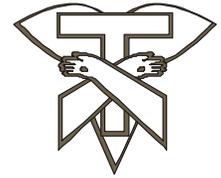


Good News Report

Secular Franciscan Order
Trillium Regional Fraternity



Number 43

Spring 2007



Minister's Letter

Debbie Tessier, ofs

The Lenten journey is progressing to the cross and to our Lord Jesus Christ's resurrection! May your practice of penance bear much spiritual fruit for the Lord!

The Trillium Regional Council members will be very active this year with a high volume of Chapters of Elections and Fraternal Visits. Please notify us well in advance if your fraternity is due for either.

The National Council met on February 2-4, 2007 in Orléans, Ontario. Lise Bélec, our National Formation Director has attended the International Formation Conference in Rome this March. She will be bringing this information to the next gathering of Regional Formation Directors sometime this year. The National contribution has been adopted as \$5.00 per member. The Trillium Region sends the contribution in June for its approximately 400 or so members. There will be a National conference October 5-7, 2007 on the theme of Franciscan Poverty. This will be a bilingual conference open to Regional council members across Canada.

The Trillium Region was able to send a contribution of \$1000.00 CAN to the International Fraternity toward the purchase of their headquarters in Rome. This contribution was made possible because in the year 2006 the Trillium Council was able to keep expenses down and local fraternity contributions are coming in more regularly. Thanks to all fraternities who are sending their contributions! We will put them to good use!

The Formation Commission Conference on June 22-25, 2007, is at Queen of the Apostles Renewal Centre, Mississauga. Kay Craig and the Formation Commission Executive are preparing this gathering of Formation Directors and Teams for their training and renewal for the crucial role they play in the formation of Secular Franciscans.

Formation Directors please keep these dates open so that you can join us!

A Youth Commission Workshop is to be held at St. Bonaventure Church in Toronto on April 28th; registration begins at 8:30 am. Colleen MacAlister has included in this edition of the newsletter some information about the workshop. How can we share the Franciscan charism with the youth around us? Please join us in sharing ideas and programs for young people.

How does your fraternity look after members who can no longer attend meetings due to illness, advanced age or relocation? Those who must withdraw from fraternity life for these reasons may feel isolated and abandoned by their brothers and sisters in Christ. If you have any ideas to share, please call or send them to us or post them on the forum at the Trillium web-site: www.trilliumregionofs.com.

If you like to plan ahead, please note that the Trillium Chapter of Elections will be held in Mississauga at Queen of the Apostles' Renewal Centre **June 6-8th, 2008**. Convocation for the Chapter will be sent later this year.

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 & January**.

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.



Spiritual Assistant
Fr. Peter Knaapen, OFM Conv.

Article 8 of the Rule states: “As Jesus was the true worshipper of the Father, so let prayer and contemplation be the soul of all they are and do”.

When the disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray, Jesus taught them the ‘Our Father’ (see Luke 11:1ff & Matt 6:9ff). We pray the Lord’s Prayer so often that perhaps we are saying the words instead of praying them. The Lord wanted us to pray this prayer. The Our Father is made up of several petitions. Perhaps if we reflect and mediate on each of the petitions then this prayer can become a greater course of grace for us. St Francis wrote a beautiful Paraphrase of the Our Father. In it he has a short reflection on each petition.

The Paraphrase of the Our Father
by St. Francis of Assisi

Our Father: Most Holy, our Creator and Redeemer, our Saviour and our Comforter.

Who art in Heaven: in the angels and the saints. Who gives them light so that they may have knowledge, because Thou, Lord, are Light. Who inflames them so that they may love, because Thou, Lord, are Love who lives continually in them and who fills them so that they may be happy, because Thou, Lord, are the Supreme Good, the Eternal Good, and it is from Thee that all good comes, and without Thee there is no good.

Hallowed be Thy Name: May our knowledge of Thee become ever clearer, so that we may realize the extent of Thy benefits, the steadfastness of Thy promises, the sublimity of Thy Majesty and the depth of Thy judgments.

Thy Kingdom come: so that Thou may reign in us by Thy grace and bring us to Thy Kingdom, where we shall see Thee clearly, love Thee perfectly, be blessed in Thy company and enjoy Thee forever.

Thy Will be done on earth as it is in Heaven: so that we may love Thee with our whole heart by always thinking of Thee; with our whole mind by directing our whole intention towards Thee and seeking Thy glory in everything; and with all

our strength by spending all our powers and affections of soul and body in the service of Thy Love alone. And may we love our neighbours as ourselves, encouraging them all to love Thee as best we can, rejoicing at the good fortune of others, just as if it were our own, and sympathizing with their misfortunes, while giving offence to no one.

Give us this day our daily bread: Thy own beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, to remind us of the love He showed for us and to help us understand and appreciate it and everything that he did or said or suffered.

And forgive us our trespasses: in Thy infinite Mercy, and by the power of the Passion of Thy Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, together with the merits and the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary and all your saints.

As we forgive those who trespass against us: and if we do not forgive perfectly, Lord, make us forgive perfectly, so that we may indeed love our enemies for love of Thee, and pray fervently to Thee for them, returning no one evil for evil, anxious only to serve everybody in Thee.

And lead us not into temptation: hidden or obvious, sudden or unforeseen. But deliver us from evil: Present, past, or to come.

Perhaps we could reflect on one petition each day and carry it with us the whole day. One day we could reflect on ‘Hallowed (Holy) is your name’ or ‘your will be done’. Think about it as you go about your daily tasks. Think about it as you are driving around town in your car. Think about it as you wait in line at the store. Think about it as you retire for the day. May our reflections on the Our Father help us to gain new insights into this pray that the Lord has taught us.

Pax et Bonum,
Father Peter

Websites To Check Out

- <http://www.cribandcross.com>
- <http://www.capuchins.ca>
- <http://www.nafra-sfo.org/peace.html>
- <http://www.franciscansinternational.org>
- <http://www.wtu.edu/franciscan/pages/misc/justice/index.html>

And our own website at:
www.trilliumregionofs.com

YOUTH NEWS

by *Colleen MacAlister, ofs*
Trillium Region Youth
Coordinator



Dear Brothers and Sisters, Here we are on the threshold of Easter! Our Lenten preparation is almost complete as I write this column. How beautiful for us who know the glorious TRUTH! How grateful are our hearts to be in the light of CHRIST! What joy resounds in our soul as we individually and in fraternity experience the new life that is in His "GOOD NEWS"! Risen from the dead! Death defeated! How much HOPE can we express in our lives to others in our fraternal and evangelical living!

Our General Constitutions Article 96 says: "The SFO, by virtue of its very vocation, ought to be ready to share its experience of evangelical life with the youth who feel attracted to St. Francis of Assisi and to seek the means of adequately presenting it to them."

Here is GOOD NEWS!

The Trillium Regional Council in collaboration with the Trillium Regional Youth Commission are sponsoring a "WORKSHOP" that YOU are invited to attend! You won't want to miss this! Bringing the Franciscan "CARE" ism to the Youth

Where and How?

DATE: Saturday, April 28th 2007

TIME: 9:00 am - 3:30 pm (coffee at 8:30)

PLACE: St. Bonaventure 1300 Leslie St.
Toronto Ontario

BRING POTLUCK LUNCH TO SHARE

We will have some coffee, juice and water available. Be prepared to have FUN and Franciscan Fellowship and bring any YOUTH INFORMATION that you have in your fraternity and all of your ideas!

If you could please contact **IRENE MCEVERS** or **GUDRUN WEGNER** of your intent to come that will help us make sure that we have enough chairs, cups, water etc! And please

remember to pray the Fraternal Youth prayer at the end of the column! God bless you! I look forward to seeing you there!

IF YOU want MORE information please contact me or any of the Executive for the Youth Commission. NOTE: I will be away in April returning just before the workshop, so it will be better to contact Irene, Louise or Gudrun.

YOUTH COMMISSION EXECUTIVE

Colleen MacAlister ofs 613-473-1763

Irene McEvers ofs 905-438-9286

Louise Arruda ofs 905-775-9283

Gudrun Wegner ofs 613-473-4574

Peace and Good to you.

Til next time,

Colleen, ofs

Remember you can E mail me at:

colleen.gii@sympatico.ca or telephone me at:
613-242-4820

YOUTH NEWS WEBSITES

www.sandamianofoundation.ca

www.francescoproductions.com

www.youthministryaccess.org

www.cmdnet.org

www.youngneighbours.org

www.prolifesearch.com

Trillium Fraternal Youth Prayer

*Most High and Glorious God,
We praise and thank You for Your goodness and
mercy!*

*You have given us a Savior in Your Son Jesus
Christ.*

*St. Francis made Jesus the center of his life.
By the power of Your Holy Spirit, may we share
this "Gospel" experience with the "youth" who are
attracted to the "way" of St. Francis.*

We ask this through Jesus Our Lord.

Amen

*Blessed Mary, Protectress of the Franciscan Order
– pray for us,*

*St. Clare, Patroness of the Trillium Region OFS –
pray for us,*

St. Francis of Assisi – pray for us

FORMATION NEWS

by Kay Craig, ofs



In the survey you completed last year, all of you indicated a need for Formation Director training. To address this need, the Formation Commission is holding a workshop. We are still in the planning process, but hope to cover all or most of your

formation needs.

**If Possible, Please Keep Free
The Weekend of June 22 – June 24, 2007
For this Event.**

This will take place at Queen of Apostles Renewal Centre, 1617 Blythe Rd., Mississauga, ON L5H 2C3. It is our hope that all fraternities have budgeted enough for training to send at least the Formation Director or a delegate to this workshop. More details will be forthcoming, and we will try to keep the cost as low as possible. If you have any suggestions or questions, please don't hesitate to contact me. My e-mail address is kcraig70@cogeco.ca and my phone # is 905-354-8451.

Kay Craig

We Have Come To Believe In Love

We are sharing excerpts from "*We Have Come to Believe in Love*," the letter of the Ministers General of The Third Order Regular, as we prepare to celebrate the Eighth Centenary of the birth of **St. Elizabeth of Hungary**.

Life of Elizabeth

Elizabeth of Hungary is the woman who most authentically embodied the penitential spirit of Francis. Elizabeth was a pioneer in the creation of a new form of common and penitential life devoted to works of mercy, which through the centuries has formed one of the pillars of the Franciscan tertiary charism.

By 1225, there were already eighteen Franciscan foundations in Germany. That same year

they also arrived in Wartburg castle, home of Ludwig and Elizabeth. Fra. Giordano da Giano, who was part of this expedition, wrote in his chronicle on the foundation of the order in Germany (1262) that "a lay man, called Rudeger," joined the order, "who later became Elizabeth's master of spiritual teaching and taught her to preserve chastity, humility and patience, and to keep watch in prayer and apply herself to works of mercy" (FF2352). The Friars Minor preached to the people the life of penance, that is, giving up worldly life, and engaging in prayer, mortification and charitable works. This, as Fra. Giordano confirms, was the teaching that Rudeger offered Elizabeth, teachings he had learned from Francis of Assisi, which penetrated her soul, already predisposed towards the values of the spirit. Let us recall that in 1225, Elizabeth was eighteen and already married.



Francis experienced in the flesh the descent of God into the humanity of Jesus Christ. Elizabeth too came down from her throne and identified herself with the disinherited of society, becoming incarnate among them and making herself one of the many. She had already demonstrated that it is possible to live faith in Christ under the lordship of God the Father even in palaces and castles; but, she later did it by living in abandonment and poverty, in joy and suffering.

Conrad of Marburg became her confessor and spiritual director. He was a poor and austere preacher, a secular priest or perhaps a Cistercian. Ludwig, Elizabeth's husband, entrusted the care of his family to him during his absence (1226), when Elizabeth accepted him expressly of her own free will as a guide and confessor, precisely because he was poor.

Under his guidance, Elizabeth lived the life of a penitent in Wartburg castle. Freely and spontaneously she followed the footsteps of Francis, dedicated to prayer, austere renunciations, and service to the most humble and forsaken. She made her first profession as a penitent in Conrad's hands, but she did not make it alone. She could have become a solitary penitent, but that is not what

happened. Like Francis, she too had some companions with whom she shared her first plan of penitential life.

Also her ladies-in-waiting, Guda and Isentrude and the servant Elizabeth made vows of obedience and celibacy to Master Conrad, and also vowed not to use goods that had been acquired unjustly. Thus, together with Elizabeth, they formed a penitential community in Wartburg castle. Conrad became the visitator of that little fraternity, as established by the ancient rule, the *Memoriale*. This Rule organized the Order of Penance into fraternities placed under the jurisdiction of the bishop and the visitator named by him. Visitators did not necessarily have to be Franciscans. In the *Regula non bullata* (1221), St. Francis states that “no woman in any way should vow obedience to any friar, but once given her spiritual advice, she should carry out her life of penance as she likes” (chapter 12). So we can understand well why Elizabeth’s penitential profession was made in Conrad’s hands.

It was a small fraternity of prayer and ascetic life, with Conrad as superior and visitator. Elizabeth established what they could eat or drink, after she had checked the source of the foods, faithful to the orders of the master. After the death of her husband, Ludwig, her attendants followed her in her exile from the castle, towards the kingdom of the poor. In the bitter hours of loneliness and abandonment, they supported the soul of the mendicant princess and were urged by her to do the will of God.

Washington Pro Life March

By Les Aberti ofs

Minister St. Charles Borromeo Fraternity

On January 21-22, 2007 I took part in the march for life (pro-life) in Washington, D.C.

It was a wonderful experience to see all manner of folks from all parts of the USA and Canada taking part. Many seminarians, Catholic high school students, and Catholic faithful were joined by many people from other Christian and non-Christian faiths.

On the January 22nd we had front row center seats for the High Mass at the Ivy arena with 5 cardinals, 50 plus bishops and hundreds of priests,

seminarians and lots of young folk. In addition to the arena, which was filled to capacity, the Basilica held another 700 and another location hosted 2,000 Catholics.

The main body of marchers was many, many miles long, and 20 to 30 abreast. The whole event was so peaceful that the large police and security presence, had nothing to do all day except to open up main avenues in Washington for the marchers. This peacefulness was emphasized after the march in a news conference.

I was attending with a local parish in Toronto called the Incarnate Word, a group of religious fathers and sisters from Latin America. We linked up with their Maryland brethren (just outside Washington) and were treated royally by them in their parish.



The Three Fold Way of St. Francis demonstrates that, although St. Francis never gave a treatise on spirituality, the very gestures of his life show a threefold way that is essentially one, single love of God: love for others, love of self and love of the natural world. The author helps readers to make this way practical for themselves by showing them how Francis prayed and then encouraging them to follow his prayer path. The wonderful Franciscan themes of embracing, integrating and becoming aware are gently woven throughout to breathe new life into Francis's way" (Murray Bodo O.F.M. *The Threefold Way of St. Francis*. Paulist Press: New York, 2000. 42 pages)

When Giving Becomes an Act of Love

By Maria Stam, ofs

St. Peter Fraternity, London.

According to the Oxford Dictionary, to give, means “to transfer permanent possessions of another without asking for anything in return”. This sounds idealistic and does not confirm the present reality of a world which looks for reward and recognition.

The giving of gifts for birthdays, anniversaries, Christmas, and others is related to

traditions taken over by each new generation. Businesses know how to take advantage of this custom and try to influence our choices and generosity through their advertisements. In a similar way, charitable organizations appeal with their requests for donations to our compassion. The number of organizations and institutions in need of funds has steadily increased in the last decades. It has become nearly impossible to escape their constant requests. I find it difficult not to feel guilty when I watch starving children on television, because I am living in an affluent society and yet not being able to respond in a way I would like to. Charitable giving made attractive by the return of a tax receipt. We seem trapped in the constant cycle of giving and receiving as our economic well-being depends on a system with strings attached. In this way giving has become obligatory.

Christ came into the world to give himself without conditions. From his birth to his death on the cross, his life was the response to humankind's need for redemption. Jesus' example teaches us that giving should be the answer to our neighbour's needs and be free of personal desires and interests. St. Paul says in Phil 2:3-4: "Always consider the other person to be better than yourself, so that nobody thinks of his own interest but everybody thinks of people's interest first." When we overcome self-interest and expectations, our giving becomes free and unrestricted and therefore, more joyful than receiving.

The most valuable gift is the gift of oneself expressed in the service to our suffering neighbours. We can even add more value to our giving when we share our own suffering with the persons we serve, because it allows them to meet us on an equal level of our humanity. Then we can become truly present to the sick, the poor, and lonely as attentive listeners and unbiased advocates of their plights. God's love bestowed on us is so transferred to the other person in thanksgiving for what has been given to us. Gratitude keeps our minds and hearts open to the need of suffering people; time and again it motivates us to reach out and help them in their need, then our giving becomes truly an act of love.

Of great value is the gift of prayer. It does not ask for anything in return, has no strings attached and does not depend on affordability. Prayers for the well-being of others is based on the genuine wish that God may bless the person we

pray for. Our faith is then the catalyst that makes others feel appreciated and loved.

Appease Hunger
by Louisa Gagne, President

Appease Hunger is a Canadian Registered Charitable Organization directed by Secular Franciscans who have taken this charity on as their Apostolate. We write to offer other Fraternities, Church groups or individual's knowledge of this work and make a request, first of all, for your prayer, and then to help sustain this very needed effort.

The Apostolate was founded in January 1971, by Secular Franciscans, to assist the families of Lay Franciscans (originally called the Third Order of St. Francis) in India who were living in extreme conditions of destitution. Presently, the project is directed to help those located in the Diocese of Irinjalakuda and the Archdiocese of Trissur, Kerala State, South India, both Franciscan and non-Franciscan, who are suffering in poverty.

Appease Hunger is a commitment to feed the hungry, especially in these two communities of Kerala. It operates either through the adoption of a family by regular donations or by contributions to other special projects and emergency funds.

Any person, group of persons, or Secular Franciscan Fraternity who is willing to support a family at a minimum of eight to twenty (\$8.00 - \$20) dollars per month may become a sponsor in this Apostolate. This is a long-term commitment which must be maintained on a regular basis. The relationship that is established is a personal and human one, as letters will be exchanged between the sponsors and their Indian families.

Fraternally yours,

Louisa Gagne

For sponsor forms or more information, Louisa may be reached at:

**Appease Hunger, Canada,
213 Pinestream Place N.E.,
Calgary, Alberta T1Y 3A5**

Editor's note:

Walter Glynn, of (now deceased) of St. Felix Fraternity, was a great advocate of Appease Hunger.

Justice and Peace Commission

Good News Report will regularly share Justice and Peace Resources and Links. Franciscans International is one valuable source.

In this issue Justice and Peace introduces "Franciscans International" and shares resources from its website, to stop human trafficking.

Franciscans International is a non-governmental organization with General Consultative status at the UN, uniting the voices of Franciscan brothers and sisters from around the world. We operate under the sponsorship of the Conference of the Franciscan Family (CFF) and serve all Franciscans and the global community by bringing spiritual, ethical, and Franciscan values to the United Nations and international organizations.

We closely follow the tradition of Saint Francis and Saint Clare, striving to put Franciscan ideals into practice at the international level. We are guided by the Saints loving concern for the poor, care of creation, and peacemaking. As the poorest people are being exploited in systemic ways, and global peace is increasingly threatened, Franciscan commitment is needed more urgently than ever.

Our programs at FI bring grassroots Franciscans to the United Nations forums in New York and Geneva, influencing international human rights standards and bringing witness to human rights violations.

<http://www.franciscansinternational.org/>

Prayer to End Trafficking

Lord of freedom and love, we are saddened to know that more than one million people are trafficked into slavery each year.

The effects of contemporary slavery are felt in every one of the 180 countries where Franciscans serve.

As sons and daughters of our father St. Francis we are tormented by this reality that will leave devastating repercussions for generations to come.

Our hearts grieve for what our minds can barely comprehend, particularly when we hear of women,

men, and children who are deceived and transported to unknown places.

We recognize this sexual and economic exploitation occurs because of human greed and profit.

We are sorrowful and our spirits angry that human dignity is being degraded through deception and threats of force.

Help the violators to be transformed and enlightened to realize the scope of their unjust actions.

Allow them to see the value and the dignity of every human person.

As Franciscans who serve the poor in a spirit of peace and justice, we must protest this atrocity and work against the demeaning practice of human trafficking.

Lord of Life, strengthen those whose hearts have been broken and lives have been uprooted. Give us the light, grace, and courage to work with you so that we can all participate in the goodness of creation.

Fill us with the wisdom and courage to stand in solidarity with the victims so that we may all enjoy the freedoms and rights which have their source in your Son and our Lord Jesus Christ.

Adapted from a prayer by Sr. Genevieve Cassani



Photograph © International Labour Organization/Gianotti E. Benin, 2001

Local Fraternity Bulletin Board

Missions

Some more info for the *Good News Report!* On Sat May 12, 2007 St. Anthony of Padua Fraternity will be loading a container of food, medical supplies, clothes and other household items for a mission overseas. The container will be loaded for *Canadian Food For Children* and is expected to contain approximately 12 metric tonnes. As a fraternity we do this twice a year as our Lenten and Christmas projects.

Peace and Joy

Editors Note:

Jim Reid

CFFC was started by Doctor & Mrs. Simone, both of whom are Secular Franciscans.

Professions and Anniversaries

St. Clare of Assisi, Midland:

Colin Herring, ofs was professed on August 14, 2006. Congratulations Colin. *Good News Report* regrets the delay.

Ellie Vanden Heuvel, ofs will celebrate her **25th Anniversary of Profession** on April 28, 2007. She was professed in 1982 and continues to be an active member in her Fraternity.

St. Anthony of Padua, Brampton:

Vera Nolan, ofs was professed on Feb. 20, 2007.

St. Bonaventure, Don Mills:

Florinda D'Costa, ofs

Sylvia Elek, ofs

Anna Marziliano, ofs

All professed on March 24, 2007.

Congratulations and all blessings to you!

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.

Youth and the Ark of the New Covenant

In support of our youth, members of the *St. Angela Merici Fraternity (Oshawa)* were invited to lead an hour of prayer before the "Blessed Sacrament" and "The Ark" at St. Joseph the Worker Parish, Oshawa on January 17, 2007. "The Ark of the New Covenant is a first in the history of the International Eucharistic Congresses. Rich in meaning and symbolism, this work of art allows us to deepen our understanding of the Eucharist."



Just as the traveling Cross became a symbol for World Youth Days hosted by the Pope, this Ark is a symbolic object which travels across Canada to prepare the way for the Eucharistic Congress to be held in Quebec City from June 15 – 22, 2008. The Franciscans lead the adorers in reciting the Franciscan Crown and the Devotion of Atonement, and all had an opportunity to take a close look at this amazing art conceived by Canada's youth. You can read more about "The Ark" at the Eucharistic Congress website – www.cei2008.ca

Obituary



Irvin Grubb, ofs, in his 24th year as a member of Mary Queen of Peace/ Mother of God fraternity went home to the Lord on February 11, 2007 at the age of 91. At various times he served in the position of Fraternity Treasurer, Regional delegate and transporter of members.

"We have loved him during life; let us not forget him in death." (St. Ambrose)

Resource and Writings

Hugh Dobson, ofs, of St. Francis fraternity, Burlington, a regular contributor to the *Good News Report*, has offered to supply copies of his articles free to anyone who wishes. Please state your interest; peace, ecology, marriage, global warming, Great Lakes water quality, etc. He can be contacted at: 426 Seneca Ave., Burlington, ON L7R 3A2

Thanks! The *Good News Report* team would like to thank you for the increase in items submitted. Keep them right on coming!!