



Good News Report

Secular Franciscan Order
Trillium Regional Fraternity



Number 66

July 2013

MINISTER'S LETTER

Feast of St. Anthony of Padua (June 13, 1013)

Praise the Lord for His love and care for the Trillium Franciscan Family, and our prayerful thanks to St. Francis, St. Clare, St. Anthony and Padre Pio for their effective intercession on our behalf.

This spring time and reflecting the urgent activities we observed in nature, the Regional Council was also actively engaged in visiting local fraternities, meeting with local ministers and in completing tasks that awaited fruition, such as the canonical establishment of a number of our Fraternities. None of this would have been possible without your prayers. Thank you.

The fruits of prayers and the fraternal love that holds us together are particularly noticeable every time we meet our friends. And these past number of months were able to share this with each other many times. We also observed that the work of the Holy Spirit in raising up effective leadership is revealed every time we gather. This was also the case this past May 11 when Local Ministers and delegates met in Mississauga to share in the Eucharistic Celebration and our love for one another.

For through that outstanding leadership we in the Trillium Region have been blessed with new professed members and with the renewal of a number of our fraternities. We continue to pray for new Fraternities to join our Regional family in the not too distant future. Also we give thanks to the Lord for a number of emerging Fraternities whose maturity and membership numbers are most impressive. They emerged as a result of active engagement by a few secular Franciscans motivated with true penitential zeal and love of the neighbour in their respective locations.

Soon summer will claim our personal attention to family and friends but before that we meet once again on June 23 at Midland to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Trillium Region. A memorial of the landmark event of three Franciscan Third Orders formally coming together in Ontario under the name of the Trillium Regional Fraternity. There is an opportunity for all to participate some by their physical presence while others in the spirit.

(Continued on page 2)



SPIRITUAL ASSISTANT

This spring was a time of great joy for three fraternities in our Region. After many years Sacred Heart Fraternity in Guelph, St. Francis Fraternity in Burlington and St. Elizabeth of Hungary Fraternity in St. Catharines were canonically established. Later this fall St. Clare of Assisi Fraternity in Midland will be canonically established. We congratulate all these fraternities. Also this spring we welcomed two new emerging fraternities to our Region. They are St. Francis Fraternity in Toronto (which began in 1921) and St. Benedict the Black Fraternity in Mississauga.

Article 22 of the Rule states: The local fraternity is to be established canonically. It becomes the basic unit of the whole Order and a visible sign of the Church, the community of love. This should be the privileged place for developing a sense of Church and the Franciscan vocation and for enlivening the apostolic life of its members. In two short sentences the Rule describe that a fraternity should be. At profession each of you pledged yourselves to spend your efforts to make the fraternity a genuine ecclesial assembly and a living Franciscan community.

The Lord has called all secular Franciscans to live according to the Gospel, not alone, but in a community. Your Franciscan vocation is fulfilled in and through the fraternity. Side by side you are heading for the same goal and helping each other to attain it. The fraternity (the monthly meeting) is not just a school of formation, nor is it just a place for ongoing spiritual formation nor is it just a group for apostolic ministry and works of charity; it is a community of love, a visible sign of the Church. Loving one another is the *raison d'être* of this gospel fraternity. Article two of the rule in a few simple words states exactly this "in these fraternities the brothers and sisters, led by the Spirit, strive for perfect charity".

Together as a community of love you strive: to observe the gospel of our Lord Jesus



(Continued on page 2)

Starting in the fall of 2013, once again, we will take to the roads to meet fraternities locally in mini regional sessions. At these meetings we will also prepare for the main event of 2014 – that being the Chapter of Elections for your Regional Council. In keeping with our statutes we invited the National Minister and a presiding National Representative. So we hope to take the time remaining for prayerful discernment as to the choices of the Holy Spirit for our new leadership. These choices seem so critical for the effective functioning of the Re-

gion and for the support of our local Fraternities.

At this time I wish to thank you for your generosity in charitable works both locally and internationally. These acts of charity and our work toward justice in the world are most welcomed and effective at the local level. Be these for the victims of nature or of men.

May you and your family be richly blessed with love and good health by the Lord.

Prayers and blessings,
Les Alberti, ofs

Christ by following the example of Saint Francis of Assisi, who made Christ the inspiration and the center of his life with God and people". The Gospel becomes the horizon from which and toward which you live. In fraternity, with our brothers and sisters you discover and live out the gift that is the Gospel and strive to go from Gospel to life and from life to Gospel.

May St. Francis, St Clare, St Louis, St. Elizabeth intercede for us that we may become true communities of love.

Regional Spiritual Assistant
Fr. Peter Knaapen, OFM Conv.



“The fruits of prayers and the fraternal love that holds us together are particularly noticeable every time we meet our friends. And these past number of months we were able to share this with each other many times. We also observed that the work of the Holy Spirit in raising up effective leadership is revealed every time we gather. This was also the case this past May 11 when Local Ministers and delegates met in Mississauga to share in the Eucharistic Celebration and our love for one another.” Regional Minister Les Alberti ofs

FRANCIS’ LOVING COMPASSION

Francis saw Christ's image in every poor person he met and he was prepared to give them everything he had, even if he himself had urgent need of it. He even believed that they had a right to such alms, as if they belonged to them. When he was returning from Siena on one occasion, he met a beggar at a time when he himself was wearing a short cloak over his habit because he was not well. At the sight of the poor man's destitution, Francis said to his companion, "We'll have to give this cloak back to that poor beggar, because it belongs to him. We only got it on loan until we found someone in greater need of it." His companion, however, knew well that the saint himself needed the cloak badly and he was reluctant to see him neglect himself while providing for someone else. "But," protested the saint, "God the great Almsgiver will regard it as a theft on my part, if I do not give what I have to someone who needs it more."

St Bonaventure , Major Life, Chapter VIII, no. 5

FROM THE FORMATION CORNER



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

The summer season is again upon us! It is a time for reflection, and family.

As you go through these summer months take time to marvel at creation. Listen to all of creation – if you listen carefully you can hear the birds singing praises to the Lord, the leaves in the trees rustling their song, the flowers showing the beauty of the world while dancing in the wind. God created all of this for us to enjoy and be ever present to Him, within us, and all surrounding us.

Please try to attend our fraternal picnic in Midland this year on June 23rd. This will be a time to “get together” share, and above all worship before the Lord!!!!

I sincerely hope you spend time with family and visit our fraternal members who are alone and though they cannot attend your meetings still pray for all of us.

A reminder of Franciscan feast days during summer:

July 15 - St. Bonaventure
Aug.02 - The Portiuncula
Aug.11 - St. Clare
Aug.25 - Louis IX
Sep. 17 - The Stigmata

You may also like to prepare for the celebration of the Transitus and the Feast of St, Francis, Oct. 3 & 4. All of these Feast Days may be an opportunity to get together for mass and sharing.

I thank all of you that attended the Minister's Meeting in May. For those who could not make it – I thank you for your prayers! It was an awesome day and it was great to see all of you. It would not have been a success without you!

I pray that all of you enjoy a peaceful, joyous, and Spirit-Filled summer. Until September, God Bless and Keep all of you.

Donna Dooling of

TREASURER

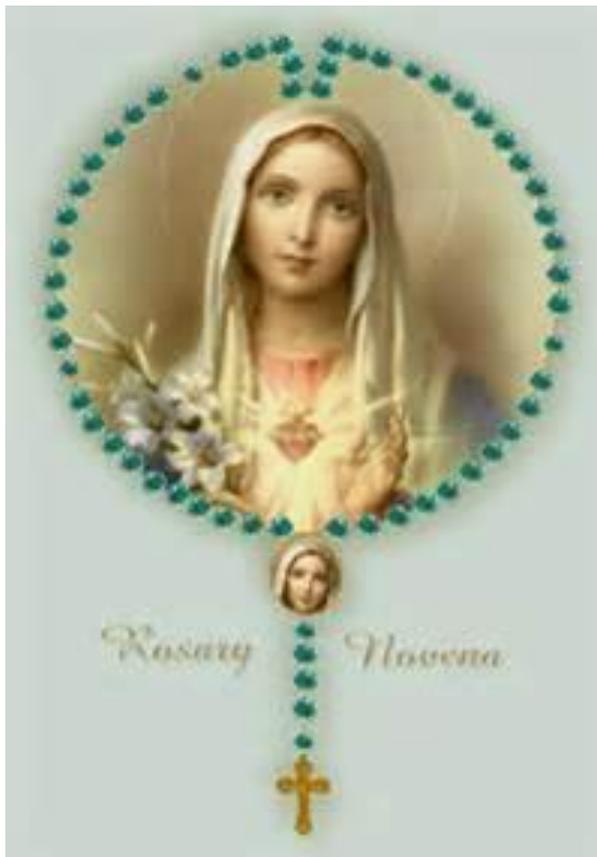


After the death of Pope John Paul II in 2005, then-Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio recounted how John Paul II's example inspired him to “recite the fifteen mysteries of the Rosary every day.”

“If I remember well it was 1985. One evening I went to recite the Holy Rosary that was being led by the Holy Father [John Paul II]. He was in front of everybody, on his knees. The group was numerous; I saw the Holy Father from the back and, little by little, I got lost in prayer. I was not alone: I was praying in the middle of the people of God to

which I and all those there belonged, led by our Pastor.

I felt that this man [John Paul II], chosen to lead the Church, was following a path up to his Mother in the sky, a path set out on from his childhood. That testimony did not get forgotten in an instant. From that



time on I recite the fifteen mysteries of the Rosary every day.”

Our new Holy Father seems to be attracted to saints like Saint Juan Diego and St. Francis of Assisi, small, poor, humble men with a great devotion to the Mother of God.

Saint Francis was probably the most Marian saint that ever lived. His entire life was consecrated to Mary. He is probably the first saint to identify Mary as the "Spouse of the Holy Spirit." In a dream of Brother Leo, Saint Francis indicated to the friars that Heaven could not be attained by hard penance, but by trustful surrender to the loving mother of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Catherine Payne of

BOOK SAMPLE

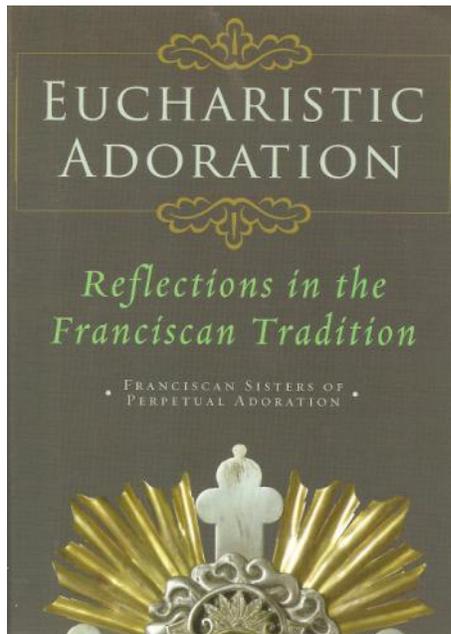
EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

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Excerpts from the Introduction,
by Marlene Weisenbeck, FSPA, and Joan Weisenbeck, FSPA

...The fire of God's love in our Franciscan tradition is most evidenced in St. Francis' constant adoration. In every church he visited Francis prayed: "We adore You, Lord Jesus Christ, in all Your churches throughout the world, and we bless You, because by Your holy cross You have redeemed the world!"¹ St. Clare followed this intense desire for oneness with the sacrament of the Eucharist. As witnesses of Christ's abiding presence, the Poor Ladies nurtured the feeble faith of commoners, nobles, and outcasts alike. Clare urged her companions to discover the fullness of love by basking in divine light and to become living icons of God.

St. Clare of Assisi does not give us a set of prayers that she created, but in her writings we discover her spirituality and her path to God. She invites us to gaze, consider, contemplate, and imitate Christ. Clare gazes on all of creation because it has the potential to speak to her of God. She considers the experiences of her life in the light of the Gospels. She contemplates the crucified and glorified Christ and opens herself to be transformed by the Divine One who loves her. She deeply desires to imitate the One she loves to become the image of the Word of Love.

...Images of Clare portray her holding the monstrance of the Eucharist, lifting Christ up for all to see. She shows the Most High God to the world. Her vision of Christ is the "brilliance of eternal light / and the mirror without blemish,"² The purpose of her contemplative prayer is to draw as close as she can to God incarnate so that ultimately she can discover her own unity with God. Then, in her words, we can "taste the hidden sweetness that, from the beginning, God Himself has reserved for His lovers."³

1. Francis of Assisi, "The Testament," in *The Saint*, vol. 1 of *Francis of Assisi: Early Documents*, Regis J. Armstrong, O.F.M. CAP., J.A. Wayne Hellmann, O.F.M. CONY., and William Short, O.F.M., eds. (New York: New City, 1999), pp. 124-125.

2. Clare of Assisi, "The Fourth Letter to Agnes of Prague," in *Clare of Assisi: Early Documents*, Regis J. Armstrong, O.F.M. CAP., ed. and trans. (St. Bonaventure, N.Y.: Franciscan Institute, 1993), p. 50. Hereafter referred to as *CA:ED*.

3. Clare of Assisi, "The Third Letter to Agnes of Prague," *CA:ED*, p. 45.

1. ESSENTIAL SUSTENANCE

Jean Amlaw, FSPA affiliate

Gaze

"By day they go into towns and villages in order to win others by setting them an example. At night they retire to some hermitage or lonely place and give themselves to meditation."⁴

Consider

We in the twenty-first century think we are the first to be so busy-busy with making money or being students or caring for children, parents, or grandchildren. When we are so busy taking care of people and issues right in front of us, how do we remember to make time to enrich our personal relationship with God? St. Francis, in his own busy life of working, teaching, and writing, was always aware of his need for regular prayer—he would not forget. For Francis, prayer was essential sustenance. His guide was Jesus himself, who invites us through his actions and words to engage in deep dialogue with God. How inviting it is to remember that God calls each of us by name and that our name is written on the palm of his hand. God wants to be close to us and so sent his Son to be with us, because He loves us. Our part is to remember to make time for God.

Contemplate

Dearest Lord, you know I want to have a deep relationship with you, but I struggle with juggling all of my responsibilities. I forget to pray during my busy day and later I am out of energy. Help me to remember how much you love me and want me to know and love you as well. You have said, "I have called you by name, you are mine," and I realize that you will not forget me. You are always there for me, you pursue me, you whisper in my ear. Help me to discover, as Francis did, the abundant joy and richness you can bring to my life. Amen.

Imitate

Will you make the effort to remember? To remember that building a relationship with God takes time and a commitment to regular communication with him—to talk and to remain silent? Put God into your daily schedule, mark a regular time for your friend. Find a quiet space to be present with God. Allow yourself to be overwhelmed by God's sustaining love.

4. Francis of Assisi, *St. Francis of Assisi: Writings and Early Biographies: English Omnibus of the Sources for the Life of St. Francis*, Marion A. Habig, ed. (Cincinnati: St. Anthony Messenger Press, 2008), p. 1829. Hereafter referred to as *Omnibus*.

HOUSING FIRST

[published in *UofT Magazine*, Summer 2013, Volume 40, No. 4, pp. 19-20]

In cities across Canada, homeless people bounce from street to shelter. They rarely visit doctors, except in emergencies, and untreated mental illness, addiction, malnourishment and serious chronic health problems are common. Now, a U of T-led study is suggesting a new approach to helping the homeless. The At Home/Chez Soi study shows that providing apartments to people who are homeless and living with serious mental illness costs about the same as the usual referrals to shelters and crisis care, **but** yields significant improvements in quality of life.

Led by psychiatry professor Paula Goering, the federally funded study enrolled 2,256 homeless people with serious mental illness, starting in 2011. Half the participants were randomly assigned to receive housing, while the others received the usual referrals. Those who received housing were taken to view apartments in their preferred neighbourhood; the client's choice was rented. At Home supplied furniture. There were only two conditions to the housing offer: participants would contribute 30 per cent of any monthly income toward the rent (At Home subsidies provide the remainder), and they would agree to a weekly visit from a case manager. "We weren't enforcing that people accept treatment," Goering explains. "It was just so we could monitor what was happening."

What happened was intriguing. "Almost universally, people start asking for help," says Goering. "They want to keep their place: the stability, privacy and safety." And because clients were now seeking help before reaching a crisis point, they could receive more preventive and primary care - a better use of public resources than 24-hour or emergency services.

Rose Harrison is one of the participants who received housing. In late 2010, battling untreated bipolar disorder and schizophrenia, and racked with grief over the death of her 16-year-old son from leukemia, she huddled over vents, waiting for dawn, terrified for her safety. The following March, social agencies connected her with At Home.

It turns out that a good way to help homeless people is to actually give them a home.

Since getting the keys to her own apartment at Yonge and Eglinton, Harrison, 43, regularly sees a doctor, who stabilized her medication regime. She receives disability payments, and - she breaks into a smile - "I work, at the LCBO. I clean that whole store; I work three hours a day. And I am so content with that."

"Housing first' is the study's tagline," says Goering, "but it's not housing only. It's housing first, then support - support that honours the individual's choices, provides a whole range of different resources. That's very important."

Goering and her research team, which includes U of T professors Stephen Hwang, Vicky Stergiopoulos and Patricia O'Campo, are still analyzing data for their final reports this December. But they know that the savings in health care and homeless shelter costs for participants nearly offset the program's costs. While health outcomes improved equally in both groups in the first year, At Home participants are getting preventive care that may show better results in the long term.

In March, the federal government announced five-year annualized funding for an approach across Canada that's similar to what's used by At Home. Municipal agencies in any city can apply - and people already enrolled, such as Harrison, will be able to keep their homes.

"Being homeless is the worst," says Harrison. "I pray for every homeless person to have the opportunity that I have to be able to turn my life around and to be independent - to control my own money and my life."

- JANET ROWE



Photo was not part of the original UofT Magazine article.

(Source) <http://www.mcmurraymusings.com/2011/11/homeless-connect-on-connecting-and-on.html>

Local Fraternity Bulletin Board

ROSARY MINISTRY

Rosary making started when I got involved with the Franciscans. First I began by making Franciscan crowns. Later we started making chaplets of peace we gave away 150 of them. Now I give rosaries to all the first holy communicants. One of my friends sent packages to the Philippines she told me of the needs for rosaries there. Thus I started to fix rosaries that were broken and sending them to them. I am also involved with RCIA and all candidates receive rosaries I make for them. This is just something I want to do in order to help people praying the rosaries. I learned making rosaries in the convent. I just want to give a little of what I received to help others.

Doreen Primeau ofs

PROFESSIONS

Maximilian Kolbe Fraternity, Mississauga

Jerzy Nerz was professed at the 8:00 mass at Maximilian Kolbe Parish Church on Sunday June 16

The Sacred Heart Fraternity of Guelph

The Sacred Heart Fraternity of Guelph and area was very pleased to welcome **Marc Hebert ofs** as a newly professed member on the evening of May 30, 2013.

Regional Spiritual Assistant Father Peter Knaapen, OFM Conv., and Regional Minister Les Alberti ofs

are with Marc in the photograph.

The Profession took place in the Jesuit Parish of Holy Rosary, Guelph.



ANNOUNCEMENT

St. Anthony of Padua Fraternity (Sarnia) has cordially invited fellow Franciscans in the Southwestern Ontario area to a mini regional gathering at Sarnia on September 21, 2013 - from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Prior meetings have been held in London, On. At these meetings we pray together, share time together making short presentations on various topics for discussion, and just hang out.

St. Anthony of Padua Fraternity will provide location, coffee and cold drinks, and a wonderful scenic waterfront stroll. Participants are asked to bring a brown bag to the event.

Please contact Regional Minister Les Alberti ofs if you will be joining us, and if there is some Franciscan material - printed or electronic - that you could contribute to the event.

Trillium Certificates

For Trillium Certificates to mark Professions, Anniversaries of Profession & Service Recognition for Spiritual Assistants, (usually 5 year milestones) please contact: **Clelia Malerba, ofs**; malerbac@yahoo.com

Please apply in good time if you wish to have them on the profession day or anniversary date.

ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA FRATERNITY, BRAMPTON

On Sat April 13 the Secular Franciscans and the Youth Group at St. Anthony of Padua in Brampton loaded a container with 8 metric tonnes of food, clothes, medical supplies, other household items. The container is on route to a mission in Peru. Some of the food came from a food drive we did at St. Anthony's. We thank Dr. Simone for allowing us the use of the warehouse. The fraternity hosted a luncheon after the container was loaded. We truly thank the Holy Spirit who was with us!

CANNONICAL ESTABLISHMENTS

Sacred Heart Fraternity in Guelph



Sacred Heart Fraternity in Guelph was very pleased to celebrate their canonical establishment on May 5, 2013.

We were blessed to have Regional Spiritual Assistant Fr. Peter

Knaapen OFM Conv., Regional Minister, Les Alberti ofs, Nancy Azzopardi, our present minister Ann Forester, our original Minister, and 95 year old Mary Breese, present for our canonical establishment.



St. Francis Fraternity , Burlington

On Sunday June 09, 2013 with great joy we celebrated the canonical establishment of the St. Francis Fraternity at the church of St. Raphael Church in Burlington with the express permission of the Most Reverend Douglas Crosby OMI. bishop of the Hamilton diocese.

Father Peter Knaapen OFM Conv. as Regional Spiritual Assistant was delegated by Fr. Justin Biase, OFM Conv., Minister Provincial to erect this Fraternity on his behalf.

The Fraternity has been faithfully following the rule of the Secular Franciscan Order for many years past, has contributed to the spiritual and temporal benefit of many, has provided one member to the Trillium Regional Fraternity and continues to add new members to the Order. The original minister Mr. Francis Flood ofs was one of the signatories of the document.

May the good Lord bless the "new" Fraternity with vibrant life and many new workers in His vineyard.

Should you wish to send your congratulations on this joyful occasion you may contact Rosanne Creery, Minister at this address 7 Bain Street Apt 510, Brantford, ON. N3T 6B9



St. Elizabeth of Hungary Fraternity, St. Catharines

Friday June 14, 2013 with great joy we celebrated the canonical establishment of the St. Elizabeth of Hungary Fraternity at the St. Thomas Aquinas Church in St. Catharines with the express permission of the Most Reverend Gerard Bergie bishop of the St. Catharines diocese.

Father Peter Knaapen OFM Conv. as Regional Spiritual Assistant was delegated by Br. David Connolly OFM Cap., Minister Provincial to erect this Fraternity on his behalf.

The Fraternity has been faithfully following the rule of the Secular Franciscan Order for many years past, has contributed to the spiritual and temporal benefit of many, has provided and continues to do so one member, our editor, to the Trillium Regional Fraternity for many years.

May the good Lord bless this "new" Fraternity with vibrant life and many new workers.

Should you wish to send your congratulations on this joyful occasion to the Fraternity you may wish contact Leona Watson, Minister at lbwatsonca@yahoo.ca

ELECTION REPORTS

St. Pio Fraternity in North Bay

On April 5, 2013 fraternity elections took place at the Holy Name of Jesus Parish Church for new Council of the St. Pio Fraternity in keeping with the requirements of the General Constitution of the Secular Franciscan Order following Holy Mass, community supper and prayers.

Minister	Ray Walter ofs
Vice Minister	Kas Pelc ofs
Secretary	Alana Pelc ofs
Treasurer	Carol Boulley ofs
Formation Director	Marlene Walter ofs

St. Mary of the Angels Fraternity in Welland on June 02, 2013

Minister	Anne Beaulieu ofs
Vice Minister	Andrea Nigro ofs
Secretary	Nelly Schoutens ofs
Treasurer	Cathy Kruger ofs
Formation Director	Monique Dufresne ofs

St. Elizabeth of Hungary Fraternity in St. Catharines on June 14, 2013

Minister	Leona Watson ofs
Vice Minister	Louise Tayti ofs
Secretary	Sandra Anthony ofs
Treasurer	Deacon Maurice Prindiville ofs
Formation Director	Michael Dube ofs

St Bonaventure Fraternity - Don Mills on June 17, 2013

Minister	Louise Aruda ofs
Vice Minister	Rolf Meinecke ofs
Secretary	Anna Marziliano ofs
Treasurer	Tracy Campbell ofs
Formation Director	Lorne Szatmary ofs

Please pray for these newly elected Councils and for all of the dedicated men and women who serve their Local Fraternity, or the Regional Fraternity, or the National Fraternity as members of council.

ANNIVERSARY OF PROFESSION

Sacred Heart Fraternity in Guelph



Sacred Heart Fraternity in Guelph is pleased to announce the 25th Anniversary of the profession of their member Jeannine Gosselin ofs.

The Good News Report

is the official newsletter of the Secular Franciscan Order, Trillium Region. We aim to publish it in the middle to the end of September, December, March & June.

Any items you wish to include are warmly welcomed and will be published space permitting. Articles may be sent by the 8th of the month of publishing, to *Deacon Maurice Prindiville, ofs, mprindiville@golden.net* Note: If you no longer wish to receive the newsletter, please let us know as above.

OBITUARIES

St. Bonaventure's fraternity - Don Mills

Jeanne Horgan ofs died on March 24, 2013. Her funeral was at St. Bonaventure Church on March 27. She was one of the first professed members of the fraternity (Nov. 13, 1960). She served on council for a number of years in different roles. She attended meetings regularly until poor health made it impossible to do so. She was well known for her spirit of hospitality and the joy she brought to others. **May O'Neill ofs**, who died on Jan. 30, 2013, was also a great loss to our fraternity.

St. John Vianney Fraternity - Toronto

Lucy Hae Sun Park ofs of Toronto and **Maria Kap Soon Yu ofs** also of Toronto were active and valuable members of the fraternity.