

ST. JOSEPH OF CUPERTINO FRATERNITY

Picnic – September 20, 2015

Laudato Si (Praise be to you – On Care For Our Common Home), Paragraph 2

“This sister now cries out to us because of the harm we have inflicted on her by our irresponsible use and abuse of the goods with which God has endowed her. We have come to see ourselves as her lords and masters, entitled to plunder her at will.”

~ Pope Francis

Ministers Message



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Francis and Clare,

Our Picnic this month will take the place of our September Gathering; please volunteer for set-up and clean-up. For those who can volunteer, please arrive at the friary around 11:00 AM. We will need help to set up tables and chairs and wherever else needed. We will stop at 12 PM for Mass and will continue setting up after Mass; your help would be greatly appreciated. The festivities will start at 1PM and will conclude at 4PM.

This year, several fraternities have accepted our invitation to join us for our picnic on September 20th. It is wonderful to have our fraternity brothers and sisters from our region come together for fellowship and what a wonderful way for you and your family to end the summer.

Our brother, Ed Burgee, has already contacted you to bring a cold covered dish to the picnic. We are asking all to bring cold food instead of hot food. We do not have enough outlets outside the Manor House for all of the crook-pots to heat up your food. You can reach Ed at: 410-788-2718 or by e-mail at: smuffin@comcast.net for further information. If you have not contacted Ed or Bob yet as to what you will bring, please do so as soon as possible.

Can you believe that summer is almost history and fall will be starting shortly, before you know it, snow will be on the ground. Our theme for this year is Contemplative Prayer, in January we will have a new theme. The council would like your input on a theme for 2016, so if you could spend time in prayer and hopefully come up with an idea, please bring your thought(s) to our October 18th Gathering.

Transitus of St. Francis, Saturday October 3rd - 7:30 PM

St. Francis was called by "Sister Death" on the evening of October 3, 1226. Transitus is the annual commemoration of the passage of St. Francis from this life to eternal life.

Transitus Ceremony's will take place at Archbishop Curley High School and at the Holy Land Monastery in Washington, D.C., (not at the friary), schedules to be determined. As soon as I receive starting times I will send an e-mail to all.

Your Fraternity Council

The Flyer



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

Fraternity Picnic





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

**Letter from Our Spiritual Assistant
Br. Lawrence LaFlame, OFM. Conv.**

Greetings in St. Francis,

Early this week I was talking with some young lads after the noon Mass here at the Shrine and I said to them that I really envied them for being back into their studies. The third grader offered to let me take his place but I politely declined because I do not know if I could do third grade anymore. Still I meant what I had originally said in that I miss being in an environment of study. Today I study on my own but the lack of dialogue with others (albeit a professor or other students) makes such study more difficult. Yet studying for me goes on.

I am reminded of this each August/September and it encourages something that I came to understand a long time ago – we can never relax in our reading, study and discussion of the Scripture, theology and Church history. As the madness of summer comes to a close and the, for me, most beautiful of the seasons, autumn, begins to come upon us I am reminded that the months come and go and there is not much time left in the current year and that I need to really get going in my study in order to live the life that God has called me to live as a Catholic and as a religious.

I would hope that this autumn you pick up the Scriptures (or add a study guide if you already have the habit of reading the Scripture), pick up the catechism or some book of theology/Church teaching, or a life of a saint of some aspect of Church history. It is a great help to be reminded that the Church has not been here without its influence in our day but for two millennia now. For me I have been reading about Catholicism and the Catholic peoples of the American colonial era and it is quite fascinating and I realize even more the struggles that they went through when Catholicism in the colonies was suppressed.

Let me also add a plug for the book discussion group for this year which I coordinate. We will be studying the life of St. Francis as given to us by St. Bonaventure which will include looking at studying some of Bonaventure’s sermons on Francis. Check out the information on the Shrine website or pick up one of the flyers here.

Peace and happy study and reading ~ Br. Lawrence

“Such is the Power of Love”

Br. Lawrence will be conducting a book study of “Such is the Power of Love” which includes the Major Life of St. Francis and some homilies on him all by St. Bonaventure.

There is a Wednesday evening at 7PM and a Thursday morning at 10.30 each week, they are basically the same. Thursday was added for those who cannot make the evening session or for those who do not like to drive at night.

The dates for this discussion are: 30 Sep/1 Oct; 7/8 Oct; 21/22 Oct; 28/29 Oct; 11/12 Nov; and 18/19 Nov. (Free of Charge)



Treasurer's Report

Beginning Balance: \$1020.40
Income 375.00

Total \$1395.40

Expenses:

Franciscan Friars 100.00
Brother Lawrence 50.00
Website Fee 15.00
Books (formation) 15.80
Total Expenses: \$ 180.80

Ending Balance: \$ 1214.60

Thank You for your monthly
contributions

Contribution is Tax Deductible

Upcoming Events

Book Sharing

Our Next Book Sharing Meeting – All Are Welcome

Date: October 3rd, Saturday - 1:00 PM ~ 3:00 PM

Place: Shrine of St. Anthony (Check in at the Gift Shop as to what room we will be meeting in.)

Book: "Clare ~ A Light in the Garden", by Murray Bodo, OFM

Chapters: "A New Love"
"A Consecrated Life"
"San Damiano"
"Pilgrims in Spirit"

October- Fr. Julio will give a talk on Contemplative Prayer

November - Memorial Mass for our departed Brothers and Sisters.

December - Christmas Party!!

God Speaks to All
by Friar Jim Van Vurst, O.F.M.

Someone once asked me how many languages God speaks. I quickly realized that the person needed a fundamental answer. Of course, God speaks all languages.

It is better to think of God as communicating, which opens up many more possibilities. We humans communicate with more than words. In our human nature, we can communicate with a glance, a smile, a chuckle, and so many more ways. Think of a mother who communicates with her newborn infant. She does that by a kiss, a caress of her infant in her arms, a tender stroke, or even by humming.

We know that infants who don't receive this kind communication often miss an essential part in their emotional development. It has been proven that such communication stimulates key hormones in the infant that aids in emotional growth. Just think of animals that lick their offspring when they are just born. They are doing more than cleaning them up.

We humans cannot exist without relationships. The need for communication is part of our very human nature. Having said that about humans, and defining God as love, we understand that God is the infinite communicator. His very act of creation is an act of communicating his love to all he creates, but especially to us who are blessed with intelligence and free will.

No Language Is Foreign to God ~ But we should not restrict God's communication. God can and does communicate in ways we can't imagine. If a mother can communicate to her infant, would we ever say that God does not? God is in communication with us by his very presence. It may well be an inspiration or a thought that comes to mind. It may be an impulse to do something good for another.

September Birthday



Jean Singleton, OFS 9/28



Profession Anniversaries

Gerry Pinkas, OFS 9/16/79
Lynne Float, OFS 9/20/00
Mary Karth, OFS 9/23/12

Food for Thought

Today, I will do one good deed and not tell anyone about it.

People who think God is “somewhere up there” have a misunderstanding of the reality of God’s presence. God is infinitely concerned and connected with all of us. There is never a moment when we walk alone. God is always present to us.

As I mentioned in my previous E-spiration, I was chaplain for 11 years at a large retirement and nursing facility. I would visit our nursing home and Alzheimer’s unit. To my own perception, many of these people were unable to communicate to staff or to one another. But at the same time, I was convinced that God was as close to each of them as he was to the rest of us. That’s why I think God knows all languages. I consoled many families with that thought and they realized that their loved ones were never alone or without the presence of God.

Contemplative Prayer: Silence and Spaciousness

By Msgr. Charles Pope

One of the graces of deeper prayer, if we persevere through the years, is that the Lord turns us upward and outward. Gradually, our prayer turns more toward God and is less anxious about our own aches and pains. It is enough to give them over to God and trust in His providence. Gradually, we simply prefer to experience the Lord quietly, in increasingly wordless contemplation. As we advance along the ways of prayer, we are drawn by God into a kind of silence during prayer. But that silence is more than the absence of sound; it is a state characterized by us being turned more toward God. An old monastic tale (from I know not where) relates, sometimes there would be a rush of noisy visitors and the silence of the monastery would be shattered. This would upset the disciples; but not the Abbot, who seemed just as content with the noise as with the silence. To his protesting disciples he said one day, “Silence is not the absence of sound, but the absence of self.”

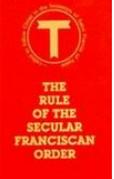
Yes, as prayer deepens and becomes more contemplative, the human person is turned more toward God. A kind of holy silence becomes private prayer’s more common pattern. This does not mean that nothing is happening. Rather it means that the soul has a communion with God that is deeper than words or images. It is heart speaking to heart (cor ad cor loquitur). This is a deep communion with God that results from our being turned outward toward God. The gift of silence comes from resting in God, from being less focused on ourselves and more and more focused on God. From the ancient hymn, “Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with (holy) fear and trembling stand, ponder nothing earthly minded.” Yes, there is a time for intercessory prayer, but not now. Don’t just do something, stand there. Don’t rush to express; rest in order to experience. Be still and know that He is God. An old spiritual says, “Hush ... Somebody’s callin’ my name.” Yes, pray for holy silence; pray beyond words and images. These are the beginnings of contemplative prayer.

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

Editor: Bob Longo, OFS blongosfo@gmail.com Fraternity Website: <http://stjosephcupertino.sfousa.org/>

	<h2>Calendar</h2>
<h3>At the Friary</h3>	
<p>St. Joseph Cupertino Vigil Mass & Blessing of Students, Thur. Sept. 17th 6:30pm, followed by an Ice Cream Social</p>	
<p>All are Welcome</p>	
<hr/>	
<h3>Reconciliation</h3>	
<p>Wednesdays from 4 - 5pm., and Monday through Saturday at 11:30am.</p>	


<h3>Rule 14 of the Secular Franciscan Order</h3>
<p>Secular Franciscans, together with all people of good will, are called to build a more fraternal and evangelical world so that the kingdom of God may be brought about more effectively. Mindful that anyone "who follows Christ, the perfect man, becomes more of a man himself," let them exercise their responsibilities competently in the Christian spirit of service.</p>