

Good News Report

Secular Franciscan Order
Trillium Regional Fraternity

EASTER

HE IS RISEN



Number 83

Spring 2018

A MOMENT WITH THE MINISTER

June 24, 1978

is an important date for us, Secular Franciscans: the date our Rule was approved and confirmed by Pope Paul VI. A special commission, that included both friars and lay men and women was assigned the task of producing essential elements for a new rule. They came up with seventeen.



1. To live the gospel according to the spirit of St. Francis
2. To be converted continually (metanoia)
3. To live as brothers of sisters to all people and all creation
4. To live in communion with Christ
5. To follow the poor and crucified Christ
6. To share in the life and mission of the Church
7. To share in the love of the Father
8. To be instruments of peace
9. To have a life of prayer that is personal, communal and liturgical
10. To live in joy
11. To have a spirituality of a secular character
12. To be pilgrims on the way to the father
13. To participate in the Apostolate of the Laity
14. To be at the service of the less fortunate
15. To be loyal to the Church in an attitude of dialogue and collaboration with her ministers
16. To be open to the action of the Spirit
17. To live in simplicity, humility, and minority



SPIRITUAL ASSISTANT

St Francis: the Easter Saint



All of us are aware of St. Francis's great love for Christmas. The popularity of the Crèche is due to him and his great love for the baby Jesus. But what about his love for Easter. There is little mention of Easter in his writings yet I believe for Francis Easter was an important focus of his life and thoughts.

Like St. Paul, Francis could declare: *All I want to know is Christ and the power flowing from His Resurrection!* This knowledge and power enabled Francis to take the Cross-road which leads to glory: sharing in (Christ's) sufferings by being formed into the pattern of His death, Francis hoped that (he) too might attain to the resurrection from the dead. (Phil 3:10-11)



Francis' contemplation of Easter began with a powerful encounter with Jesus Crucified. Praying before the crucifix in the church of San Damiano Francis heard Christ address to him the life transforming words: *Francis, rebuild My house!* He felt a mysterious change in himself, but he could not describe it. This was the beginning of what we might call his spiritual Easter.

Francis' journey to Easter renewal occurred by his contemplating and imitating Jesus in the mysteries of His poverty and humility. Seraphic love even compelled him to ask Christ to grant him to feel in his body the pains of the Passion and to feel in his heart the love which urged Christ to die for sinners. So two years before his death, God answered his prayer by imprinting him with the Sacred Stigmata. This immersion into the mysteries of the Passion did not make him sad or somber. Rather, the sorrows of the Lord opened Francis to a deeper, truer joy. The wounds of Christ's

(Continued on page 2)

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These elements were to become the essence of the new Rule. One of these elements, dear to the lay person, was that the rule should have a spirituality of a secular character.

The rule calls us to go from Gospel to life and life to Gospel. 'Peace and Justice,' 'Ecology', 'Work' and 'Family' were included as essential paragraphs in this Rule. The Rule challenges Secular Franciscans to interface with the world in which they lived.

Pope Saint John Paul II in 1982 called on the Secular Franciscans to **LEARN LOVE and LIVE the Rule**. He said:

"My exhortation is this: learn; love; live the Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order, approved for you by my predecessor Paul VI. It is an authentic treasure in your hands, in harmony with the spirit of the Second Vatican Council and responding to what the Church expects of you. Love, study and live this Rule of yours, because the values contained in it are eminently evangelical. Live these values in fraternity and live them in the world, in which you are involved and implanted by your secular vocation itself. Live these gospel values in your families, and pass on the faith with prayer, example and education. Live the demands of the gospel of mutual love, of "fidelity, and respect for life" (Rule, n.17). Let Christ poor and crucified be for you, as he was for Francis of Assisi, "the inspiration and the centre of his life with God and people" (Rule, n.4). Above all, may you be witnesses of the Father and of his plan of love for all people and "let prayer and contemplation be the soul of all you are and do" (Rule, n.8).

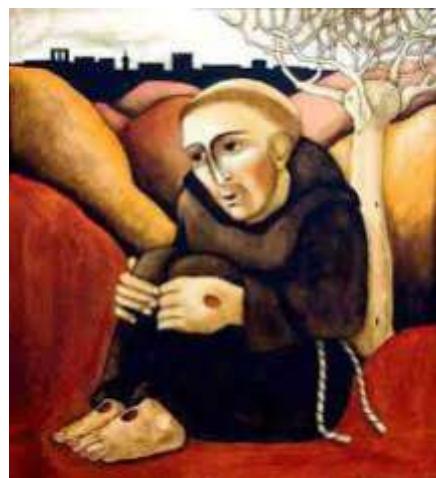
From Celano's Second Life of St. Francis:

"For St. Francis called the Rule the book of life, the hope of salvation, the marrow of the Gospel, the way of perfection, the key to paradise, the agreement of a perpetual covenant. He wanted it to be had by all, to be known by all and he wanted it to speak everywhere to the interior man unto his comfort in weariness, and unto remembrance of the vows he had made. He taught them to keep it ever before their eyes as a reminder of the life they were to live, and what is more, that they should die with it."

We have a wonderful opportunity to participate in a Spiritual day of Reflection on this our 40th Anniversary of the Rule on June 2 with Brother Alan Gaebel as our Facilitator. The Registration forms have been sent out so please register as soon as possible.

Deus meus et omnia;
Catherine Payne of

Passion which the Poor Man bore were in truth signs of spiritual resurrection, God visibly confirming Francis' passage through death to life.



Easter is about new life, a life in Christ. Again and again, the 13th century authors hail St. Francis as the new man. In him, *new signs of sanctity appear, new prodigies* are made manifest. His religious family is a *new flock* in the Church, a *new Order*, living *a new life*. Francis proclaimed even in his body that *if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature: the former things have passed away. Behold! They are made new!* (2 Cor. 5:17)

Francis' Easter newness was the fruit of his union with the Crucified and Risen One. This union is the secret of the Little Poor Man's joy, his peace-making skills, his enthusiasm for the things of God, his unique relationship with creation. Illness, disappointment, pain, betrayal and misunderstanding still marked Francis' life. But, he saw these sufferings in a new light. He understood that through them, God was making all things work toward an eternal good, an eternal Easter. And so *in Francis and through him an unexpected joy and a holy newness came into the world.*

Fr. Peter Knaapen O.F.M. Conv



VICE MINISTER

From Death To Life



Perhaps it is because I have worked in Palliative Care for so many years, that I find it difficult to understand that most do not see death as a gateway to life.

The elephant in the room is best ignored.

We do not discuss death. We do not think about death, especially our own. We even fear death.

The fear is natural.

Leaving is sad and sometimes difficult.

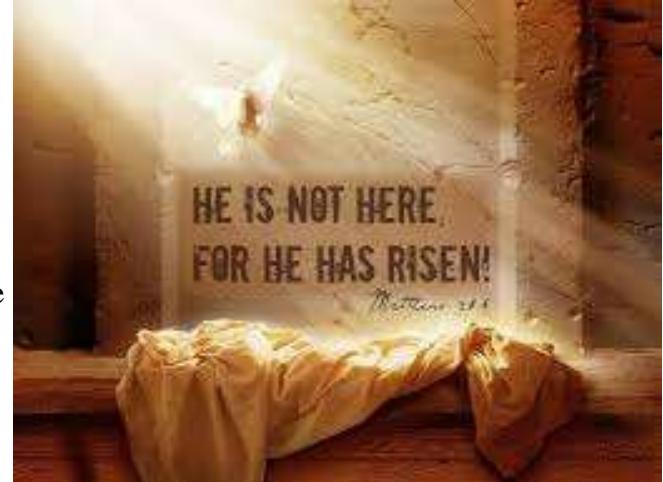
However, we as believers in a Risen Lord must remember where we are meant to be.

This is the mystery of Easter.

The focus is not on an empty tomb but on the newborn life that walks talks and breathes new fresh air.

It is no mystery that so many saints thought about their death every day. St. Francis even considered death family by calling it "sister". This attitude does not make us moribund but heaven bound.

Mary Magdalene, my favourite saint of the Paschal Season, went looking for life and the one that she loved not for a stinking dead man. She wanted more. She said to the supposed gardener that she was looking for her Lord. By simply calling her by name He found her. This is the way one journey ends and another journey begins. He finds us. He calls us by name.



Before we were knit together in our mother's womb He knew us and loved us and gave us the freedom to love Him or whomever or whatever we choose.

He loved even those who wanted Him dead.

He offered His holy face to spitting and slaps.

He offered His holy body to the whip and the cross.

He offered His holy head to a crown of thorns.

Why? He was driven by love even though we were deep in sin.

This question of why, may have many answers but I offer you this consideration.



Do you see the empty tomb as a cavern that held a dead man?
Would you consider seeing that tomb as a life giving womb?
Flower seeds and tomato seeds are buried deeply in the dark earth.
However, they bloom, at a given time with beauty and sustenance.
The Risen Lord is not for A time but for ALL time.

Muted Lent becomes a dazzling Easter.

Even if life takes us through many dark winters,
we abide with Him who promises rebirth, a new Spring, and abundant life.

CHRIST IS RISEN! TRULY HE IS Risen!

Pax et Bonum

Br John Francis Carsone, OFS

VICE MINISTER

A Lenten letter to my friends:



On Ash Wednesday we began the Lenten season, the Christian observance in the liturgical year of the Church, ending 46 days (or 40 days excluding Sundays) later on Easter Sunday. During this period some Christian groups, and Catholics observe: prayer, penance, reflection, sacrifice, good works and almsgiving, in preparation for Easter, the resurrection of Christ from the dead.

It is the time when we fast and pray in atonement for our sins: what we have done, and what we have failed to do. If we are aware of a wrong being done and we do nothing to avert the wrong or to correct it, then we share in the guilt of the person committing the wrong. This Lenten season is also a time for being, in a sense, reborn, in which we review our lives asking for forgiveness, and go forward in enrichment to celebrate 46 days later, the Feast of Easter.

Why do we call the first day of Lent "Ash Wednesday"? It is the day when we are called on to think of our mortality by using the symbolism of the Ashes on the forehead in the sign of the cross. I remember as a young girl, the priest making the sign of the Cross with the Ashes on my forehead after the Mass on Ash Wednesday, saying as he did so: "***Remember man that thou art dust and unto dust thou shalt return***". In those days the use of the word "man" was not considered sexist, but rather a generalized term for the human race. Today, when that phrase is used, "man" is omitted. (Perhaps Christ in protecting His Church saw that human beings would add many different pronouns to their vocabulary which would cause conflict for the Church.)

The ashes used in the ceremony on Ash Wednesday are obtained from the burning of the palms of the previous Palm Sunday, the Sunday before Easter. The ashes are mixed with oil and are blessed. Palm Sunday marks Jesus' return to Jerusalem, when people waved palm branches to celebrate his arrival.

Some persons may focus on a particular observance in order to prepare themselves for Easter. Whether it is prayer, penance, fasting or any or all of those aspects we should do so in the spirit and under the guidance of the Blessed

Mother, not only for the enrichment of our own lives but also for the lives of others.

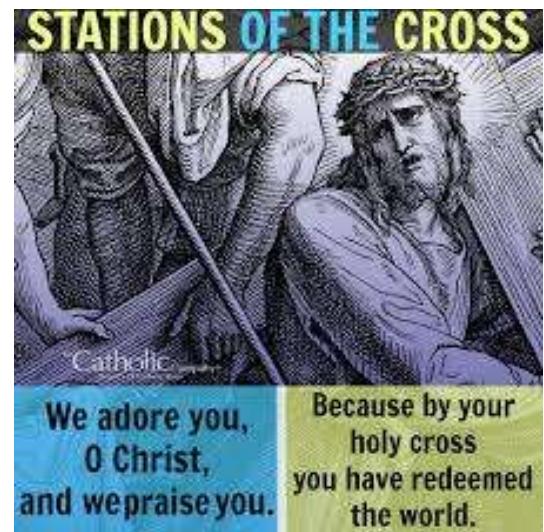
Franciscans have two great examples in St. Francis and St. Clare in following the observance of Lent. Francis is said to have had such great love for Lent and respect for Christ who fasted for forty days in the desert, that he spent his time alone praying and contemplating on an island with no housing nor comforts, from Ash Wednesday to Holy Thursday, eating only half a loaf of bread.

Through the examples of their lives, both St. Francis and St. Clare showed us their abandonment of their wealthy lifestyles for lives of: poverty, humility, penance, charity, alms-giving. Any or all of those can be exemplary practices for us during Lent, and as seeds take root and grow, those practiced would grow and become an enrichment of our daily lives.

Another worthy observance in Lent is the practice of praying the Stations of the Cross. We tend to make it a Friday evening Devotion in the Church, going from Station to Station, reading the prayers and scriptural parts and singing, thereby making a spiritual pilgrimage through the suffering and death of Christ as He was led through the Via Dolorosa.

The Stations of the Cross need not be a once-a-week occasion, but can be meditated any day or days during the week, with special emphasis on meditation and contemplation of Christ's Passion as we go through each Station. In this contemplation, one gains "life". One can learn the true meaning of suffering when contemplating: "*O all ye that pass by the way, attend, and see if there be any sorrow like my sorrow:*" (*Lamentations 1:12*).

Contemplating the Stations of the Cross produces not only an understanding of pain but also love, peace, charity and a generosity of heart, and thus a baptism and conversion of heart to take us into the Celebration of Easter.



FORMATION

Dead, Resurrection: Renewal

Peace my sisters and brothers.

History shows the positive effects that religion has had on human culture. God has put into our hearts an innate desire to look beyond ourselves and find the source of our existence in Him. Religion help us find God - if we reach out with a pure heart.

After Moses delivered the Israelite from slavery, he went up the mountain to receive the tablets of the commandments. While he was still with God, the Israelites forced Aaron to forge a god they could worship. Yes, we humans are driven by our pride and human logic; we create gods in our fashion, in our image and likeness.

Centuries later, the Pharisees manipulated the traditions to have precedence over the law passed on to them by Moses and the prophets. They did it because it benefited them and allowed them to receive temporal powers and wealth. Jesus strongly rebuked them, and by doing so He became a target of their anger.

Leaders of other religions have also fallen in the same path: they have abandoned their core message of peace and love, to pursue power and control rather than the spiritual strength of their faithful. They have used religion for their own purposes. As a result, there is an increasing fanaticism and intolerance ruling today's culture.

The divisions between Sadducee and Pharisee, Sunni and Shia, Protestants and Catholics have nothing to do with the actual faith, but are in reality struggles for political, economical and power control.

Great Catholic saints like St. Francis of Assisi, St. John of the Cross, St. Filippo Neri, St. Padre Pio, and St. Oscar Romero, to name a few, reminded people that we are to worship God in truth and spirit. Their message motivated a deep and radical conversion. Although it was a sign of contradiction to some authorities, they challenged the faithful to imitate Christ and to become holy. These saints, did not split up the church; they strengthened it by becoming obedient and remaining humble.

Jesus' message is revolutionary and provokes real change. The Jesus in the gospels listens with patience, looks at sinners with compassion, and reaches-out with



YOUTH ANIMATOR

For some time there has been talk about the need for a YOUNFRA group in our region. The challenges have been: determining what form that would take, and how it would all come together. In my experience of ministry I have learned that God proposes His own ideas, which are always better than our own, and we just have to have awareness to see the signs.



Recently I was approached by Father Charles Grech, the associate pastor of St. Jane Frances Parish in North York. He asked if I would consider bringing together the youth group from his parish with the group from St. Peter's Parish in Woodbridge. Both are Franciscan parishes staffed by the OFM Community.

The idea would be that we gather once a month for Franciscan formation and fellowship. The group would do a mixture of spiritual formation, retreats, social outings, and community outreach as part of its call to teach young people the ideals of St. Francis and Clare.

We have tentatively scheduled our first gathering for sometime in the month of May. Since this idea was presented to me I often take that as a sign that God has taken the initiative in proposing something new. I ask for your prayers for our youth and the success of our efforts to bring them closer to Jesus.

Christopher Elliott, ofs.

mercy, love and forgiveness. Jesus did not reject any one; instead, He invited sinners to convert. He rebuked the institution that put heavy burdens on its believers.

My dear sisters and brothers we can also use religion for our own goals, and must keep constant guard. Let us gaze upon Him, consider Him, contemplate Him and imitate Him; cling to God with all our strength during this this holy week, and let us have the courage to die to ourselves, to our pride, and to our human logic. Let us put the new man / woman. Let us become renewed people reflecting the image of Christ.

Happy Easter. May the Lord give you peace.

Sergio Iturri ofs



Come Celebrate Franciscan Summer Picnic

**In honor of the 25th Anniversary of the
Trillium Regional Fraternity Formation**

**Saturday July 7th, 2018
St. Bonaventure Church
1300 Leslie Street,
Toronto Ontario**

Events

Celebration Mass

Reminisce with past Trillium Regional Council members

Recollect the history of the Regional Fraternity

Tree planting ceremony in dedication to the Region

**Indulge in fellowship and fun at the
Picnic in the Church Hall**

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Timetable of events to follow soon

Check the website for details www.OFSTrilliumRegion.weebly.com

Celebrating the 40th Anniversary of Our Rule of Life (1978)

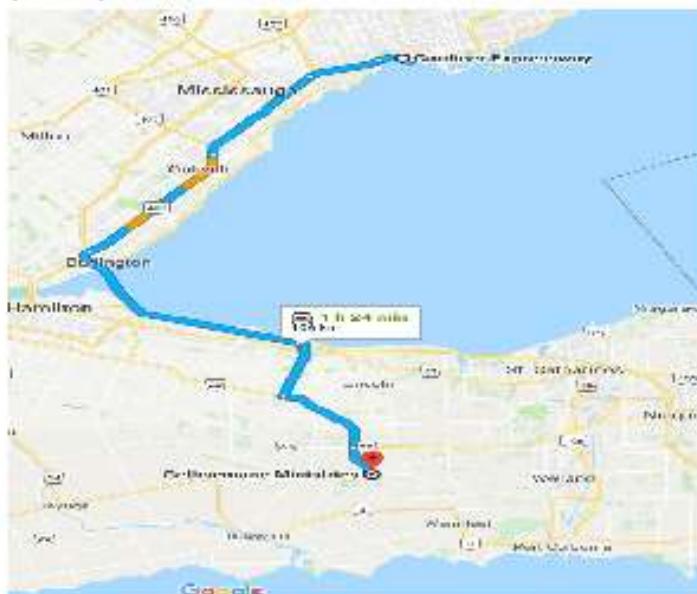


Come join us on Saturday June 2 for a day of Retreat with Bro. Alan Gaebel, ofm cap., we will embark on a journey through the history of the Secular Franciscan Rules as we celebrate the 40th Anniversary of our current (1978) Rule of Life.

Gethsemane Centre

84008 Wellandport Rd,
Wellandport, ON
L0R 2J0

Registration	- 8:30 AM
Morning Prayer	- 9:00AM
Presentation	- 9:15AM with break
Eucharist	- 11:00AM
Lunch	- 12:00 noon
Presentation	- 1:15 PM with break
Departure	- 4:00 PM



Local Fraternity Bulletin Board

OBITUARIES

St John Vianney Fraternity of Toronto

Susanna Kyung Hi Kang, died Aug. 7, 2017.
Regina Jung Rin Jeong, died Mar. 4, 2018.

St. Maximilian Kolbe Fraternity, Kingston

Annagale Blair, died Dec. 15, 2017
Jack Coleman, died Dec. 25, 2017

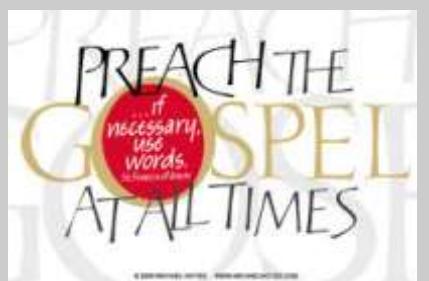
St. Anthony of Padua Fraternity, Sarnia

Pat Daamen, died Jan. 1, 2018

A 'New Evangelization' Summit will be streamed live from Ottawa on April 27th and 28th.

Parishes around Canada, US, Guatemala and Australia will participate.

Registrations at <https://www.newevangelization.ca/>



Professions at St. Philip Neri Church

A beautiful celebration was organized for the Professions of Ricardo Ong (3rd from left) and Conchita Llacer (4th from left) for St. Felix of Cantalice Fraternity on Sunday March 18, 2018. Congratulations to you both from the Region.



Old friends catching up!

Left to right – Les Alberti, Brother David Connelly and Catherine Payne met up together at the Professions at St. Felix of Cantalice Fraternity on Sunday March 18, 2018.

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.

Trillium Certificates

For Trillium Certificates to mark Professions, Anniversaries of Profession & Service Recognition for Spiritual Assistants, (usually 5 year milestones) please contact: *Clelia Malerba, ofs; malerbac@yahoo.com* Please apply in good time if you wish to have them on the profession day or anniversary date.