



GOOD NEWS REPORT

Secular Franciscan Order
Trillium Regional Fraternity



Number 53

Winter 2009



Minister's Letter Michel Guilmette, ofs

My Dear Brothers and Sisters
in Christ,

I hope that your Christmas has been a joyous and blessed one. I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a wonderful and blessed New Year.

This past year has seen some changes in our Regional Fraternity. Two of our Emerging Fraternities are very near to becoming canonically established, the fraternity in Kingston is now again active and new groups have formed or are in the process of forming. We are experiencing growth in new professions as well.

It is important that we be reminded that it is imperative that with this growth we ensure that the new groups be established carefully according to our Rule and various Constitutions. Our Fraternities must also be very careful to enter their new members in their Registers and inform the Region. If your Fraternity does not have a Register for your membership do take the time to make one and keep it as the treasure it truly is. It is one of the most important documents you have.

Keep in it the names of your members, the dates of their Rite of Admission and Rite of Profession with the names of the Minister, the witnesses and the Celebrant for the Professions. When the time comes, enter the date of their passing.

It may seem odd that your Regional Minister would take this time to ask you to be diligent with what I'm sure many would consider being simple housekeeping. I have had to make some heartbreaking decisions because careful records were not kept and articles of our General Constitution were not followed. I have had to inform people who wished to return to the Franciscan fold that because the norms were not followed and the records not kept that they may not have been validly professed. It was one of the most heartbreaking tasks I have ever performed. I asked them in the name of the Regional Council to repeat their formation as Candidates and make their Profession again next year.

I beg our Local Fraternity Ministers to please ensure that their Fraternity has an up to date Register. If your Fraternity does not have one then please start one now and put in it the names of all your current

membership and if possible the names of all your deceased or inactive members. The Register is also the book that your fraternity can use to remember and pray for your deceased members.

Again I would like to wish you all a wonderful and blessed New Year. May the Peace of Christ fill your home and Joy follow you all yours days.

Peace and Goodness

Michel Guilmette, ofs



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

As we prepare for the Feast of Christmas these words of Pope Benedict are important for us to reflect on.

"Putting up the Crib at home can be a simple but effective way of presenting faith, to pass it on to one's children. The Crib helps us contemplate the mystery of God's love that was revealed in the poverty and simplicity of the Bethlehem Grotto. St Francis of Assisi was so taken by the mystery of the Incarnation that he wanted to present it anew at Greccio in the living Nativity scene, thus beginning an old, popular tradition that still retains its value for evangelization today."



Indeed, the Crib can help us understand the secret of the true Christmas because it speaks of the humility and merciful goodness of Christ, who "though he was rich he made himself poor" for us (II Cor 8: 9). His poverty enriches those who embrace it and Christmas brings joy and peace to those who, like the shepherds in Bethlehem, accept the Angel's words: "Let this be a sign to you: in a manger you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes" (Lk 2: 12). This is still the sign for us too, men and women of the third millennium".

From Pope Benedict's XVI Angelus message for the III Sunday of Advent 2005.

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

Fr. Peter Knaapen, OFM Conv.



YOUTH NEWS

by Silvana Loughheed, ofs, Youth Coordinator

These are exciting times. The Holy Spirit is moving all over this Canadian land of ours!!! He, the giver of life, is calling us to evangelize - to be magnets that draw young people and adults to Jesus, who was, who is and who always will be the Good News our hearts are searching for!

In Jeremiah 1: 4-8, the Lord calls the young man to be a prophet to the nations-a little daunting for poor Jeremiah. He cries, " I am too young!" The Lord answers,"**Say not, 'I am too young.'**" JPII loved to repeat this phrase to young people. Can we also be a "Barnabas" (a son/daughter of encouragement) and help youth believe wholeheartedly that they are not too young? They are not too young in making a difference in people's lives; not too young to say no to injustice; not too young to make radical choices. St. Francis, St. Clare and St. Elizabeth of Hungary were young radicals, magnets for Jesus!

The challenge for us "mature" adults is to be like Tobit, who after regaining his sight at age 62, lived to 112, helping the poor and continually praising God's greatness. **Say not I am too old!!!** Let's adopt this as OUR adage!

This Christmas, inspire your children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews, Godchildren and fellow parishioners, by sharing and giving holy gifts. Take advantage of this "techie" age, which young people are mesmerized by! Evangelize by inviting them to watch or read the following with you:

- *St. Francis* DVD by Ignatius Press (filmed on location in Italy, it depicts Francis' and Clare's lives from childhood; collector's booklet of all

films ever made on St. Francis; shows the confusion of war and how it traumatizes)

- *The Small Miracle* DVD by Ignatius Press (filmed in Rome and Assisi; about a young boy who seeks a cure from St. Francis for his dying donkey; based on book by Paul Gallico)
- *Saint Anthony* DVD by Ignatius Press (be inspired by the Saint's holiness, love for the poor, miracles and sacrifice!)
- *I DAY* DVD by SALT + LIGHT TV (an engineer and 8 Canadian high school students building a home in Mexico)
- *Holy Cows* DVD by SALT + LIGHT TV (Toronto students helping people in Uganda)
- *Saints: Gospel Artists* by SALT + LIGHT TV (Youth witnessing to their favourite saints while on pilgrimage in Europe; includes St. Gianna Beretta Molla, doctor, wife, & mother, as well as Francis, Clare and Pier Giorgio Frassati)
- *Champions of Faith* DVD by Ignatius Press (combining sports and faith; ideal tool for youth and families to discuss life and spiritual lessons famous baseball players have learned from the game.)

To order DVDs by Ignatius Press call 1-800- 651-1531 or visit www.ignatius.com . For DVDs by Salt +Light TV visit www.saltandlighttv.org or call 1-888-302-7181.

Speaking of "techie"- YOUTUBE is all the rage! Ask a young person how to work Youtube and how to find the following:

- *I Pray the Rosary* posted by May Feelings II (cool music youth like!)
- *Make Me a Channel of Peace sung by Sarah MacLachlan* posted by CmdrKateBowman or flowergirl41jax (this song has inspired many people and there are many other versions with beautiful visuals)
- *Listen to the Voices* by Inigo (poverty around the world)
- *Advent Conspiracy Promo Video* by windsor242
- *Tell Me Why* sung by 11 yr. old Declan Galbraith (reflections on how we can make a difference for those who need our help)
- *Giovani Verso Assisi 2009* posted by whyitdoesntwork (the pilgrimage I was on with 500 youth and religious; ask the youth watching this with you if they would like to go to **Italy in 2012!!** Offer to help them save for it!! Watch the Canada/USA fun fraternal night on the same Youtube page!)

While sharing movies and youtube delights, ask your family what struck them, what they thought, how it made them feel watching. Thank them for taking the time.

Junior ages like grades 4-6 may like to watch **WOW: The Catholic TV Challenge** a www.catholicstv.com It is a game show hosted by a priest. Very professionally done! For ages 5-10 there is a book called **Saints Tell Their Stories** WAU (the WORD AMONG US). To order call 1-800-775-WORD (9673)

There are amazingly inspiring praise songs. I am convinced that the Holy Spirit wrote them. On Youtube look up **How Great is Our God** (by Chris Tomlin), **Mighty to Save** (by Michael W. Smith), **You Are My God** (by Tony Melendez) and **Sing to the King** (by Billy Foote). Teens leading worship with me have put these on their mp3 players and listen to them traveling to and from school. Buy and give as gifts praise and worship CDs & DVDs by Hillsong, Mercy Me, Chris Tomlin, Robin Mark, Brian Doerksen (who live in Belleville) or Matt Maher.

Lastly, the **Pilgrimage for Youth** at Cap-De-La-Madeleine from July 19th to 22nd, 2010 is well on its way to being realized. David Bouchard, Colleen and I have skyped twice for several hours planning this Canadian first!! All Fraternities need to start thinking **now** how to promote it and the one or two youth that are going to **represent your fraternity or region** at this pilgrimage. The poster and registration form will be on the National website in both languages.

(www.ofsnational.ca) FYI (Franciscan Youth International), Jeunesse Cap-de-La-Madeleine, Canadian Food For Children and SIAF will be present. Drama, music, and rosary making workshops are being scheduled. Rooms have been booked at l'Hôtel de la Madone for 100 people. I **beg** you to faithfully pray for our Youth using the prayers sent to all ministers and youth contacts both at your fraternity meetings and personally. **There is NO fruit without prayer!**

During the Christmas break, ask your young family and friends to show you how to download SKYPE. It is free and a wonderful way to communicate with many people at the same time. I do it with my two young adult children all the time. **"Say not I am too old!"** We need this tool to communicate amongst our Franciscan family!

For Advent, a truly Franciscan season of Joy and Peace, our Gr. 7 & 8 Youth decided they would:

litter less & recycle more; react less & stop & think more; frown less & smile more; ride alone less & car pool more! Doesn't this give you hope for the present and future?

As we contemplate the miracle of Jesus, God Incarnate come to earth, let us vow to **communicate** with our youth more; to **inspire** them more; to **share** with them more; to **show interest in** them more; to **encourage** them more and **challenge** them **to stand up for justice** more!

Say not you are **too young** or **too old** to be a magnet for Jesus. Francis and Clare were evangelists, called to make radical choices. So are we. Be convinced!

May our hearts burn with zeal! The acceptable time for evangelizing is now!

In the Love of Christ,

Silvana Lougheed, ofs



Formation Corner
by Les Alberti, ofs.
TRF Formation Director

The state of fraternity formation was a focus of discussions at the recent Trillium Regional Fraternity meeting.

An excerpt from the book entitled **St. Francis and the Third Order** by Raffaele Pazzelli provides a useful reference, suggesting that as people of St. Francis' time we too need to accept the reality of a continuous Franciscan journey toward God.

"Penance is not a state, but a journey that leads to God. The life of penance can no longer be regarded as something unavoidable and unnatural for man, a logical consequence of the human condition, to be accepted with a stoic spirit. On the contrary, it is spontaneous, the result of our response to the love of God, and is enlivened by his spirit. It is not something static, but dynamic in the fullest sense of the word. Before God, man must certainly acknowledge being a creature, totally dependent on him and at the same time, confess the infinite greatness of divinity and, by comparison, the depth of his nothingness. At the same time, however, man also understands that his vocation is a call to greatness which can be reached by means of a continuous journey or passage towards God-likeness: "Be perfect, as your Father in heaven is perfect." This great similarity is reached through a continuous metanoia, or conversion, a continual aspiration and ascent towards God.

In this respect the Francophone and Anglophone regional fraternities have collaborated for the past number of years in bringing to fraternities resources, suggestions for initial and on-going formation. In collaboration with the International Fraternity once again this region is indebted to Debbie Tessier – now our National Minister, for her dedication in bringing the Francophone text of the 2010 on-going formation material alive in English.

As an insert in this newsletter and to go with this short report you will find the reference material with the hope that local fraternities, indeed individual Franciscans will avail themselves of the opportunity and incorporate the suggested monthly study material with their journey towards God.

Wishing you and your loved one a very prayerful and merry Christmas – Pax,

Les Alberti, ofs



A Note from Vice Minister Colleen MacAlister, ofs

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Once more we are in the winter season. How brilliantly the sun shines on the snow! How dark the trees appear! How “red” the colour of the cardinals! How “joyous” the dancing flight of the snow birds and “cheerful” the song of the chick-a-dee! I have always marveled at the beauty of the earth! Now I am marveling at the beauty and mystery of the galaxies!

I had the blessing of sharing a holiday with my husband this past November and one of our stops was the Kennedy Space Centre in Cape Canaveral. I saw many beautiful things that brought to mind God's creation and His omnipotence! One of the highlights was meeting some of the 80 people who attended the 1st Sunday of Advent Mass that was celebrated in a beautiful lounge on a magnificent vessel, in the Atlantic ocean, as we made our way back to New York. (We were blessed in that we had traveled with two friends, who are Priests)

As I write this we are in the Advent season once more. Advent addresses all three “tenses” of our existence. The past, present and future: we remembered what it was like “before” Jesus – an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth, and understanding the longing for the Messiah. We remember He was born and laid in a manger and examine our “manger”. The “manger” of our hearts. And then we look with joy and certainty in the knowledge that HE IS COMING again!

Our dear Father Francis experienced Christmas in truth and “reality”. Jesus had come to live in his life as certain and as sure as the “baby Jesus” had been born! As St. Francis brought the stable in Bethlehem alive in the cave in Greccio, for all to see and understand in a deeper way and as his brothers took the Nativity all across Europe in those years following, may we also experience the reality of the birth of Jesus, the holy and beautiful infant, God made flesh.

May Christ come to life in our lives more and more as we wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ! May we live our lives to the full! Serving the great King with joy and simplicity!! Until He comes again in Glory! There will be no more tears and no more suffering and no more separation! What good news we have to share, with the YOUNG and with the OLD, with the “poor” and with the “rich”! All are loved by God! Jesus has come and will come again! As we – Secular Franciscans – live and share our charism with all we meet, may we remember in particular the poorest of the poor among us, the youth, the elderly and the lonely and in so doing be a witness to our parishes and communities.

Merry Christmas and Blessings to all of you and your families! God bless you

Colleen MacAlister, ofs



Trillium Fair Share Contributions by Treasurer Louise Arruda

To: The brothers and sisters of the Secular Franciscan Order in the Trillium region.

What is done with our Fair Share Contributions to the Trillium Region?

As treasurer of our regional council, I am pleased to address this important question.

We Secular Franciscans are an integral part of the Franciscan family throughout the world and are a recognized order of the Roman Catholic Church. Like all good families, we support each other in working to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ and to grow in our own faith and love of God and each other. The Trillium Regional Council co-ordinates much of this work in our region and provides guidance and support to the fraternities in various ways.

For individuals and groups, recording revenues and expenditures is more than a simple tracking of financial facts. From whom we receive income and how we use it reflects our commitments and actual, expressed values and goals.

Secular Franciscans contribute financial, as well as other resources, in support of our local fraternities. Our fraternities contribute financially, on our behalf, to support the Secular Franciscan Regional councils. The Regional councils contribute financially to support the National OFS and International OFS and sometimes to support special Franciscan needs. The National OFS also contributes to the work of the International OFS.

In this way, our individual financial contributions, called “Fair Share” contributions, clearly reflect our commitment to God, His church and our work as Franciscans throughout the world.

The Budgets of each level of organization of secular Franciscans specifies how we choose to express our commitments as Franciscans. Each year, The Trillium Regional Council develops a new budget that reflects how the region intends to support the fraternities in practical ways as well as contribute to the National and International OFS.

The Trillium Region OFS budget for 2008-09 includes setting aside funds for payment of the following:

- Stipends for spiritual assistants,
- Newsletter expenses, profession and anniversary certificates, web-hosting fees and other web-site and communication expenses,
- Formation Commission expenses (Work-shops, meetings)
- Youth Commission expenses (Workshops, meetings)
- General expenses (books, materials used by the commissions or council, travel expenses to TRC meetings , fraternal visits and fraternity chapters of election)
- Projected expenses for Regional retreats, conferences or Chapters of election
- Other expenses (Funds to support youth travel expenses to Assisi)
- National Fair Share Contribution (\$ 2500.00 in 2009)

information to and from the National OFS and the local fraternities. The centre of all our work is love of God and our prayers.

May we all be ever grateful for blessings and love received by God and shared with each other and the world in service, learning and living the Gospel Life.

Peace and all good,

Louise Arruda, 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.**

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

Joke Corner:

1. There were two T.V. antennae near by each other on a pleasant roof. Soon they spoke, got to know each other and before long fell in love. After carefully considering their prospects and how they felt about each other, they got married. It wasn't much of a wedding, but the reception was wonderful!!

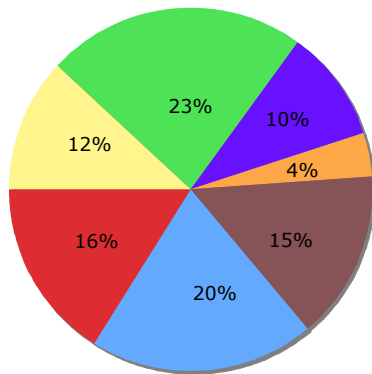
2. Wife: 'What are you doing?'

Husband : Nothing.

Wife : 'Nothing...? You've been reading our marriage certificate for an hour.'

Husband : 'I was looking for the expiration date.'

Trillium Regional Fraternity Budget



Legend

- 20% Support for National and International OFS
- 16% Travel costs
- 12% Newsletter/communication
- 23% Youth Commission/subsidy
- 10% Conference subsidies
- 4% Administrative expenses
- 15% Formation Commission

The Trillium Regional council aims to serve the fraternities via visits by council members and area councilors. As well, our service to fraternities is done via the work of our commissions (Youth and Formation), Newsletter, web-site, material/books provided /recommended or loaned, and by organizing annual events (retreats, conferences and chapters of election)

We support the National OFS through our Fair Share contributions and by sharing information, ideas with the leadership and with the fraternities. The Trillium Regional Council provides an important role in sharing

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

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

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.secularfranciscantrilliumregion.com

For Mount Alverno programs see:

www.mountalverno.ca *Check the site for details of a retreat coming up in January.*

St. Angela Merici fraternity, Oshawa

Congratulations to **Elizabeth Sheedy**, ofs and **Freda Langford**, ofs. Elizabeth was professed on August 11, 2009, and to Freda who had her 15th anniversary of profession October 4th. *Praise and thanks to God!*

St. Mary of the Angels fraternity, Welland

Congratulations also go out to **Edda Critelli**, ofs, **Anne Beaulieu**, ofs and **Sylvia Parrotta**, ofs. Warmest congratulations on your Profession on October 3, 2009

St. Maximilian Kolbe Fraternity, Kingston

On October 3rd, the Secular Franciscans took responsibility for the presentation and celebration of the Transitus at St. John the Apostle Parish in Kingston. An invitation was extended to parishioners from the various parishes within and around the Kingston area. During the prayerful para-liturgical celebration little loaves of bread were distributed during the narration of St. John's Gospel. This was done in commemoration of the request by Francis when he was dying; he asked that the Gospel of John be read and to distribute bread to the Friars at this time.

Following the Transitus the Fraternity members had a reception for the congregation. At that time they distributed almond cookies. When Francis knew he was going to die, he asked the Friars to go to Rome and request Brother Jacopa to come to Assisi and to bring him his favourite almond cookies. She showed up with candles for his funeral, a shroud and almond cookies.

Six Professed on the Feast of St. Francis

Michel Guilmette, ofs, the Minister for the Trillium Regional Fraternity, attended the Transitus and came back on Sunday, October 4, to celebrate with St. Maximilian Kolbe Fraternity, Kingston, to receive the profession of six members. Congratulations to Len Fardella, Brodie Richmond, Jack Coleman, Michael Foley, Diane Gagne and Deacon Daniel Lavoie.

Election Results:

St. Maximilian Kolbe, Kingston

Congratulations are in order to St. Maximilian Kolbe. Since the Chapter of Elections in November, the fraternity becomes a fully fledged; not as formerly, a newly reactivated fraternity.

Minister:	Brodie Richmond, ofs
Vice-Minister:	Len Fardella, ofs
Secretary:	Diane Gagné, ofs
Treasurer:	Michael Foley, ofs
Formation Director:	Deacon Daniel Lavoie, ofs
Spiritual Assistant:	Friar Ed Debono, OFM conv.

Sacred Heart, Guelph

Minister:	Ann Forester, ofs
Vice-Minister:	Cathy Payne, ofs
Secretary:	Vicki Veri, ofs
Treasurer:	Donna Dooling, ofs
Formation Director:	Cathy Payne, ofs

Congratulations as you serve your fraternity!

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

Minister – Michel Guilmette, ofs

519-766-1327 michel.guilmette@bell.net

Vice-Minister – Colleen MacAlister, ofs

613-242-1125 colleen.gii@sympatico.ca

Secretary – Gail Barrett, ofs

519-576-7373 gbarrett.gbrenner@rogers.com

Treasurer – Louise Arruda, ofs

905-775-9283 larruda1@sympatico.ca

Formation Director – Les Alberti, ofs

416-638-6007 les.alberti@sympatico.ca

Youth Coordinator – Silvana Loughheed, ofs

613-968-7309 silvana_rossi@sympatico.ca

Spiritual Assistant – Fr. Peter Knaapen, OFM Conv.

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

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

Please note the Minister's corrected phone # and e-mail. The editor regrets the previous error.

Your Editors, Cathy & Maurice, wish to thank all our contributors, for their articles and pictures.

May all our readers enjoy a Holy and Blessed Christmas.

