4th Quarter donation 300.00
Fr. Julio 100.00
Fr. Michael 100.00
Total Expenses: **\$1065.00**

Ending Balance: **\$1233.78**

Thank You for your monthly contributions

Contribution is Tax Deductible

November Birthday



Lorie Chase, OFS 11/05
Sherry Lewis, OFS 11/15



Remembering Your Profession Anniversaries

Patricia Frederick, OFS 10/18/06
(Sorry Pat)
Claudette Lucas, OFS 11/10/11
Sheila Solomon, OFS 11/11/01
Lita Maisel, OFS 11/16/97
Radcliffe, Michael, OFS 11/16/97

St. Francis and Pope Francis united in poverty To praise the Creator

The Canticle of Brother Sun is the center of the praise of the Creator. Francis praises, blesses and invites you to preserve creation, in particular not to eclipse the praise that is the " high, all powerful, good Lord. "

It speaks of creation and in our minds is the fresco by Giotto depicting St. Francis in note preaching to the birds. It was natural for John Paul II to proclaim the poor man of Assisi, patron of ecology as environmentalist, severing the vital root of his faith. Pope Emeritus, Benedict XVI, when ask where Francesco had drawn his style, he stated "it was not as environmentalist or a pacifist. He was above all a convert." Here is the key to understanding Francis and to learn how to protect creation in all of its value. Francis, who converted to Jesus Christ, discovers the joy of living in harmony with themselves, with each other, with the whole of creation.

His attention is not paid to the preservation of nature as we know it today but the Canticle of Brother Sun is at the center the praise of the Creator. Francis praises, blesses and invites you to preserve creation, in particular not to upstage the praise that is the " high, all powerful, good Lord. "

Papa Francesco, in the inaugural mass of his pontificate, in indicating Francis as an example of the preserve creation, recalls the centrality of Christ: "Let us keep Christ in our life, to cherish others, to protect creation! The vocation of the guard, however, not only about us Christians, has a dimension that precedes and that is simply human, concerns everyone. It is the guard the whole of creation, the beauty of creation, as we are told in the Book of Genesis and showed us how St. Francis of Assisi: is to have respect for all of God's creatures and the environment in which we live".

Guard is one of the most common verbs in Pope Francis, just mention the Lumen fidei "Faith [...] as it reveals the love of God the Creator, makes us better respect nature, being recognized in it a grammar written by him and a home entrusted to us because it is cultivated and guarded "(n. 55). Pope Francis does not stop at the guard as it intends to retain the responsibility "to grow the Earth, to grow the Created, to keep it and make it grow according to its laws. We are the lords of creation, not masters. "

We can see that the guard is common to St. Francis and Pope Francis extending the term meaning "to grow".

The link between St. Francis and Pope Francis in guarding and grow created resides concretely in poverty: Franciscan poverty, as inner freedom, enables us to recognize the invisible Creator created in the visible.

- Domenico Paoletti - President of the Pontifical Theological Faculty 'St. Bonaventure'

Did You Know

"In Canon Law the Secular Franciscan Order falls within the category of a Public Association of the Faithful". (cf. Canon 303)

"Associations whose members share in the spirit of some religious institute which in secular life, lead an apostolic life, and strive for Christian perfection under the higher direction of the same institute are called third orders or some other appropriate name."

The SFO General Constitutions, further define our status in Article 1.5 and states:

"The Secular Franciscan Order is a public association in the Church. It is divided into fraternities at various levels: local, regional, national, and international. Each one has its own juridical personality within the Church."

"The Secular Franciscan Order differs from other Third Orders in a significant way, and it is important that we are aware of the characteristics specific to the SFO".

- The SFO shares a common founder with the First and Second Order—St. Francis of Assisi.
- The SFO is not associated or affiliated with the First Order or TOR—it is autonomous and self-governing.
- The SFO shares in vital reciprocity with the other branches of the Franciscan family and has equal dignity.
- The SFO was given the same charism and mission as the other branches of the Franciscan family. In our Secular state, we, too, continue the mission of St. Francis to rebuild God's Church.
- Our Rule and Constitutions are approved by the Holy See and not by the Ministers General of the First Order and Third Order Regular.
- Members of other third orders may belong to more than one third orders. Secular Franciscans may not.

Taken from "For Up to Now" (FUN Manual) – Identity of a Secular Franciscan, pages 17 and 18.

OUR GATHERINGS – Active members should make every attempt to attend our Gathering every month. If you are unable to attend due to illness, work or family obligations, please contact a council member (see page one for telephone numbers). If you are a candidate or 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

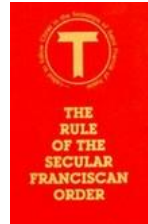


Calendar

At the Friary

Fall Festival & Open House

Mark your calendar for the Annual Fall Festival & Open House to be held on Saturday November 28th from 1:00-5:00pm. in the Shrine building and on the grounds.



Rule 16 of the Secular Franciscan Order

Let them esteem work both as a gift and as a sharing in the creation, redemption, and service of the human community.