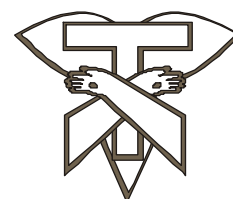


Good News Report

Secular Franciscan Order
Trillium Regional Fraternity



Number 41

Fall 2006



Minister's Letter

By Debbie Tessier, ofs

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, Francis and Clare,

I pray that you experience the Transitus in a special way this October, that the Transitus becomes for you a season in which the earthly becomes holy and saintly. Fall is that time when significant changes take place in nature, when life prepares for dormancy through the cold winter months. What is dormancy? A period when nature provides creation a time for internal activity, in preparation for the external activity of warmer months such as budding flowers and bearing fruit. How do these processes speak to us? They speak to us of living an internal life of reflection, of study, of listening to the voice of God in preparation for doing His will when the time comes, when He calls. St. Francis surrendered himself into the loving arms of Sister Death, who then carried him home to God, the source of Francis' great joy. Francis' last earthly winter saw him pass into the internal life of God. May we also find the beginnings of the stirrings of eternal life in our fall and winter. May the Transitus be an ongoing experience of sanctification of our earthly selves into the heavenly beings God created us to be.

Last July, packages were sent to Fraternity Ministers with materials and reports from the National Chapter. We ask that Ministers share these with their fraternities and councils. The package contained: letter to Ministers; TRF Report of the National Chapter 2006; Formation triennial plan 2007; National Chapter resolutions; presentation material given by Benedetto Lino May 13-14, 2006: *Profession in the SFO, Vocation, Mission and Charism of the Secular Franciscan*; Information on *Day of Reflection*, August 19th at St. Francis Center, Caledon. If you did not receive this

package, please notify me and I will send another, or e-mail the documents to you.

Fourteen fraternities were represented at the Day of Reflection on the topic of Servant Leadership with 30 local fraternity council members from all corners of the region. The participants received a package of *Servant Leadership* articles from the National Chapter presenters, CIOFS, the Rule and the Constitutions. There was plenty of time for prayer, reflection and sharing. It was good to be at the St. Francis Centre once again, and some were able to walk outside and enjoy the landscape. If there is anyone wanting copies of the articles on Servant Leadership, let us know and we will send them to you. They are very effective for building up council members and deepening a sense of service among members.

Please note that the Formation Commission executive will be meeting Tuesday, October 31st in Burlington. They will be reviewing recommended formation materials and making initial plans for a possible workshop in the future. Please keep them in your prayers.

The Youth Commission will be having a meeting in Oshawa on October 14th. Please see Colleen's article for details. Please keep them also in your prayers.

A reminder to Ministers, if you are in need of a Fraternal Visitation, please first contact the Regional Minister, not the Area Councillor. The Area Councillor will then be notified and the arrangements made for the date most suitable to all. Ministers may be receiving a reminder notice that their visit is due. It is then up to the Minister to make the official request.

From the International Fraternity:

The meeting of the CIOFS Presidency, in its last meeting April 2006, has decided that the Secular Franciscan Order will celebrate the 800th anniversary of the birth of Saint Elizabeth of Hungary, from November 17, 2006 to November 17, 2008. We will dedicate two years to our Patron so that we can get to know her well and live her Franciscan and secular spirituality of a young spouse and mother, who did not hesitate to take on heavy government responsibilities in her reign, achieving, through love and dedication the mission that we speak so much about today. The First Year will be dedicated to learning more about the spirituality of Saint Elizabeth. The second year will be dedicated to going into further detail on the secularity of our vocation, inspiring ourselves to our Patron. A small guidebook will be available with all the most significant events to help us focus on reflections shared by the entire order. For the whole duration of the centenary, a spiritual thought on Saint Elizabeth and a brief reflection on the concrete life of Secular Franciscans today will be published monthly in the web-site:

<http://www.ciofs.org/doc/elh6en00.htm>.

A blessed season to all!

Debbie Tessier, ofs

INNER PEACE

The Inner Joy we seek, the peace of the Soul, can be summed up like this (below). "Inner Peace" was found in a flyer distributed by an order of nuns. It applies to all people:

A tendency to think and act spontaneously rather than on fears based on past experiences.

An unmistakable ability to enjoy each moment.

A loss of interest in judging other people

A loss of interest in interpreting the actions of others.

A loss of interest in conflict.

A loss of ability to worry.
(*This is a very serious symptom*).

Frequent, overwhelming episodes of appreciation.

Contented feelings of contentedness with others and nature.

Frequent attacks of smiling.

An increasing tendency to let things happen rather than make them happen.

An increasing susceptibility to the love extended by others, as well as the uncontrollable urge to extend it.

<http://www.franciscan-sfo.org/miscela.htm#IP>
(Sep 26 ,2006)

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 **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.



YOUTH NEWS

by Colleen MacAlister of Youth Coordinator
Trillium Regional Franciscan Fraternity

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I can't believe it is Fall already! Although there is no logic, I am certain that this summer seemed to pass faster than last year!!! Back to School already!!!!

Our "school program" the Rocks is started up again and the little Franciscan Youth Corp are meeting at Foundations in Trenton on Thursdays and local Fraternities are re connecting after the summer.

I attended the Retreat at the St. Francis Centre in Caledon in October and was speaking with Bonnie Beverly of St. Bonaventures Fraternity. She told me that they had an amazing summer program for Children. I am sure that Bonnie would be happy to share her ideas with you! Getting to know Francis and the Saints with crafts and games! Don't we always remember our "fun" times! What a great way to share faith!

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

In response to the request of the visitor from the International Council, inviting us to form Youth Fraternities in Canada, the Queen of Peace Fraternity in Madoc decided to take the first steps in sponsoring an emerging Youth Fraternity, by meeting with Youth already in formation, other Fraternity Members, and those who had been inquiring for some time.

The vote was unanimous! "Yes" let's form a Youth Fraternity!

On September 23rd. three more enquirers entered the candidate stage.

Please pray for the 5 youth between the ages of 16 and 22 now in formation as well as the four other youth who are inquiring. With the sponsorship of the Queen of Peace Fraternity, including 3 Professed Members who are under 30 years old an emerging Youth Fraternity has begun.

DON'T MISS THIS!!!

IF you would like to meet with others interested in Youth Minstry, please consider joining the Trillium Regional Youth Commission.

We are meeting at St. Gregory's in, Oshawa on Saturday October 14th 2006.

This is a morning meeting. Mass is at 8 am in the Parish for those who can arrive early and our Commission will meet from 9am until 1 am. Please bring a few loaves and fishes to share ☺.

HOT OFF the PRESSES!!!!

AT last, the San Damiano Foundation now has a website. Please check out !!

www.sandamianofoundation.ca !

The Lord is so good to us and He is interested in all we do! IF you have any questions at all please E mail me at colleen.gii@sympatico.ca or telephone me at 613-242-4820

Pax et Bonum
Colleen

OTHER DATES to REMEMBER

There is a **RETREAT** on Saturday, October 21, 2006Topic: **Franciscan Life At work and at home**-Discover practical ways of living the Franciscan charisma and actualizing the Gospel at your work and home. This retreat is open to all who have a love of Francis and Clare and desire to put their spiritual insights into practice in their daily lives. Place: Saint Francis Centre for Religious Studies, 208501 Highway #9 Caledon, ON L7K 0A8 Phone: 519-941-6661 -

www.stfranciscentre.org

9 AM to 4 PM -Cost \$30/per person

Hot Lunch included - **Pre-registration is required-Payment is by cheque or money order only!**

Contact: Maureen Kellesis (519) 941-1747

WEBSITES TO CHECK OUT

www.sandamianofoundation.ca

www.francescoproductions.com

www.youthministryaccess.org.

www.cmdnet.org

www.cmdnet.org

www.youngneighbours.org

www.prolifesearch.com

Note the San Damiano Foundation. Is registered as a pro life Charity on this site.

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 **ckruger@iaw.com**
L3B 5N7

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.

Website News: Technical Difficulties

*By Michel Guilmette, ofs
Trillium Vice-Minister*

Greetings,

We are currently trying to fix some problems with the web site. The main issues now are with the list of local fraternities, newsletter archives and the articles and links pages. We are working with our web host, Prodyne, to correct these. The problem is possibly with the scripts the software uses or even with the administrator of the site (me ☺). Hopefully before the leaves are off the trees and snow covers the ground all of the issues will be solved. In the meantime the discussion forums, community chat rooms as well as news and events page are working properly. I ask for your prayers and patience with us until all these problems are solved. You can of course continue to pray for us even after the problems are solved!

In the meantime please do use the forums and chat rooms. Send information on upcoming events and news for and from you local fraternities. Send the news and events to me at michel.guilmette@rogers.com and I will post them for you.

Peace and Goodness,
Michel

FORMATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT TO COUNCIL Sept.9/06

The first meeting of the Trillium Region Formation Commission was held on June 13th, 2006 in London. St. Peter's Fraternity graciously agreed to host the meeting, and supplied a delicious lunch.

The commission executives were chosen, responsibilities and goals discussed, and priorities established. Everyone seemed enthusiastic and more than willing to help bring the commission up and running.

The executive as it stands now is:

- * Kay Craig – Chair
- * Fr. Peter Knaapen, Spiritual Assistant
- * John Ahlers – St. Peter's, London
- * Georgette Morneau – St. Anthony of Padua, Sarnia
- * Sophie Park – London
- * Marlene Walter – St. Joseph the Worker,
Port Elgin
- * David Mitchell – St. Bonaventure, Don Mills

We would still welcome any others interested in being on the executive, and really need someone to represent the fraternities in the eastern part of the province.

The goals of the Trillium Region Formation Commission are:

- * to provide formation resource materials to fraternities
- * to assist fraternities in developing material and programs particularly for initial formation
- * to assist in the training for Formation Directors
- * to ensure the quality and consistency of formation in the Region
- * to establish membership

Each of the executive will contact the fraternities they are responsible for, and report back at the next meeting, which will take place in late October or early November, place to be still decided.

Many other ideas were put on the table, and discussed. I look forward to things happening! Please pray for the success of this commission.

Kay Craig

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.

Feast Day: November 17th



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

"We have come to believe in God's love: In the encyclical which forms the program for his pontificate, *Deus caritas est* (DC 1), Pope Benedict XVI has recalled to us that these words express the fundamental option of a Christian.

Love was the axis around which Saint Elizabeth's whole life revolved. If, as the Pope says, the beginning and strengthening of our

Christian life are marked not by an ethical decision but by a meeting with a person, our desire is that the year 2007

may be a meeting with Saint Elizabeth, one which brings us to a better personal understanding of God's love, so that our faith in His love may emerge strengthened, and encourage us to become instruments of his mercy. Let's hope that we can make even more our own this saying, which captures Elizabeth's whole life: *We have come to believe in love.*

Saint Elizabeth's star shines with its own brilliance in the heavens of sanctity, and in the field of humanity and mercy. Her praiseworthy qualities transcend the borders of the Catholic Church: they are also admired and venerated by the Lutheran confessions. We even discover in her universal guidelines for charity, fraternity and common life that can mark out new paths in the field of social commitment for all those who dedicate themselves

to sowing the seeds of consolation among suffering humanity.

Her life was a crossroads of actions which literally reflect the Gospel of Jesus Christ. With daring courage, she accepted the postulates presented by Jesus on the lordship of God the Father, on the need to strip ourselves of everything and make ourselves like little children in order to enter the kingdom of the Father. She emptied herself until she made herself available to all the needy. She discovered the presence of Jesus in the poor, the forsaken of society, the hungry, and the sick (Mt. 25). The whole commitment of her life consisted of living the compassion of the God who is love and making it present in the midst of those who did not know human compassion.

In the most genuine manner of St. Francis, Elizabeth sought the radical following of Christ, who, though he was rich, made himself poor. She renounced the false appearances and ambitions of the world; the pomp of her court, comforts, riches and luxurious dress. . . . She descended from her castle and planted her tent among the rejected and the distressed in order to serve them. Elizabeth was the first Franciscan woman to be canonized; the first woman who made the ideals of Francis of Assisi a reality, a woman forged in the furnace of the Gospel life that he lived and taught.

...If we can bring the saint and what she did back to life, we will emerge enriched in our souls and our work. Authentic holiness and love of humanity without bounds are outside of time, they transcend every culture. The message of her life crosses the eight centuries that separate us from her birth. Nevertheless, in order to rightly understand and evaluate Elizabeth, we cannot lose sight of the fact she is a daughter of her time, the thirteenth century, when religious values were the supreme ones in society.

We want to go deeper into her spirit and her heart, and to discover the source of her compassion and her love without limits or distinctions. We want to praise and thank God for Elizabeth's uniqueness, for her uncompromising resolution, for her daring to be different in her society."

Local Fraternity Bulletin Board

Obituaries

St. Mary Fraternity, Blenheim.

Daniel Vershelden ofs

Daniel has gone home to the Lord!

Daniel Vershelden, ofs, leaves his wife of 59 years, Lena, also a Secular Franciscan and seven children.

Daniel was a regular contributor to the "Good News Report". In the 2004 Summer edition Daniel had the inspiring "Story to Tell" of his life. He was professed in January 1987. And who can forget Daniel and Lena holding court from their lawn chairs at the picnic in London, August 2004!

Godlieve Couture, ofs

Godlieve died just two weeks before Daniel. She was professed in January, 1987 and was the wife of the former Minister, Gerry Couture.

Our sympathy and love goes out to Lena, Gerry and their families. May our loving Lord lead Daniel and Godlieve to the mansion prepared for them and to the joy that surpasses all understanding.

Professions

On Aug. 20, 2006, twelve new Secular Franciscans were professed in St. John Vianney fraternity in Toronto: Viviana Bong Sook Kwak ofs, Celine Min Jung Kwon ofs, Teresa Jeong Ran Kim ofs, Angela Seong Eun Chu ofs, Bibiana Mi Ra Kim ofs, Matthew Ho Kyung Kwak ofs, Regina Chul Soon Kim ofs, Susanna Kyung Hie Kang ofs, Andrew Sang Yeol Oh ofs, Clara Bogk Sook Han ofs, Michaela Kong Ran Lee ofs, Michael Jong Ki Lee ofs.

Congratulations also for these recent professions: Gudrun Wegner, - Queen of Peace, Madoc. Also Julian Joubert, Dhol Mariano, & Warren Postma - St. Bonaventure, Toronto. Lorraine Atherley, Hermelina Bon, Elsie Campbell, Joanna de Medeiros, Leila Sacapan - St. Charles Borromeo, Toronto.

Congratulations to all and may you continue to grow in your journey to the Lord with your Franciscan companions.

Formation kit

Trillium Region now has a Formation Kit which so far includes the following books.

Orientation:

Come and See - Lester Bach, OFM Cap and Teresa V. Baker, S.F.O.

Initial Formation:

Fully Mature in the Fullness of Christ - third edition, Benet A. Fonck, OFM

Catch Me a Rainbow Too - Lester Bach, OFM Cap

Ongoing Formation:

To Set Themselves Free, Teresa V. Baker, S.F.O.

Pick More Daisies, Lester Bach, OFM Cap

To Live as Francis Lived, Leonard Foley, OFM, Jovian Weigel, OFM, Patti Normile, S.F.O

These are suggested books for formation, and will be carried by Regional Members for information only when they visit local fraternities.

More formation materials will be added soon.

Miracle

Reflection by Hugh Dobson

The man was asking God whether the suffering in the world could be stopped. God replied: "This was not possible". The man persisted: "Dear God, I want You to stop the suffering in the world. I will dare You to try. I will jump off this tall building . I do not believe that You will save me". The man walked up the stairs. The door to the roof was locked. He walked down the stairs.

