



ORDINIS FRANCISCANI SAECULARIS
St. Mary of the Angels Fraternity, Welland.
Newsletter #165 December 2019

Minister's Letter

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Welcome to winter! The cold weather brings warm thoughts of indoor comforts for sure!

The latest news is that Monique, Paul and I took a look at what is in our fraternity library. There are many good books there! But there are also catalogue cards for many books that are not there anymore! Perhaps they were taken out and not returned, or someone cleared them out at a previous time. There is more room in the library if you do have some of these books, or if you want to donate some Franciscan books, CD's or DVD's, please bring them to the meeting and our librarians will catalogue them!

Saturday, November 23rd was the meeting of the Regional Council. So many great things happening in fraternities in the region! There was a profession in Brampton, several Chapters of Elections as well. Of concern is the possible closing of St. Clare of Assisi Fraternity in Midland. The leadership has aged and become so ill, that it is no longer viable. The difficult part is that there are five people in formation with no one to help them. Please pray that help is provided and the fraternity can be renewed!

The Theme for the Regional Chapter is: ***To Build a more Fraternal and Evangelical World.*** The Chapter will take place at St. Francis Centre in Caledon. Please consider coming to participate! There is only one overnight stay.

The National Fraternity is putting together their Bulletin. There will be some information on Restructuring included. I will send it along when ready. Please keep Marion Clorey, National Vice Minister in your prayers, as she is facing some serious health issues.

May this holy time of preparation of Advent bring you all the graces that the Lord wants for you!

Debbie

Coming Events:

~ Sun. Dec. 1st, Regular Monthly Meeting 1:30 p.m. in St. Kevin's Hospitality Room.

~ Mon. Dec. 9th, 2019 at 1:00 pm, Council meeting.

~ Fri. Dec. 20th Formation Meeting 1:30 p.m. in St. Kevin's Hospitality Room.

**Gospel to Rule & General
Constitutions Leaders**

Dec. 1st, 2019 Monique

Jan. 5th, 2010 Paul

Pope's Monthly Intentions: December

The Future of the Very Young

That every country take the measures necessary to prioritize the future of the very young, especially those who are suffering.

Monthly Devotions: December

The Immaculate Conception



Profession Anniversaries:

No Profession anniversaries in December.

Birthdays

deacon maurice, ~~~~~ Dec. 3rd

Happy 70th !!!

Bonnie Vadaccino, ~~~~~ Dec. 23rd

Sr. Alexandrette Smith, ~~~~~ Dec. 23, 1923

Peace and Joy for a Happy Birthday to all!

An Advent Reflection

by Neil O'Connell, OFM



This reflection on Advent, which this year begins Nov. 29, is scheduled to appear in *The Catholic Advocate*, the publication of the Archdiocese of Newark, N.J.

Francis of Assisi identified himself as “the herald of the Great King.” Baptized as Giovanni Baptista or “John the Baptizer,” he no doubt wished to imitate his patron, thus Francis is the perpetual Advent person and Franciscan men and women are perpetual Advent people.

As a Franciscan, then, I am a strict Adventist. I avoid doing Christmas things prior to Christmas Eve, since Advent has its own rich and enveloping experience.

A Franciscan Advent is apocalyptic and forward-looking in a creative sense. We stand erect and raise our eyes as we do cosmic and environmental housecleaning for the arrival of the Great King who makes all things new.

A Franciscan Advent is renovational. We straighten out paths twisted by confusion and anxiety, we fill in valleys of poverty and alienation, we bring down mountains of pride and self absorption, we smooth out roads roughened by violence and racism so that all may plainly see the Great King who is always healing.

A Franciscan Advent is evangelical. We announce and live the good news of the Great King who embraces sinners and who refines them into nourishing wheat for others.

A Franciscan Advent is Marian. We, with Mary, bearing the embryonic Word Made Flesh within us, hasten to those once empty to make present to them the Great King who makes their whole being leap with joy.

Since Franciscans do not belong to an exclusive club, they welcome all to be companions in observing a Franciscan Advent. Though Advent concludes prior to the Christmas Vigil, Franciscan women and men and their companions remain

adventist for the rest of the year as they herald the Great King in his ministry, passion, death, resurrection and sending of the Spirit.



— Fr. Neil, a former president of [St. Bonaventure University](#), is the Catholic campus minister at [Manhattan Community College](#) and [Herbert H. Lehman College](#) in the Bronx, where he is also an adjunct professor of history.

Editor's Note:

Thanks to Anne for the following correction: Bottom of 2nd page of November's newsletter should read - *St. Mary of the Angels & St. Francis are 'sister fraternities,' both started at the same time in May 1979.*



