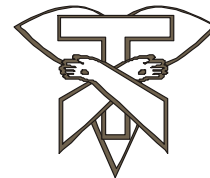


Good News Report

Secular Franciscan Order
Trillium Regional Fraternity



Number 45

October 2007



Minister's Letter September 2007

The Trillium Regional Council met on Saturday, September 8th to wrap up activities of last spring and begin to prepare for activities until the next Regional Elective Chapter in June. This is a very busy year for Fraternal Visitations and Chapters of Elections. But what a wonderful time meeting with everyone on these visits. One truly gets a sense of belonging to a world-wide fraternity when we are able to see each other face to face at the local, regional and national levels of fraternity.

This October, as we celebrate the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi, Regional representatives will be preparing to attend the National Conference in Orléans, near Ottawa. This is a bilingual conference in which the theme is **The Spirit of Poverty**. We will certainly bring back the fruits of our reflections to share with you at a future date.

There will be a Transitus celebration in many of the fraternities across the region. The parish of St. Jane Francis will host the Transitus in Toronto this year, and all members of the Franciscan Family are invited to attend.

**The celebration of the Transitus of St Francis of Assisi will be held on
Wednesday, October 3rd at 7:30 pm at St. Jane Francis Church
2747 Jane Street in Toronto, north of the 401 and north of Sheppard.**

It's an Italian/English service. With refreshments afterwards. Our SFO may need to bring some cookies.

Preparing for the Chapter:

Please pray that the Holy Spirit may inspire the formation of a strong regional council at the next Chapter of Elections, June 6-8, 2008, Queen of the Apostles Renewal Centre, Blythe Road, Mississauga. Are you thinking of running for an office? Feel free to contact our regional council members to discuss the roles of office or to ask questions.

Suggested Focus for fraternities:

St. Elizabeth, Formation, Youth
Please include these topics in your ongoing formation programs.

Please tell us about your celebration of the Transitus for our Local Fraternity page of this Newsletter for December. All submissions should be in by November 23rd.

Prayers and blessings,
Debbie Tessier, 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.

Spiritual Assistant



**Fr. Peter Knaapen,
OFM Conv**

The Formation Workshop held last June was a great success. Kay Craig and the members of the Formation Commission are to be commended for organizing a wonderful workshop. We were enriched not only by the presentations but also by the sharing and discussions that followed. It was good to see so many people come out and participate in the weekend.

The revised Local Fraternity Council Handbook was distributed to the participants to peruse. The Handbook has grown from 26 pages to 70 pages with new sections on the Formation and Youth Commissions along with other important information. Each Fraternity has or will in the near future receive two copies of it. When you receive it please take the time to read it and share it with the Formation Director, the Formation Team, the Council members and anyone else who may be interested in it. The Handbook is a great resource, however it does no one any good if it stays on a shelf or in the fraternity files.

Suggested biographies have been added to the initial and ongoing formation resources. I can remember when we use to ask inquirers to read *The Journey and the Dream*, by Murray Bodo. I think it is important that we ask inquirers to read at least a biography of St. Francis. For Initial Formation we have suggested the classic biographies of St. Francis, by Omer Englebert, G.K. Chesterton, John R.H. Moorman and Thomas Celano, who wrote the first biography of St. Francis. In his biography Celano explicitly emphasizes the conversion of St. Francis in order that the reader might be inspired to undergo a similar conversion. For Ongoing Formation we suggest *Francis and Clare: The Complete works, Francis of Assisi: Early Documents Vols. 1, 2, 3*, and two biographies on St. Clare *The First Franciscan Woman: Clare of Assisi and Her Form of Life* by Margaret Carney and *The Living Mirror: Reflections on Clare of Assisi* by Frances Teresa. As it states in the handbook these

resources are a few of the vast resource materials available, and are intended to stimulate your fraternity to become joyful seekers of knowledge

The General Constitutions in several articles recommends that we study the writings of St. Francis and St. Clare. Article 44.3 states: Ongoing formation accomplished by means of courses, gatherings, and the sharing of experience aims to assist the brothers and sisters ... in discerning and deepening the Franciscan vocation by studying the writings of Saint Francis, Saint Clare and Franciscan authors. Friar John Sullivan in his SFO Sharing Guides has lessons with reflection questions on the writings and prayers of St. Francis and St. Clare. They are available at www.thefriars.org/SFO Another resource is *Francis of Assisi: the Message in his Writing* by Thaddée Matura, OFM.

May the biographies and writings of Francis and Clare help us to deepen our Franciscan Vocation and aid us in living the Gospel.
Pax et Bonum,

Father Peter

Youth News

Colleen MacAlister ofs Youth Coordinator



Dear Brothers and Sisters,
Already it is autumn and the colours that are beginning to reveal themselves are glorious to behold! As I look to the fall, I realize that on Oct. 18th I will celebrate my 25th anniversary of profession into the OFS order! I remember our large group all professed together as the Queen of Peace Fraternity, then in Belleville

began!

I look forward to the Transitus, Thanksgiving with Family and Reunion with our Fraternity!
The summer of 2007 has passed so quickly that I am still spinning when I think of the historic events that transpired! I had one of the most interesting and restful summers of my life! I am grateful to the Father for His generosity!

I did fly into Barcelona GRO Airport and represent Canada at the **1st International Gathering of YOFRA! THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRAYERS!!!**

Youfra or Franciscan Youth have met before on other occasions such as WYD for Franciscan Days before the actual WYD's (I attended this event in Germany with two other Canadian ofs) however this was the ***1st calling together of all the nations with or without YOUFRA groups, to meet for an important reason.*** It was time to find the "place" for these Franciscan Youth around the world in the family of St. Francis. The conclusion was very clear. ***Franciscan Youth belong under the guidance of the Secular Franciscan Order.***

Not all Franciscan Youth will become Secular Franciscans but in fact many do! In some countries around the world there are many Franciscan Youth Groups, most started by friars in different parishes although some are started in Parish with Secular OFS Laity and others with 3rd Order Sisters in our Franciscan Family.

The "gathering" was very exciting and most interesting! I could write a whole newspaper about my week there! However this is only a column! ***(I would be happy to visit your Parishes, Youth Groups or Fraternity Meetings to share more about YOUFRA.)***

We became instant fraternity! The joy with simplicity and laughter, the tears, the singing, the liturgies, adoration, adventure's like going to the monastery at Monseratt and BBQing on the Beach, and eating (or not eating) some seafood with eyes!! AND no one could forget the dancing of the man from South Africa or the beauty in the faces the children of Xavi Ramos the Presidency Councilor for YOUFRA and his wife Mamen. *My family just grew to embrace the whole world!* There were over 25 countries represented and the whole Family of Francis was there! 1st Order, 2nd Order and 3rd Order!

We discovered the great need of each other and all ages in the Franciscan Family.

The presence of the **OFS General Minister, Encarnacion del Pozo and her elderly husband, personified the strong support of Youth from the Secular Franciscan Order.** There will be 6 International Councilors representing the Franciscan Youth of the World at the International Level of the OFS.

There were many great **conferences** and much opportunity for **workshops**. We were 6 groups, 3 English, 2 Spanish and one Friars. I was the presenter for my group which consisted of a lovely young woman named Virginia, president of the national Youfra of **Lithuania**, which has 85 Franciscan youth and 4 fraternities; **Croatia**, with 92 Youfra members. Jandre,

Croatia's representative has been a professed ofs for 8 years. **England**, Kathy is just beginning to work with Youth they are like us in Canada, in that regard. Kathy is now the National Youth Coordinator for the UK. **Pakistan's** representatives were a Father and Daughter; **Syria** with 150 Franciscan youth; **Korea** just starting out with Youth and **Canada**.

One of our conferences was an inspiring talk given by Monsignor **Miguel Delgado Galindo, head of the Office of Pontifical Council for Laity in Vatican City.**

His talk was on **Young People and the Church**. His talk included, references to St. Francis, St. Elizabeth who's anniversary we celebrate this year and also John Paul II. Interestingly enough during this week long gathering we also discussed children and the need to begin Youth Ministry at an even younger age. Monsignor stated, " Christian formation must start as soon as possible and must never end. The pastoral experience of these last decades reveals that it can be too late to start a formation itinerary in the adolescence, if it was not a previous training period in childhood years. For that reason, within the limits of the Franciscan Family there are already groups made up of children and pre adolescent people, enlivened by members of the Franciscan Youth, and religious and secular Franciscans." And again he said, "To show God's call in a young person's horizon is one of the **most urgent tasks for Christians in the current time.**"

Monsignor also recounted that Pope Benedict had been at Assisi on Sunday June 17th on the occasion of the 800th Anniversary of St. Francis' conversion. The last act of his pilgrimage was a mass meeting with Youth in front of Saint Mary of the Angels. In the Pope's speech he spoke of some of the significant events in the life of St. Francis connecting with the Youth of today. As he recalled the words of Christ from the Cross of San Damiano, he said, "**All of us are called to repair again in each generation Christ's home, the Church**" and he ended by saying, "I once again make my own an invitation my Predecessor, John Paul II loved to give the young: **Open your hearts to Christ:**". Pope Benedict went on to say **"Open them as Francis did, without fear, without calculation, without limits".**

This is a great message for all of us to remember. I will share more about this event in our next newsletter. In the meantime let us not forget that it is time to think about **WYD in 2008 in Australia and the Eucharistic Congress taking place in Canada.**

Please watch for opportunities in your Parish to support Youth in these events. ***There is a possibility that we could have a Franciscan Youth Event to coincide!***

Would you like to be involved? Please contact me with any information that you may have regarding Youth Events in that we may publicize them and communicate to all. AND if you are interested in helping with any Youth Event a Franciscan Youth Event please contact myself or any one on the youth commission.

We will soon be having a YOUTH COMMISSION MEETING. For details please make sure that you are on our contact list.

Don't forget ☺

Our General Constitutions Article 96 says

"The SFO, by virtue of its very vocation, ought to be ready to share its experience of evangelical life with the youth who feel attracted to St. Francis of Assisi and to seek the means of adequately presenting it to them."

Trillium Fraternal Youth Prayer

Most High and Glorious God,

We praise and thank You for Your goodness and mercy!

You have given us a Savior in Your Son Jesus Christ.

St. Francis made Jesus the center of his life.

By the power of Your Holy Spirit, may we share this "Gospel" experience with the "youth" who are attracted to the "way" of St. Francis.

We ask this through Jesus Our Lord.

Amen

Blessed Mary, Protectress of the Franciscan Order – pray for us,

St. Clare, Patroness of the Trillium Region OFS – pray for us,

St. Francis of Assisi – pray for us

Colleen MacAlister, ofc

We Have Come To Believe In Love



We are sharing excerpts from "We Have Come to Believe in Love," the letter of the Ministers General of the Third Order Regular, as we prepare to celebrate the Eighth Centenary of the birth of St. Elizabeth of Hungary.

Today there are more than 400 women's congregations of the TOR, with almost 100,000 professed women who follow Elizabeth's footsteps and who may be called her heirs. They are not limited in their works of mercy by insurmountable convent walls. Nor is there any lack of followers of Elizabeth in the contemplative life, the other distinctive aspect of this saint. So it was not for nothing that Elizabeth was proclaimed patroness of the whole Franciscan Third Order, both Regular and Secular, since she possessed the whole vast range of the charisms of contemplation and charity.

Compassion, as has already been mentioned, is the most outstanding aspect of Elizabeth's life. On the monumental stained-glass windows in her basilica in Marburg, Germany, the Saint is represented practicing the works of mercy. Marburg is the city in which she spent the years of her widowhood, where she practiced compassion fully and where she died. Compassion has also formed the charism of the whole Franciscan Third Order throughout its history. It is impossible to understand either Elizabeth or the Franciscan Order of Penance without the servitium caritatis.

Benedict XVI has recalled to us that love is not only a "commandment", but the answer to the gift of love through which God comes to meet us. The service of love is of fundamental importance in the Church and in every life that prides itself on being evangelical. "There will always be suffering which cries out for consolation and help. There will always be loneliness. There will always be situations of material need where help in the form of concrete love of neighbor is indispensable" (DC 28b).

Elizabeth's brief life was filled to overflowing with loving service, joy and suffering. The cry of the poor, the sick and the forgotten reached the summit of Wartburg castle and resonated ever more powerfully in Elizabeth's heart while she was still the Landgräfin. The atmosphere of the court was one of envy and ambition, wars and conquests, luxury and wastefulness. Elizabeth's generosity at her bond with the needy created a scandal. Many vassals thought she was mad. Here she met one of her great crosses: crucified between the society to

which she belonged and the society of those who did not know any compassion.

Making use of her full authority when she was still Landgräfin, while her husband was away, as we have already said, she had to confront the calamity of a general famine that devastated the country. She did not hesitate to empty the granaries of her husband's lands and possessions to aid the needy. She sold her clothes and jewels and provided tools to those who could work. She also demonstrated that she knew a little about economics, for she knew it was better to give a hungry person a fishing rod, rather than a fish. On his return, her husband did not reprimand her, because he knew his wife's heart and understood her ideals.

Elizabeth was not one of those who delegate responsibilities to others in order to be freed from them herself. She personally served the downhearted, the poor and the sick both in the hospital and outside it. She got her own hands dirty. She exercised her charity in deeds, not words. We contemplate her as she was dominated by a higher power, by the imperious need to love, to do good, to give herself to others and to spread goodness.

Her devotion to the needy seems like a natural, effortless action, but it was not. It cost her horrors to become used to misery and the wounds of society, to enter foul-smelling huts, to clean and bandage wounds, to carry abandoned children . . . She cared for lepers, the dregs of society, as Francis did. Conrad naively confessed that he did not know where Elizabeth had learned the art of healing. Perhaps he never understood that the heart is the great teacher of life. Day by day, hour by hour, poor person by poor person, Elizabeth lived and poured God's compassion into the river of pain and misery that surrounded her.

Elizabeth discovered Christ in the hungry, the thirsty, the sick, the lepers and the unfortunate (Matthew 25,40). The concrete sick person she was tending was Christ for her. He gave her the strength to overcome her natural repugnance, so much so that she even kissed purulent wounds. This discovery of Christ present in the poor person is celebrated by the "legendary miracle" of the leper concealed in Elizabeth's marriage bed. When her

husband lifted the quilt, the leper changed into an image of Christ. Who does not recall that Francis indicated in his Testament that embracing a leper was the turning point that led him towards a life of penance?

At the hour of her death, Elizabeth declared expressly that everything that was still left to her belonged to the poor; with the exception of her habit of penance, in which she asked to be buried. Without any goods, property or possessions, she departed to meet the Lord. But Elizabeth made use not only of love but also intelligence in her work of assistance. She knew that institutionalized charity is much more effective and long lasting. When her husband was still alive, she erected a hospital in Eisenach and later one in Marburg, the favorite work of her widowhood. She knew that people were the decisive factor for its proper functioning and to this end she founded a religious fraternity with her female friends and handmaids or servants who aided her. We saw this previously.

We have also alluded to her work; she performed it with her own hands; she prepared the meals in the kitchen; she did it in the service of the poor; she washed the dishes, and she sent away her handmaids, almost all of low birth, when they tried to stop her. She learned to spin wool and sew clothes. She offered on the altar the money she earned by her manual labor. Count Pavia, an emissary of Elizabeth's father, who wanted to bring her back to Hungary after her husband's death, said: "Never has a princess been seen spinning wool before."

Appeal for Secular Franciscans in Peru

The Trillium Region has received the following appeal from the International Office of the Secular Franciscan Order. Please share the letter and respond as you are able.

pax et bonum



ORDO FRANCISCANUS SAECULARIS

Constitutum Internationale

Via Pomponia Graecina, 31 - 00145 Roma

Tel. e fax: 5129964

San Pablo, Brasil, August 1, 2007.

"Go and learn the meaning of the words:
'What I want is mercy, not sacrifice.' " (Mt. 9: 13).

Circ. 57/02-08

To all brothers and sisters of the Secular Franciscan Order,
To all SFO National Councils
To all SFO International Councilors,

Dear brothers and sisters,

PEACE AND GOOD!

In the name of our General Minister, Encarnación del Pozo, I am writing to ask you, as did our Lord, for mercy in providing support to our brothers and sisters in Peru.

As you are all aware, the south of Peru has been devastated by a strong earthquake, killing more than 500 people and injuring over 1,500. Entire families are keeping vigil by the side of roads for the bodies of their relatives. There is a great need for food throughout the region where people have been cut-off from water and electricity.

In moments of suffering like these, when so many people are directly affected by tragedy, some of whom are very likely brothers and sisters of the SFO, we call upon the entire Order, and particularly members of the SFO from Latin America, to be actively engaged and to participate generously with Church and civil organizations in promoting humanitarian assistance for all who have been affected.

You are encouraged to make contact with the International Councillor for Peru, Betty Herrera Baldeón. She can be reached by writing to her at Los Héroes 348 Sicaya Ap. 311, Huancayo, Perú, by email at blhb15@hotmail.com, by telephone at +51 64 437218, or by fax at +51 64 210217.

May our fraternal service be shaped by our commitment to the Gospel, through our personal donations as well as our material and spiritual support for the victims and their relatives. In this way, we can, with our Lord, be a source of comfort to our brothers and sisters in Peru.

With my anticipated confidence and appreciation, I send you my fraternal greetings,

Rosalvo G. Mota, OFS
General Vice-Minister .

Justice and Peace Commission

In this election campaign, please discuss the issue of poverty in general, and child poverty in particular with the candidates in your riding. The following press release is available on the website of the Family Services Association of Toronto, at www.fsatoronto.com

Child Poverty in Ontario on the Increase:

Toronto - A new report by Ontario Campaign 2000 finds that Ontario's child poverty rate has been inching up since 2001 and is now at 17.4%. Based on the latest Statistics Canada data, the *2006 Report Card on Child Poverty in Ontario* states that 478,480 children – one in every six children – in Ontario are living in poverty. The average low income family is living in deeper poverty now than they were twelve years ago.

“The benefits of a strong Ontario economy are not trickling down to lift Ontario’s most vulnerable families and children out of poverty,” said Jacquie Maund, Coordinator of Ontario Campaign 2000.

“Government policies and labour market conditions are partly to blame. **Social assistance payments for parents not able to be in the workforce have dropped by over 40% in the past twelve years.** More low income parents are in the workforce, but they are working poor - unable to find jobs with sufficient pay, hours and benefits to lift their families out of poverty.”

The report calls on all Ontario political parties to commit to developing a Poverty Reduction Strategy for Ontario. Quebec and Newfoundland each have provincial poverty reduction strategies, and Nova Scotia recently established an all party commission to develop a strategy.

“Child and family poverty is not inevitable. 2007 is an election year. **Campaign 2000 calls on all political parties to commit to developing a multi year Poverty Reduction Strategy for Ontario with targets, timetables and financial commitments,**” said Colin Hughes of the

Children’s Aid Society of Toronto, and report co-author.

The spring Ontario budget should be a first step. Campaign 2000 is calling for the Provincial Government to:

- 1) Fully end the claw-back of the National Child Benefit Supplement;
- 2) Index social assistance rates, and increase them to meet the basic needs of recipients;
- 3) Raise the minimum wage to \$10/hour by Canada Day, with indexation;
- 4) Invest \$600 million in early learning and child care;
- 5) Continue investment of provincial funding to meet affordable housing commitments.
- 6) The report, entitled “Child Poverty in Ontario – Promises to Keep,” includes the following findings:
- 7) 2 in every 5 low income children live in families with a parent working full time, full year.
- 8) The percentage of children living in working poor families has more than doubled from 17% in 1995, to 38% in 2004.
- 9) The provincial child poverty rate is 17.4%, but poverty rates for children in Aboriginal, immigrant and visible minority families are double the average rate.
- 10) The average two parent low income family lives \$11,000 below the poverty line. The average low income lone parent family lives \$9,500 below the poverty line.
- 11) Over the past 25 years Ontario’s child poverty rate has never dropped below 11.6% (280,000 children) in 1989, the year that the House of Commons resolved to end child poverty by 2000.

See www.campaign2000.ca for a full copy of the *2006 Ontario Report Card on Child Poverty*. Campaign 2000 is a cross-Canada movement of over 120 organizations monitoring progress on the unanimous House of Commons resolution to eliminate child poverty in Canada by the year 2000.

Local Fraternity Bulletin Board

About This Page

Please encourage local fraternities to send notice of events (past or upcoming) that can be shared on this page.

Study on the Liturgy of the Hours

St Bonaventure's did a very successful day retreat last winter on the liturgy of the hours for members who were having difficulty getting a grip on it.

A friar led us through morning prayers and gave a talk on the history of this prayer of the church. At the end of the day we did evening prayers together without him.

This fall we're doing a day retreat based on a 1950 film by award winning director Roberto Rossellini called Francis: God's Fool - 90 minutes. We'll watch it in two parts with discussion after each, lunch and of course, opening and closing sessions of the Liturgy of the Hours.

If any other fraternities would like a day retreat on the Liturgy of the hours we'd be happy to help out.

St Bonaventure's Fraternity: Toronto

Election Results

The Sacred Heart Fraternity in Guelph just had elections and is pleased to share the following results.

Minister remains as Sandi Coppin
Vice Minister remains as Michel Guilmette
Treasurer is Donna Dooling
Secretary is now Cathy Payne
Formation Director is Anne Forester

New Professions

St, Bonaventure Fraternity professed three new members in March: Anna Marziliano, Florinda da Costa and Sylvia Elek. We're delighted to have them in our fraternity. **New Professions**

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Newsletter, Communications and Certificates Report

The database of email addresses is being updated. If fraternities have address for Fraternity members who would wish to be on the "Good News" e-mailing list, please send the information to mprindiville@golden.net. Currently, 473 Good News newsletters are distributed: 184 by email and 289 by surface mail.

Since March, the 33 recognition certificates have been sent out, and the following certificates of anniversaries: 15 fifth anniversaries, 13 tenth anniversaries, 2 twenty-fifth anniversaries, and 1 thirty-fifth anniversary.

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

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.