

Good News Report



Secular Franciscan Order
Trillium Regional Fraternity

Number 56

Fall 2010

Minister's Letter Michel Guilmette, ofs



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The past few months have seen two important events in our Franciscan family. Last July our National Fraternity held a pilgrimage in Cap de la Madelaine in Quebec. Last month our Regional Fraternity held a Retreat/Workshop at the Franciscan Centre in Mono Mills. These events ended up having a surprising and important relationship to each other. It was surprising in that the retreat's theme was visibility and social justice while the pilgrimage was for youth. Our Lord tied these two events together in a way I never expected. Truly our Lord works in mysterious ways!

I attended the youth pilgrimage in Cap de la Madelaine and was blessed with the presence of some very enthusiastic young people. From this gathering YouFra was launched in Canada. The group is small but enthusiastic. Without hesitation they simply said "yes" to the idea of starting a National Franciscan Youth Group in our country. The work is also started to begin YouFra here in Trillium Region. Our Youth Director Silvana is spearheading this effort with the youth from our region that attended the pilgrimage. I am certain the Franciscan Family will greatly benefit from this. If we remain faithful to our Rule the effort will prosper with the help of our Lord.

I am referring to Article 24: *To foster communion among members, the council should organize regular and frequent meetings of the community as well as meeting with other Franciscan groups, especially with youth groups. It should adopt appropriate means for growth in Franciscan and ecclesial life and encourage everyone to a life of fraternity. This communion continues with deceased brothers and sisters through prayer for them.*

The second event, the September Retreat/Workshop was divided into two main sections. The retreat portion was well led by our brother Deacon Maurice Prindiville, ofs. It dealt

with the theme of visibility and social justice. It was well received by our brothers and sisters in attendance.

The second section, the workshop, had representatives from four of our fraternities telling us some things their fraternities are doing in the realm of visibility and social justice. We then broke into small discussion groups. These groups then reported what their thoughts were on this theme. This is where the surprise came in. One common thought from all the groups was our need as Franciscans to work with youth. My dear brothers and sisters, if we are to prosper we must follow the Rule given to us by our Church led by the Holy Spirit.

We have been lax in following two of the articles in it. Article 24 as previously stated but also Article 15: *Let them individually and collectively be in the forefront in promoting justice by the testimony of their human lives and their courageous initiatives. Especially in the field of public life, they should make definite choices in harmony with their faith.*

At this time in this country we need to put these two articles of our Rule together and work in fraternity with youth to continue the prime apostolate of St Francis to 'rebuild the Church'. This is our calling as ever!

God's Blessing to all,

Michel Guilmette ofs



The TRF Council at work.



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

As we once again celebrate the feast of St Francis and Thanksgiving perhaps this following poem may help us put things in better perspective.

Slow Dance by David L. Weatherford

Have you ever watched kids on a merry-go-round
or listened to the rain slapping on the ground?
Ever followed a butterfly's erratic flight
or gazed at the sun into the fading night?
You'd better slow down. Don't dance so fast
Time is short. The music won't last.

Do you run through each day on the fly?
When you ask, "How are you?" Do you hear the reply?
When the day is done do you lie in your bed
with the next hundred chores running through your head?
You'd better slow down. Don't dance so fast
Time is short. The music won't last.

Ever told your child, we'll do it tomorrow
And in your haste, not see his sorrow?
Ever lost touch, let a good friendship die
because you never had time to call and say "Hi"?
You'd better slow down. Don't dance so fast
Time is short. The music won't last.

When you run so fast to get somewhere
you miss half the fun of getting there.
When you worry and hurry through your day,
It is like an unopened gift....thrown away...
You'd better slow down. Don't dance so fast
Time is short. The music won't last.

Fr. Peter Knaapen, OFM Conv.

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 Phone# 905-732-7479
782 Cope Road or
Welland, ON L3B 5N7 ckruger@iaw.com

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



Social Justice and Peace by Louise Arruda, TRF Treasurer

On September 24, 2010, Secular Franciscans from the Trillium Region gathered at the St Francis Centre to pray, reflect, share and consider our role in advancing peace and social justice. Our Theme, "Visibility and Social Justice" reminded all of us that "we have yet to begin to do good"

After Morning Prayer, Deacon Maurice Prindiville, ofs, led the morning reflections by sharing his understanding and experiences of the Franciscan charism as it relates to social justice.

First, Deacon Maurice led us to review references in the catechism, Compendium, CIOFS and our Rule. In particular, we were reminded of our rule # 15:

"Let them individually and collectively be in the forefront in promoting justice by the testimony of their human lives and their courageous initiatives. Especially in the field of public life, they should make definite choices in harmony with their faith."

To assist us in understanding this call, Deacon Maurice shared his experiences and those of the "poor" who both serve and are served at an agency in St. Catharines, called "***Start Me Up Niagara***". Deacon Maurice highlighted that some people are very challenging to serve as they have difficulties with addictions, mental health, social isolation and serious rejection experiences.

Nevertheless, volunteers who include peers, offer a non-judgmental environment, a safe place to be and a willingness to simply be present in a loving way to those who come. Success is not determined by changing participants or their behaviour. Rather, it is simply the loving acceptance of all who come.

For some, this safe place has created the only sense of family ever known. "***Start me Up Niagara***" also offers opportunities for learning new skills (cooking, preparing and printing their own newsletter, [which boasts articles, news items and poetry,] job skills and placement)

Secondly, Deacon Maurice reviewed some of Saint Bonaventure's understanding of creation, God's love, and humility (turning to the other). Bonaventure understood that all creation comes from the love of God and is intended to return to the Father, in unity with Jesus and the Holy Spirit. The

crucifixion is the ultimate self-emptying for us...the ultimate humility and poverty. Like Jesus, we too are called to serve the poor in poverty and humility.

In the third section of the presentation, Deacon Maurice demonstrated how St Francis found his way to true poverty and humility in serving Jesus Christ discovered in the leper. It was in this service that Francis fully understood his San Damiano call from God to "Rebuild my Church"

In the afternoon, participants in the retreat had the opportunity to spend some time at each of four "Stations". Here, some Fraternity members (Irene McEvers, ofs, St Angela Merici; Tony Terantini, ofs and Clelia Malerba, ofs St Peter's Woodbridge, Colleen MacAlister, ofs Queen of Peace, Madoc and Silvana Loughheed, ofs, Holy Rosary Belleville) shared their fraternity's Social Justice commitments in action. These included service to the poor within parishes and in the broader community. Service to the elderly; homeless; the sick in hospitals; nursing or retirement homes; the physically and spiritually hungry; the homeless; those threatened by abortion or euthanasia; pro-environment actions that leave a smaller carbon footprint on the earth and especially youth, who are starving to know and love God.

Finally, we all gathered to share our reflections on a God-inspired day, and to renew our commitment to "Begin to Do Good" in Fraternity and in Community.

We then celebrated the Liturgy of the Word, with Deacon Maurice officiating, and asked for God's blessings.

Peace and All Good

Louise Arruda, ofs



TRF RETREAT: MONO MILLS 2010
Some of the retreatants.



"WHO IS THIS?"

**Homily given by Rev. Deacon
Maurice Prindiville, ofs**

TRF Retreat, September, 25, 2010
**Refer to: Ecclesiastes 1.2-11,
Psalm 90, Luke 9.7-9**

In this reading from Luke's Gospel (9.7-9) I am struck by the questions that Jesus provoked in the hearts of those who saw him. ***"Herod the ruler heard about all that Jesus had done, and he was perplexed... And he tried to see him."*** It wasn't just Herod... many were speaking of Jesus – some saying one thing, some another; and others, still something else. The questions included, "Who is this?" and "How can I see him?" Jesus was a contradiction, a challenge, to them

This is important to us, because, as followers of Jesus, we are called to be in the image of Jesus... to be signs that the Kingdom of God is becoming real in human history - to participate so radically in building up the Kingdom that those who see us have to take notice. The Second Vatican Council emphasized that all the people of God, clergy and laity, are called to evangelize. This was not a new teaching of the Council, just a new emphasis in our time.

When we follow Jesus' example by serving the poor, the vulnerable, the abandoned – we are not seeking to draw attention to ourselves - but because what we are doing is radical, others see the contradiction between the Kingdom and the world which the wisdom author of Ecclesiastes described, when he wrote.

⁸ All things are wearisome; ...; the eye is not satisfied with seeing, or the ear filled with hearing. ⁹ What has been is what will be, and what has been done is what will be done; there is nothing new under the sun (Ecclesiastes 1.8-9).

Jesus calls us to do something new... with him...something that does satisfy the eye and fill the ear – that is joyful and purposeful. Jesus calls us to build a new relationship of loving and serving others. Jesus has exploded into our world, and by his example and by his actions, made visible for us, God who comes to us, who becomes poor for us, who has compassion and weeps for us, and who brings us peace.

In addition to Jesus' actions, we are blessed to have his words... but it was what Jesus was doing, not what He was saying, that Herod first noticed. Our words move people only after they see our actions - and find that our words are in harmony with our actions.

How do we see what Jesus is doing in the world? Some of it, we hear about, as Herod the ruler did; some of it we are touched by – as the poor and sinners were. But we also come to see Jesus by following his example and serving others. When we do that we experience suffering, but also the satisfaction, and rejoicing, and favour that the psalmist talked about.

¹⁴ *Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,*

so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

¹⁷ *Let the favour of the Lord our God be upon us,*

and prosper for us the work of our hands (Psalm 90. 14,17)

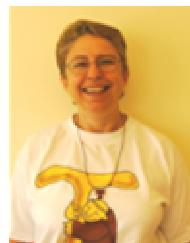
We are not able to serve others as Jesus did without God's steadfast love for us. But with God's love and favour, we can make Jesus visible to a weary world, and we can be the people that Pope Paul the sixth hoped for in his 1975 Apostolic Exhortation, ***“Evangelization in the Modern World.”*** He wrote:

Take a Christian or a handful of Christians who— radiate in an altogether simple and unaffected way their faith in values that go beyond current values, and their hope in something that is not seen and that one would not dare to imagine. Through this wordless witness these Christians stir up irresistible questions in the hearts of those who see how they live: Why are they like this? Why do they live in this way? What or who is it that inspires them? Why are they in our midst? Such a witness is already a silent proclamation of the Good News and a very powerful and effective one.

(Paul VI, *Evangelii Nuntiandi*, 210)

Attention Ministers and Secretaries!

In order for all members to receive the ***Good News Report*** please remind your fraternity members in newsletters and at meetings, to send changes of address and e-mail addresses to Cathy Kruger, ofs at ckruger@iaw.com. There are still a number of e-mails being returned. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.



First National Franciscan Young Adult Pilgrimage by Silvana Rossi Loughheed, ofs TRF Youth Coordinator

The Birth of YouFra in Canada

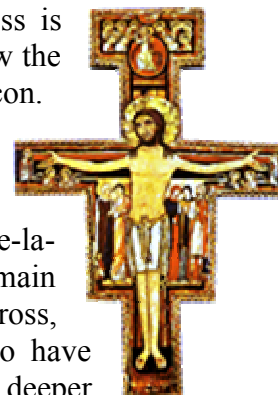
Is there anyone who has not heard of St. Francis? Oh yeah, isn't he the guy who just LOVES animals? Yes, he loves all of creation, of which we are a part, but most of all he is passionate about Jesus!

The San Damiano cross is familiar to many, but few know the significance of this beautiful Icon.

At the very first **National Franciscan Pilgrimage for Young Adults**

this past summer in Cap-de-la-Madeleine, dramatizing the main characters depicted in this cross, was one of many activities to have young people enter into a deeper understanding of St. Francis, who is much, much more than a nature lover!

In John 15: 16, Jesus says, “You did not choose me. No I chose you.” God chose thirteen young Pilgrims traveling all the way from Alberta to P.E. I. He also chose five Secular Franciscans, Brother Gerry Clyne and Fr. Dan Gurnick to journey with them as mentors. Together we prayed in song, in a candlelight procession on the way to the tomb and museum of Blessed Fr. Frederick. We participated in, drama, dance, Iconography, Rosary making and silent Christian meditation workshops.



***Silvana directs the Living San Damiano Cross.
We see St. Francis in prayer.***

Presentation topics included Franciscan Youth International, YouFra, Canadian Food for Children, World Youth Day 2011 and San Damiano Youth Foundations. The Knights of Columbus in Trois-Riviere helped promote a social justice project where our goal was to help the poor locally and globally. We also enjoyed our evening social time, whereby we shared stories, jokes and skits about our cities and provinces.

The purpose of the pilgrimage was to help young adults discern their vocation, God's plan for their lives through the spirituality of St. Francis. In addition, we were hoping that those attending would be inspired to start up YouFra, an international movement of young people who share Francis' zeal for the Gospel.

Here is what the Pilgrims have to say:

Aaron, from P.E.I., shares: "...To see folks my own age speaking with the conviction we all strive for... was a large inspiration to me. ...I knew in my heart that there was something there for me, whether it was a new friend or a reaffirmed faith. All I could do was show up, and much to my surprise I believe I received a little of both those things. I feel like this opportunity for YouFra is a big one, a chance for young folks to see the importance of community; and my wish is to see YouFra help bridge this ever increasing gap between the religious community and the spiritual community that is so very present in the Canadian youth."

Answering the question: Did the pilgrimage have an impact on your life? Natalie from Kingston replies, "I am finding more time to connect and pray."

Iris from Alberta played the part of Mary Magdalene in the dramatization of the San Damiano Cross: "The skit we did was definitely inspired by the Holy Spirit and one of my favourite parts of the pilgrimage. I got a chance to experience what it felt like when Francis first got his call. It was wonderful to portray a small part of the life of St. Francis and his journey towards Christ. Thanks again for all the teaching!"

Ryan from Montreal has one word to describe his experience: "Epic!"

We are all on a journey. Francis, a dreamer, was a lost, confused youth, searching for purpose and meaning, searching for love. Sound familiar? Where did he hear his call clearly? At the foot of the San Damiano Cross. Francis asked, "What

would you have me do, Lord?" Jesus answered him and calls each one of us to, "Go, rebuild my Church."

All of our youth in attendance: Keegan, Natalie, Danielle, Kendal, Aaron, Bronte, Carla, Danielle, Ryan, Iris, Nirmale and Stephanie have responded to this challenge of bringing the Gospel to a searching people, with a resounding YES!

Please pray in hope and thanksgiving for all our youth. Together, with God's grace, we are rebuilding our Church!

(For an explanation of the San Damiano Cross:

<http://www.saintmichaelparishbedford.org/crossfr.htm> or

http://www.franciscanfriarstor.com/stfrancis/stf_san_damiano_cross.htm

Info on YouFra: <http://www.ofm.org/secfran/> or contact Silvana-Trillium Regional Youth Coordinator 613-968-7309)

Peace and all good,

Silvan Rossi Loughheed, ofs



Vice Minister Report by Colleen MacAlister ofs

Dear Brothers and Sisters,
Amidst a changing world and changing colours our Franciscan lives grow in love of each other!
With Praise and Thanksgiving we

enter a new season! I have a few things to share with all of you!

- Our Pilgrimage to Trois Rivières was a great success! As a result we now have youth interested in forming Youfra in 3 Regions. Trillium, Our Lady of the Angels, which is Western Canada and Eastern English speaking. We also have a young person sitting on the National Council representing Youfra, Kendal Freeman. I have highlights that I would love to present at some point. As well with the assistance of summer students, I have a DVD presentation of the San Damiano Foundation that was very well received by all. The drama, that Silvana organized, was a huge success. The Parish Priest at Cap de Madeleine said that in the winter he travels and speaks about the history of the Cap and this also brings to mind our Blessed Fr. Frederick, if anyone would want such a presentation.

- I was interviewed on the Salt & Light Program that is aired on the Radio to speak about the

Pilgrimage and Franciscan Youth. It was well presented and we have an opportunity follow-up. There is also still the possibility of a television feature on the San Damiano Foundation Youth outreach, at which time we can promote the Franciscan YOUFRA outreach.

- Clare's Club is a great success. We have 7 regular attendants plus the teenage mentors. We open with the Our Father and end with the Prayer of St. Francis, which we sing. To date these girls have held 4 BBQ's. 4 Bake Sales, 4 Fundraising Dinners and one Juice Bar. They have raised over \$500.00 with the help of adult volunteers to help Foundations.

- We need to look at WYD and YOUFRA in our Region and I think that if we could get the Youth that came from Trillium to attend it would be brilliant! I have received information from YOUFRA regarding the registration and have been contacted by the USA National OFS Youfra Rep. regarding registering as a group so that we will all be in the same area of the actual WYD candle light Vigil and Mass with the Holy Father. We will all be together at the Franciscan Village up until those days.

- We held our second "Peace Camp" at St. Francis House and it was a great success. Gudrun made Rosaries, Kendal did dramatic dance to a praise song, we had crafts and games, salads and music and a BBQ – all free for some of the local under privileged youth. They ranged in age from 6 years to 16. We had over a dozen Youth and the two summer students helped coordinate it. Our goal is to internalize and externalize the Prayer of St. Francis.

- I am also expecting one of the YOUFRA youth to visit St. Francis House and help in the propagation of YOUFRA information, Aaron from PEI has been in communication and expects to pass through in the next couple of weeks. Once I know his date of arrival, I will contact the other local Youth, some of the schools and Silvana to see if we can present opportunities for Aaron to speak locally and then through the Fraternities provincially. I am hoping to work with local youth who designed our SDF brochure and with Kendal to design a brochure that may be used as a hand out in Canada for Youfra.

- I have emailed our web designer for Trillium and will put together the presentation for YOUFRA and our Pilgrimage as a DVD video that can be put on

the site. I will use original music for this so that we have no worries about copyright, etc.

- I attended the Formation Workshop given by Les on October 2nd and assisted in the music. The workshop was excellent!

If anyone would like information about the SDF or starting a Clares Club please email me or call.

Peace and Good and God's blessing to all

Colleen Macalister, ofs

613-242-1125 or colleenmacalister@yahoo.ca

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.

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Spiritual Assistant – Fr. Peter Knaapen, OFM Conv.

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

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YOU KNOW YOU ARE LIVING IN 2010

when...

1. You accidentally enter your password on the microwave.
2. You haven't played solitaire with real cards in years.
3. You have a list of 15 phone numbers to reach your family of 3.

Local Fraternity Bulletin Board

About This Page

Local fraternities, please send us notice of events, (past or upcoming). This is your page.



Elections:

St. Mary of the Angels fraternity, Welland, elections were held in June. Congratulations to the following:

Minister: Anne Matyuska, ofs
Vice-minister: David Fox, ofs
Secretary: Nellie Schouten, ofs
Treasurer: Anne Beaulieu, ofs
Formation Director: Monique Dufresne, ofs

News from St. Leo's

We had our first meeting at St. Leo's and it's been a long time in coming! We couldn't even remember when we last had one. But there were three people from the original group and four from the group we had tried to start at St. Max's in Mississauga. We also had two more who just wanted to know what we were about. We have the pastor really encouraging us!!! He's been announcing the meeting all summer and we are now in their Sunday bulletin. So maybe this time we will make it. God Bless!

Barbara Lafort, ofs



Obituary

Ken Patterson, ofs, a newly professed member of the SFO, here in Oshawa, passed away on September 11th. He was in his sixtieth year. He was diagnosed with stage 4 lung cancer back in June. As a result, my council, made a decision to profess him prior to the completion of his formation program with the approval of the Spiritual Assistant.

He was professed on August the 25th on the Feast Day of King Louis, patron of the SFO. The profession took place in his home with a priest, the Fraternity Minister, the Formation Director and his sponsor attending.

Paul Nicholls, ofs, Vice-Minister
St. Angela Merici Fraternity, Oshawa

Appointment

Gudrun Wegner, ofs has been appointed to be Area Councillor for Toronto East.

Gudrun is a member of Queen of Peace Fraternity in Madoc and has been a professed Secular Franciscan for a good number of years; and has worked with youth, and attended many youth gatherings. You may reach Gudrun at 855 Centre Rd. RR 4, Madoc, ON K0K 2K0 or 613-473-4574 or rungood4u@aol.com

Welcome to the TRF Council, Gudrun!

Fraternity Retreat

The Fraternities of St. Felix of Cantalice and Mount Alverno had a weekend retreat on September 24 to 26, 2010 at Mount Alverno Retreat Centre. Bro. Alan R. Gaebel, OFM, Cap. was the Retreat Animator. Our theme was:

- Creation through Franciscan Eyes -

*A Franciscan Perspective on Creation
to explore God's creation through the eyes and
experiences of*

St. Francis of Assisi, founder and Patron Saint of Ecology

*Turning to the ideas and thoughts of St.
Bonaventure and John Duns Scotus,
we looked at the relationships which exist between
God, Jesus and all*

*Creation. How do we, as humans, relate to
human and non-human
creation and what is our role in the redemption of
all creation?*

*We all went home with blessings of peace, joy and
love!*

*If anyone is interested
for a weekend or multi-
evening program,
please call Bro. Alan at
416-241-3101 Ext. 245
or email him at
argaebel@yahoo.com*

*Teodora S. La
Madrid, ofs
St. Felix of Cantalice
Fraternity*





We Gather Together

**We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing:
He chastens and hastens his will to make known;
The wicked oppressing now cease from distressing,
Sing praises to his name: He forgets not his own.**

**Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining,
Ordaining, maintaining his kingdom divine;
So from the beginning the fight we were winning;
thou, Lord, wast at our side, All glory be thine!**

**We all do extol thee, thou leader triumphant,
And pray that thou still our defender wilt be.**

**Let thy congregation escape tribulation;
Thy name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free!
Amen.**

**Traditional Thanksgiving Hymn
(A translation by Theodore Baker; 1851 – 1934)**

Happy Thanksgiving, everyone!