



Good News Report

Secular Franciscan Order
Trillium Regional Fraternity



Number 64

Nov 2012

MINISTER'S LETTER

Prayers and blessings to all members of the Trillium Fraternity.

This past year saw many activities undertaken by dedicated members at all levels of the Franciscan Family. You will find some of these detailed more fully described in the balance of the newsletter. The new National Council adopted measures to ensure that they are able to carry out their ambitious programs adopting the recommendations of the International Fraternity and those of Chapter at Mats. This time around this will also involve making changes to our Regional Statutes to bring them in line with the National and International documents.

Debbie Tessier, our National Minister attended twice at our Regional activities this year. In April she attended at the Local Ministers' conference while in June she spoke at the Franciscan Fest in Orangeville. News of these events travelled internationally. The support of Dr. Simone's mission to the poor [Canadian Food for Children] by our local Fraternities also received international recognition as part of the Franciscan Active Presence in the World program. [ref – CIOFS site]

As Secular Franciscans we thank the members of the National Fraternity for initiating a newsletter starting with the October 2012 issue. Our dear brother Deacon Maurice Prindiville offs has agreed to be the publisher once again. Thank you Maurice. We are looking forward to reading these letters on the National Website sometime in the near future. [<http://www.ofsnational.ca/>]

The region identified all eight Local Fraternities without canonical charter owing perhaps to loss of documents. Working with Fr. Peter Knaapen ofm conv. we hope to provide them with an authentication of the charter in the near future. We are fortunate in that we were able to establish the existence of the related documentation in a number of cases and this should help complete this undertaking.

Following discussions by regional Council we have worked with local Fraternities for the complete



and comprehensive review of the regional membership. This undertaking is progressing well. In the course of this review we learned sadly of the passing of a number of our dear brothers and sisters. We also learned of the sizeable number of members who became residence-bound in this past year but on whose prayers we rely for strength.

The Regional Council members and our Spiritual Assistant continue to make regular visits to local fraternities for purposes of fellowship, to assist with elections, conduct formal reviews in keeping with the requirements of the General Constitution, to review the progress of the Fraternities and to offer support with both local and regional issues. The welcome we continue to receive from all Fraternities is most appreciated. It reminds us all that we are truly one large family of Sts. Francis and Clare.

Nationally and regionally we continue to be challenged by the decline in membership numbers. This is nowhere more pronounced than in our sister regions in Quebec. As a result we ask all to pray to the Lord for more new candidates and to work towards reinvigorating the local recruitment programs. This may also mean revisiting our plans to ensure both adequate attention to our responsibilities and to do so within our means.

The Regional Council is grateful for your prayers and support.

Prayers and blessings,

VICE MINISTER

A Couple Little Thoughts,

I love the autumn! The colours of the leaves each uniquely painted cannot be duplicated or copied! One standing alone may be lovely but all the different colours side by side are a brilliant beautiful reflection of our Creator's love!

How like to this are we, God's children, each unique with different gifts, and smiles and colours of hair and clothing and skin!

One of the brilliant pictures at WYD in Ger-



many was a collage of people's faces that actually created the likeness of JP II!

At our Franciscan Family Fest, there was a collage created by Marzio our Vice Minister. This collage of pictures of people was created into the shape of St. Francis! It was awesome!

Perhaps we could reflect on our place in the image and likeness of the Lord, remembering that we are not alone! Alone we are lovely but together we are a brilliantly beautiful expression of the Creator's love! As Fraternities of St. Francis, we are part of the Church and we have our own shades and colours! All equally important and lovely! Together as we stand side by side with our brothers and sisters, in our Faith, our differences in appearance, clearly visible, we present together a powerful, unified picture of Christian love and Charity in the world!

In this season, we remember our past fallen heroes, all our saints and the holy souls and as we move into the anticipation of Christmas, let us be filled with joy and thanksgiving for all the Lord has given us! Let us be thankful for our lives as He has given them to us! Let us trust Him in all our adversity and glorify Him in our humble and obedient Franciscan lives as we bring peace and joy into a world of coldness and despair! May our witness draw people to our friendship! May our friendship bring hope and may our faith be contagious! As we move into the Christmas Season— let us prayerfully remember all those who are suffering and be generous with our time and our gifts as God leads us, certain in our hearts that He is with us and we are where we are and who we are by His grace and give Him glory! No one else can be what God has called you to be! God bless everyone with Peace and All Good! Praised be Jesus!

Peace and All Good
Colleen MacAlister, ofs

TREASURER

October 11 begins the Year of Faith in the Catholic Church. When Pope Benedict XVI spoke of the Year of Faith he said, "...there is a need to rediscover the journey of faith so as to shed ever clearer light on the joy and renewed enthusiasm of the encounter with Christ." The Year of Faith is also called the "Porta Fidei" or the door of faith. We are all called to CONVERSION during



this upcoming year. When St. Francis went through the doors of San Damiano to look for a new way to lead his life he found the answer from the Lord. We are being called to the door of our faith, to open it a little and let the light shine through us. "A single sunbeam is enough to drive away many shadows" — St. Francis of Assisi. How many doors do we enter a day? Do we bring our faith and live our Franciscanism out loud?

When Francis chose the TAU as his way to sign his letters he was showing not only his love of the Cross but also his humility in choosing the last letter of the Hebrew alphabet as he wished to be the least among others. It is also interesting to note that the Hebrew word TESHUVAH begins with the letter Tau and means "return." We are to turn away from our sin and return to the Lord.

Our conversion needs to happen daily and we can celebrate this Year of Faith with open hearts.

From my heart with thanks,
Catherine Payne, ofs

YOUTH COORDINATOR

Dear Franciscan Brothers and Sisters,

What an exciting time to be a living member of our Roman Catholic Church in this Year of Faith! The focus at the recent Synod of Bishops in Rome was the call to the New Evangelization. I hear this call as the same message that Jesus gave Francis from the cross: "Go rebuild my Church!" I would like to look at media as an effective tool and method for evangelizing and therefore for rebuilding our Church—especially young adults.

1) Blogs:

Here is an atheist who converted to Catholicism and says that " *Blogging and other new media played a big part in my conversion.*" Her witness can be found at www.conversiondiary.com. When reflecting on St. Francis' call she writes: "*Let's contrast the way St. Francis responded to that message to the way someone like me would heed the same call: Francis: [Gets up, walks out of the church, and gets to work gathering stones.]*

Jen: "Rebuild my church"? What church? This one? Or did you mean my home parish church? And what did you mean by 'rebuild' — are we talking a sym-



bold spiritual renewal or physical renovation? If the latter, exterior or interior? Or both? Or, wait...did you mean capital-C Church?!" Basically, I would have analyzed it, thought about it, talked about it, and done whatever the 12th Century version of blogging about it was. And I would have taken no action until I felt like I had perfect clarity on it — which means I probably never would have done anything at all."

2) Catholic Podcasts:

The USA is far advanced when it comes to apologetics through media. Catholic Café podcasts where Deacon Jeff interviews a variety of people including the Friars of the Renewal on different topics such as "Why the New Evangelization?," "The Keys to Joy", "You Are What You Eat", to name a few. You can download these for FREE on your ipod, phone or access them on your computer.

Another podcast I have discovered is ChristLife: We Have Been Sent. Young Adults, on fire for Jesus, are equipped for the New Evangelization by running each episode. Relaxed, informative and inspiring!!

3) FACEBOOK:

Social networking is where youth live, move and have their being! People search for topics they are interested in so they can meet people of like-mind!

Our new closed group page will come up if people are searching any of the following words: *Catholic Franciscan Young Adults Youfra Ontario, Canada*. As administrator I invite people to the page or people can ask to join the group. It is an easy way to inform and reach many people. I will post something weekly so that it stays fresh and there is always something new to witness to Franciscan spirituality. Another plus is that it can stimulate discussion. Please suggest young adults for me to invite. Jesus invites us, so too must we invite.

Catholic Franciscan Young Adults YouFra is an open facebook page from Kennebunkport, Maine as is our *YOUFRA CANADA* page.

Our Trillium YouFra webpage is available on these facebook sites.

4) Catholic television & live streaming: As Canadians, we are blessed to have Salt and Light Catholic Media Foundation, which employs many young adults to produce their programs. The "In Your Faith" season 1 and season 2 use Teens and Young Adults to discuss basic Catholic Christian topics. They always have a witness-a COOLCATH- who is an older Catholic who is living out the Gospel life.

"The Church Alive" is a new program presented by Young Adults and very inspiring. The Perspectives weekly program allows people to voice their thoughts for one week prior to filming the episode. The final word is given to the One who is the Word! Check out their APP and FACEBOOK page.

5) YOUTUBE: As we approach All Saints Day I must share a fun video called *The Saint Song*. Don't blink or you'll miss St. Francis & St. Clare!! Also, check out Matt Maher's *Litany of the Saints* - reverent and contemporary!

Communication is a key element to spreading the Good News and though I believe that personal witness is best, media runs a close second!

In the final address at the Synod, the Bishops said, "The youth are particularly dear to us...because we sense in our youth deep aspirations for authenticity, truth, freedom, and generosity, to which we are convinced that the adequate response is Christ."

Peter Murphy from the USCCB's Secretariat of Evangelization and Catechesis says, "It is a time to stop, reflect, and reconnect to our passion for the Catholic faith in order to become effective evangelists." How true! Youthful Francis was passionate. We, the very saints called to bring the good news of the free gift of salvation to anyone God puts in our path, need to be passionate!!

The New Evangelization: as the NIKE logo says: 'JUST DO IT!'

Peace,
Silvana Lougheed, ofs

The Good News Report

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

Any items you wish to include are warmly welcomed and will be published space permitting. Articles may be sent by the 8th of the month of publishing, to Deacon Maurice Prindiville, ofs, mprindiville@golden.net

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

FROM THE FORMATION CORNER



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

I write you as the season of Fall is about to end and the Winter season is about to begin. I look around at the breathtaking landscape that the Lord has provided for each of us to ponder and wonder at His marvellous works. The colour of the leaves this time of year are spectacular – they blow away and are re-born in the spring! How awesome is Our God! It reminds us of how short life is, but yet how beautiful, even at the end of our earthly life it will be, because we, as Franciscans, know that we will be alive in Christ always.

Then comes that Feast of Feasts – Christmas – when Christ came into this world to save us. This feast, this incarnation of Christ, is the most precious in our sight and our life, because we Franciscans, like Francis thank God with all our hearts, souls and minds for the humble, self-giving God that loves us unconditionally.

During the month of December I suggest to all of you, to read again, and again the Gospel for Christmas Day in quiet contemplation placing yourself at the crib with the Holy Family. Spend some time also, contemplating that Christmas when Francis made the living Nativity alive.

I'm sure all of you will have a Christmas fraternal get-together. During that time read the story of Greccio, and all share your feelings and thoughts re that special occasion.

A Letter from St. Francis to St. Clare (Winter 1224)

My Dear Sister Clare,

How kind of you to ask how you can help the brothers in Assisi prepare for Christmas while I am away preaching in the country.

I know there is much to be done. Food must be prepared for the many brothers and sisters who will return from their work to celebrate the feast with us. And food must be prepared to share with poor. The townspeople will expect us to arrange another manger scene and Midnight Mass. We must locate animals and torches, even a baby! We must find a priest for Mass and deacons to assist.



You know that in my heart Christmas, the feast of love, is my favourite Feast – the one I wish would never end. It is the time when the poor should be treated royally, and the animals are not only welcome but necessary to our worship.

But, dear Sister Clare, do not let yourself or anyone of us get caught up in the busyness. That is false preparation for the great Christmas feast. God would have us prepare quietly, in our hearts and in our living.

We must pray and wait for the Incarnation but be prepared for it at every moment. Look at the faces of the lonely and befriend them. See Jesus in the hungry and feed them. Put seeds on the roads for the birds. And stop to thank God for the beauty of the moon on a cold dark night.

This is how to prepare for Christmas.

Pax et Bonum!

Your little brother, Francis

I wish all of you a Holy, Blessed and Joyful Christmas!

Donna Dooling, ofs

WHAT IS FORMATION – WHO ARE THE FORMATORS

Formation is not academia

Formation is not culture: it creates it.

Formation is not more or less impersonal conferences

Formation is not just “materials”, paper or audiovisual documentation

Formation is not a series of common places made up of devotionism

Formation is not catechism. It presupposes it.

Formation is to give a new form, the form of Christ, *the perfect man*, according to God’s plan for each one of us: His vocation for us.

Formation is the *compelling*, living transmission of **faith, the personal discovery of God** Who transformed us into new creatures (if we have accepted to be transformed), **the truths which have opened our eyes and have given immediate and ultimate sense to our life, the beauty and joy of our common vocation**, of the compelling ardor to fulfill God’s project for us.

Franciscan formation is to give form to all this, according to the vocation God has given us (which is Grace) to follow Christ as Saint Francis did.

Francis himself is a privileged and paradigmatic icon of formation.

He strove all his life to fully conform to Christ. He followed the only valid method, the only goal, of Christian formation: *sequela Christi*, the following of Christ. He fulfilled his journey in an admirable manner to the point of receiving God’s seal in sharing Jesus’ wounds. The Church recognized him as *alter Christus*, another Christ.

Christ is the Book of life, Christ is our “manual of formation”, the living and true Jesus with His words, His actions, His total donation of self, with His Spirit. He is the Way, the Truth and the Life.

The most efficacious and credible manual also for us Secular Franciscans cannot but be a living manual after the example of Francis who said: *I have done my part, Christ will teach you yours.*

Each one of us, by letting Christ teach us our part, will have to become a “living manual” for his brethren. The flame, the warmth of love and faith can be transmitted only by those who possess this flame, this warmth.

The flame and this warmth can be received only by **those who yearn for them and remain open and accessible to the action of the Spirit**, to the living transmission of authentic and credible “witnesses”.

When all this is accomplished, then, and only then, manuals become useful.

After having received the flame, the enthusiasm, the vital energy and the necessary nourishment also for the intellect, we can retrace in the manuals the living experience we have received, to imprint it in us, interiorize it, assimilate it and become living witnesses and efficacious formators.

This is what happened with the first disciples, with the first Christians who did set the world on fire, while, now, we ... risk to extinguish it!

Francis, like a new Christ, inflamed his companions, his fellow citizens, the men of his own time, and continues to inflame the world, just like the first disciples.

Now it is our turn. We, too, must set the world on fire, my brothers and sisters, and in order to do so we need, *right faith, certain hope, perfect love, profound humility*, just as Francis asked the Crucifix after He had revealed to him his mission. We must multiply ourselves, brothers and sisters, and *by vital contact*, by our presence, we must transmit, form and set on fire.

There are no other methods; there are no other “sophisticated” contents.

Let us pray the Lord to grant us His light and Grace and to teach us our way and help us to embrace it and walk along it in perfect joy all the way to the end.



CANONIZATIONS

Pope Benedict XVI canonized seven saints on October 21, 2012. Doug Clorey, International Vice Minister, attended and sends these words:

I was pleased to have been able to attend the canonization ceremony. For Canadian Secular Franciscans, three of the seven individuals being canonized are particularly relevant. Anna Schaeffer, from Germany, was a Secular Franciscan. Marianne Cope was a Franciscan sister from Syracuse, NY who followed the Third Order Regular and, of course, Kateri Tekakwitha was the first Native American saint, linked to both the US and Canada.

Saint Anna Schäffer, ofs 1882-1925

The life of Holy Anna Schäffer singularly illustrates the following observation by the blessed John Paul II.

"In whatever form, suffering seems to be, and is, almost inseparable from man's earthly existence... Human suffering evokes compassion; it also evokes respect, and in its own way it intimates. For in suffering is contained the greatness of a specific mystery... Down through the centuries and generations it has been seen that in suffering there is concealed a particular power that draws a person interiorly close to Christ, a special grace." (Apostolic Letter Salvifici doloris, SD, John Paul II, February 11, 1984 nos. 3, 4, 26).



Saint Marianne Cope O.S.F. 1838 -1918

Saint Marianne Cope O.S.F. arrived in Hawaii, from New York in 1883 to care for leprosy patients on Molokai Island where Hawaii governments had been forcibly exiling them for decades. At the time, there was widespread fear of the disfiguring disease. She led a band of Franciscan nuns to the peninsula to care for the patients, just as Saint Damien, a Belgian priest, did in 1873.

Pope Benedict XVI in his homily at her canonization said, *"At a time when little could be done for those suffering from this terrible disease, Marianne Cope showed the highest love, courage and enthusiasm. She is a shining and energetic example of the best of the tradition of Catholic nursing sisters and of the spirit of her beloved St. Francis."*



Saint Kateri Tekekwitha 1656 - 1680

Known as the *"Lily of the Mohawks,"* Kateri was born in 1656 to a pagan Iroquois father and an Algonquin Christian mother. Her parents and only brother died when she was 4 during a smallpox epidemic that left her badly scarred and with impaired eyesight. She went to live with her uncle, a Mohawk, and was baptized Catholic by Jesuit missionaries. But she was ostracized and persecuted by other natives for her faith, and she died in what is now Canada when she was 24.

Speaking in English and French, in honor of Kateri's Canadian ties, Benedict noted how unusual it was in Kateri's culture for her to choose to devote herself to her Catholic faith.

"May her example help us to live where we are, loving Jesus without denying who we are. Saint Kateri, protectress of Canada and the first Native American saint, we entrust you to the renewal of the faith in the first nations and in all of North America!" (Pope Benedict XVI, speaking at her canonization)

TRILLIUM REGIONAL COUNCIL REPORT

At the recent Trillium Regional Council, Council has agreed to coordinate two events over in 2013. Please reserve the dates April 27 and June 23, 2013.

Ministers' Meeting (April 27)

The 2012 meeting of Ministers was a great success. The Ministers, that were present, expressed the desire to do this again and therefore the Regional Council is making it a priority again in 2013. Details will follow. Please mark this date on your Calendar.

Trillium Region 20th Anniversary Celebration (June 23)

Yes it is true! The Trillium Region of Secular Franciscans in Canada was so decreed, 20 years ago in 2013! The Franciscan Family Fest of 2012, revealed, the wonderful benefits of coming together in joy and peace as a Franciscan Family! Let us celebrate again with faith and fun as family! We have made note of

every comment from the Franciscan Family Fest, to be considered in future events. Please mark this date on your calendar and more details will come!

The Regional Council is here to support and assist you. May we help you by:

Making a Fraternal Visit (mandated *every three years*) ?

Facilitating a workshop or Days of reflection locally for you?

Providing information and resources about: Youth, Growing your Fraternity, Formation, The New Evangelization, the Year of Faith, YouFra. Planning activities for "Justice and Peace and the Integrity of Creation"?

CONTACT ANY COUNCIL MEMBER at any time.

Local Fraternity Bulletin Board

TRANSITUS

St. Joseph the Worker Fraternity, Port Elgin



On October 3rd, 2012 our Fraternity celebrated a beautiful Transitus ceremony. Our Fraternity with Father Franjo. There were only 2 members missing.

Our members said that this was the most touching and reverend Transitus they had been to.

Trillium Certificates

For Trillium Certificates to mark Professions, Anniversaries of Profession & Service Recognition for Spiritual Assistants, (usually 5 year milestones) please contact: **Clelia Malerba, ofs;** malerbac@yahoo.com
Please apply in good time if you wish to have them on the profession day or anniversary date.

REST IN PEACE

St. Mary's Fraternity, Hamilton
Alfred Joseph Chaisson ofs,
November 7, 2012
(former Minister of St. Mary's Fraternity)

St Anthony of Padua Fraternity, Sarnia.
Betty Mazcko ofs, October 15, 2012.

St. Peter Fraternity - London
Ann Vanderloo ofs, July 21, 2012

Mary Queen of Peace Fraternity,
Walkerton Carlsruhe
Monica Grubb ofs May 27, 2012.

St. Anthony of Padua Fraternity - Brampton
Al Evans ofs

St. Leo Fraternity - Etobicoke
Margaret Driscoll ofs

Holy Rosary Fraternity - Belleville
*(This update though covers some period of time in
the past.)*

Margaret Bissette ofs, 2004
Larry Dalpee ofs 2010
Ann Haley ofs 2007
Joe Hogan sr. ofs

ELECTIONS

St Maximilian Kolbe Fraternity – Mississauga
October 14, 2012

Minister	Teresa Sroczyńska	1 st term
Vice – Minister	Wojciech Szelag	2 nd term
Secretary	Justyna Krolik	2 nd term
Treasurer	Anna Ivanescu	1 st term
Formation Director	Franciszek Szubert	1 st term

Sacred Heart Fraternity - Guelph
November 4, 2012

Minister	Ann Forester	2 nd term
Vice – Minister	Donna Dooling	1 st term
Secretary	Mary Trent	1 st term
Treasurer	Steve Briant	1 st term
Formation Director	Cathy Payne	2 nd term

St. Maximilian Kolbe Fraternity - Kingston
November 1, 2012

Minister	Victor Clarke	1 st term
Vice – Minister	Diane Gagne	1 st term
Secretary	Bob Howard	1 st term
Treasurer	Len Fardella	1 st term
Formation Director	Theresa Miller	1 st term

ADMISSIONS, PROFESSIONS

St. Maximilian Kolbe Fraternity - Kingston
Rite of Profession, Wednesday, 3 October 2012 during the Transitus. Diane Bruce and Bob Howard

Rite of Admission, Thursday, 02 August 2012, on the Feast of Our Lady of the Angels, Julie Hartnett.

St. Anthony of Padua Fraternity, Sarnia, joyfully welcomed seven new members On April 24, 2012. Father Peter Knaapen presided at the Profession. Also participating at the celebration and reception were Doona Dooling and Cathy Payne from the Trilium Regional Fraternity who had conducted our elections in November of 2011.



*St. Anthony of Padua Profession:
Jim Vasey, Formation Director, newly professed Marilyn Deery, Kevin Vasey, Delores Murray, Evelyn Vollrath, Father Peter, Wilhelmina Kole, Patrica Heit, Aureette McGarrity and Pat Daamen, Minister*

PROFESSION ANNIVERSARY

St. Mary of The Angels Fraternity -Welland

Congratulates Margaret Fox and Monique Dufresne on the tenth anniversary of their profession - January 26, 2013. We wish you God's abundant blessings; may the Lord keep you in His loving care.