



# Good News Report

Secular Franciscan Order  
Trillium Regional Fraternity



Number 42

Winter 200

## Minister's Letter

By **Debbie Tessier, ofs**



Minister's Letter to the  
Fraternities,

The last couple of months have been made so much more joyous with many meetings of Secular Franciscans to attend, local Chapters of Elections, Fraternal Visits, Commission meetings, a Regional Council meeting, professions and my own local fraternity meeting! The spirit of fraternity is strong and vibrant in the Trillium Region! I am grateful for this experience of fraternal spirit and dedication to the Secular Franciscan Order in the people that I meet in all these encounters of the brothers and sisters of Francis.

In the prelude reflection, these words struck me:

*A quoi te sert-il que Jésus soit né à Bethléem, s'il ne naît pas aujourd'hui dans ton cœur?*

*What good is it to you that Jesus was born in Bethlehem, if he is not born today in your heart?*

This reminds me of Francis' words: *we are mothers of our Lord Jesus Christ when we carry him in our hearts and in our bodies, lovingly, and with a pure and sincere conscience, and give birth to him through the working of his grace in us which should shine forth as an example to others.* Letter to all the Faithful, Second Version.

Come, Lord Jesus! May you find a welcome here in my heart! And may the Lord Jesus Christ bring you joy and blessings!

**Debbie Tessier, ofs**

## Advent Reflection: A time of expectation, a time of waiting

Father Raneiro Cantalamessa, ofm cap, Pontifical Household Preacher reflects on the readings for the First Sunday of Advent using this theme of "waiting". This waiting is much like that of expecting the arrival of a guest for dinner, or sitting in an office until you are called when your turn comes up. This time, rather than being empty and waiting to be filled, is a time already pregnant with hope and anticipation.

While waiting is the unavoidable consequence of being born into "time", it is also a spiritual experience of putting all earthly thoughts aside to listen attentively for the voice of the Beloved, the Christ, whom we know speaks to our hearts, promising that once time has passed away, we will see each other.

In looking up some meditations for Advent, I was given the address of a web-site put up by Poor Clares in France with weekly reflections for Advent.

**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 & January.**

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.**

## Greetings!

Cathy Kruger, ofs and Maurice Prindiville, ofs, you're **Good News Editors**, would like to take this opportunity to wish all our readers a joyful, blessed Christmas.

**Spiritual Assistant**  
**Fr. Peter Knaapen, OFM Conv**



On November 17 we began the Eighth Centenary of the birth of St. Elizabeth of Hungary. She is the Patroness of the Secular Franciscan Order and of Catholic Charities. Encarnación del Pozo, the Minister General of the SFO, has asked all of us during this

Jubilee Year to reflect on the life of St. Elizabeth. She hopes that all of us will reap plentiful fruits from our reflections. The International Council hopes to have available on our international website a program of formation and reflection on St. Elizabeth. Our International website is [www.ciofs.org](http://www.ciofs.org).

I would like to point out that there are two excellent letters from the Conference of the Franciscan Family available from the above website. The first letter is about the eighth centenary of the birth of St. Elizabeth entitled "We have come to believe in love". Excerpts from this letter were included in the Fall 2006 edition of the Good News Report. The complete letter is six pages long and is a beautiful summary of the life of St. Elizabeth. The second letter concerns the eighth centenary of beginning of the Franciscan Movement with the approval of the Rule in 1209. It is entitled "Living according to the Gospel". If you do not have access to the Internet and would like a copy of the above letters please write to me and I will send you a copy.

I would like to wish all of you a very blessed Christmas. May the life and intercession of St. Elizabeth help us to grow closer to the Lord, to live the Gospel life more intensely and to love the Lord more deeply by loving the poor in our midst.

Pax et Bonum,  
**Father Peter**



**Formation Director**  
**Kay Craig, ofs**



The first meeting of the Trillium Region Formation Commission held its second meeting on October 31, 2006. We are working hard to bring you formation news and information.

The first Formation workshop hosted by the Formation Commission will be held on June 22 – 24, 2007 at the Queen of Apostles Centre in Mississauga. When we have more details, you will be notified, and hopefully, your fraternity has some money in its budget to help with the cost for at least your Formation Director. We would like to see the members of your formation team, and any others interested in formation attend also.

Plans to this date are tentative, however, some things we would like to see on the agenda are:

**On Initial Formation –**

- Overview on orientations and interviews, importance of reference letters
- Come and See: How to discern calling to the Franciscan Order

**On Ongoing Formation –**

- Building a Formation Team through Liturgy, study, prayer,
- Financing Formation Opportunities
- Outline of a regular meeting including Ongoing Formation

Further planning will take place early in the New Year. If there is anything you would like to see included in this workshop, please do not hesitate to contact me at [kcraig70@cogeco.ca](mailto:kcraig70@cogeco.ca) or Ph. 905-354-8451. I would be happy to hear from you.

May God grant you Peace and Happiness in this most holy of Seasons.

*Kay Craig*

## Youth Coordinator

by Colleen MacAlister ofs



Dear Brothers and Sisters,  
It is already Advent! It seems like just yesterday I was writing for the Fall Edition of the Good News Report! How quickly the days pass and next thing you know the seasons change.

Here we are in ADVENT and sooner than you know it we will all be celebrating **“CHRISTMAS”!**

I was asking some Youth about Advent. Questions like “What do you think Advent is” and “why do we have Advent”. Most of the understanding rested in the knowledge that there was a green wreath and four candles representing four weeks before Christmas. This gave me an opportunity to expound a little on this “liturgical” season.

Firstly, we talked about the Church and how awesome it is in its’ guidance! Our Church calendar year will never let us forget the important stuff! History that is remembered by Christians and all human beings! Today people are racing and rushing and most people don’t have enough time to do the things that they need to do let alone what they want to do! So let’s take four weeks!

### **SLOW DOWN!! GET READY!!**

The season of Advent tells us to slow down! Something really important happened!! AND we are going to remember it again! EMMANUAL! GOD is coming to earth to live with us! Jesus, His son will be born! He will redeem us and save us! He will give to us ETERNAL Life! He will suffer, die and RISE again on the third day! WHAT JOY! The very heavens were FULL of ANGELS!

The message was so strong that the Shepherds left their sheep with the dogs! <lol> That has to be pretty important! Before Jesus was born there was not much hope for the people! Jesus brought an ecstatic moment that has lasted a life time of centuries! From the moment Gabriel came to Mary, nothing has been the same! The people were waiting for the Messiah and Savior! AND we got HIM! <lol>How exciting! The Messiah has come!

SO the Church says slow down ...think... remember...Jesus was born.... Prepare and remember and think... He will come again!

I like the little **Advent Wreath Song** that was composed for Junior Liturgy, here in the Parish that I live, Sacred Heart of Mary. It is an “echo” response. The

children and I would lead and then the Parish would respond:

**“Are you ready?-Are you ready  
Are you waiting?-Are you waiting  
Are you expecting?-Are you expecting  
Anticipating?-Anticipating  
Soon its Christmas time-Soon its Christmas time  
And it’s our belief-And it’s our belief  
Jesus is coming soon-Jesus is coming soon  
We are the advent wreath! WE are the advent wreath!”**

The children were dressed in green except for the candle people! Three in purple and one in pink! So they could sing **“We are the Advent Wreath”**

But what of the rest of us, can we say that? The truth is – someone does need to BE the ADVENT wreath! How can we proclaim the Gospel! This good news! This great joy!

I am sure that you have heard it said before, WE may be the only Bible that some people get to read! I hope I am flipped to a good Chapter in the Scriptures when someone looks at me! **How do we reflect our preparation to receive Jesus!**

### **St. Francis knew how! He lived it!**

The very first nativity as we all know as Secular Franciscans was instituted by Francis! I had the opportunity to share that at a little children’s retreat on Saturday just past. Let us live the Gospel like Francis!

Tomorrow, during lunch, we are making a **Holy Half Hour** in the Church with interested Youth in Grades 6, 7 and 8. During this time we will talk about the Manger where Jesus was laid. Was it old straw and stinky straw? OR was it clean and fresh? What about the manger of our hearts? Is there anything old and stinky in there?

School confessions have already happened so after Father’s little homily, we will Renew our Baptismal Promises!

We have had a great **Youth Commission Meeting** with great results! I will write a report for the next newsletter. Suffice it to say we are making progress and the input from those at the meeting was wonderful! Currently we are working on a Regional Guide Book to go with the information that Fraternities already have as well as a work shop in the New Year.



## Youth Commission Executive

Colleen MacAlister ofs 613-473-1763

Irene McEvers ofs 905-438-9286

Louise Arruda ofs 905-775-9283

Gudrun Wegner ofs 613-473-4574

Other YC MEMBERS @ Oct. s Meeting

Teresa Viechweg

David Mitchell

Doris Legere

***We are looking for more members!***

***Please call or e mail if you want to participate with the Youth Commission for the Trillium Regional Council***

I was invited to St. Angela Merici 's fraternity Christmas Celebration! Don (my good husband) and I were there last evening! I was very impressed by the hospitality of all the people and the enthusiasm of the YOUTH! All the families were there! The Grand Children of the OFS members joined me with my tambourine and shakers, and my little chirping squirrel for Christmas songs! <lol> It was FUN! I told the youth that the Franciscans were looking to start Franciscan Youth Fraternities!

Actually even gathering with "children" is a wonderful start! We have lots of literature and information for Youth Outreach and Youth Fraternity ideas! ***IF YOU want MORE information please contact myself or any of the Executive for the Youth Commission.***

In closing, I would like to extend to you and your families and friends my heart felt prayers that together we all share a Joy filled Christmas and a most Blessed New Year!

May Christ be with us and in His Peace and Goodness may we live. Til next time,  
Colleen ofs

***DO YOU HAVE an IDEA to SHARE with other Fraternities? SEND it to me and I will add it to the YOUTH NEWS ©***

E mail me at [colleen.gii@sympatico.ca](mailto:colleen.gii@sympatico.ca) or telephone me at 613-242-4820

## Websites To Check Out

[www.sandamianoofoundation.ca](http://www.sandamianoofoundation.ca)

[www.francescoproductions.com](http://www.francescoproductions.com)

[www.youthministryaccess.org](http://www.youthministryaccess.org).

[www.cmdnet.org](http://www.cmdnet.org)

[www.cmdnet.org](http://www.cmdnet.org)

[www.youngneighbours.org](http://www.youngneighbours.org)

[www.prolifeseach.com](http://www.prolifeseach.com)

## 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@jcw.com](mailto:ckruger@jcw.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.

## "We Have Come To Believe In Love"

The Ministers General of The Third Order Regular have published a letter on the Eighth Centenary of the birth of **St. Elizabeth of Hungary**. The letter is titled, ***"We Have Come to Believe in Love."*** We will share excerpts from this letter for reflection as we prepare to celebrate this anniversary.

## Life of Elizabeth

Who was Elizabeth?  
A Hungarian princess born in 1207, the daughter of King Andrew II of Hungary and his wife Gertrude of Andechs-Meran. That same year, Francis of Assisi was struggling in his search for a new identity. He had already turned his life completely around and committed himself wholeheartedly to living a life of penance and teaching it among the people.

Following the customs prevailing among the medieval nobility, Elizabeth was promised in marriage to a German prince from Thuringia. When the



St. Elizabeth, Taken from the Church of St. Elizabeth in Marburg, Germany.

young princess was four years old (1211), she began the journey to her new country, surrounded with every type of gift prepared by her mother.

She was brought up at the Thuringian court with the other children of the Landgraf's family, including her future husband, as was the custom at that time. At the age of fourteen, she married Ludwig IV, the Landgraf of Thuringia. They had three children. Elizabeth was left a widow at the age of twenty. She died in 1231, when she was twenty-four and was canonized by Pope Gregory IX in 1235.

A misunderstanding has taken root in the Christian people, due to popular and not very rigorous biographies, which say that Elizabeth was the queen of Hungary. Of course, she was never queen of Hungary, or of Thuringia, but princess of Hungary and *Landgräfin* of Thuringia in Germany. She is traditionally represented with a crown, not as a queen, but as a princess or Landgräfin, which was also customary.

From 1221 to 1227, Elizabeth was an exemplary wife, and mother Ludwig and Elizabeth grew up together and shared life as brother and sister. So their ordinary way of addressing each other was "dear brother" and "dear sister".

Their relationship was one of authentic fraternal and conjugal affection. They both shared the same ideals of living the faith.

The sources contain a series of details which demonstrate that her marriage was not an imposition accepted out of obedience, but something that responded to a fully lived and shared state within a Christian vision of married holiness. Here we have one of the distinguishing features of Elizabeth's sanctity. At that time, marriage was not considered by the Church as a path towards holiness, as were virginity, martyrdom and the monastic life. From her bull of canonization, however, it can be deduced that the Pope considered married life one of the elements that gave novelty to Elizabeth's sanctity.

When Elizabeth was fifteen, she had her first child, Hermann, heir to the throne. Two daughters, Sophia and Gertrude, followed; the latter was born when Elizabeth's husband had just died (1227). At that time she was only 20 years old.

Already as a married woman, Elizabeth devoted a great deal of time to prayer, even far into the night, as she knelt praying beside their marriage

bed. She knew that she belonged completely to Ludwig, but she had already heard the call of "the other husband" who had addressed to her the evangelical "Follow me!" Deep joy and complete satisfaction sprang from this double-sided love, however, not a conflict from being divided in her soul. Above all human circumstances, what really mattered was the love of God, the absolute Good, all Good, Supreme Good. God was the supreme and unconditional value that strengthened Elizabeth's other loves for her husband, her children and the poor.

When her husband died, the princess died as well, and the penitent sister came to the foreground. Her life changed radically. Elizabeth left the castle, either expelled by her brother-in-law Heinrich Raspe, or leaving voluntarily to follow her ideals of renunciation and evangelical poverty. Then she ceased being the Landgräfin and began an important period of her life in her journey towards total immersion in God and conversion into one more poor woman among the poor and needy. She was able to realize in part the ideal of poverty and compassion, learned from Francis, which she cherished in her heart. She went down into the valley, to her own people but her own did not welcome her. Her answer to loneliness and abandonment was the song of gratitude which she asked to have sung in the chapel of the Franciscans, the *Te Deum*.



We are hoping to have this as a regular feature in our newsletter, and bring you news and reviews on suitable books for Ongoing Formation. For this time, I'll just advise you that I have recently received a new book for Ongoing Formation. It is called '*Capturing the Spirit of Francis and Clare*' and is written by Lester Bach OFM. This book is best used at a gathering separate from the regular gathering of the Fraternity. I have not yet had an opportunity to read this book thoroughly, so will report further on it in the future.

Kay

# Local Fraternity Bulletin Board

<b>TRF Database Statistics</b>	<b>As of Nov. 06</b>
Active members	470
Inactive members	118
Candidates	28
Inquirers	16
Deceased	22
Non trillium entries	21
Receiving <b><i>Good News Report</i></b> by mail	291
Receiving <b><i>Good News Report</i></b> by e-mail	163
Total entries in database	716

# Obituary

## Sacred Heart Fraternity, Guelph

On October 13, 2006 Catherine (Mickey) Chivers was called home to the Lord. She was predeceased by her husband, William in 2001. We offer sincere sympathy to her daughters, Karen and Jane and their families.

Catherine was professed into the Secular Franciscan Order on June 10, 1979 in the Sacred Heart fraternity in Guelph where she was active since her profession. Her last position was that of Formation Director where she carried out her vocation in an inspirational way.

May she rest in the Lord's eternal peace.

**Web-site: [www.cribandcross.com](http://www.cribandcross.com)**

Crib and cross © is dedicated to communicating the spirituality of St. Francis and to promote an understanding of how the Gospel applies to daily living.

Founder & Director:

Deacon Richard Boileau, ofs

**richard.boileau@videotron.ca**

Richard is a Secular Franciscan living in Montreal. He is a Deacon and a grief counselor who was a speaker at our National Chapter of Elections in May 2006, he writes excellent articles on Francis and his spirituality and how we can apply Francis teachings to our lives.

# Franciscan Lenten Retreat

There will be a Franciscan retreat at the Queen of Apostles Centre, Mississauga on March 23-25, 2007. Registration fee \$25.00  
Animated by Wendy Passmore

Queen of the Apostles Renewal Centre  
1617 Blythe Road, Mississauga, Ontario L5H 2C3  
905-278-5229  
e-mail: [ksmith@qoa.ca](mailto:ksmith@qoa.ca), [www.qoa.ca](http://www.qoa.ca)

## Profession

Congratulations to **Joseph Yong Doo Kim**, of St. John Vianney fraternity who was professed on August 20, 2006. Regrets for the omission of Joseph's name in the last Newsletter.

## Card of Sympathy

We offer sincere sympathy to Stephen Huh, ofs, Vice-Minister of the Trillium Regional Council on the death of his mother. May her soul rest in peace.

Maria Chi Bong Huh went home to the Lord on December 9, 2006 at the age of 93.

The wake and funeral were attended by Trillium members, Debbie Tessier, ofs, David Mitchell, ofs, Louise Arruda, ofs and Cathy Kruger, ofs.

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(The Peace Prayer in Korean)