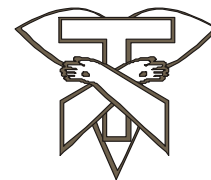


Good News Report

Secular Franciscan Order
Trillium Regional Fraternity



Number 47

Spring 2008



Minister's Letter April 2007

Peace and all good to the fraternities in the Trillium Region!

Thanks be to God for the beautiful Easter liturgies this past March and new hope for spring with all of this sunshine!

In this letter I would like to outline the roles of the Trillium Council members as the Chapter of Elections draws near. It is our hope that many of you will prayerfully consider serving on the Regional Council during this next term. All roles described below are responsible for living out and breathing into fraternities the Franciscan charism of simplicity, peace, love and charity.

Minister: The Trillium Regional Minister presides at and prepares the agendas for three to four meetings per year; receives requests for Chapters of Elections and Fraternal Visitations from local fraternities; is a liaison with the National Fraternity, the Local and Regional Fraternities, and attends National Chapters and Conferences; sees that directions and decisions of the council are put into practice; reports all activities to the regional council; makes an annual report to the National Council; convokes the regional Chapter of elections every three years. The Minister also keeps significant documents of the region in safekeeping.

Vice Ministers: In the Trillium Region there are two positions for Vice Minister. They support the Minister in carrying out the various duties, and replaces the Minister in case of absence or resignation. The Vice Ministers in the Trillium region have worked rather closely with the Area Councillors in their roles as Fraternal Visitors, have presided at Chapters of Elections, attended National Chapters and Conferences as delegates and observers.

Secretary: The Trillium Regional Secretary attends all meetings of the council, and the Chapter of Elections to keep the records of meetings and activities, to send them to council members, and to compile and preserve them. This

role requires good attention to detail and computer skills are most beneficial.

Treasurer: The Trillium Regional Treasurer administers contributions and expenses, sends out a letter to local fraternities once a year stating expenses and requesting contributions; keeps receipts; prepares the regional budget for approval; renders an account of financial activities through reports to the regional council and the Regional Chapter.

Formation Director: The Regional Formation Director is responsible for keeping fraternities informed of regionally approved formation materials and practices. At this time the Regional Formation Director is the chair of the Trillium Formation Commission, and must prepare the agenda for commission meetings and coordinate meeting places and times. In cooperation with the Trillium Regional Council, formation workshops may be planned and carried out. The Regional Formation Director attends National Formation meetings and workshops, usually once or twice in a three year term. It is also possible the Anglophone regions in Canada may work together in the area of formation.

Youth Coordinator: The Trillium Regional Youth Coordinator is responsible for disseminating information regarding Youfra, Gifra and other Secular Franciscan Youth materials to the local fraternities. The Trillium Youth Coordinator is currently the chair of the Regional Youth Commission and must prepare the agenda for commission meetings and coordinate meeting places and times. In cooperation with the Trillium Regional Council, workshops may be planned and carried out. The Regional Youth Coordinator may attend National meetings and workshops, usually once or twice in a three year term.

Area Councillor: Regional Area Councillors are appointed members of council that are responsible for Fraternal Visitations to the fraternities in their respective areas. They must attend regional council meetings three to four times

a year, and coordinate days and times for Fraternal Visitations and reviewing of local fraternity records for approximately seven fraternities. Fraternal Visitations are requested once every three years by local fraternities. See GC, art. 92. Area Councillors act as liaisons between the local and regional fraternities, report activities and Fraternal Visitations to the regional fraternity, and should have access to good transportation. It is also possible for Area Councillors to coordinate fraternal activities in their respective areas.

Newsletter Editor: The regional newsletter editor role is an appointed one. The editor may attend regional meetings; receives and formats articles and information for the newsletter; prepares the newsletter for sending via the internet and by post four times a year.

Certificates: The person who takes on this role receives requests for certificates, prepares and ensures certificates are signed by Trillium Minister and Spiritual Assistant and sends certificates for Profession and Profession anniversaries. Keeps a record of them.

Web-site Technician: The person responsible for the regional web-site. This is a new role, appointed, for anyone who can help keep this valuable communications tool up to date.

Library: One person who takes on the responsibility of administering the regional library books and multi-media.

These are the roles that form and support the work of the Trillium Regional Council.

With gratitude for the work of this council and the cooperation of fraternities through this past term.

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.**

Please Note: If you no longer wish to receive the above, please let me know as above.

Spiritual Assistant's Letter.



Fr. Peter Knaapen, OFM Conv.

When Mother Teresa of Calcutta was in hospital in 1983 this was part of her meditation:

“Jesus is the Hungry - to be fed.
 Jesus is the Thirsty - to be satiated.
 Jesus is the Naked - to be clothed.
 Jesus is the Homeless - to be taken in.
 Jesus is the Sick - to be healed.
 Jesus is the Lonely - to be loved.
 Jesus is the Unwanted - to be wanted.
 Jesus is the Leper - to wash his wounds.
 Jesus is the Beggar - to give him a smile.
 Jesus is the Drunkard - to listen to him.
 Jesus is the Mental - to protect him.
 Jesus is the Little One - to embrace him.
 Jesus is the Blind - to lead him.
 Jesus is the Dumb - to speak for him.
 Jesus is the Crippled - to walk with him.
 Jesus is the Drug Addict - to befriend him.
 Jesus is the Prostitute - to remove from danger and befriend her.
 Jesus is the Prisoner - to be visited.
 Jesus is the Old - to be served.”

When Mother Teresa accepted the Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo in 1979, part of her acceptance speech went like this:

“It is not enough for us to say: ‘I love God, but I do not love my neighbour.’ Saint John says that you are a liar if you say you love God and you don’t love your neighbour. (1 John 4:20) How can you love God whom you do not see, if you do not love your neighbour whom you see, whom you touch, with whom you live? And so this is very important for us to realize that love, to be true, has to hurt.”

How can we love like this? Where will we get the power to love Jesus in others in this way? In a letter to the people of Albania on April 28th 1997 Mother Teresa gives the key to being able to see Jesus in others. It is through prayer. She wrote,

“To be able to love one another, we must pray much, for prayer gives a clean heart and a clean heart can see God in our neighbour. If now we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten how to see God in one another. If each person saw God

in his neighbour, do you think we would need guns and bombs?"

We may not remember every time we are talking to someone, "Jesus is in this person." In the parable of judgment in Matthews Gospel the people did not think either of the presence of God in those around them. That is why in the parable both those to left and right of the Son of Man ask, "Lord when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison?" (Matt 25:37,44) Because we do not always think like this Mother Teresa rightly said,

"If now we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten how to see God in one another. If each person saw God in his neighbour, do you think we would need guns and bombs?"

Thinking like this means thinking in a new way, putting on a new mind, letting our brains be washed with the Gospel of Jesus. And as Mother Teresa said, it is through prayer that we will receive the grace to see others with this new mind of Jesus.

(adapted from a homily by Fr. Tommy Lane)

Peter Knaapen, OFM Conv.

YOUTH NEWS



by Colleen MacAlister ofs Youth Coordinator Trillium Regional Franciscan Fraternity

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Our winter was long and beautiful and the good Lord gave us enough snow to bring up the underground water tables once more! And now it is spring!

Although the dark brown and black reminders of last fall are now revealed once more, it doesn't take long with the sun's warmth for new life to begin!

All of a sudden there are the crocuses and daffodils! I have actually seen little dandelions blooming already!

With the sun shining even April showers are a happy time and life in general takes a whole new optimistic hue! Hope springs forth from the earth reminding us of the Resurrection of the Lord and

the timelessness of God's benevolence to His creatures!

We as members of the Trillium Fraternity Regional Council have been preparing for our Chapter of Elections coming soon!

Soon there will be a new council springing forth! I ask that you open your heart to "new ideas" and "new possibilities"! Is the Lord calling you to serve on the Regional Council? We are all called to serve.

All of us are part of His body so of course we are not all the same or the body would not function! It is the Holy Spirit and the spirit of service that our seraphic father Francis taught us, that is like the blood in our veins, allowing us to work as one body!

From the humblest position to the noblest role we are all called to serve with humility, saying with Mary, "be it done to me according to YOUR word" What new gifts or opportunities to serve will the Lord call us to this year? Come prepared to share your gifts. Be open to the Holy Spirit of the living God.

Together we will see what "new life" springs into our Secular Franciscan family this year! Let us keep the elections in our prayers. I look forward to seeing many of you at the Chapter!

God bless you with His Peace and Good

Colleen MacAlister, ofs

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

June 7th and June 8th Chapter of Elections

June 15th – June 22nd in Quebec City the Eucharistic Congress

July 14th – July 20th WYD in Australia

July 17th – July 20th WYD Events in Midland at the Martyrs Shrine

MONKFEST

MAY 23RD – May 24TH

the MUSIC EVENT, part of PROJECT WE CARE

www.monkfest.com

I would LOVE to see as many as possible come to this event to support not only our youth and Foundations Youth Centres but also the amazing musicians prepared to donate their time to help YOUTH. This year this event will be at the

Fair Grounds in Madoc right off Hwy. 7

only hours from Toronto and Ottawa.

Could you come? Or would you or your fraternity help sponsor the event?

(Any donation is tax receiptable)

This year we have over a dozen of the best Catholic Artists coming to support this "Franciscan" Youth event!

We will have a statue of St. Francis and copies of the Peace Prayer available and there will be the "Way of Peace" the Stations for the Nations.

Some of the artists are Critical Mass, David MacDonald, Nancy Bodsworth, Chris Bray, Carey Grant and the artists from www.mediatrixrecords.com Mediatrix Records in the USA! Also there will be other local bands and artists as well as main stream bands. Although the event is geared to Youth it is open to all ages! Why not bring your whole family? I would be happy of any assistance from my Franciscan Brothers and Sisters in this event!

If you want to get more involved with Youth *please consider joining the Trillium Regional Youth Commission* or put *your name or someone else's forward for the elected position of Youth Coordinator!*

We would love to see the a larger group!

Contact any of the following

YOUTH COMMISSION EXECUTIVE

Colleen MacAlister ofs 613-242-1125

Irene McEvers ofs 905-438-9286

Louise Arruda ofs 905-775-9283

Gudrun Wegner ofs 613-473-4574

Remember you can E mail me at

colleen.gii@sympatico.ca

WEBSITES TO CHECK OUT

www.ciofs.org

www.franciscanyouthusa.com

www.sandamianoofoundation.ca

www.francescoproductions.com

www.youthministryaccess.org.

www.cmdnet.org

www.youngneighbours.org

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.

Contact your TRF members at:

Minister – Debbie Tessier, ofs

905-734-3053 debbtess@aol.com

Vice-Minister – Stephen Young-Sik Huh, ofs

416-321-3196 ys.huh@sympatico.ca

Vice-Minister – Michel Guilmete, ofs

516-766-1327 michel.guilmette@rogers.com

Secretary – Louise Arruda, ofs

905-775-9283 larruda2@hotmail.com

Treasurer – David Mitchell, ofs

416-322-3977 conwaymitchell@yahoo.com

Formation Director – Kay Craig, ofs

905-354-8451 kcraig70@cogeco.ca

Youth Coordinator – Colleen MacAlister, ofs

613-473-4004 colleen.gii@sympatico.ca

Spiritual Assistant – Fr. Peter Knaapen, OFM Conv.

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

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

The International Fraternity.

Continued from Winter 2007:

A presentation by Doug Clorey, ofs

National Conference October 2007

Secular Franciscans the World Over

International Commissions were established to deal with these priorities.

Formation Commission was formed and they have held two workshops. There are Formation seminars across the world. Canada was asked to assist with materials in French speaking countries, especially Africa.

Presence in the world commission: provide support to justice, peace and care of creation initiatives; try to reach out to SFO's who have experienced tragedies such as floods, earthquakes....

Franciscan Youth Commission established to help animate the youth fraternities. Franciscan youth days are organized around WYD's.

Finance Commission

Juridical Commission: to review Statutes,...

Communications Commission

2005 General non elective chapter

Concerns arising: Aging members; losing members faster than gaining members; financial impact on the levels of fraternity; meeting the needs of newer, growing fraternities. Often they are poor. Need for formation training and materials. Even getting materials to Africa is difficult. Responding effectively in a global environment today:

communications are easier; translation is a big issue, need for translators; operation of CIOFS website (current web-master works for free).

We are all members of the International Fraternity. We all want to go from Gospel to Life and Life to Gospel.

Question from the floor:

Garnet—“A question about priorities. Only one of the priorities is externally focused, that of the Presence in the World. Do Secular Franciscans have influence on the environment, in the United Nations?”

Doug—“We need to get our act together regarding ourselves. The Presence in the World Commission, which I chair, was established to make a connection/liaison with the International Fraternity and Franciscans International. The commission, with me aims to strengthen this relationship and collaborate.”

Doug asks for prayers. FI is a significant voice for effectiveness in the world.

Françoise translated and expanded by explaining how SIAF is the francophone liaison with FI.

Murdoch thanked Doug for his presentation.

**JUSTICE, PEACE, and the INTEGRITY of
CREATION**

(Submitted by Maurice Prindiville, ofs)

Four principles are elaborated on the website of the OFM “Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation” website: <http://www.ofm-jpic.org>. How could these be applied in your local Secular Franciscan context?

Option for the Poor:

“The brothers should follow the example of St. Francis who was led by the Lord to go among the lepers. Each and every brother should show a preference for the marginalized, for the poor and the oppressed, for troubled and sick people and be happy to live among them and show compassion.” (OFM General Constitutions, Art. 97)

Francis had a deep love of and respect for the poor, seeing them as the image of Christ. He resolved to never refuse anything that was asked of him in the name of God. He often asked the wealthy for material assistance for the poor. If he could not offer material assistance, he lavished his affection on the poor and affirmed their right to beg alms.

Francis called his brothers to live as he did, helping them see that in meeting the poor, they met Christ, and that living simply helped free them to better receive God and one another.

Peacemaking:

“The brothers should live in this world as builders of justice and heralds and craftsmen of peace overcoming evil by doing good.... The brothers should call all people again to peace, gentleness and kindness.” (OFM General Constitutions, Art. 68)

Francis greeted everyone with, “May the Lord give you peace.” The peace he wished came from his own inner peace and his deep reverence for all of God’s creatures. He allowed the God within to bring peace to those he met. He urged the friars to be gentle, peaceful, unassuming, courteous and humble in their dealings with others.

Francis was able to challenge and confront injustice, but he did it non-violently, respecting all those involved. He negotiated peace between the people of Gubbio and the wolf who was terrorizing them and between the bishop and mayor of Assisi. The Sultan of Egypt treated him kindly because he was seen as a man of peace.

Care for Creation:

“Following closely in St. Francis’ footsteps, the brothers should show a sense of reverence towards nature, which is today threatened on all sides. They thus restore nature in its entirety to its status of brother and sister, useful to all people for the glory of God the Creator.” (OFM General Constitutions, Art. 71)

One of the most significant marks of Saint Francis’ spirituality is his acute sense of the presence of God in creation and in human history. Every being, every thing is a gift from God. Everything speaks to us of God and sends us back to God. The universe in its unity and its diversity is a sacrament of God. For Francis, loving the works of God and loving God was the same thing.

This spirituality guides Franciscans today to work to see that creation is not reduced to the economic interests of humanity, to restore the dignity and intrinsic value of the created world and to support sustainable practices that will preserve the planet for future generations.

Human Rights:

“The brothers should work humbly and courageously that human dignity and the rights of

all are respected and cultivated... ” (OFM General Constitutions, Art. 96, 3)

The most marginalized members of any society are at the greatest risk of having their human rights pushed aside. It is here that Francis wanted his brothers to be. Francis called the brothers to live the Gospel, to do as Jesus did, to help the poorest, neediest and marginalized to lift up their heads and obtain their dignity by securing their rights.

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### **Agenda: A World of Provinces; From World-War to World-Peace**

Some thoughts by Hugh Dobson, March 6, 2008

One argument for peace is that excessive strength attracts opposition so there is no advantage in having excessive strength. The world has many overly-armed nations with irritable leaders.

Could the world somehow proceed to change to having many relatively-unarmed provinces? Could the missile-systems and the mega-weapons industries be shut down? By gentle persuasion? Who would have to be persuaded? National leaders at the top? Leaders of armies and arms-industries? Or all of humanity? Do these leaders, or all the others bother to notice that the world is precious? Is power, or petty-power, more important?

Excessive strength has already attracted opposition, risking infinitely both humanity and biosphere. I refer to NUKES. Have one-trigger-each mega-military machines taken over the world to ensure THE END? YES.

Who cares?

Let there be Provinces!

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During May let us dust off our Rosaries and say:

The Franciscan Crown Rosary:

1. Annunciation,
2. The Visitation,
3. The Birth of our Lord,
4. The Adoration of the Magi,
5. The finding of Jesus in the temple,
6. The Resurrection of our Lord,
7. The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.



The Two Servants

During a night in the year 1215, Saint Dominic stayed up to pray in Saint Peter's Basilica in Rome. Suddenly the Lord Jesus appeared in front of him holding three spears, which he was about to throw at the world. The Blessed Virgin, His Mother, prostrated herself before Him, begging Him to forgive those He had redeemed and to temper His justice through His mercy. Her Son replied, "Do you not see what insults I have received? My justice should not let so many crimes go unpunished." Her mother answered, "O You Who knows all things, there is still a way to bring them back to you. I have a faithful servant; send him out in the world. He will announce Your Word to humanity, who will convert and search for You. I have another servant whom I will give to the first as a helper, and he will do the same work." The Son of God said to His mother, "Your offer has disarmed me, but please show me the ones you have chosen to accomplish such a great mission."

Then the Mother of God presented Dominic to Our Blessed Lord. "I accept him," said the Son of God, "he will do very well and diligently all what you said." She then presented Blessed Francis and the Savior approved of him also. Blessed Dominic looked his companion over carefully during this vision, because they had never met before. The next day he saw a man in a church and recognized him as being the same man that he had seen during the night. He threw himself into his arms, and holding him on his heart, he kissed the saint with affection, saying: "You are my brother in arms; you will walk in step with me and the enemy will not prevail against us." He then told him about his vision and from that moment on, they shared one heart and one mind in God, and they recommended to their spiritual sons that they do the same among themselves, always, in all love and reverence. That simple gesture left an indelible wake on the ocean of the ages, and the two militias of beggars found in it the symbol of their eternal alliance. For this reason, the Patriarch of the Order of Preachers has his place among us and we also give him the title of Father.

Les Fleurs Franciscaines
2nd Series p.187

Local Fraternity Bulletin Board

About This Page

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

Good News Report! Editors note: An update on our current circulation. 211 people are receiving the newsletter by e-mail and 285 by regular mail. Many thanks to those of you who have sent us your e-mail addresses. E-mail is more economic and you receive it in colour!

Obituaries

Charles Landry, ofs. On Christmas Eve, 2007 Charles, of St. Peter fraternity, London passed on to his eternal reward. We offer our condolences to Charles family and St. Peter fraternity. May he rest in peace

Donald Robbie. We wish to extend sincere sympathies to Pierrete Robbie, ofs, of Sacred Heart fraternity, Guelph, whose husband, Donald went home to the Lord on March 27, 2008. May he rest in peace.

Sandy Blum, ofs. On March 30, 2008 Sandy, of St. Felix fraternity went home to the Lord. Our condolences to her family and St. Felix fraternity.



Professions



With sincere apologies for missing this announcement earlier, congratulations go out to **Teresa Viechweg, ofs** of **St. Angela Merici Fraternity** on her profession last summer.

Congratulations also go out to **Ana Marie Bessitt, ofs**, **Dawn D'Cruz, ofs**, **Nick Power, ofs** and **Nick Roselli, ofs** all of **St. Charles Borromeo, Toronto** who were professed on April 6, 2008.

Website:

St. Peter Fraternity, Woodbridge has a newly revamped website. There are some excellent pages of general interest to Secular Franciscans. Just go to www.ofsstpeters.com Thanks to Dominic Marando, ofs for this item.

Election Results

Congratulations to the following people who have accepted service in their Fraternities as members of Council:

St. Anne, Tecumseh

Minister: Michael Quinn, ofs
Vice-Minister: Bert van Berlo, ofs
Secretary: Michelle Roy, ofs
Treasurer: Silvana Alvarez, ofs
Formation Director: Luis Alvarez, ofs

St. John Vianney, North York

Minister: Mary H. Paul Sun Young Lee, ofs
Vice-Minister: Andrew Sang Yeol Oh, ofs
Secretary: Lucilla Hye Ja Kang, ofs
Treasurer: Mary Kyung Soo Kwon, ofs
Formation Director: Rosaria Kye Hee Lee, ofs

Holy Rosary, Belleville

Minister: Dianne Doucette, ofs
Vice-Minister: Bill Garland, ofs
Secretary: Silvana Rossi-Loughheed, ofs
Treasurer: Ken Matwyuk, ofs
Formation Director: Bev MacDonald, ofs

St. Damian, London

(Newly emerging Korean fraternity)

Minister: Jin Hong Min (Francis)
Vice-Minister: Young Kim (Olivia)
Secretary: Seung H. Park (Sophiana)
Treasurer: Kyung W. Park (Thomas)
Formation Director: In Sook Lee (Lucia)
Spiritual Assistant: Sr. Rita Kim, f.m.m.

Joke Corner

For You Lexiophiles: (Lovers of Words)

1. A bicycle can't stand alone because it is two-tired.
2. What's the definition of a will? (It's a dead giveaway)
3. Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana.
4. A backward poet writes inverse.
5. In democracy it's your vote that counts. In feudalism it's your count that votes.
6. She had a boyfriend with a wooden leg, but broke it off.
7. A chicken crossing the road is poultry in motion.