



# Good News Report



Secular Franciscan Order  
Trillium Regional Fraternity

Number 65

Feb. 2013

## MINISTER'S LETTER

Every year we celebrate new beginnings. And so in celebrating the arrival of 2013 we also, as Franciscans and Catholics, are looking forward to new initiatives such as the Year of Faith and within that context the social teachings of the Church and much much more.

During this Year of Faith we are asked to study the Bible daily in some detail. This is something we, as Secular Franciscans, hold as our sacred pre-occupation. But our Cardinal Archbishop also asked us to pray more intensely for vocations so the teaching of the Church and the promotion of the culture of life may be enhanced in our midst. The Church needs voices both consecrated and secular. In short the Church needs us to pray for vocations to the clergy and to the Secular Franciscan Order. The Church urgently needs voices to speak out for the values and the dignity of human life, the dignity of work, and indeed care for all creation.

We, in the Trillium Region, wish to help promote these initiatives in 2013 through our recommendation for a more structured program of prayer within the local fraternities. Perhaps some time can be set aside during your local meeting specifically for prayers for vocations or through adoption of regular Eucharistic Adoration this year or through the promotion of vocations by personal contacts within our communities. An invitation is also extended to our isolated and inactive members to join us in prayer for these purposes. During 2013 we hope to develop and provide an on-going formation program highlighting key social teachings of the Church.

As we look forward to 2013 we see a number of wonderful events on our calendar and, yes, challenges too, awaiting our Region. With joy we are looking forward to the celebration of the canonical establishment of a number of our Fraternities. Similarly, we will be welcoming and celebrating new leadership in others. We are also looking forward to an opportunity to share our experiences and to celebrate the Secular Franciscan Movement as, once again, this June we will meet as one regional family



in Midland at the Martyrs' Shrine. In the Fall of 2013 we hope to see you in a series of mini workshops near you. The organization of these activities and events will challenge our Regional Council but we count on the Lord's help, the dedicated attention of our members and our volunteers.

In closing I wish to extend a very special thanks to you all for the generous assistance you made through your Fraternities in 2012 not only in support of the Trillium Region but also the Franciscan International and all your private charitable activities. You make a huge difference in the lives of those you set out to help. May the Lord generously bless your kindness now and in the life to come.

*Happy New Year – Pax et Bonum*  
*Les Alberti ofs*

## SPIRITUAL REFLECTION

### **"Bearer of Peace - Do Not Be Afraid"**

(A presentation from our recent National Chapter)



*"I have told you this so that you might have peace in me. In the world you will have trouble, but take courage, I have conquered the world." Jn. 16.33.*

*"Mindful that they are bearers of peace which must be built up unceasingly, they should seek out ways of unity and fraternal harmony through dialogue, trusting in the presence of the divine seed in everyone and in the transforming power of love and pardon." (Rule 19.)*

So, what is peace? I've read on Facebook, 'Peace is when you remove profit from war.' It sounds very specious, and is not true. Peace is not the lack of war. It is not the lack of something, it is not a negation. You cannot get peace with removing something. Peace is not a space, a vacuum, since it is not the evil that fills the space in our life, but God.

Peace is the gift of God. Peace is a state of life - being in peace, living in peace. Peace is in me, basically it is not something between two persons - peace in me has an effect on the relationship; but peace is not the relationship itself

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience,

kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control (Gal.5.22)

So, peace is the fruit of the Spirit. It is important to keep in mind, particularly now, celebrating Pentecost, and celebrating a Chapter.

Since the Holy Spirit is the General Minister of the Franciscan Order – as we could learn it from St. Francis – we have to be striving to let Him guide us, so that we may have these fruits. If we let Him guide our Order, we will find love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control in the fraternity. It is an attractive future, a positive perspective, isn't it? When we wish peace and all good, we wish the gift of God to one another. Have you ever considered it?

What does it mean to bear? You can only bear what you really have, what is really yours. Bearing the peace is NOT an activity. The light of the world, the city set on the mountain are firm points of reference. Bearing the peace – either in the person, or in the fraternity – is a point of reference, something that is attracting, something that is pointing to God.

And since it is not an activity, it rather belongs to our existence than to our acts. It belongs to 'who we are', and not to 'what we do'. It belongs to the substance, to the fundament of the building.

Peace is much more internal than external, but it is something that is not to be hidden. So, the 'direction' of peace is outwards, if there's any direction - what you have inside shall be shining outwards. If you do not shine, peace is missing, you do not bear peace. Like the 'light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden'. (Mt. 5.14.) Bearing peace is a part of being the light of the world, offering something unusual to the world. Also, as at the smallest light we cannot say that we are in darkness any more, one person bearing peace in a wider community can change the whole atmosphere.

When we wish peace and all good, we wish the gift of God to one another. Have you ever considered it?

So, what to do to have this gift of God? Not that much – or very much. We cannot serve it - it is not a matter of merits or virtues. We cannot require it

- God is free to decide whom he gives his gifts. The only thing we can do is to be open. If we open ourselves to the peace of God, we'll give a chance to build the community between God and myself. Once there's a community between God and I, I'll be able to build community with others.

However, we have to know, that peace cannot be split into parts. It cannot be that I'm in peace with God but not with my neighbour. Or cannot be that I'm in peace with my neighbour but not with myself.

This is a three-legged stool. I always have to examine whether all the three legs are o.k. The three legs are: my relationship with God, my relationship with myself and my relationship with my neighbour.

All these three have impacts on one another, this is the completeness of peace. If one is missing, the stool tips over. This is the balance of our life: my relationship with God, with myself and with my neighbour. This needs a permanent self-examination. This is what we, Franciscans call being brothers and sisters of penance.

Each sin closes a door.

We have to examine ourselves and put these obstacles down in order to be able to open ourselves to the gift of God.

Bearers of peace – so what to do with it? ...they should seek out ways of unity and fraternal harmony (Rule 19) This is the task of the light of the world, this is the way how to bear peace. We have to seek the ways of unity and fraternal harmony. Evil can imitate many charisma, many virtues: wisdom, kindness, tongues, teaching, even love. There's only one thing that he is unable to imitate: that is unity. He, the son of division, cannot imitate unity. So, where there's unity, we can be sure, that God is there.

trusting in the presence of the divine seed in everyone. So, again, trusting in the gift of God, trusting in the creative power of God... Unceasingly. (Rule 19)

God never asks anything beyond our capacity. We cannot stop all the wars. We cannot stop all the social injustice. We cannot stop all the abuses inside and outside the families. However, we have to do our part. Even the smallest light can break the darkness. Unceasingly.



We, secular Franciscans, are to bear peace wherever we live, wherever we get going. In the family, at work, in the society. It belongs to our secular state of life.

It is a privilege. We, seculars are privileged to bring peace to certain parts of the world, where the clergy has no mandate. I invite all of you to examine this, what are these areas? How much conscious we are of this? I invite you, personally, I invite your fraternities on the various levels, I invite your councils, to examine: what is my part?

Do not be afraid. Why should be or shouldn't be afraid? Well, it is not easy to be bearer of peace. It is risky. It hurts interests, it refuses to fight, but it requests to stand firm.

Bearing peace makes me fragile, makes me exposed, makes me naked. But since St. Francis we know, that being naked means that we belong only to God, we do not have anything, but God, we do not want to possess anything, but the love of God.

So, let's start! I'd like to encourage you to set out to the deep, set out to the world, set out to the society. Be bearers of peace, bring peace to your families, to your parishes, to your work, to your local communities.

Peace is like the flame: we can share it without loss, furthermore, the more we share the more it will be experienced in the world. Do not be afraid, because God, who gives us the peace, is always at our side. God always wants to give his peace. Unceasingly. Bearers of peace, my secular Franciscan sisters and brothers in Canada, go! "In the world you will have trouble, but take courage"! (Jn 16.33.)

*Chateauguay, 2012.05.27.*

*Tibor Kauser, CIOFS Presidency councilor*

## FROM THE FORMATION CORNER

Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

With this coming New Year we are challenged to renew, contemplate, and act upon our Faith. The Holy Father has, as you well know declared 2012-13 as the year of Faith. We as Catholics and especially Franciscans are now challenged to look deeper into our Faith, into our beliefs, and what they mean to us and after doing so, challenge ourselves with the question – now what does the Lord want us to do??? as a community and as an individual. In our ongoing formation this year, we would like all of the fra-



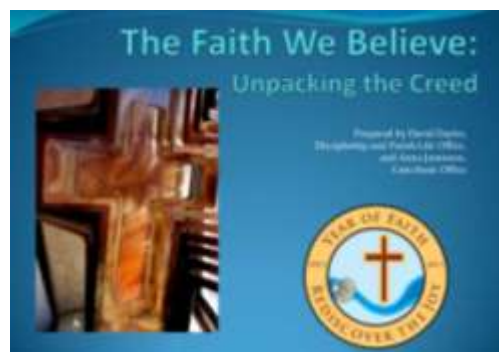
ternities to re-learn (as it were) our faith and how to share our faith with each other fraternally. But it doesn't just stop there. We are challenged to "go out and share that good news". – (Gospel to Life, and Life to Gospel).

To quote from the Catholic Catechism: : Faith is a theological virtue by which we believe in God and believe all that he has said and revealed to us, and that Holy Church proposes for our belief, because He is truth itself. (ccc1814)

Faith is an entirely free gift that God makes to man, to live, grow, and persevere in the faith until the end we must nourish it with the word of God; we must beg the Lord to increase our faith; it must be "working through charity," abounding in hope and rooted in the faith of the Church. (ccc162)

Although we are presently working on an ongoing formation based on the year of faith, I suggest to each of the fraternities to begin with the Apostles Creed. Dig deep within it, savour each word, and contemplate and discuss in your fraternity the richness of our belief.

Booklets called "The Faith We Believe: Un-



packing the Creed", are available at no charge. They can be ordered for each member of your fraternity from the Diocese of Hamilton.

The Diocese also has a power-point presentation that enhances and completes the booklets. The power-point presentation is on the Diocese of Hamilton website and can be downloaded.

I am presently working on the initial formation program, and hope to have some of the workshops available sometime this year for any new members to our Franciscan Order. I am sure all of you have been informed that we will be having a picnic in Midland this year, and a ministers meeting also. There will be formation workshops at the ministers meeting and I encourage as many formation directors as possible to "come and see"!!!!!!

May the Lord Bless all of You and your families this coming year,  
*Peace and ALL Good,*  
*Donna Dooling, ofs*



## TREASURER

By gazing upon the image of the crucified Christ, St. Clare came to identify with His poverty. Her vision of poverty had a privileged place in her life, because Jesus is the Poor Crucified.



Because of her encounter with the crucified Christ, she could witness to the world what intimacy with Christ is really like. She found her spiritual understanding of love in gazing on the visual image of the crucified Christ. For Clare to gaze daily upon the face of the crucified is the way to spiritual transformation because, Christ is the invisible God made visible.

Clare encouraged daily prayer before the Cross, something all of us can do. To contemplate Christ crucified is to look at ourselves and others and know that death does not have the last word because Jesus, risen in glory, speaks the Word of Life, given to us in the scriptures.

Cathy Payne



to do?" The themes of the *YOUTH TOWARDS ASSISI* (GIOVANI VERSO ASSISI) pilgrimage 2012 answers with the following themes:

- 1) "Go to Assisi and I will show you the way"
- 2) "Repair My House"
- 3) "Recognize Me in others"
- 4) "Trust in My Word" (reflection given by Friar Jude Winkler)
- 5) "Love My Church"
- 6) "Contemplate Creation"
- 7) "Search Me in Silence" (in the spirit of St. Clare on her feast day)
- 8) "Share your Faith" (perfect for our Year of Faith and the Church's focus on evangelization)

This full document is now available thanks to Friar Eric De La Pena and our communication through Facebook. Let me know if you would like a copy.

*Another question:* Did you know that there exists a Pontifical Council For Social Communications? The theme of this year's 47<sup>th</sup> World Communications Day was *"Social Networks: Portals of Truth and Faith; New Spaces for Evangelization"*. Ipso facto: the Pope is on twitter @ PONTIFEX (which interestingly enough means bridge-builder) and because of it, now so am I! I was astounded at all the catholic "tweeters" (those who post messages on twitter), who add "hashtags" leading to catholic websites. In addition, the Pope just launched a Pope App. All of you smart phone or android users-check it out. Our Church is with the times-she does want to communicate effectively with youth, with us, with the world! *"Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature."* (Mark 16:15)

Does anyone you know complains about youth and their obsession with texting? Texting is a convenient way of sending messages on your cell phone and since phones and youth are inseparable, it is a sure way to get a quick response. The Friars of Holy Name Province in New York have just launched *TEXT-A-PRAYER*. Here's how it works: Text the word "prayer" to 306-44 and hit "send." In the first week they received 5000 prayer requests. For those of us outside of the US, we have to request prayers the old-fashioned way- by email.

Questions answered: *YOUCAT* features one question every month. Click the "Be Faithful" tab on the [www.youcat.org](http://www.youcat.org) page. To know is to open doors. To know is necessary for love to grow.

Lastly, included here is a copy of a handout for distribution that I had sent out by email with the objective of encouraging dialogue and the exploration of Franciscan spirituality through social me-

## YOUTH COORDINATOR

Dear Franciscan Sisters and Brothers,

"All we need is LOVE!" As we approach valentine's day, a day when the focus is primarily on human love, let us ask ourselves how to help our youth, one another and the world to live with a *Franciscan Heart*. A friend, who is a priest, sent me a blog written by a young woman, wife, and mother entitled: *"A Franciscan Heart in a Material World"*. It is posted and easily accessible on our new Catholic Franciscan Young Adult YouFra Ontario, Canada page. It is saved as a file and with one click, downloaded! Please encourage young adults to find and explore this new Trillium initiative! They must search it and/or be invited. There are presently 14/26 invited members, who have joined and read the posts regularly.

The question remains: "Lord, What do You want me



dia. Change the contact info, place them wherever you can and hand them out personally. Could your fraternity offer a Lenten workshop entitled “Are You Franciscan @ Heart??”

Brothers and Sisters, let us evangelize with a *Franciscan Heart*, for that is the gift we have received as professed Seculars and the gift we are called to witness to and give away, especially to young people.

*Peace, Silvana*



### YouFra

Young Adults ages 18-30 exploring Franciscan Spirituality

FACEBOOK: Catholic Franciscan Young Adults  
YouFra Ontario, Canada

Contact: Silvana Rossi Loughheed OFS Youth Coordinator  
Trillium Regional Fraternity  
[silvana\\_rossi@sympatico.ca](mailto:silvana_rossi@sympatico.ca)

### VICE MINISTER

Dear Brothers and Sisters,  
As I sit here, thinking of what I may share that would be “GOOD NEWS” for the “GOOD NEWS” report, I am reminded of the timelessness of the seasons in our Church! The beauty of Christmas just past and to come! The excitement that a New Year brings! New beginnings – fresh starts – and I realize that the GOOD NEWS is that there IS “Good News” and we have it! We are blessed!!

God NEVER changes! All passes away and only Love remains! The beauty and the stability of the teachings of our Faith are timeless and priceless! This is the Year of Faith!

In a homily given by Archbishop Brendan O’Brian,



in the Archdiocese of Kingston Ontario, last October, may I quote, “*we form a spiritual building, built on the foundation of Jesus Christ where each of us is a living stone, which is needed in order for this spiritual edifice to be strong and firm.*” Speaking of our modern day society he went on to say “*when these forces spawn religious indifference and secularism that is hostile to religious faith, then we are faced with major difficulties*” The Archbishop also noted that, “*In Canada, the USA and most developed world, we have a huge problem. Many who have been baptized in the Church have no real involvement in its life and mission. The work of building up the Church as the body of Christ is the work of the Holy Spirit, but our efforts are not negligible; our efforts are needed.*” And near the close he shared strengthening of the building blocks of the faith community is by, “*Prayer and the celebration of the sacraments, Communication and Meditation on God’s word, providing support and opportunities for reinforcement of our faith, especially in times of difficulty, giving witness to our concern for the needs of the world around us and inviting people to join us in this great work.*”

As Secular Franciscans, may this year of faith challenge us not only to deepen in Faith but to become more active in our efforts to live our faith and to invite others to experience this great GOOD NEWS! The world is hungry for GOOD NEWS and we need to invite others to join us in this journey! And we are not alone we are a family with a special protectress and intercessor!

Our dear Father Francis was guided by the Holy Spirit into placing all of us under the care of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Rule nine states: “*The Virgin Mary, humble servant of the Lord, was open to his every word and call. She was embraced by Francis with indescribable love and declared the protectress and advocate of his family. The Secular Franciscans should express their ardent love for her by imitating her complete self-giving and by praying earnestly and confidently.*” On Jan 25, 2013, a message given by a visionary in Medjugore has our Mother Mary saying to us all, “*Dear children! Also today I call you to prayer. May your prayer be as strong as a living stone, until with your lives you become witnesses. Witness the beauty of your faith. I am with you and intercede before my Son for each of you. Thank you for having responded to my call.*”

*Peace and all good.*

*Colleen MacAlister ofs*



## Father Robert Barron's Seven Tips for New Evangelization

In May 2012, Father Barron was appointed rector of Chicago's Mundelein Seminary. In his opening message as rector at Mundelein, he laid out the seven great qualities of a new evangelist, of someone living out the New Evangelization. These are the seven qualities he suggested.

**First**, you must have a relationship with Jesus Christ. To evangelize is not just to share ideas - any theologian or historian could do that. It's to share a relationship, and you can't share what you don't have. Therefore, you've got to be in a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Second**, and this is piggybacking on Pope John Paul II, you've got to be a person of ardour. I cited that line from Aristotle where he said, *"Finally, people only really listen to an excited speaker."* I've always thought that was dead right. If you're not excited about your message, you won't communicate it effectively. So you've got to have ardour.

**Third**, you've got to know the story of Israel. The heart of evangelization is the good news that the story of Israel has come to its fulfillment - that the promises of God, as Paul said, have all met their "Yes!" in Jesus. When you abstract Jesus from Israel, you get the bland, spiritual teacher, the contemporary guru - Christ. Back in the second century, there was a heretic named Marcion, a crypto-Gnostic who said, "Get rid of the Old Testament and its witness to an unworthy, fallen deity. Just keep Luke, and some parts of Paul." And the Church said, "Absolutely not!" to that proposal. I tell my seminarians, "You need to say 'No!' to that as well." Marcion's Christ is evangelically unappealing; you must propose the full story of Israel to be an effective evangelist.

**Fourth**, you've got to know the culture. Here is Karl Barth's famous image of the Bible in one hand and the newspaper in the other. When Pope John Paul II called for "new expressions," he was looking for new ways to express the faith to a secular society that has grown rather cold to the Gospel, and that has lost a sense of the transcendent. This requires you to look for "seeds of the word." Within the secular culture, there will always be signs, seeds and indications of the Gospel. So find these seeds, latch onto them, and engage the culture.

**Fifth**, you've got to love the Great Tradition. We Catholics don't subscribe to sola Scriptura. We don't operate by Scripture alone. Scripture is the heart of theology, yes indeed, but as Blessed John Henry Newman said, it "unfolds across space and time." It's like a great river that continually broadens and deepens. We know Christ better because we know him through Augustine, Aquinas, Newman, Chesterton, and through Michelangelo and Dante. To know the great Catholic theological

and artistic tradition is key to being a new evangelist.

**Sixth**, you've got to have a missionary heart. I told my Mundelein students, "It should bother everyone in this room that 75 percent of our own Catholic people are not going to Mass." Vatican II said the Eucharist was the "source and summit of the Christian life." It wanted more people at Mass, not less. Yet now, 75 percent of our own people don't even go to Mass regularly? That's a tragedy.

These are souls who are in serious trouble. And I don't mean that simply in the ultimate sense of heaven and hell. I mean even now. There are many people who are lost, and it's because they've lost contact with God. As St. Augustine said, *"Our hearts are restless until they rest in God."* There are all kinds of people in the secular world who are suffering, because the secular ideology is shutting down the longing of their hearts. So I told the students, "You must have a missionary heart; you must be passionate for souls."

**Last**, you've got to know and use the new media. This explosion in technology is really unprecedented, at least since the time of Gutenberg. I tell my seminary students: "Know it; use it; it's in your blood. Your generation grew up with this. You grew up with computers, so use them and don't be afraid of technology." This is the advice I would give people on evangelizing through the new media.

First of all, don't be afraid. There's a lot of fear surrounding this technology. People think, "I don't know it well enough; it can be abused; I might get negative feedback." And that's all true. But anything can be misused — computers, telephones, automobiles — but we wouldn't hesitate to use those things. It's the same with new media. So, don't be afraid.

Also, when you use them, make sure you're grounded in the old technology of books. You must have something worth saying when you speak. I don't think it's a good idea for someone to simply jump into new media for the sake of jumping in. Are you grounded in the theological tradition, in a life of prayer, in the spirituality of the Church? Are you disciplined by the Church's teaching? If not, then I'd say be careful. But if you are, then don't be afraid of new technology and don't neglect the old.





# Local Fraternity Bulletin Board

## Sacred Heart Fraternity, Guelph

At our January 2013 meeting of our fraternity we were lovingly transported to the area of Assisi and Rocca San Giovanni in Italy. One of our members, Mrs. Vicki Veri, is from the



We thoroughly enjoyed the tapestries, which would be very much like the cloth that St. Francis' father dealt with, and the beautiful hand stitching that was one of St. Clare's favourite past times. She also brought to show us some metal pots and rudimentary tools made from nature as baskets and brooms.

area and kindly brought to our meeting the tastes, smells, sights and touches of her beloved homeland and that of St. Francis. We thoroughly enjoyed the tapestries, which would be very much like the cloth that St. Francis' father dealt with, and the beautiful hand stitching that was one of St. Clare's favourite past times. We all enjoyed our taste of Italy. Vicki brought us Italian salami, almond cookies, cheese and a kind of peanut brittle. We felt as if we had truly been on a trip to Italy when she finished her wonderful, enthusiastic presentation.



One of the more interesting items was from a Church in the area. It was a host maker which has the inscription IHS made with two heavy flat irons that would have been held over the fire to bake it!!



## St. Joseph the Worker Fraternity in Port Elgin

This Christmas St. Joseph the Worker Fraternity put on the Living Nativity again this year.

We had the stable with the Holy Family and many angels and shepherds set up beside the entrance doors to St. Joseph's Church before both Christmas Eve Masses.



St. Francis was also in the background. The many people entering the church became part of the scene as they paused to look toward the stable.



This year, Father Franjo invited the children who were the angels and shepherds, to process up with him at the beginning of Mass, carrying Baby Jesus to the altar where the church's stable was set up. The smiles on the faces of the people in the congregation said it all.

### 'The 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 & June.

Any items you wish to include are warmly welcomed and will be published space permitting. Articles may be sent by the 8<sup>th</sup> of the month of publishing, to *Deacon Maurice Prindiville, ofs,*

[mprindiville@golden.net](mailto:mprindiville@golden.net)

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

### DEATHS

#### St. Joseph the Worker Fraternity, Port Elgin

Please pray for Patricia Langford of St. Joseph the Worker, whose husband George died of a heart attack last month.

A few weeks afterwards, her brother passed away suddenly. For her ongoing strength as she leans on her Faith and on her Fraternity family at this time.

### ELECTION REPORT

Mount Alverno Fraternity, Orangeville  
Jan 24, 2013

With great joy we share the results of the election held in Orangeville. All active members [ two by Skype from Florida ] were present (thirteen in all), two candidates, Minister Provincial of the Capuchin fathers and bro Alan Gaebel ofm cap.

Teodora La Madrid and Venus Navalta from St. Felix Fraternity were also present.

The new council comprises of the

Minister - Frankie Burg-Feret

Vice-Minister - Felix Ibay

Secretary - Debbie Golden

Treasurer - Dolores Dunn

Director of Formation - Dan St. Pierre

### ANNIVERSARIES

#### Sacred Heart Fraternity, Guelph, January 2013

Sacred Heart Fraternity is proud to announce the 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the profession to the Secular Franciscan Order of two of their members, Mary Breese and Nancy Azzopardi.

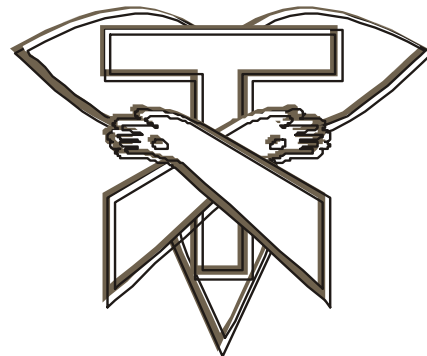


#### St. Angela Merici Fraternity, Oshawa

Hilda Rembala ofs - tenth anniversary in the Secular Franciscan Order - professed February 2, 2003

Paul Nicholls ofs - thirtieth anniversary in the Secular Franciscan Order - professed March 13, 1983

Congratulations to Cecile Gaboury ofs and Eleanor Dickie ofs on the occasion of their 90th birthdays.



### 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](mailto:malerbac@yahoo.com)

Please apply in good time if you wish to have them on the profession day or anniversary date.