



Good News Report

Secular Franciscan Order
Trillium Regional Fraternity



Number 83

Summer 2018

A MOMENT WITH THE MNISTER

As we prepare to gather next month, on July 7, to celebrate our 25th anniversary as the Trillium Region, I thought I would take a minute to reflect on the idea of FRATERNITY! Along with the charge to “observe the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ,” FRATERNITY defines the structure of building the entire Order. We all belong to a fraternity but what does that mean? We gather at least monthly with other Franciscans who help to form our fraternity. This is the heart of our Franciscan identity, the “sacrament of sister and brother.”



Mary Knaapen,
mother of our National Spiritual Assistant
Fr. Peter Knaapen, ofm Conv, died peacefully,
at the age of 96 on Saturday, June 16.

*Eternal Rest grant unto her O Lord; let perpetual light shine upon her. May her soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.
Amen.*



Fraternity is first of all the discovery, that every human person, even every creature, also a brother and sister, who is close to me, both different and alike, has the same origin and the same unique Father. I must love these brothers and sisters, accept them as they are, serve them, and never try to dominate them.

Whomever he or she may be, Christian or not, friend or robber, rich or poor, likeable or insufferable, I must welcome with kindness and love. These need to be our characteristics: easy to be around, humble and servant and able to be a friend to everyone. The term 'Franciscan' almost always means someone who is kind, open to all and fraternal.

The FUN Manual further definition fraternity as:

“The local fraternity is the basic living organism of the whole SFO. It is the center for spiritual growth, apostolic outreach and loving union among members. Fraternity should be a place where we are offered an opportunity for conversion, for spiritual growth. There are two facets of Fraternity Life. One is internal calling, and the other is external calling; internal spiritual growth and external apostolic works. Both are important for the life of SFO. The



SPIRITUAL ASSISTANT

This year Secular Franciscans all over the world are commemorating the 40th anniversary of the Rule promulgated by Pope Paul VI. I was asked to give a presentation at our recent national chapter and a homily at our regional celebration of the 40th anniversary of the rule. In both, I quoted parts of Saint Pope John Paul II’s address to the International Chapter members in 2002. I like to share those words with the rest of you who were not able to attend.



Pope John Paul 11 reminded all of us that the Church expects from the unique Secular Franciscan Order a great service to the cause of the Kingdom of God in the world today. Referring to article 6 of the Rule, he encouraged all Secular Franciscans: “From you, the Church awaits a courageous and consistent witness of Christian and Franciscan life that aims at building a more fraternal and evangelical world for the realization of the Kingdom of God”.

“Secular Franciscans, you live your vocation by belonging to the Church and to society as inseparable realities. For this reason, you are asked first of all to bear a personal witness in the place where you live: before all: in [your] family life; in [your] work; in [your] joys and sufferings; in [your] associations with all men and women, brothers and sisters of the same Father; in [your] presence and participation in the life of society; in

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Rule of SFO calls Secular Franciscans to go from Gospel (conversion) to life (apostolate).

May we be guided by the words of Pope Saint John Paul II who said: "You are called to make your own contribution, inspired by the person and message of St Francis of Assisi, to hasten the coming of a civilization in which the dignity of the human person, co-responsibility and love may be living realities (cf. Gaudium et spes, n. 31ff.).

You must deepen the true foundations of universal fraternity, and everywhere create a spirit of hospitality and of brotherhood. Firmly oppose every kind of exploitation, discrimination and marginalization, and every attitude of indifference to others."

A tall order for us, the Secular Franciscans of the Trillium Regional Fraternity, but that is what we are called to do.



Deus Meus et omnia.
Catherine Payne

(SPIRITUAL ASSISTANT ... continued from page 1)

[your] fraternal relationship with all creatures" (SFO, General Constitutions, art. 12.1).

Perhaps, you will not be required to pour out your blood as a martyr, but you will certainly be asked to give a coherent and steadfast witness in fulfilling the promises made at your Baptism and Confirmation, which you renewed and confirmed with your profession in the Franciscan Secular Order. By virtue of this profession, the Rule and the General Constitutions must represent for each of you the point of reference for daily living, based on your explicit vocation and special identity (cf. Promulgation of the General Constitutions of the SFO). If you are truly driven by the Spirit to reach the perfection of charity in your secular state, "it would be a contradiction to settle for a life of mediocrity, marked by a minimalist ethic and a shallow religiosity" (Novo Millennio ineunte, n. 31). You must be sincerely dedicated to that "high standard of ordinary Christian living".

As we continue to celebrate and reflect on the Rule let us live the Gospel by our personal witness. In the words attributed to St Francis: "preach the Gospels and if necessary use words".

The presentation I gave at the National Chapter is posted on the National website www.ofsnational.ca To get to the presentation please look either under recent additions on the front page or on the menu please click the National Fraternity and then the National Chapter.

Fr. Peter Knaapen O.F.M. Conv

Dear Friends;

We now offer two new features on our website, www.capuchins.ca/shop

Available now are Private Mass Intentions and Virtual Memorial Candles. We invite you to re-visit our website for more details and ask you to share this new information with your family, fraternities and friends.

This Easter, remember your loved ones, a special occasion or personal intention.

Wishing you a blessed Easter and the joy of the Resurrection!

Bro Alan Gaebel, ofm, cap.
Capuchins of Central Canada
2100 Jane Street
Toronto On M3M 1A1



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VICE MINISTER

ROME IS BURNING



Rome is burning and while it burns, Nero, the heathen on the Hill, fiddles. With his ego, ignorance, and conceit, Nero believed that if he tortures and kills the Christians, he would deflect the suspicion cast on him for the fire in Rome, In his self-absorption he believed that he would achieve fame, honour and support from the people. He was either ignorant of history, chose to ignore, or forgot the life and times of Pharaoh. So he killed the Christians for their faith - their belief in Christ - who was killed and who rose again to life on the third day. Nero believed that martyring Christians, would solve his problems. He did not know that the blood of Martyrs is the seed of Christianity. Since the crucifixion of Christ, Christians have been persecuted and martyred for their belief in every century. Lactantius, advisor to Constantine 1, said that a reason, “*why God permits persecutions to be carried out against us, that the people of God may be increased.*”

Many egotistical and self-serving people have taken Nero as their model for growth and success in life. In centuries closer to ours, Hitler, Marx, Lenin tried to destroy Christianity by harassing, incarcerating and executing religious leaders. And martyrdom of Christians continues to this day.

Why are Christians being persecuted? Most people would say, and quite rightly so, it is because they are Christians. But what is it about Christianity that causes this anger among others? The fundamental reason is that Christians believe in TRUTH: Truth in the Person and in the Word.

Jesus Christ is TRUTH and therefore does not and cannot lie. Since He cannot lie, His words are therefore truth. “*Jesus is the Pole Star of human freedom: Without him it loses its sense of direction, for without the knowledge of truth, freedom degenerates, becomes isolated and is reduced to sterile arbitration.*” (Pope Benedict XVI) Freedom disconnected from truth is not freedom at all; it is slavery. It is something that dehumanizes, rather than leads to a fully lived human life.

All arrogant people think they are more important than Christ, and that they should be

accepted and obeyed, rather than Christ who won for us our Freedom from the death of sin and hell. Christians know that “freedom to think” is a God-given right won through the suffering and death on the Cross. Although the Lord, master and maker of us all has asked for obedience, He has not denied us our free will to choose. Arrogance says: 'do as I say, or else.' Forbidding the right of a person to use his/her free will when it relates to their faith in God, is tantamount to martyrdom. Martyrdom is not be limited only to the killing the body, but also the spirit and the soul.

Another cause of anger is JUSTICE: The right of equality for all. Justice requires all persons regardless of colour, race or station in life be given the same respect and dignity - especially with regards to food, shelter and clothing. In our present world, the topic of Social Justice has become a very complex subject and demands conscientious deliberation and guidance through prayer, so that we may know God’s will in making right choices in dealing with rights of human being, “*enlightened by Faith and the guidance of the teaching authority of the Church.*” (Rule:17)

Most people consider “Peace” to be the absence of war, but the absence of “Peace” seems to be the norm. Over the past few years, the acronym, JPIC, Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation has come to the forefront of our awareness.

We have looked at Justice and Peace, but Integrity of Creation embodies all. When God created the earth He made us stewards of all creation. Being stewards involves Justice and Peace. Integrity of Creation not only involves the birds and the bees, the rivers and trees,

but of ALL creation. We have as an example our Seraphic Father Francis who sang odes to creation and showed his love for the lepers by caring for them. We have the poor and infirm among us, and we are to care for them. We also have our children, and Integrity of Creation DEMANDS that we take care of them, not only their physical needs but also their spiritual needs, to lead them and guide them in the way that Christ intended, for He Himself has said, “*whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.*” (Matthew 18:6)

Peace

Teresa Viechweg, ofs



VICE MINISTER

Hearts Wounded and Healed



June has been set aside by Holy Mother Church to honour the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Then this month and feast is taken even further into the month of July which is dedicated to the Most Precious Blood of Jesus.

The heart and the proper flow of blood to and from the heart are essential elements of physical life. So it is true in the spiritual life with the blood of grace, that the flow to and from be constant.

"Behold this heart that has loved much" Jesus said to St. Margaret Mary.

Whenever I think of this quote I try to imagine the pain in the heart of Jesus and the look of anguish on His face at the rejection that He so often receives from us.

I also think of all of us who are so prone to revenge at the slightest comment or action that we find offensive. When we do this we disturb the flow of grace blood that carries our heart to His and His to ours. None of us can claim innocence here. We are all guilty.

However our blindness gives way to His mercy. He heals our hearts with the tender love of His forgiveness. He prevents our self induced spiritual coronary with His love. He knows our weakness and He knows our pride.

Let us remember, however, that His mercy is not the end of the story. Does His forgiveness change us? How willing are we to accept insult and hurt and to offer it for the good of the one who has insulted and hurt us?

We must come out of ourselves long enough to realize that we will never progress into the spiritual life if we make it all about ourselves.

Making sacrifices is not mentioned much in our all about me times of today. However, Our Lady told the seers of Fatima that many souls were in Hell because no one made sacrifices in their behalf. Making sacrifices is never easy but this is how we become healers of hearts by going and doing likewise as He so often counselled.

May we become healers of hearts and doers of sacrifice as true penitential sons and daughters of the church. Doing good and putting others first often goes unnoticed. But let's do it anyway.

John Francis of St.



**Please join us on Saturday July 7
for the 25th Anniversary picnic for the Trillium Region
starting at 10AM
with Mass at St. Bonaventure Church, 1300 Leslie St., Toronto.
Franciscan fun and fellowship!!**

FORMATION

Franciscan Contemplation

Peace my sisters and brothers.

In the first chapter of The Journey, we read that Secular Franciscans must pursue contemplative prayer, as our seraphic father and his early followers did. The Franciscan path of prayer is a contemplative one. But, what is Contemplative prayer?

Contemplative prayer is seeing with the eyes of the heart. It is a penetrating vision, a deepening of love and a continuous action of ongoing transformation. Francis describes it as a vision of God's humility because the Father that lives in inaccessible light is humbly present in the Son through the love of the spirit. By contemplation, we get to the heart of reality, and we start looking into the depths of things and seeing them in their true relation to God.

St Claire has a very beautiful guide for prayer and she explains it in her letters. Here is the path she followed:

*Let us gaze upon Him,
consider Him, contemplate Him
and imitate Him;*

The "Him" is the crucified Christ. For Claire, Francis, and Bonaventure, the only path to union with God is through gazing at the poor and naked crucified, until the one who gazes comes to see the heart of charity hidden in the heart of Christ... and, by accepting God in the crucified, comes to accept who we... are because contemplation leads to self-identity.



The gaze is self-reflective, the crucified Christ, who is the image of God, is the image in which we are created, and the basis of our identity. If we gaze long enough, it becomes our way of life.

This gaze into the mirror of the cross transform us into a reflection of the image itself. It is a new "birth" of Christ in the believer.

Placing oneself in the mirror of the crucified is exposing oneself to the joys and sorrows of being human: the Joy of God's loving embrace and the sorrow of the rejected, despised and struck Christ. Find God within yourself so as to enjoy the fullness of your humanity.

Brothers and sisters, the cross is the mirror of truth, where we come to see ourselves in our capacity to love and in our brokenness. Let us cling to the crucified with all our heart, and be open to the embrace of the crucified, so that we can welcome the spirit of God into our hearts allowing it to transform us in love.

Bro. Xavier



TREASURER'S TWO CENTS

"Every Christian must be a living book wherein one can read the teaching of the Gospel."



St. Joseph of Leonissa:

Have a safe summer, everyone.

Mark Rozario ofs



Brother Alan Gaebel OFM Cap. was the facilitator for a Trillium Regional Retreat Day on June 2 at the Gethsemane Center.

We were lead on a journey from the beginning roots of the First Rule of St. Francis to our Pauline Rule today.

We had 13 fraternities represented.

HELP WANTED

The Trillium Region is in need of several people to help out with their computer skills.

We need

- 1) someone to help with our Regional website and also
- 2) 2) someone to assist with the Franciscan Voice, working with George Guimond from the Eastern Region Area.

Please let me know if you can help in either of these areas: Catherine Payne at:

519-343-2320 or email me at: bpayne@wightman.ca Thank you kindly



Local Fraternity Bulletin Board



While visiting **St. Clare Fraternity in Midland**, I had the great joy of meeting with Carmel Boughey (R) who founded the fraternity in Midland.

Such a special, gentle lady who brings a lovely spirit to the Fraternity.



The vibrant and growing fraternity of **St. Clare of Assisi Fraternity in Midland**, taken during a fraternal visit in April 2018.



After a delicious potluck dinner and meeting on Friday May 11, **St. Pio Fraternity in North Bay** gathered around their new statue of Padre Pio that member Sofia had brought back from the Philippines with her.



Members of **Sacred Heart Fraternity** celebrating their 40th anniversary, April 8, 2018 in Guelph, Ontario with Nancy Azzopardi, one of their founding members.



Sacred Heart Fraternity in Guelph celebrated their 40th Anniversary on Sunday April 8, 2018.

Nancy Azzopardi received her 40 year certificate. Our other original member, Mary Breese, will receive her certificate on May 12, when she celebrates her 100th birthday in Guelph.

Congratulations to all!



A mention in the Catholic Register from February 4, 1978:

“Fourteen new members were professed as Lay Franciscans at a special ceremony at the Church of Our Lady in Guelph..... “



Thanks to Father Joseph MacDonald, who was then the spiritual director for the Central Canada Capuchins... and who founded the Sacred Heart Fraternity, 40 years ago.

OBITUARIES

St. Maximilian Kolbe Fraternity, Mississauga.
Helena Klej died April 17, 2018

St. Angela Merici Fraternity, Brampton

Our beloved brother Angus (Gus) Legere, died at age 89, at his home on Tuesday, May 29th.

Gus was professed as a Secular Franciscan in January 1985, and has maintained his active status until very recently when he succumbed to illness.

His wife Doris, of 59 years who survives him, is also a Secular Franciscan.



A visit to **Our Lady, Queen of Peace Fraternity in Madoc** by Area Councillors, Patricia Mitchell and Teresa Viechweg in April 2018

L - R: Patricia Mitchell, ofs (area Councillor); Mike Painter, ofs (Treasurer); Gudrun Wegner, ofs, (Minister); Helen Kunst, (guest) Colleen MacAlister, Ofs. (Formation Director); Don MacAlister, ofs (Vice Minister)



On April 19 a new Council was elected at **St. Anthony of Padua Fraternity in Sarnia.**

Pictured here from L to R: Minister – Allana Myslawchuk, Treaurer – Dolores Murray, Secretary – Pat Heit, Formation Minister – Scott Molson and Vice Minister – Wilhelmina Kole.

Congratulations to the new Council and may St. Francis and St. Clare bless your service to the Fraternity.

The Good News Report

is the official newsletter of the Secular Franciscan Order, Trillium Region. We aim to publish it between the middle and end of: July, September, December, and April.

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 *deacon maurice Prindiville, ofs, mprindiville@golden.net*

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



Do you need a certificate for a newly professed member or for a special anniversary for a fraternity member? Please contact:

Clelia Malerba at: malerbac@yahoo.ca