

Good News Report

Secular Franciscan Order
Trillium Regional Fraternity



Number 58

Spring 2011



Vice-Minister's Letter Colleen MacAlister, ofs

Dear Brothers and Sisters,
Fraternal Greetings!

It is spring once more!
Easter Season is upon us - in all of
the earth! Amidst the dark images
of the birthing winter earth, amidst
even the greatest of human sufferings, lives on the
hope of Eternal Life!

We pray and "do" what we can, for our
brothers and sisters in the suffering nations of the
earth and in particular at this time Japan and we
trust. We trust the Lord of all.

There is hope! The hope that is given in the
Risen Saviour of the world! Jesus Christ! Risen
from the dead! The same today - yesterday and
tomorrow! Lord of all!

What great joy did our dear seraphic father
Francis experience in this deep knowledge! The
deep knowledge that Jesus - was born for us - lived
for us - died for us- and rose for us! Jesus came to
"get" us! To "save" us! To "redeem" us and to lead
us "home"!

And so we journey, pilgrims on earth,
servants of the great KING! With simplicity and
joy- with St. Francis and St. Clare -, the journey
seems shorter and sweeter!

With this spring of 2011, comes a great
adventure for us! It is time for our CHAPTER!
Our **CHAPTER of ELECTIONS!**

With our elections coming, it is a fitting
time to thank our current council. It has been a
council of change. After only one year, our dear
Minister Debbie Tessier, was elected the Minister of
the National Council of Canada! Then our dear vice
Minister, Michel Guilmette, stepped up and took on
the role of Minister and did a great job! And now,
due to other circumstances, I am the "acting"
minister for the last three months of our council life
and writing on the Ministers behalf. We send our
grateful hearts to the whole council!

And now what will be next? There have
been many accomplishments of the council that will

be presented at the Chapter of Elections! You will
want to participate and know firsthand. I invite you
to come! I am certain that God is at work! The Lord
needs every one of us to live our faith fully in the
world! There is a great need for all to witness God's
love. Serving on the Trillium Regional Council is
definitely a role of witness AND service. Come and
see. Perhaps the Lord is calling you to serve the
Region. Do not be afraid. Only trust the Lord and
come to the CHAPTER! Let God's will be done.

The Holy Spirit will be at work in many
hearts! Calling forth Ministers and representatives
from every Fraternity in our Region to vote! Many
others can come to observe! And bring forth
nominations? Every Fraternity should have received
information about the upcoming elections at Mary
Lake this May! Please make sure that you come! I
look forward to seeing you!

In the heart of Mary and Jesus
Pax et Bonum -Love and Prayers
Colleen MacAlister, ofs



From our Spiritual Assistant Fr. Peter Knaapen, OFM Conv.

The Cross
By Lois A. Cheney

I stand before the cross and wonder.
I stand before the cross and fear.
I kneel before the cross and weep.
I pray before the cross and rejoice.
To know the cross is
to know Christ.
To feel the cross is to
feel Christ.
To gaze at the cross is
to gaze at Christ.
To carry the cross is
to be a Christian,
And not until then.

*Fr. Peter Knaapen,
OFM Conv.*



Trillium Certificates

For Trillium Certificates to mark Professions, Anniversaries of Profession & Service Recognition for Spiritual Assistants, (usually 5 year milestones) please contact:

Cathy Kruger, ofs Phone# 905-732-7479
782 Cope Road or
Welland, ON L3B 5N7 ckruger@iaw.com

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

After May 15, 2011 apply to:

Clelia Malerba, ofs See TRF contact list.

Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation

by Louise Arruda, ofs
TRF Treasurer



As we prayerfully prepare for our upcoming Chapter of elections, may we all reflect on the following: (with permission Andrew Conradi, ofs, and National JPIC animator, the following is taken from the OLATA JPIC web page and amended by me).

"Make justice your aim." Isaiah 1-17

***"Seek first the Kingdom of God and His justice."
(Rule Herm.3)***

"We have many documents and words. What the world expects from us are actions."

(John Vaughn, OFM General, 1985)

"As far as the Church is concerned, the social message of the Gospel must not be considered a theory, but above all else a basis and a motivation for action."

(John Paul II, 1991, Centesimus Annus (57))

The Five Dimensions of Franciscan Life

Friar David Couturier, OFM Cap, who was President of Franciscans International and Associate Director of the Capuchin International Office of Justice and Peace said:

"To put it simply, in order to be an evangelizing fraternity, our brothers and sisters must focus on five dimensions of their life and service:

- (1) their presence and witness;**
- (2) their proclamation and catechesis;**
- (3) their liturgy, prayer and contemplation;**
- (4) their inter-religious dialogue and, finally,**
- (5) their involvement in human liberation and social development.**

In this light, justice, peace and the integrity of creation are not what a Franciscan community does when it has time or energy left over from its other more important work. Neither is it the activity left to a small group of highly motivated individuals at the corners of the Province. It is the primary task of each and every community of faith that dares to claim a role in the evangelizing work of the Spirit today."

(A Talk to Franciscan Directors of JPIC, 27 November 2003,).

Peace and All Good

Louise Arruda, ofs

YOUTH NEWS

by Silvana Rossi Loughheed, ofs
Trillium Region Youth Coordinator



Dear Franciscan Brothers and Sisters,

I pray that you have all had a hopeful start to the year 2011! Hope is so needed in our world. St.

Francis brought hope to our world by his preaching and living of the Holy Gospel. He was an evangelist. The Word is Jesus Himself. In order for us to evangelize, as did Francis, we too must know, love and spread the Word- who is Jesus himself. Pope Paul VI, Pope John Paul II, and our present Pope Benedict XVI have all written documents on evangelization. St. Paul said "Woe to me if I do not preach the Gospel." It is a clear mandate!

What is happening amongst our fraternities to keep hope alive through the preaching of the Holy Gospel, especially to our youth?

St. Anthony's Fraternity in Sarnia has stepped out in faith:

The Secular Franciscan Order (Third Order of Francis) invites Young Catholic Adults (ages 20 to 39) to find spiritual enrichment and tranquility amid the stresses of everyday life through Franciscan Gospel Living.

For further information, contact:

Gloria Pearson, youth contact, and Pat Daamen have committed to developing this cell group and will begin in the fall of 2011.

Youth contact Lisa Theriault from St. Clare of Assisi Fraternity in Midland is reaching out in the high school where she teaches.

My own Kingston diocese is having their second "Celebrate Youth" day on April 9th. The theme is "Make me a channel of your peace." I will be giving a workshop on "Heroes – Amazing Race with Amazing Grace". Young Saints will be featured with an emphasis on St. Francis and St. Clare. These heroes trained for the race, got rid of things in their lives that hindered the race and persevered to the finish line!! They were hopeful even in the face of great adversities. Our friends in heaven are cheering us on, wanting to help us on our journey. (Check out saintcast.org – great website re the saints!!)

YouFra info will be available for the adults who minister to youth since their circle often includes young adults in their parishes. Fr. Dan Quackenbush and Fr. Ed DeBono, OFM Conv. (Spiritual assistant of St. Maximilian Kolbe Fraternity, Kingston), will be present, and are giving Peace Prayer cards to all involved. The numbers may reach 300 this year.

Please pray for all the above endeavours to bring the Gospel to youth through the spirituality of St. Francis.

Our Trillium website's YouFra page is completed and will be up and running soon. I encourage all of you to explore the *whole* page. Inspiring videos from movies and featuring Fr. Stan Fortuna, photos, websites and informational documents to help live out article 96 and 97 in our constitution: *1. The OFS, by virtue of its very vocation, ought to be ready to share its experience of evangelical life with the youth who feel attracted to Saint Francis of Assisi and to seek the means of adequately presenting it to them.*

As this may be my last newsletter, I thank you for all your support, especially in prayer. The call to serve our Lord in our Franciscan Trillium family as Youth Coordinator has been a growing experience filled with many challenges and many graces. I pray that together we continue to trust our Lord in showing our fraternities how to befriend and pass on our love for St. Francis and the Gospel, Jesus himself, to youth in our families and parishes.

Peace,

Silvana Rossi Loughheed, ofs

Contact your TRF members at:
(Mandate 2008-2011)

Vice-Minister – Colleen MacAlister, ofs
613-242-1125 colleenmacalister@yahoo.ca

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gbarrett.gbrenner@rogers.com

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Youth Coordinator – Silvana Loughheed, ofs
613-968-7309 silvana_rossi@sympatico.ca

Spiritual Assistant – Fr. Peter Knaapen, OFM Conv.
905-637-2346 or weekends 905-637-2347

Fax: 905-639-1540 knaapenp@bell.net

Newsletter Editor – Maurice Prindiville, ofs
905-937-6828 mprindiville@golden.net



A letter from the Editor,

Dear Readers,

As some of you know this will be the last ***Good News Report*** I shall have the privilege to edit.

After nine years it is time to let go and have someone else take over. Besides, I'm starting to forget things.

It has been a most enjoyable task and a great learning experience. I have also thoroughly enjoyed getting to know you and help in the important task of communication within our Franciscan family at the Regional and local levels.

After the May Chapter of Elections, Deacon Maurice Prindiville, ofs, of St. Elizabeth of Hungary fraternity in St. Catharines, who has already been assisting for some years, will become your editor. He does need an assistant however, to mail newsletters to those using regular mail; so if you, and/or your fraternity are able to be of service in this capacity, please contact one of us for more details.

Clelia Malerba, ofs, from St. Peter fraternity, Woodbridge, has consented to be the dispenser of Trillium Certificates of Recognition and may be contacted after the election.



In order to keep all Trillium records up to date, especially your contact information and fraternity election results,



Les Alberti, of St. Charles Borromeo fraternity, Toronto, is to be the administrator of the Database.

For contact information see the Trillium Council list in this newsletter.

Many thanks to all these good people for giving even more of their time and talents in service of the King.

Peace, love and joy,

Cathy Kruger, ofs



40 DAYS OF MORE

by Vice Minister Clelia Malerba, ofs

More Prayer... More Fasting... More Giving

This is our parish Lenten slogan to remind us to be more prayerful, to fast more and to give to the less fortunate. We should be doing this all year but more so during this time of penance and self denial as we journey towards Easter.

More giving brings me back to a ministry which is close to the heart of St. Peter's fraternity in Woodbridge. The **Out of the Cold Program** from St. Patrick's Church, on the corner of Dundas and McCall, in downtown Toronto. The church provides food, shelter, used clothing and some medical care for the homeless every Sunday from November to April. Parishes, organizations and schools sign up to provide dinner for one or more Sundays. St. Peter's parish and our fraternity got involved about three years ago. Our pastor wanted the whole community to participate in some small way in giving to the less fortunate during the Christmas season.

We provide a full course dinner and gift bags for about 200 people on the Sunday before Christmas.

Our fraternity organizes the collection of food used for the dinner and we give out gift bags that the parishioners fill with a list of specified new items and return to the church. We ask for donations of McDonald and Tim Horton gift cards to include in the bags. We also add rosaries and spiritual books on different topics.

The first year, as we were going down on Sunday morning to start cooking and setting up, we

were all a little apprehensive about meeting and serving these people.

When we got to the church some people were already taking shelter along the corridor leading to the church hall. I was a little taken aback by their appearance and body odor. I thought to myself how will I see Jesus in these brothers and sisters; but like St. Francis when he embraced the leper, by the end of the evening, watching the look of appreciation and the joy that they showed when coming up for seconds and thirds, I felt that I had received a much greater blessing than I had given to them. This sentiment was resounded by all present from our fraternity and the many volunteers, who help every week to wash dishes, serve and clean up.

Jesus said "For I was hungry and you gave me to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me to drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me."

"Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and gave you to drink, When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you in prison and visit you?"

"Amen I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

Jesus commands us to look after our brothers and sisters, so let us do **more** praying, **more** fasting and more giving to immerse ourselves **more** fully with Jesus during the Easter Triduum and truly rejoice in His resurrection.

Peace and all Good.

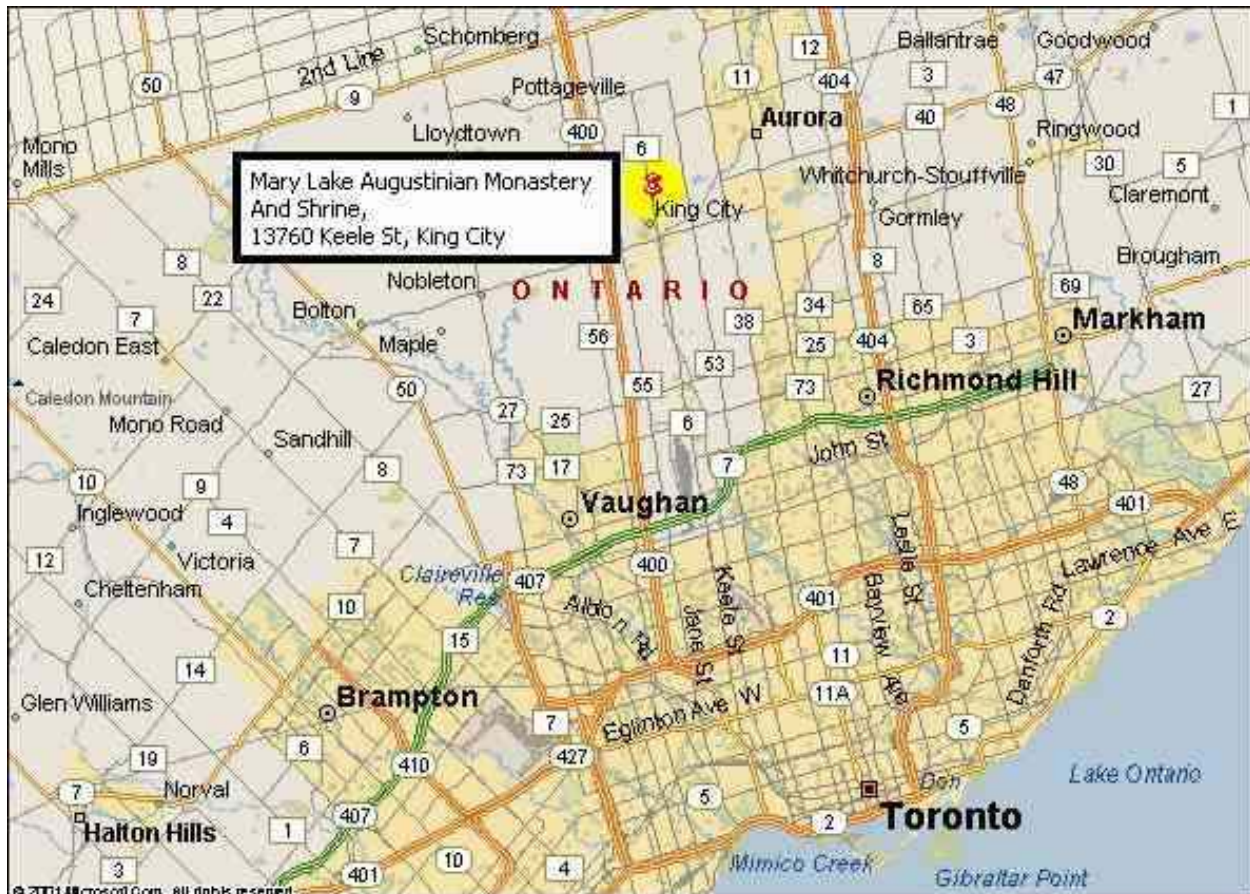
Clelia Malerba, ofs

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 Editor: Maurice Prindiville, ofs, 4 Pioneer Court, St. Catharines, ON L2N 7B6 Phone: 905-937-6828 mprindiville@golden.net E-mail is preferred.**

Note: If you no longer wish to receive the newsletter, please let us know as above.

MARYLAKE RETREAT CENTRE, MAP & DIRECTIONS ARCHDIOCESE OF TORONTO



ADDRESS:

Marylake, 13760 Keele St.,
P.O. Box 550
King City, Ontario, Canada, L7B-1A7
(Opposite the western end of Bloomington Rd.)
(905) 833-5368

DIRECTIONS

From the East: Take Highway 404 northbound to Bloomington Rd. Go westbound on Bloomington until you reach Keele St. At this point there is an entrance to Marylake straight ahead.

From the West: Take Highway 400 northbound to the King Road. Go east on King Rd until you reach Keele St. turn left and go north on Keele St for about 2 kms. You will see the Marylake gate on the left hand side of the road.

[Local Map](#) [Regional Map](#)

(To see maps online, use CTRL + click to follow link)

**Trillium Regional Franciscan Fraternity
Chapter of Elections Program
May 13 – 15, 2011**

Friday, May 13th

6:00 p.m. – Registration, followed by:
Liturgy of the Hours & welcome & introductions
Conference: ***Called to be Visible***
Fraternal Socializing.

Saturday, May 14th

7:30 a.m. – Liturgy of the Hours
8:00 a.m. – BREAKFAST
9:00 a.m. – Noon – Presentations, Nominations,
Fraternity Reports
12:00 p.m. – LUNCH
1:30 p.m. – Nominations & TRF Reports, Franciscan
Spirituality
5:30 p.m. – DINNER
6:45 p.m. – Liturgy of the Hours, San Damiano Cross
Presentation, Socializing, Taizé prayer.

Sunday May 15th

8:00 a.m. – BREAKFAST
9:00 a.m. – Liturgy of the Hours, Chapter of Elections,
Mass & installation of Officers.
12:00 p.m. – LUNCH
1:00 p.m. – Departure

***N.B. This is a program outline only. The full program
will be available at the Chapter. Mass times TBA.***

Franciscan Reflections

A Crib and Cross Franciscan Ministries Publication
April 2011

Dear Friends of Saint Francis,

One of the most poignant moments in the life of Jesus, as recounted by Saint Luke, is his vigil on the Mount of Olives after his Last Supper with his twelve closest friends. He prayed alone in anticipation of the cruellest death imaginable. The evangelist tells us that “in his anguish he prayed more earnestly and his sweat became like drops of blood falling down on the ground.”

There are many gripping aspects to this scene but I also find remarkable his earlier admonition to his disciples. He warns them to “pray that you may not come into the time of trial.” What did he mean by that?

The answer can be found by returning three years earlier when Jesus was tempted in the desert. This was a pivotal moment in his life and ministry. At the conclusion of this clever confrontation, the devil “departed from him until an opportune moment.” At Gethsemane, that moment had arrived. The temptation to avoid agony would not only test his fidelity to the Father, but to his identity and mission as well.

Jesus would consider the temptation, “Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me,” but respond to it by reaffirming the meaning and purpose of his life: “Yet, not my will but yours be done.” In asking others to pray that they not be tempted, Jesus must have known that, faced with this cup, they would not have the strength to resist.

When we think of the betrayal of Judas, the denial of Peter, and the doubt of Thomas, we can be quick to judge and even hasty to dismiss them as cowards. Would we have been any different?

Indeed, would Jesus have had the strength to stay the course had he not developed over time an unwavering solidarity with the Father’s redemptive plan, which I do not so much view as the result of his submission to torture and murder, but the fruit of his unflinching commitment to truth and love—even onto death, death on a cross?

Contemplate the ineffable charity that led Him to suffer on the wood of the Cross and to die there the most shameful kind of death...let yourself be inflamed more strongly with the fervour of charity.

Saint Clare of Assisi, *Fourth Letter to Agnes of Prague*

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The place where Saint Francis received the wounds of the crucified Christ near the end of his life is commonly called Mount La Verna, although it is actually Mount Penna. La Verna is the name of the forest. La Verna is an imposing rock on which stands a sprawling yet plain-looking monastery—3,700 feet above sea level—that was built in stages, beginning in the early 13th century. The entire mountain was given to Saint Francis in 1213 by the Count of Chiusi of nearby Casentino, as an expression of gratitude for a conversation that the Count regarded as illuminating and redemptive.

He could not have offered Saint Francis a more fitting gift. Still today, it is, in the words of his benefactor, “Very solitary and wild and is extremely well adapted to anyone who wants to do penance in a place remote from people, or wants to lead a solitary life.” The entrance to the sanctuary is lined on the right by almost white, sheer-faced, weather-worn stone, topped by a range of tall, naked beech trees that stretches eerily against the October skyline. On the left, a leafy hill falls steeply to the valley below. A statue of Saint Francis, gently urging a boy to release doves destined for market, gives form to a presence that is palpable.

The 16th-century well and guest house sit in the paved “Quandrante,” a *piazzale* named for the clock-face that adorns a stone wall. More than a dozen chapels and oratories seem randomly located, testifying to the organic growth of this oasis sought by mystics and contemplatives, including Francis, Bonaventure, Anthony of Padua and Peter of Alcantara.

Perhaps the most striking one is the 13th-century *Chiesina* St. Mary of the Angels. At the far end of the exquisite azure and white glazed terracotta altarpiece depicting the Assumption of Mary by Andrea della Robbia (1435-1528), whose work is handsomely displayed throughout the nearby Basilica. On the floor facing it is a discreet marker: Here is the precise place where the poverello stood or knelt when his conformity to the life of Christ was crowned by five sacred wounds to his hands, feet and side. Along both walls, arched by an expanse of plain eggshell plaster, run walnut choir stalls.

As beautiful as this mountain is, what makes it holy is the presence of God drawn into intimacy

with a simple man who placed relationship with God above all other delights. What one senses here is both the presence of Saint Francis who prayed with both sorrow and joy but also that of the seraphic angel who etched onto his body the evidence of unfathomable love.

Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? And who shall stand in his holy place? Those who have clean hands and pure hearts.

+ + +

Twelve centuries later, Saint Francis would recall the words of Jesus: "Pray that you may not come into the time of trial." He would retreat to solitary places, as Jesus had done, to pray in order to renew his commitment, deepen his relationship with God, and clarify his mission. In the process, he would confront his demons, repent, and resolve to continuously purify his body, heart and desire in order to conform his life to that of Christ.

Now he calls to us to do the same so that we can face temptation with grace. Temptation can take many forms. Three important ones come to mind in relation to the lives of Jesus, of Saint Francis, and of our own life: (1) those that distract us from our spiritual identity; (2) those that deter us from our mission; and (3) those that undermine the theological virtues of faith, hope and love.

According to the traditional teaching of the church, we are all inclined to sin, which is not to deny that we are also hard-wired for union with God. This inclination is tightly woven into our nature, not by design but as a result of inherent weakness, whether in the form of "evil" inherited from the first man (Adam: original sin), or in the form of insecurity inflicted by the bruises of life, especially the very earliest stages (in uterus through early childhood.)

Recently, we considered the temptations that Jesus faced in the desert as including a challenge to his self-understanding, especially his status as the beloved son of God the Father. Saint Francis, too, dealt with huge existential questions about his identity, particularly as he distinguished his own from that of his father, a rich worldly merchant. For us, the challenge is even greater. Few among us have a clear sense of our unique "name." (Cf. Isaiah 43:1) We are always subject to doubt, always vulnerable to the discouragement or false counsel of others. There is always room for the evil one to nudge us off course.

Now secure in his identity, the temptation at Gethsemane would attack the mission of Jesus. Bone-crushing fear can drive anyone to abandon any mission. Jesus would have to draw on his sense of self, his experience of the Father's fidelity, and his embrace of higher values to set aside personal satisfaction and even the natural instinct of self-preservation. Saint Francis must have spent countless hours doubting his call. In the beginning it conflicted with his dreams of knighthood and his inclination for pleasure. Later, it would bring an agony in his heart as he saw his vision unravel. Could this truly be God's will?

We don't have reliable evidence of temptation insofar as faith, hope and love in the lives of Jesus and Saint Francis, but we have plenty in our own. Doubt coexists with faith, undermines hope and impoverishes love. No matter how hard we pray, we will never eradicate it entirely. As long as we have a mind to reason, as long as we experience disappointments, and as long as insecurity lingers in our heart, doubt will shake the very foundations of faith, hope and love.

Ultimately, the greatest temptation is to overly trust our own wit and ingenuity and, by rationalization, to render unimportant or irrelevant the wisdom that took centuries to consolidate. Why bother to discern our identity when uniqueness is smothered by mass marketing? Why harbour hope if science can control the destructive forces of the universe? Why have love for another if I can cocoon myself and satisfy my own needs.

I think the big temptation of our culture is trivialization.

+ + +

May Peace be with you, now and always. May the Hope of faith and the Joy of loving fill your heart.

Faternally,

Rev. Deacon Richard Boileau, ofs



St. Francis talks to his Companions. Maybe near La Verna.

Local Fraternity Bulletin Board

About This Page

Local fraternities, please send us notice of events, (past or upcoming). This is your page.

Elections:



St Damien Korean Fraternity held their first elections on Saturday, March 19, 2011. These are the results:

Minister: Seung Park (Sophia)
Vice Minister: Kil Ja Ham (Theresa)
Formation Director: In Suk Lee (Lucia)
Treasurer: Young Kim (Olivia)
Secretary: Jung Jae Song (Clara)

Congratulations and blessings as you serve your brothers and sisters in St. Francis & St. Clare!

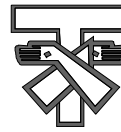


Obituaries

Let us remember **Bette Ann Kuehn, ofs**, of St. Felix Fraternity who on after a heroic, 26-year battle with breast cancer, age 71, passed away in the early morning hours of February 9, 2011. She was loved us so much! May she rest in the arms of the Lord.

Louis Pomeroy, ofs, of St. Charles Borromeo Fraternity went home to the Lord in February, 2011. Eternal rest grant unto LOUIS, O Lord. And let perpetual shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen.

Antonio Costa, ofs, returned to the house of the Lord on March 14, 2011 in his 62nd year. He will be greatly missed by St. Peter's Fraternity in Woodbridge. May he rest in peace.



Professions

Congratulations to the following newly professed from St. Maximilian Kolbe Fraternity – Kingston on Thursday, February 24, 2011

Annagale Blair, ofs
Victor Clarke, ofs
Therese Miller, ofs
Teresa Nocera, ofs

May the Lord bless you and keep you all the days of your of your lives.

Letter to the Editor:

Dear Cathy and Maurice

I was reviewing all of the 2010 editions of the **Good News Report** in order to introduce it to my formation class of six people.

I was struck on how wonderful it is! You both are to be congratulated for keeping up the tradition that Richard Juneau and Gloria Vasey began before Trillium Region was even started and making it so beautiful and interesting. It was the "**Good News Report**" that influenced me to become a Franciscan, as I used to drive Gloria to various meetings of the old Province. I would sit in on the liturgical services I hope you both are able to keep up the good work!

Have a Holy and Blessed Christmas,

Jim Vasey, ofs,

Formation Director, St Anthony of Padua, Sarnia



*Yes, Christ my hope rose gloriously.
He goes before you into Galilee."*

*Share the Good News, sing joyfully:
His death is victory!
Lord Jesus, Victor King, show us mercy.*



Taken from the Easter sequence.