

Minister's Letter

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, Francis and Clare,

Prayers and blessings for a year filled with the grace of the Holy Spirit as we strive together to perfect simplicity in our lives! May we all experience the birthing of Christ in our midst over the days ahead. May our love and work prepare the way for His Light, dissipating all residual darkness in our world.

The Trillium Regional Fraternity Council is rolling up their sleeves for the busy year ahead. Some major events are the National Chapter of Elections in May, our own June conference, a summer Franciscan Fest, the Canadian Franciscan Conference in August and a Trillium Fall Retreat. We will be meeting for two days in March to make plans, so please keep us in your prayers, they are gratefully appreciated!

The annual census and fraternity contribution forms are being sent out this first week of January. Please excuse the delay, but the forms have been revised and separated into two. Some fraternities have already sent in their contributions. Many thanks!!!! For this year, the recommended amount of \$32.00 per member remains the same. May we ask that the census form be filled separately, including the names and addresses of all active professed members. This information will be compiled into a Trillium Fraternity Directory that will be made available to local fraternity ministers at the June Conference. The deadline for the census form is April 1st, 2003, but feel free to send it in as soon as possible.

Does your fraternity put on a day of Recollection, Retreat or other spiritual exercise? Do you have room for a few more people? If so, feel free to contact our newsletter editor, Cathy Kruger, ofs. She will include information about the upcoming event in the next newsletter. We would also like to hear how things are going with your fraternal activities. Please share with special events, apostolates, joys and sorrows.

May you be renewed for the work ahead through the inspiration of Francis and Clare.

May Christ bring you reconciliation and healing. May the Holy Spirit move freely in your life. May you always find peace in God through prayer.

Peace and all good!
Debbie Tessier, ofs
Trillium Regional Fraternity Minister

Message from our Spiritual Advisor Fr. Peter Knaapen, O.F.M.

Our Holy Father in his recent Apostolic Letter, *Rosarium Virginis Mariae*, proclaimed five new mysteries for us to contemplate. They are the Mysteries of light. 1. The Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan. 2. The Self-manifestation of Jesus at the wedding feast of Cana. 3. Christ's proclamation of the Kingdom of God, with his call to conversion. 4. The Transfiguration of Jesus. 5. The institution of the Eucharist, as the sacramental expression of the Paschal Mystery.

Our Holy Father reminds us that the Rosary is "at heart a Christocentric prayer" and by means of it we meditate on the entire Christian mystery. By contemplating Christ's birth we learn of the sanctity of all life. By listening to the Master in the mysteries of his public life we find the light which leads us to enter the Kingdom of God. By following Jesus on the way to Calvary we learn the meaning of salvific suffering. By contemplating Christ and His Blessed Mother in glory we see the goal towards which each of us is called, if we allow ourselves to be healed and transformed by the Holy Spirit.

The Rosary is a contemplative prayer but at the same time it is a prayer of petition. By means of it we present to the Lord all our problems, anxieties, labour and endeavours of our lives. "Cast your burden on the Lord and he will sustain you". (Ps 55:23).

To pray the Rosary is to hand over our burdens to the merciful hearts of Christ and his Mother. In light of this our Holy Father has asked us pray the Rosary for peace.

"The Rosary has many times been proposed by my predecessors and myself as a prayer of peace. At the start of a millennium which began with the terrifying attacks of 11 September 2001, a millennium which witnesses every day innumerable parts of the world fresh scenes of bloodshed and violence, to rediscover the Rosary means to immerse oneself in contemplation of the mystery of Christ who 'is our peace', since he made 'the two of us one, and broke down the dividing wall of hostility' (Eph 2:14). Consequently, one cannot recite the Rosary without feeling caught up in a clear commitment to advancing peace, especially in the land of Jesus, still so sorely afflicted and so close to the heart of every Christian".

May we continue to use the Rosary as means of growing closer to Christ and His Mother. During this year of the Rosary, may we pray it especially for peace in our world.



Liturgy of the Hours

A website for the Liturgy of the Hours can be found at the following site: www.liturgyhours.org
I believe you will need Adobe to support the program.

FRANCISCANS INTERNATIONAL

Fr. Peter suggests that each fraternity subscribe to this magazine. A Member Application form is enclosed with this newsletter for your convenience.

Chapter of Elections Results

St. Anthony of Padua Fraternity in Sarnia

Nov. 26, 2002:

Minister, Pat Damaan, ofs;
Vice Minister, Allana Myslawchuk, ofs;
Secretary, Rita Monti, ofs;
Treasurer, Georgette Morneau, ofs;
Formation Director, Lois Levesque, ofs.
Gloria Pearson-Vasey, ofs, is the Spiritual Assistant.

St. Peter's Fraternity, London

Dec. 17, 2002:

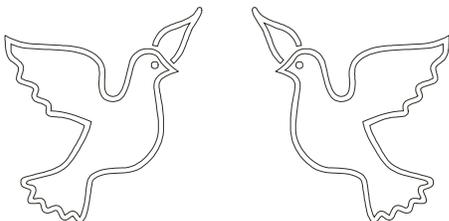
Minister, John Ahlers, ofs;
Vice Minister, Ted Gryn, ofs;
Secretary, Ken Lawlis, ofs;
Treasurer, Tom Ford, ofs;
Formation Director, Gena Gryn, ofs.

Congratulations and all blessings.

More Congratulations

At St. Francis Fraternity, Burlington on Sunday, January 5, 2003 Hannah De Freitas and Gerry De Maio were professed into the Secular Franciscan Order.

May the Lord bless you and keep you, may his face shine upon you and be gracious to you, may he look upon you with kindness and give you his peace. Amen.



Fire at Poor Clares Monastery

Sister Madeleine, one of the Poor Clares living in the monastery on Sherbrooke, Quebec, tells of the fire on January 1st. of this year.

The life of the Poor Clares has been turned upside down since the incident. Communal life and prayer are difficult, there is smoke damage to their prayer books, there are media interviews, basic needs to provide for, and other problems.

The Poor Clares spent New Year's Eve in adoration until midnight, thanking God for the year past. At the conclusion, Sister Marie-Immaculee, the abbess, sent the Sisters to rest with the words "I wish you the nudity of the manger".

Twelve hours later, at lunch, the fire alarm sounded. They managed to cut off the electricity, retrieve the consecrated hosts from the chapel, and escape with the dog and cat, standing outside in the ice and snow without boots, one sister in slippers. Only the bird was unaccounted for.

The fire took its toll in 40 minutes, but the firefighters remained on the scene for another 12 hours. By 9 p.m. two firefighters decided to enter the building to search for anything that could still be of use to the sisters. Inside, they heard birdsong, and sure enough, there was the bird, standing in its birdcage singing, the cage bars still hot from the fire! Something of a miracle!

The Franciscan family in Quebec is rallying support to help provide the sisters with their basic needs. Donations may be sent to the following:

Those wishing a receipt for income tax purposes, mail to: Gisle Durocher, 275, rang 10, St-Louis-de-Blandford, G0Z 1B0

If no receipt is required, send to:

SERVICE COMMUNAUTAIRE D'INFORMATION ET D'ANIMATION FRANCISCAINE (SIAF), 5732 boul. Pie IX, Montreal, Quebec, H1X 2B9

Submitted by Richard Chamberland, ofs, Minister of the Sherbrooke Region.

Translated by Debbie Tessier, ofs, Minister of Trillium Region.

Certificates

For Trillium Certificates to mark professions or profession anniversaries contact:

Irene Paterson, ofs at ijk.paterson@sympatico.ca for professions certificates.

Cathy Kruger, ofs at ckrugerabc@hotmail.com for anniversary certificates.

Dates to Circle on your Calendar

May 8-11, 2003: National Fraternity Chapter of Elections in Quebec. TRF members plan to attend.

June 13-15, 2003: June Conference: Role of Council Members”

Place: Franciscan Centre, Mono Mills.

May include a celebration of St. Anthony on his feast day, June 13th.

August 15-17, 2003: Canadian Franciscan Conference. “Canticle for the World: Contemporary Franciscan Peace-making”.

Registration: 8:30 p.m. Friday evening. Conference ends with Sunday Mass at 1:30 p.m.

Animator: Sister Gabriele Uhlein, OSF.

Place: Queen of the Apostles Retreat Centre
1617 Blythe Road, Mississauga, ON

Contact Person: Bonnie Beverley, ofs 416-425-2010

TRF Mission Statement

We the Regional Council, in the spirit of Christian service, will promote, animate, and coordinate the Franciscan life and activities of our brothers and sisters of the Trillium Region. By the power of the Holy Spirit, we will help all to observe the Gospel, in the spirit of St. Francis, in order to bring about a more fraternal and evangelical world and to more effectively build the Kingdom of God.

Adopted by the TRF Council, Sept. 14th. 2002

Network Commission on Justice and Peace

For up to date information from Franciscans International on justice and peace, you may wish to contact our Anglophone Vice-Minister, David Bouchard at E-mail Address: bouch10@shaw.ca

It is recommended that each fraternity have a contact person with the Network Commission.



Remember to call on your Guardian Angel each day. Especially pray for the Trillium Regional Council that they may fulfill your trust.

YOUTH NEWS ‘N STUFF ☺

By Colleen MacAlister, ofs, fmma,
Youth Coordinator
Trillium Regional Franciscan Fraternity

WOW!!!NEWS the Damiano FoundaTio’s Inc.

of Friendship and Faith have opened a second drop-in location for Youth, in Trenton Ontario! Having operated a “FoundaTion” in Madoc, for 6 years successfully and having recently received their Charitable Status, the opening of the second FoundaTion in another community very naturally fell into place! With the help and support of the local Parish another safe place for youth is now in place! Praise God!!

Lots of awesome soup and cool Christian Music ‘n other neat stuff make “FoundaTions” a great place to hang out! Full of the “spirit of St. Francis of Assisi and the love of our Blessed Mother” a “FoundaTion” becomes a very comfortable, homey place with the first visit! The perfect location for “Coffee Houses” and other neat activities! If you would like more information about how you could have a little FoundaTion for the young people in you town, just ask me! **It is easy!**

DATE MARK! May 30th, 31, June 1st 2003

MONK FEST! St. Francis House, Madoc.

Ever hear of Punk Fest? Well a lot of youth have! What about offering a Christian alternative to such a social event for youth? SOOOO voila brain “baby”! (idea)! Why not a **MONK FEST!** A “place” full of music, full of nature and awesome vibes! That is safe and God and cool! No Booze and No Drugs! Don’t need ‘em! “God” is the “pot” at the end of the Rainbow! <LOL>☺

Listen to awesome MUSIC all day and go to sleep or stay up for “Stations for the Nations” out door all night prayer vigil with the sacrifice of the Mass when the sun comes up!!! The “baby” will be born this May! The Franciscan Missionaries of Mary and local Priests will there! Already we have over 150 people interested!!! WE need as many Franciscan Friars and Priests (Monks!) In uniform <lol> for this event as possible! We are expecting over 1000 youth!. The more Franciscans that we have at our farm that weekend the better! Contact me for more details! We still have openings for youth bands too! CU there!

DATE MARK! April 25th, 26th, 27th 2003:

Fr. Stan Fortuna CFR the amazing “rapping priest” who plays a very MEAN bass guitar! (I heard that at WYD and St. Bonaventure’s last year!) WOW! Fr. Stan will be in Mississauga! EVERYONE knows Fr. STAN!! For details U know what to do!☺ (He was at St. Francis House, Madoc on 2001!)

DATE MARK! July 17th, 18th, 19th 2003:

“Journey to the Father” Youth Retreat

At St. Bonaventures . Steubenville style with lots of solid teaching and awesome Music!! For details call U know who ☺

GOD BLESS ALL of YOU with His Peace and Good!

So mark these dates on your calendar and PLEASE pray for all of them and come if you can! We are the Church and we must remain young in our hearts! Just like JP II~!!

ANY questions at all call Colleen at 613-473-1763 OR e-mail to : colleen.gii@sympatico.ca



Your Page to Share News and Views

Making Christmas right around the World



St. Joseph's school is creating Bags of Love for needy children around the world. The bags contain toys, hygiene items, school supplies and candy and are shipped to Third World countries by Dr. Simone's Canadian Food for Children in Toronto. The bags are sewn by the religious order of Secular Franciscans and their Port Elgin friends and are used by women to catty food such as rice and beans. This year's 200 bags and over \$1,000 can be contributed to by calling Marlene Walter at 797-3062. Clockwise from left are students Tiffany Cutting, Jamie Rice, Caitlin Sullivan and Chris Walbourne.

This item submitted by Irene Paterson, ofs, St. Joseph the Worker fraternity, Port Elgin.

Editor's Note

This is **YOUR** page! Please send items of interest to share with other fraternities. Fraternity days of recollection, anniversaries, articles or prayers you have written, etc., etc. Snail or e-mail to Cathy Kruger, 782 Cope Rd., Welland, ON L3B 5N7 or ckrugerabc@hotmail.com

Some Thoughts on Peace

By Hugh Dobson, ofs.
St. Francis Fraternity, Burlington.

Globalization:

People are so focused on technology,(especially transportation and computers), that they are neglecting basic life- support needs, (especially agriculture and human relations.)

And Peace:

The heart of my religion is ' justification by peace'. The call to Active Peace is for both the 'secular' and the 'religious' persons. Peace is called for, as the essential behavior, with or without 'faith'.

Choose Active Peace:

War is bad behavior.
That is hard to believe
if we think we have to
defend ourselves.

'The good' is between
excessive sleepiness and
excessive conflict.

My way of
Loving humanity is
To indicate the
Way of Life and Peace.

Humanity can seek
this good after
I have pointed it out.

Joke Corner

**Franciscans aren't disorganized.
We're administratively challenged.**

**If a dog were your teacher, you would learn
stuff like:**

- When loved ones come home, always run to greet them.**
- Never pass up the opportunity to go for a joyride.**
- Allow the experience of fresh air and the wind in your face to be pure ecstasy.**
- When it's in your best interest, practice obedience.**
- Let others know when they've invaded your territory.**
- Take naps.**
- Stretch before rising.**