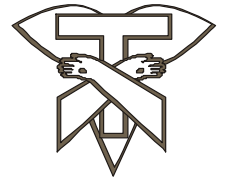




Good News Report

Secular Franciscan Order
Trillium Regional Fraternity



Number 52

Autumn 2009



Minister's Letter Michel Guilmette, ofs

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Christ's Peace be upon you all! It has been an interesting few months for the Franciscan Movement here in the Trillium Region since the last Good News Report was written. Padre Pio has been interceding for us and the Holy Spirit has been moving. We have been experiencing positive growth in numbers both in membership and in Fraternities. Our Fraternities have lost few members to Sister Death this year and we have gained dozens of newly professed and soon to be professed members.

Two of our emerging Fraternities are now in the very last stage of Canonical Establishment. St Maximilian Kolbe Polish Fraternity in Mississauga and St John Vianney Korean Fraternity in Toronto will very soon be on the list of active Fraternities in Trillium Region. I wish to offer them congratulations and welcome on behalf of Trillium Region.

St Maximilian Kolbe Fraternity in Kingston will very soon move from the inactive to the active list. I will be celebrating Transitus with them and receiving profession of six of their candidates on the Feast of St Francis. I will be arranging with them a Chapter of Elections to be held soon and at that point they will become an active Fraternity again. There is also an emerging Fraternity in London; St Damian Korean Fraternity, that is the early stages of establishment.

Orangeville currently has a group meeting at Mt Alverno Retreat Center. I had the pleasure of meeting them and it is a large group that should soon be recognized as an emerging Fraternity. I have also received a letter from another group that is proposing to start a new Fraternity in Toronto. It is in the very early stages so I can't give any more information other than to say that the group looks to

be viable and will be well led in these early days on the road to establishment.

My dear Brothers and Sisters if this note from me to you seems to be bubbling with excitement and optimism it is because I am both excited and optimistic. This time in the Franciscan movement in the Trillium Region is being greatly blessed. I believe the prayer to Padre Pio so many of our Fraternities are saying is bearing fruit. Padre Pio is being faithful to us and he is interceding on our behalf. I will conclude with the prayer to Padre Pio, if your Fraternity is not currently saying this prayer at your regular meeting please consider doing so:

Saint Padre Pio, the Sacred Heart of Jesus has chosen you as an exceptional witness to His love and mercy. Please pray to this Infinite Source of grace, that He may grant us health of body and soul. May we, with the help of your intercession, become like you a living image of the Lord's goodness. Amen

St. Padre Pio, help us attract new members (3X)

Peace and Goodness

Michel Guilmette, 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 Newsletter Editor, Cathy Kruger, ofs at 782 Cope Road, Welland, ON L3B 5N7 905-732-7479 or ckruger@iaw.com E-mail is preferred. Please Note: If you no longer wish to receive the newsletter, please let us know as above.**

Spiritual Assistant's Letter.
By Fr. Peter Knaapen, OFM Conv.



All the work of the Adhoc Committee on Spiritual Assistance has finally coming to fruition. The first meeting for the training of Secular Franciscans as Spiritual Assistants began on Saturday September 26th at two locations, St Francois du Lac, Quebec and Toronto, Ontario. The committee worked on this for over five years. The committee first put forward the "Green Paper" *To Really Know, Love and Respect the Secular State in Life*, asking feed back from all the Regional Fraternities. We devised a discernment process and worked on the content of the Course.

19 people attended the Francophone training session in St Francois du Lac and 17 people attended the Anglophone meeting in Toronto.

The course is for one year. There are 12 chapters/lessons. Each chapter has reflective questions the participants are asked to answer. Responses are to be sent to Regional Spiritual Assistant(s) conducting the course. Every three months the participants will gather together to reflect on the information covered and also go over any questions they have.

The content of the course is:

1. The connection between the experience of our Catholic faith and the Franciscan experience.
2. Characteristics of a competent Spiritual Assistant.
3. An exploration of the spirituality of Francis and Clare of Assisi
4. Franciscan theology & spirituality
5. Introduction to some Franciscan theologians and their theology
6. Secular Spirituality (What does it look like).
7. Role of the Secular Franciscan in the Church of today: Institution, intellectual & Mystical dimension
8. Role of the Spiritual Assistant
9. Organizational Structure of the SFO
10. Role of the Spiritual Assistant in initial formation
11. Role of the Spiritual Assistant in ongoing formation

Please pray for all the participants in the course.

Father Peter



VISITATIONS: Challenges and hope for the future

National Minister's Letter
by Debbie Tessier, ofs



A fraternity in the Secular Franciscan Order is required to request a visitor from the next higher level of fraternity once every three years, to visit their fraternity for the following:

Fraternal Visitation: a visitor from the next higher level of fraternity examines the fraternity's records and observes a regular meeting of the fraternity.

Pastoral Visitation: the Spiritual Assistant from the next higher level of fraternity visits the fraternity and reviews the ongoing and initial formation programs and practices of the fraternity, observes a regular meeting of the fraternity.

Chapter of Elections: a visitor from the next higher level of fraternity presides over the fraternity's Chapter of Elections.

The Minister and council of the next higher level of fraternity are responsible for the Chapters of Elections and Fraternal Visitations. The Trillium Council appoints a council member to make the visitations, usually the Minister or one of the Vice Ministers. Former practice in the Trillium Regional Fraternity was to combine the Chapter of Elections and the Fraternal Visitation to save on travel expenses.

Back in 2005 the Trillium Regional Fraternity began to appoint Area Councillors to provide visitors for Fraternal Visitations over the four areas of the region. The Regional Council felt that Chapters and Visitations should be done separately. This would insure that fraternities received three regional visitors in a three year period: Chapter of Elections, Fraternal Visitations and Pastoral Visitations. Although ideal, it was more difficult to implement than first expected. Two years into the first period, the Trillium Regional Council was able to attend to the many Fraternal Visitations required. In the last year of appointment, some Area Councillors, for reasons of health, family and changes in freedom of transportation, were not able to meet the demands. As a result of this, there have been delays in getting to fraternities for the Fraternal Visitations. Also, with the volume of Pastoral demands on the Regional Spiritual Assistant, Pastoral Visitations

have also been delayed for many fraternities. With the patience of our fraternities and the willingness of individuals to take on this ministry, Fraternal Visitations are now moving forward at a steady pace. More flexibility was given with regards to area borders. Fraternities will find that they may be welcoming regional visitors who are not necessarily their Councillor designate.

We have come a long way, and we have some way to go. With the grace of God, there will be a firm establishment of dedicated persons who will serve the region for years to come. Please pray that this work progress.

Debbie Tessier, ofs



YOUTH NEWS

by Silvana Loughheed, ofs, Youth Coordinator

Dear Franciscan Brothers and Sisters,

The **ASSISI PILGRIMAGE** was an amazing time of prayer!!! Holy, holy ground!! I am still in awe!! Fraternal celebrations, quiet times of reflection, hospitable Friars, history lessons, beauty all around and great food! Approximately 550 young Pilgrims from 23 nations journeyed together as they reflected on the following themes in St. Francis' life:

"The Lord **guided** me"

"**What** do you want me to do, lord?"

"The Lord **gave me brothers**"

"The Lord **pope approved** my way of life"

"The Lord gave me the **grace to work**"

"The Lord **send** me afar"

"The Lord **taught** me to **pray**"

"The Lord **send** me to **preach.**"



Last day in

Assisi

CAP DE LA MADELEINE

All Canadians from Ontario, Quebec and Alberta, fifty in all, are invited to our First National gathering of Youth in Cap De La Madeleine next July. Here's the front and back of the cards I gave out:



Trillium
Regional
Fraternity
SFO
Ontario,
CANADA

Is

God calling YOU?

Cap de la Madeleine, Trois Riviere, QUEBEC.

July 8th to 11th, 2010.

Contact: **Silvana Rossi Loughheed, ofs**

Phone: 613 968-7309 E-Mail: «AddressBlock»

Web: www.secularfranciscanstrilliumregion.com

I will send templates to youth contacts in order to help promote this event with your own Fraternity contact info.

REFLECTIONS FROM ASSISI PILGRIMS

Poem by Niki De Souza

Grand Prairie, Alberta

ASSISI

*In the steamy heat of a summer's day, the streets
burst forth with people of different languages.
We make haste to discover new treasures on our
way.*

*Is it not in Assisi where we find St Francis' joy and
love?*

*Listen to the whistling of the air through the trees,
these peaceful sounds speak, of heaven above.*

*Our feet pound the pavement, muscles burn from
contracting; we are climbing the soft stone streets
of this city.*

*Hearts beating warmly from so many scenes
attracting.*

*Gazing downward from this mountain green with
vegetation, farmers plow their fields as the earth is
waiting to be worked in.*

*All the shades of green arranged in God's good
presentation.*

Mountains line the horizon with a bluish stare.

*Beyond these heights is God's power,
in awe our souls become aware.*

*The air covers the mountains and lines them with
mist.*

*The sky is pastel blue and broad, light radiates
through the clouds, in a way one can't resist.*

*O Assisi, precious home of my saint,
your creation moves me softly,
with pictures I could never paint.*

*I praise you Lord God, for this beautiful creation!
I'm thankful to be able to see,
St Francis' inspiration.*

SECOND REFLECTION:

Dear friends,

*Our trip to Assisi was one of the most
amazing experiences I have ever had. Not only did
we get to learn a lot about the life of St. Francis, but
we had the chance to make life long friendships
with people from around the world.*

*Experiencing the Italian culture was full of
surprises as we ate and drank like pure Italians,
and admired the beautiful surroundings wherever
we traveled to.*

*Our journey to Italy allowed me to find
peace within myself, discover who I really am, and
become closer to God. Everyday we had the chance
to think about and pray for our intentions, and
having the feeling that we were so closely connected
to God was just incredible. Being there for one
week made it possible to socialize and take part in
social activities with other countries, as we built
trusting friendships with them.*

*If I had to choose my most favorite part
about the trip, I don't think I could because
everyday was filled with new and exciting
experiences that enlightened my life. So thank you
so much for making this trip possible and your
support was greatly appreciated!*

Sincerely,

Caitlynn Rainey

Bracebridge, Ontario.

LET US BE ENCOURAGED:

A) A young man named Stephane, a first year undergraduate student from the University of Ottawa emailed me because of Assisi Pilgrim Lisa Deschamps-Therault, a Secular Franciscan from

the Trillium Region and Program Director of a leadership camp he recently worked at. He was looking for more information on Secular Franciscans, how to become involved in the Youth aspects of the Fraternities, and if there was a fraternity in my area. He is eager to learn more about the Order of St. Francis. I have sent him contacts in Ottawa and invited him to help in Quebec next summer. He answered affirmatively!!

B) DRAMA SCENES ON LIFE OF ST. FRANCIS:

1) Email from Friar Michael Lorentsen:

Silvana,

...I will send you some stuff (scenes on the life of St. Francis from a retreat program) ...

The youth from our group are still talking about Assisi. It probably had more of an impact than we had realized. Thanks for all of your work. Good job.

Peace and all good,

Friar Michael

2) Colleen has also found two short plays.

ARE YOU FRANCISCAN AT HEART WORKSHOP:

1) Thank you to Les, Colleen, Gudrun and Holy Rosary Fraternity members!!

Format: Opening prayer- Francis' prayer to Mary. Overview of the vocation of a Secular Franciscan through Marzio's video & Les' talk and handouts. Then we split up into two groups-formation directors and ministers with Les and the rest (professed, non-professed & youth) with Silvana. We ended with the Peace Prayer and the individual lighting of tea-lights to pray for youth we want to bring Jesus to via prayer and our personal presence ie to evangelize. Lunch followed. A high school student who attended was inspired to dust off her Bible and check out all the Franciscan websites. She is all afire with wanting to start a Bible study group on how to live the Gospel life with St. Francis as the model. Sounds like the beginning of a possible Youfra group?!! Here's the email she sent later that day:

Hi Silvana!

... I still think you and everybody else changed my life today...Taylor

Please pray for Taylor and myself since I promised to help mentor her in a leadership role in this endeavour!

CHECK OUT THE FOLLOWING:

www.franciscans.org has a Franciscan Stories link where there are good videos to encourage the Franciscan missionary spirit-breakfast program at Sr. Bonaventure's church & Francis Corps in Syracuse. Also there is a Salt & Light video on the origins of the live Creche as well as personal testimonies!!!

Fr. Peter reminds us that the stories of St. Francis and St. Clare need to be told and retold to the young people of today. Their message of hope, love, and respect will help dispel the negativity that so often plagues society today.

FOR OUR REFLECTION:

Pre-Teen Franciscan Youth Group in Costa Rica

The Alajuela-based Conventual Franciscans' latest visionary project is the Pre-Teen Franciscan Youth Group, which had its first meeting on June 1st. Initiated by Jonathan Rodriguez, one of the Order's postulants, the group welcomes young people from ages 9 to 14. It meets every other Sunday after Mass and with the help of the Secular Franciscans and the Franciscan Youth Group, introduces the gathered young people to Franciscan life and the story of St. Francis of Assisi.

When Francis of Assisi walked the Earth, he spent his time evangelizing the greatness of God through word and deed. The purpose of the Pre-Teen Franciscan Youth Group is to do the same to today's young people so that they may carry Franciscan values with them into adult life.

MEXICO-Saint Andrew School of Evangelization:

Lastly, I had the privilege of meeting OFS sisters in Mexico this past July. I had contacted Fr. Amando Trujillo-Cano, General Assistant TOR in order to connect with OFS members in Mexico, while participating in courses there. As a result I was able to meet Maria Luisa Guevara in Mexico City and two other OFS Sisters. We made a pilgrimage to see Our Lady of Guadalupe's Tilma and pray where she appeared to Juan Diego. Maria Luisa gave me two beautiful gifts, one of which is a statue of St. Francis with the stigmata embracing the crucified Christ on the cross. I had brought her a Tau cross blessed by our Archbishop Brendan O'Brian and made by one of our seminarians named Francis Zambon. What a blessing to be part of a global family!!!

Youth Commission:

I invite Youth Commission members and youth to meet online via SKYPE on Monday, October 26th. Agenda will be sent via email.

Holy Ground- St. Francis and Clare:

Be assured that I prayed for all of you, your families and all our Franciscan family around the world at the tombs of St. Francis and St. Clare. Kneeling at the Transitus Chapel at St. Mary of the Angels where Francis body lay as he praised Sister Death, and at the church of San Damiano where St. Clare died, I was humbled by the incredible grace I felt. The gifts of these Saint's lives sing praises to the life, death and resurrection of our Lord! May the Lord continue to fill us with the Holy Spirit who gives us all we need to preach the Gospel and to rebuild the Church.

I personally thank everyone for your prayers as well as your generous financial support towards the Assisi Pilgrimage. Please continue to pray for those who attended, that God will give the growth. Seeds have been planted.

Peace,

Silvana Lougheed, ofs



Formation Corner
by Les Alberti, ofs, TRF
Formation Director

The Call

God in his eternal Wisdom created us – each one of us – for a unique project of His infinite and eternal plan, and our hearts are restless until they find the rest in the Lord.

Given the wide and enthusiastic music of the world we often do not hear, much less have the time to search for that plan. Yet our task here on earth is fulfilled only to the degree that we find and carry out the Lord's plan. So what is our life's project as willed by the Father?

St. Francis had his call from the Lord at various times such as the call to mission from the St. Damiano Cross. And the example Francis left behind is indeed a telling one. Penance after the call, doing service with the lepers. And then devoting much time to better know his Beloved through the reading of the Gospel, prayer and adoration. And then twenty years of sweet colloquy

in prayer with the Lord that edified the Church and the Order. Just think of the celebration of the Nativity of our Lord for the last 800 years. A Child in whose sweet curls, trusting and loving eyes, even the most hardened hearts melt. The Child does not appear as the just Judge but one in need of human love and tender attention. Yet He is our God! Or think of the practice St. Francis introduced anew - the Way of the Cross - in honour of the Passion of our Lord and Lady.

My call, if I can term it as such, came during a Eucharistic procession in Church some years ago. Trouble was that from my youth I heard the world only too clearly. Frank Sinatra's "I did it my way". It was a catchy tune years ago that became for me as for others a world view. Yet our Lord has clearly said "I am the Way the Life and the Truth" So when the Lord forgave me "my way" then He called ever so gently.

The Bible is full of people the Lord actually called – sometimes in the middle of the night. Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Elijah, Elisa, Samuel, Elizabeth and the Blessed Virgin Mary, not to mention each of the Apostles. ***Each called personally and by name*** – all had a mission, a unique mission, as did St. Francis, against impossible odds. And since Pentecost, countless saints have been called to live up to the baptismal promise to love the Lord and their neighbour within that mission foreknown to God alone since the beginning of time.

In formation we focus on discerning the Lord's call, a call to penance and a simpler way of life in fulfillment of His will for us. We learn to go from "to me and for me and my way" to a Christian way of being for the love of our families and our neighbors while giving thanks and praise to the Lord God Most High.

"Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD alone!"

It was this choice made by St. Francis in his time accept nothing less than this call to the exclusion of all else. His close followers, men and women throughout the last 800 years, have given personal witness in the world to that most noble of calls to faith – "Hear, O Israel..." by the example of their lives.

Peace and all good,

Les Alberti, ofs



A Note from Vice Minister Colleen MacAlister ofs

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Greetings in the Lord! As we enter into another season of our fraternal lives, may we keep in our prayers and thoughts, all those fraternity members who have touched our hearts over the years! Together, we as brothers and sisters look at the beauty around us and say, as Francis did, "***My God and my ALL***" as we appreciate God in all His people and creation! Precious are our days, in this sun and this country. The beauty of every little flower and bird is gift! We are so blessed!

Speaking of blessings, I was blessed to attend the National Chapter of Elections, as a voting delegate on the weekend of May 8th and 9th in Chateau Quebec. Every Secular Franciscan is truly a member of four fraternities! We are part of Local, Regional, National and International!

At the Chapter there was time for faith, fun and food, as well as the Elections and a visit to the nearby Shrine for Blessed Kateri !

As you are already aware our dear Minister **Debbie Tessier** is now the **National Minister of Canada and a blessing for our whole country!** Praise the Lord!

Michel Guilmette, now our Regional Minister, presented Debbie with a lovely gift, representing Jesus washing the feet of His disciples. God be with you in your new mission Debbie and may the good Lord bless Michel in his new role!

Other News of Interest

Salt and Light Television and Sirius Radio: I had the opportunity to do a telephone interview for Salt and Light Sirius Radio. We promoted Franciscan Spirituality as well as the outreach event that we have held for several years now Monkfest. ***(Internet search Salt and Light Radio and look up May 30th for the program I was on)***

Monkfest, 2009 once more we had approximately 150 Youth and Adults attend and over 15 Bands for a "no booze, no drugs, no hate and no co ed unless your wed" Music Event! **Brother Alan Gaebel ofm cap** led a group of us around the "***stations for the nations***" way of the cross. Also visiting the event was the new Youth

Coordinator for the Kingston Archdiocese Anne Heemskerk. **Perhaps in the next newsletter I will give you all the details about the mission and work of the San Damiano Foundation, the Registered Charity started by Secular Franciscans here in our area and now in operation for over 12 years!**
www.sandamianofoundation.ca

The REDEDICATION of the Foundation YOUTH Centre in Madoc, now totally renovated was held on *Sept. 17th the Feast of the Stigmata*, Bro. Alan Gaebel, OFM Cap. came with relics of St. Francis and St. Pio and led a beautiful re-dedication ceremony!

NOTE: Brother Alan may be contacted at bro.alan@capuchinscanada.com or phone 416-241-3101

Peace and All Good, With Love and Prayers

Fraternally Your Sister, Colleen

**Translation Of The Letter Of The Prefect Of
The Congregation For The Institutes Of
Consecrated Life And The Societies Of Apostolic
Life, Cardinal Franc Rodè,**

**To OFS General Minister,
Encarnación Del Pozo, ofs**

Vatican City, May 6th, 2009
Ref. n. T 144-1 /2007

Dear Madam,

This Congregation has received the documentation of the XII General Chapter of the Secular Franciscan Order with the orientations for the future activities.

Indeed, since November of last year, we have dedicated our utmost attention to the activities that this international Fraternity has implemented with spiritual docility and full commitment towards communion: the General Chapter with its discernment for the choice of the Presidency members; the study of key themes with the choice of the priorities – emerged from mutual reflection and dialogue – useful to reinvigorate the spirit of the Order.

I have received with pleasure the documentation, which shows how some points were lived as a true event of the Spirit:

- The atmosphere that has sustained the work, “perceived as an experience of fraternal

life”, and that has nourished communion, as a gift and fruit of common will;

- The development of work, which, in continuity with the previous Chapters, has enabled to focus on the identity and mission of Secular Franciscans in the Church and in the world;
- The living awareness of the presence and expansion of the Order in several nations, particularly in those where religious persecution has reduced the presence of the Church;
- The commitment towards the formation of the members, recognized as a primary necessity, also for the emerging Fraternities.

I exhort you so that the time lived together may bring more abundant fruit, by way of a strong and continuous commitment by each member of the Order. I encourage you, in particular, to the evangelical *parresia* in the “city of men”, where the seed of the Divine Word will bring fruit if sowed with humble courage and by giving explanation of the hope which dwells in us (cf. 1Pt 3, 15). I invite you, therefore, to receive the Gospel as a specific commitment of the entire International Fraternity: it introduces to the true, outgoing, far-reaching, missionary intensity directed to the whole world. The Fraternity, as a result, will feel as generated by the word-sign of Jesus and solicited in the very places where mankind actually and concretely lives.

In this missionary attitude, the Order will be able to accept, in the same Franciscan style of the origins, the challenge to manifest the “eschatological” nature of Christian Faith, overcoming the often alienating and estranging interpretations: this is an invitation, therefore, to live your commitment as “implementation of Christianity”, by entering into the spaces of human life and experiencing the transforming power of the “living hope” that the Spirit of the Risen Lord grants us. It is essential to show that the Gospel does not only have to do with the future destiny of men and of the world but that it impacts the “newness” in which we have to live the present, according to the beautiful style of the Seraphic Father, as “pilgrims and strangers” who, with clear mind and free heart, offer an original contribution for the construction of the city of men and of the entire world.

Concluded on next page.

Local Fraternity Bulletin Board

About This Page

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

Websites:

Be sure to check out:



the **Trillium** website.

www.secularfranciscanstrilliumregion.com

For Mount Alverno programs see:

www.mountalverno.ca

+ Obituaries +

Rita Munroe, ofs from Queen of Peace fraternity, Madoc died during the summer. May she rest in peace.

Mary Collins, ofs from St. Bonaventure fraternity, Downsview went home to the Lord June 19, 2009 at the age of 93. Mary was a founding member of St. Bonnie's and mother of Fr. David Collins OFM Cap. May she rest in peace.

Professions Congratulations to:

Elizabeth Sheedy, ofs - St. Angela Merici, Oshawa

Also congratulations on her 15th Anniversary of Profession to Freda Langford, ofs from St. Angela of Merici on Oct. 4th.

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

Minister – Michel Guilmette, ofs

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Spiritual Assistant – Fr. Peter Knaapen, OFM Conv.

905-637-2346 or weekends 905-637-2347

Fax: 905-639-1540 knaapenp@aol.com

Special Prayer request:

Please pray for the typhoon victims in the Philippines.

Peace and good!

Teodora La Madrid, ofs,

St. Felix of Cantalice Fraternity.



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

782 Cope Road

Welland, ON

L3B 5N7

Phone# 905-732-7479

or

ckruger@iaw.com

Since certificates are signed by both the Minister and Spiritual Assistant, please apply in good time if you wish to have them on the profession day or anniversary date.

Continued from previous page:

I recommend, in particular, the loving animation of the Franciscan Youth (YouFra). The education of the youth is an arduous and laborious task: in it, the Gospel is confronted with the image and conception of the human person; with the true meaning of daily relations and quality of social connections; with the solicitude for the needy and the poor; with human rights and legality; with the ability to coexist of cultures and peoples; with the origin and the end of existence. The youth will, thus, be able to train themselves to live a fruitful exchange between the specificity of faith and the human way to express it as an "admirabile commercium".

We expect, to conclude, that this Fraternity may grow in the Church as a living body, founded on communion, and by developing in today's historical context specific styles of social, cultural and spiritual commitment.

I formulate to you and to the members of the Presidency my wish that your service may be authoritative and gentle at the same time, a testimony of communion. Francis, who, sine glossa, entrusted his followers to the Gospel, written, contemplated and lived, may continue to inspire the ideals, the decisions and the actions of the well-deserving Secular Franciscan Order in the Church.

In Christ, I offer you all blessings,

Franc Card. Rodé, C.M., Prefect