



# Good News Report



Secular Franciscan Order  
Trillium Regional Fraternity

Number 56

Fall 2010



## Minister's Letter Michel Guilmette, ofs

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Christmas season is almost upon us it is a great time of celebration in the liturgical year of the Church. 'For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believe in Him may not perish but have eternal life.' (Jn 3:16) An event to celebrate indeed! I hope that you have all prepared well during this season of Advent and have been storing up treasures in heaven as we await the coming of our Lord and Saviour. We have been blessed beyond imagining by our God and for this we should all shout with Joy!

The Trillium Region has been working hard to get projects finished before the next Chapter of Elections in May. Preparations for the elections have begun. We will be holding them at Marylake Retreat Center in Aurora next May. More news will follow.

One exciting bit of news is that Early next year we will be launching our new and improved web site for the Trillium Region. The web site will be rich in formation material and Franciscan spirituality. It should be a useful tool for local fraternities and anyone seeking knowledge of the Secular Franciscan Order in Southern Ontario. I ask that all of our local Fraternities send me a contact name with an address, a phone number and an email address. Please include the location and time of your meetings. This information will get posted on the web site so that people who are looking for a fraternity will be able to find one in their area. I have a list but I hope to have it updated before the web site goes live. Thanks ahead of time for your help. Please send the information to me at [michel.guilmette@bell.net](mailto:michel.guilmette@bell.net).

You will notice in this edition of the Good News Report that a new section has been added. Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation are now officially part of our focus. As Franciscans this has

always been of importance to us but it is now formalized in our region. Louise Arruda has taken on the task of passing news and views from our National and Regional Councils. Please give her your

support and especially prayers. This area will also feature prominently in the new web site.

I would like to wish you all and your families a blessed and happy Christmas from your Trillium Regional Council.

Pax, *Michel*



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

A short Christmas reflection entitled  
"*A Corinthian Christmas*".

If I decorate my house perfectly with plaid bows, strands of twinkling lights and shiny balls, but do not show love to my family, I'm just another decorator.

If I slave away in the kitchen, baking dozens of Christmas cookies, preparing gourmet meals and arranging a beautifully adorned table at mealtime, but do not show love to my family, I'm just another cook.

If I work at the soup kitchen, carol in the nursing home and give all that I have to charity, but do not show love to my family, it profits me nothing.

If I trim the spruce with shimmering angels and crocheted snowflakes, attend a myriad of holiday parties and sing in the choir's cantata but do not focus on Christ, I have missed the point.

Love stops the cooking to hug the child. Love sets aside the decorating to kiss the husband. Love is kind, though harried and tired. Love doesn't envy another's home that has coordinated Christmas china and table linens.

Love doesn't yell at the kids to get out of the way, but is thankful they are there to be in the way. Love doesn't give only to those who are able to give in return but rejoices in giving to those who can't.

Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails. Video games will break, pearl necklaces will be lost, golf clubs will rust, but giving the gift of love will endure.

May Christ's love be with you as we celebrate with joy the wonder of his birth.

*Fr. Peter*



## **Social Justice and Peace** **by Louise Arruda, TRF Treasurer**

As we prepare for Christmas this advent season, we thoughtfully consider the plight of the poor as individuals and within our fraternities.

Though our Franciscan charism calls us to always consider the poor and to serve the poor, Christmas time reminds us of the poor Christ child and his poor family. For them, there was no room in the inn.

We are reminded, especially at Christmas, to see this poor Christ in the homeless, the lonely, the destitute, and the imprisoned. We see poor families who cannot provide a Christmas meal or presents for their children. We become more aware of the sick and shut-ins, those at war and suffering the devastations of war or natural disasters. We see so many others who are physically, emotionally, psychiatrically, materially or spiritually poor. We may have sons, daughters, parents, nieces, nephews, or other relatives and friends who are caught in the web of addictions.

Many see the poor in our own families too. We can easily see the poor Jesus and His earthly family in all directions, everywhere. We too may be struggling with pain of various sorts and are part of the suffering world. We too may find the poor Jesus within ourselves.

It seems that ultimately, Christmas can be a time that reminds us of our unity. We, human beings are all sinners and part of a suffering world.

Yet, the more we consider thoughtfully and focus on the plight of the poor, the more we can be overwhelmed by the breadth and depth of human suffering. At some level, we are all aware that the suffering in the world is far too great for mere humans to solve.

That, it seems, is why Christmas is a most joyful time of year. Jesus Christ was born! Christ came to save the world! He **is** our Saviour!! Hallelujah!

We, who have been granted the gift of Faith, can understand and know that no matter how overwhelming the suffering of the world is; no matter how much suffering in our families, communities, church or our own hearts, bodies or spirits, Jesus Christ was born on Christmas day. We know that Jesus lives within all of us...poor humans. We are part of His kingdom, the Kingdom of God.

Our seraphic father, St Francis, and our beloved St Clare, understood and treasured "sister poverty" thoroughly. Because of "sister poverty", Francis and Clare understood that therein was the real

opportunity to invite Jesus to reign within and for us to literally become His hands on earth, building His church, the Kingdom of God on earth.

Thus, Christmas is an especially wonderful time of joy for all Franciscans who, in prayer and through the grace of God, reach out to the poor where we find "sister poverty" and begin to do good each day with joy. We celebrate with the true joy of Francis and Clare.

Peace and all good to all!

*Louise Arruda, ofs*

### **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](mailto:ckruger@iaw.com)

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



## **YOUTH NEWS** **By Silvana Rossi Loughheed ofs,** **Youth Coordinator**

"And Francis wanted all people to praise God, and to remember that God, who is rich beyond all dreaming, had come to earth as a poor baby-the baby Jesus." (*The Good Man of Assisi by Mary Joslin & Alison Wisenfeld*)

Poverty and simplicity-how are we helping the young people around us to live a just life, as Jesus and St. Francis and so many other holy heroes modeled for us?

We make choices on how to celebrate Christmas. We decorate our homes, we bake, and we buy, buy, buy!! Let's encourage youth in our families or church and school communities to think about how to have a **just** Christmas. Watch "The Story of Stuff"-a 20 minute animation video attractive for young people and adults alike. ([www.storyofstuff.com](http://www.storyofstuff.com)) An inspiration to live more simply and to be more **just**.

Another very effective tool is the Advent Conspiracy videos found at [www.adventconspiracy.org](http://www.adventconspiracy.org) Their motto is "**Christmas can (still) change the world. This year, give Presence!**" Giving the gift of time, the gift of

listening, the gift of your very self where needed. This is *just*.

This year, as is the past five years, our youth have donated food and will deliver it to two needy families in Belleville. They have made huge batches of chili and baked cookies for these families. In January we are having a **Charity Bowling**, whereby the money raised will go to our Nigerian priest Fr. Alban, to help rebuild the church that recently burned down in his hometown. This is *just*.

Involving youth in the very reason we celebrate Christmas is another way to stop and get away from our consumeristic mentality. St. Bonaventure Church in Don Mills is once again having an outdoor live nativity play: **Kings, Animals & Babies**, Dec. 16, 7:30 pm. What a wonderful way to recall the first Christmas, with live animals and children. This is *just*.

I have discovered another book recounting the first Christmas in Greccio, available at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) called **St. Francis Celebrates Christmas** by Mary Caswell Walsh and illustrated by Helen Caswell. Last year, I so enjoyed going to **St. Joseph Oratory** in Montreal with my family, where there are nativity scenes from around the world. This runs until April. If you have family in the Montreal area, suggest this to them or plan to go with your own family and friends. Invite young people from your parish!!

Less is more. Many of us know this. To live it is *just*. In a local Catholic high school a country music video was shown: **"Where's the line to see Jesus?"** Perfect timing. The crib and the cross! Watch it with your family on YouTube. This is *just*.

Since youth rarely read email but do communicate through **Facebook** and are surfing the internet, the **Trillium** is working on developing an attractive website. Thank you Domenic Marando for all your help.

**YOUTH** will be a main navigation item and will have the following sub menus:

- **YOUFRA**-Gospel living as modeled by St. Francis of Assisi
- **WHY JOURNEY WITH FRANCIS?**-personal witness videos
- **ST. FRANCIS & ST. CLARE**-Who are they anyway?
- **SURF THE FRANCISCAN TURF**-Franciscan websites; YouFra Facebook links
- **CURRENT EVENTS**-eg. World Youth Day August 2011 "Planted and Built Up in Christ in the Faith" (anyone interested? Contact me asap!!!!)
- **GOSPEL**-Radical eh? Read it. Think about it.

Pray it. Live it.

- **SOCIAL JUSTICE**- the Gospel in action; **WWFD?** (What would Francis do?)

It was *just* for Wise Kings and Poor Shepherds to worship the poor baby, the baby Jesus in Bethlehem. It is *just* for us to worship Jesus. That is what St. Francis would do!

Peace,

**Silvana Rossi Loughheed**

[silvana-rossi@sympatico.ca](mailto:silvana-rossi@sympatico.ca)

**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 **8<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:ckruger@iaw.com) E-mail is preferred.**

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

### On my Journey

By Deacon Richard Boileau, ofs



**Photo taken in the Chapel of the Crèche, built the year of the canonization of Saint Francis of Assisi (1228), on the site where the commemoration of Christmas had taken place. In this cave was painted, in the 14<sup>th</sup> century, Christmas in Greccio (left) beside the Nativity in Bethlehem fresco,**

**"Each one went home full of ineffable joy."**

Thomas of Celano, *Vita Prima* (Life of St. Francis)

In October of this year, I journeyed in the footsteps of Saint Francis of Assisi across some of the most picturesque landscape that I have ever seen. The Rieti valley was especially delicious. There I savoured the panorama below from tranquil lookouts at Fontecolombo and Greccio, sacred places that still



breathe with birdsongs the perfect joy of the contemplative saint. This escarpment reminded me of a passage from Isaiah: "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." The experience inspired me to write simple verses, some of which I leave below as a sign of our shared friendship in Christ.

### **From *Reborn in Rieti***

I touch the white stone  
in the chapel of the crèche  
its heart still beating,  
this mountain of incarnation.  
A tender embrace.

I stand speechless,  
silent, intense, peaceful,  
recollecting, reassessing, reborn  
to the marrow of the man.  
A gripping reality.

In this holy Advent season, as you recall the mystery of God's love, may your heart be filled with joy.

Faternally,

**Richard Boileau, ofs**

### **Crib and Cross**

Franciscan Ministries [www.cribandcross.com](http://www.cribandcross.com)

*The joys and the hopes, the griefs and the anxieties of the men of this age, especially those who are poor or in any way afflicted, these are the joys and hopes, the griefs and anxieties of the followers of Christ. - Gaudium et Spes, Dec. 7, 1965*



### **Formation Information By Les Alberti, ofs, TRF Formation Director**

Dear friends in Christ.

The younger one becomes the faster time seems to slip by. Why it was only yesterday we greeted each other with the joyous acclamation of the Prince of Peace granted us by the love of the Lord, our mighty God.

And yet the accomplishments during this past year are truly remarkable not that of my own but that of the Secular Franciscan Order.

A new on-going formation program with monthly installments was presented on the International site [CIOFS – Dossier] concurrently in four languages. A new International Initial Formation program launched that the National Fraternity's Formation commission has converted to the two main

Canadian cultures and the Regional Fraternity will shortly make available on-line.

These past few years have seen major changes from a paper based approach to formation to an electronic based communications that allows considerable flexibility to Formation Directors within the Region to obtain and use excellent formation material. We are investigating the possibility of "distant learning" as an option to both reduce costs of formation and to provide assistance where there may be limited formation ability to one or another [somewhat distant] local fraternity.

Additionally we had a number of major Formation Workshops this past year in the Trillium Region where we shared our experiences and available new material. Among the new items that shortly see light of day is a list of recommended formation and reading material. New also is "The Franciscan Journey" by Lester Bach, OFM Cap. This new formation material reviewed and acknowledged by Jim Vasey, ofs and his lovely wife.

Richard Juneau, ofs kindly reported on the excellent results his Fraternity has had with the on-going formation using the monthly Dossier as the prime material since January 2010.

In the Trillium Region we have a lot of available material in English. But our fraternities adhere to a lot of different cultures. Among these we have the Polish speaking fraternities, the Italian, Korean, Vietnamese, those who prefer the French language, Spanish, Philippine or Hungarian for that matter. Yet we are one family of Love in the footsteps of St. Frances. Formation in these languages is much enhanced with the use of the internet; the home countries do provide good formation materials, and the highly dedicated attention of brother Franciscans. Our ethnic fraternities are the fastest growing fraternities in the Region – the good Lord gives us daily - new brothers to love.

May He richly reward your kind support and dedication in the new liturgical year and may baby Jesus bring us renewed hope for peace in your heart, your families and in the world.

Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

**Les Alberti, ofs**



### **SFO Profession on Par with Religious Profession**

(Retyped with permission from the Franciscan Mirror)

Profession in the Secular Franciscan Order is "on par with" and "of equal importance to" profession made by friars or any religious.

That was the opening statement made by Fr. Richard Trezza, OFM, regional and national spiritual assistant, during a workshop on the importance and sacredness of profession.

The talk kicked off the regional chapter, held April 16-18 at Stella Maris Retreat Center in Skaneateles.

He quoted Br. Felice Cangelosi, vicar general of Capuchin Franciscans, who declared at the SFO international gathering that the Church recognizes Secular Franciscans as belonging to a real Order, and that profession in the Order is of the same importance as religious profession – different, but of equal import.

"It is seen by the universal church as the same thing, as giving ourselves over to God," Father Richard said.

Profession has a number of awesome elements:

- It is holy Spirit-driven: An invitation to vocation. Furthermore, the minister invokes the Holy Spirit and calls the Holy Spirit down on the people being professed.
- It is a fundamental moment in one's life.
- It is a unique moment, an intense moment with God.
- It's a ritual done in a public arena, the presence of the fraternity, and a platform to give a response to God.
- It's dedicating oneself to service of God's kingdom, and it is grace-filled, because "we couldn't do that without a big dose of God's grace."
- It's a consecration, a dedication to God's exclusive service while living in the world as a single or married person... to be at God's total disposal.
- It's not a part-time commitment. The professed person becomes God's property, and God is working in that person's life, prodding the transformation. It's starting the day thinking one is a vessel waiting to be filled with God's grace. It's praying daily. Its daily conversion... living the Gospel.
- It glorifies God. Because of the importance and sacredness of profession, it is vital to have a discernment process during formation of candidates.

Profession should take place during Mass, with a friar of priest present to be the witness for the Church and Order, he said. He encouraged fraternities to postpone profession until a friar of priest can be scheduled to participate.

"You are Secular Franciscan men and Franciscan women in your own right," he said, and, quoting Brother Felice, he added: "The SFO profession has the dignity of solemn and religious profession and cannot be considered lesser than that of a religious profession."

You are Secular Franciscans. You live in the world and are for the World... You can't use the pious line; 'I'm in the world but not of the world' (the world has been saved). To wish anything else would be a betrayal to your profession."

**(Editor's note:** A recent discussion held during the Pastoral Visitation to St. Mary of the Angels Fraternity, Father Peter Knaapen, OFM Conv. affirmed the premise above article).

### In Anticipation of our Christmas Communion



Your eyes at the midnight Mass will gaze upon the elevated Host and your lips will utter, "My Lord and my God." A few minutes more and the little Infant will have come to you. His Immaculate Mother did not hold him more truly in her arms that first Christmas midnight than you will have him, heart to heart.

Then all the love of that Infant Redeemer will be poured out upon you. It's a thirst of the heart of every creature that desires to be loved, and the love which can alone satisfy that craving is the Divine Love.

Let your heart delight in the love your God has for you, personally, individually. No soul ever in ardent fervor desires to unite herself to our Lord in Holy Communion, as our Lord desires to unite himself to her. So Holy Communion is a delight to your Infant Savior; because he loves you, oh, how immeasurably!... And the mystery of love is this: that he unites his Body to your body and your soul to his Soul, so that yours may be a member of his very own.

This Christmas Holy Communion will unite you to our Lord;... that you may participate in His life of charity, and may a divine light illumine you to see the depths and heights of the charity of a God made Man to redeem that which was lost. You participate in the spirit and the immense charity of Christ so as to be born this Christmas to a new life of charity - for "he that abides in charity, abides in God."

***Saint Katherine Drexel***

# Local Fraternity Bulletin Board



## Recent Elections:

Following are results of four fraternity elections. Congratulations to all and praise God for those willing to serve their Franciscan brothers and sisters.

### St. Clare of Assisi – Midland:

Minister: Florence Carson, ofs  
Vice-minister: Pauline Juneau, ofs  
Secretary: Carmelina Farrugia, ofs  
Treasurer: Richard Juneau, ofs  
Formation Director: Ellie Vanden Heuvel, ofs

### St. Angela Merici, Oshawa:

Minister: Paul Nicholls, ofs  
Vice-minister: Donna Marks, ofs  
Secretary: Hilda Rembala, ofs  
Treasurer: Elizabeth Faria, ofs  
Formation Director: Camile Norton, ofs

### St. Anne Tecumseh/Windsor:

Minister: Bert Van Berlo, ofs  
Vice-minister: John Vajdik, ofs  
Secretary: Michelle Roy, ofs  
Treasurer: Sylvana Alvarez, ofs  
Formation Director: Luis Alvarez, ofs

### St. Anthony of Padua, Sarnia:

Minister: William Clayton, ofs  
Vice-minister: Diane Hromek, ofs  
Secretary: Lois Levesque, ofs  
Treasurer: Anna Benusik, ofs  
Formation Director: Gloria Pearson-Vasey, ofs

### News from St. Maximilian Kolbe Fraternity

(Our Polish Fraternity)

On October 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> we have had our retreat. We gathered at the Convent of Felician Sisters of St. Francis in Mississauga.

The retreat was lead by Father Wladek Mezyk OFM Conv. from the Holy Trinity Church in Montreal.

We are grateful to God for granting us this spiritual feast and giving us food to grow in our Franciscan Life.

*Danuta Juchniewicz, ofs*

*Your editors, Cathy & Maurice, would like to take this opportunity to ask the Little Lord Jesus to give you every Christmas blessing. Merry Christmas!*



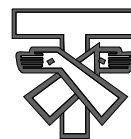
## Obituary

By Gloria Pearson-Vasey, ofs, Sarnia.

On June 9, 2010, Georgette Morneau, left us to join the company of the saints in eternity. Georgette was born to a devout Quebec family. After retiring from teaching math in Quebec, she moved to Sarnia to be near a Vietnamese family she sponsored.

Georgette entered the Secular Franciscan Order and was professed on May 21, 1996. She soon became as active in our Fraternity as she was in her parish and community. She served on Council and was our Formation Director at the time of her death. Georgette was so pleasant, generous and energetic that she seemed far younger than her 80 years. She voluntarily made coffee and set up for our monthly meetings.

After her death, members of her family came to Sarnia to accompany her body back to Quebec for her funeral Mass. When they realized how loved she was by St. Anthony of Padua Fraternity, her Vietnamese family and her parish, they decided on a Funeral Mass in Sarnia prior to burial in Quebec City.



### St. John Vianney Fraternity of Toronto

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(Our Korean Fraternity)

The following 11 members were professed on 10<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2010.

Formation Director: Rosaria Kye Hee Lee, ofs

Professed members are:

Agnes Yuen Jae Kim, ofs  
Skolastica Kyoung Sook Song, ofs  
Michaela Jung Soon Cho, ofs  
Catharina Quee Joo Oh, ofs  
Gregory Doo Hee Lee, ofs  
Damiana Eun Ja Lee, ofs  
Vivien Sook Lee, ofs  
Bibanna Hyang Kyung Sung, ofs  
Anna Sun Ja Won, ofs  
Clara Misuk Yoon, ofs  
Sophia Young Sook Baek, ofs

Witnesses: Rosaria Kye Hee Lee, ofs.

Andrew Sang Yeol Oh, ofs.

Minister: Mary Hasang Paul Sun Young Lee, ofs.  
Spiritual Assistant: Sister Rita Eun Sook Kim, fmm.  
Celebrant: Father Joseph Sang Wook Kim, ofm.

*Warmest congratulations to all!*