



## ORDINIS FRANCISCANI SAECULARIS

St. Mary of the Angels Fraternity, Welland.

Newsletter #157

April 2019

### Minister's Letter

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ and St. Francis,

So grateful for our time together at the retreat on March 29<sup>th</sup>, and for all who were present! A very special thank you to deacon Maurice for arranging things at the Cathedral, and for the presentations! Also, thank you to all those who served at the Stations of the Cross at St. Kevin's Church that same evening. It is a beautiful way to bring our Franciscan charism to others!

As you know, the next three meetings all have a special focus. The next regular meeting, we will have a Regional visitor, Mark Rozario, OFS, who will be participating in our meeting and sharing some news from the Trillium Regional Fraternity. On Sunday, May 5, we will be celebrating the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our fraternity and of two of our fraternity members, Anne Matyuska, OFS, and Cathy Kruger, OFS. Fr. Peter Knaapen will celebrate Mass with us. On Sunday, June 2, our fraternity will hold its Chapter of Elections. There is still time for the Holy Spirit to bring workers to the vineyard, and so please pray that all positions will be filled according to God's grace, so that our fraternity may thrive!

So many blessings to be thankful for! May your Lenten journey continue to deepen your love for the Lord, and help you to find the joys of the penitential way!

Prayers for peace and joy!

Debbie

### Coming Events

- ~ Sun. Apr. 7<sup>th</sup> 1:30 p.m. Regular meeting, St. Kevin, Hospitality room. Regional Visitor attending.
- ~ Mon. Apr. 15<sup>th</sup> 1:00 p.m. Council meeting, St. Kevin, Hospitality room.
- ~ Sat. April 27<sup>th</sup> TRF Formation Workshop, St. Philip Neri, Toronto.
- ~ Sun. May 5<sup>th</sup> 1:00 p.m. 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary St. Kevin, Hospitality room. Mass with Fr. Peter Knaapen, OFM Conv.
- ~ Sat. May 25<sup>th</sup> Ministers Conference, Queen of Apostles, Mississauga.
- ~ Sun. June 2<sup>nd</sup> 1:00 p.m. Fraternity Chapter of Elections, St. Kevin, Hospitality room.

### Pope's Monthly Intentions

#### **April: Universal:**

For doctors and their humanitarian collaborators in war zones, who risk their lives to save the lives of others.

### Monthly Devotions

#### **April: Holy Eucharist & Holy Spirit**

##### *Holy Eucharist*

*May the Heart of Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament be praised, adored and loved with grateful affection at every moment in all the tabernacles of the world even to the end of time. Amen.*

##### *Holy Spirit*

*Breathe in me, O Holy Spirit  
That my thoughts may all be holy;*

*Act in me, O Holy Spirit  
That my work too may all be holy;*

*Draw my heart, O Holy Spirit  
To defend all that is holy;*

*Strengthen me, O Holy Spirit  
To defend all that is holy.*

*Guard me then, O Holy Spirit  
That I always may be holy.*

Prayer of St. Augustine

### From our Spiritual Assistant:

*...God... reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation... entrusting the message of reconciliation to us.*

This proclamation – of ministry flowing from reconciliation – is a key into Sunday's Gospel. St. Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians takes us powerfully into the parable of the Prodigal Son, but also beyond it.

St. Paul had established a new community of believers in the Greek city of Corinth ... but then (when he continued elsewhere, on his missionary journey)... they were seduced by other preachers... and went away from Paul's teaching and even turned against him personally.

St. Paul had thought of himself as the 'father' of this community... and his metaphorical 'son,' like the son in the parable, "*gathered all he had and travelled to a distant country, and... squandered his property.*"

St. Paul had the same pain of loss that the prodigal father would have – BUT both of them also had great hope... and loved their prodigal and forgave... and yearned and searched for the day of return.

And then (in the excerpt we read on Sunday) – Second Corinthians describes someone who has returned home as a new creation: "*there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new.*" The prodigal son... could he have remained his old self after coming home? He should have been changed; by his self-inflicted suffering, and in that moment of conversion that the Gospel describes; "*he came to himself.*"

BUT the most important new creation in him should have come by experiencing the forgiveness and unconditional love of his father who ran to meet him on the road.

We become a new creation "*if we are in Christ: "if anyone is in Christ, he (or she) is a new creation.*" This is not our own doing: Corinthians explains, "*all this is from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ... that is (in Christ) God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them.*" To be 'in Christ' is to have our trespasses forgiven by the Father through the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. That is a cause for great and new joy – and that is why we rejoice – on the fourth Sunday of Lent.

In the parable, the father says. "*we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this [one] was dead and has come to life... was lost and has been found.*" We celebrate today – not just as a 'change of mood' from Lenten somberness – but as a response to the forgiveness Our Father gives us through Jesus.

AND THEN, Second Corinthians tells us, "*God... reconciled us to himself through Christ, AND has given us the ministry of reconciliation... entrusting the message of reconciliation to us.*"

This is where we go beyond Sunday's Gospel parable, because we don't really know what

happened to either of the two boys afterwards. Their father offered reconciliation to both, but we don't know if **they** fully accepted it and became new creations.

BUT the Gospel challenges **us**: not just to be forgiven, and not just to preach about forgiveness, but forgive 'as we have been forgiven': to become ambassadors for Christ, to be Christ's His creation and ministers of reconciliation – filled with joy... and bringing 'joy to the world,' around us.

*deacon maurice ofs*

### Obituaries

Friar David Suckling at St. Bonaventure died on March 31<sup>st</sup> in palliative care. He was formerly a member of St. Bonaventure fraternity.



May the Lord bless him now and always. Please pray for him and his family.

Peace and all good, David Mitchell, TRF

(For more information please call Debbie)

### Birthdays

**Pauline Leonard ~~~~~ April 26<sup>th</sup>**

**Many Happy Returns of the day!**

### Joke Corner

ALL MEN / ALL GIRLS

When my daughter, Kelli, said her bedtime prayers, she would bless every family member, every friend, and every animal (current and past). For several weeks, after we had finished the nightly prayer, Kelli would say, "And all girls." This soon became part of her nightly routine, to include this closing. My curiosity got the best of me and I asked her, "Kelli, why do you always add the part about all girls?" Her response, "Because everybody always finishes their prayers by saying 'All Men!'"



**Happy  
Easter!  
Everyone.**