



Good News Report

Secular Franciscan Order
Trillium Regional Fraternity



Number 62

April 2012

MINISTER'S LETTER

Dear Friends in Christ,
St. Francis and St. Clare,
March 31, 2012



Tomorrow we celebrate Palm Sunday, and with joy we too join the throng in Jerusalem to welcome our King, the Saviour of the World with hosannas as one in spirit.

And we give thanks to our King for all the good that this past year has brought about. The road was bumpy to say the least. Along the way there were the ordinary things the Regional Council always did. Among them Council held regular meeting, assisted in elections at five local Fraternities, did increased visitation, held formation workshops, maintained the membership register, issued newsletters, issued recognition certificates, participated in profession of new members and admittance, worked toward canonical establishment of a fraternity, successfully re-launched YOUFRA activities in the Region, reported to National on Regional activities, organized a Transitus service in Toronto, and grieved the passing of so many friends. In short, council complied with all of the requirements of Article 9.2.2. of the National Statutes.

The Lord, also, led us into many other activities, among them: a retreat for the Regional Fraternity, regular reporting to the Ministers following Council Meeting, preparation for the upcoming Ministers' Conference end of April, preparation for the Franciscan Family Fest for June 24, publication of all Fraternity meeting dates, times and places on the Web, updates to the Trillium Fraternity website, reporting of International and National Fraternity news to Ministers, invitation to all Ministers to participate in the Regional Council meetings, and the decision in Council to move the location of the Regional Meetings around in the Region thereby allowing Ministers to attend with greater ease. These activities were in keeping with the emphasis the last Regional Chapter placed on the direction for the Region to more closely weld the many fraternities into a single large family.

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SPIRITUAL ASSISTANT

I thought for my reflection I would share with you an ancient Easter Homily by St John Chrysostom.



Are there any who are devout lovers of God? Let them enjoy this beautiful bright festival! Are there any who are grateful servants? Let them rejoice and enter into the joy of their Lord! Are there any weary from fasting? Let them now receive their due! If any have toiled from the first hour, let them receive their reward. If any have come after the third hour, let them with gratitude join in the feast! Those who arrived after the sixth hour, let them not doubt; for they shall not be short-changed. Those who have tarried until the ninth hour, let them not hesitate; but let them come too. And those who arrived only at the eleventh hour, let them not be afraid by reason of their delay. For the Lord is gracious and receives the last even as the first. The Lord gives rest to those who come at the eleventh hour, even as to those who toiled from the beginning. To one and all the Lord gives generously. The Lord accepts the offering of every work. The Lord honours every deed and commends their intention.

Let us all enter into the joy of the Lord! First and last alike, receive your reward.

Rich and poor, rejoice together! Conscientious and lazy, celebrate the day!

You who have kept the fast, and you who have not, rejoice, this day, for the table is bountifully spread! Feast royally, for the calf is fatted. Let no one go away hungry.

Partake, all, of the banquet of faith. Enjoy the bounty of the Lord's goodness!

Let no one grieve being poor, for the universal reign has been revealed.

Let no one lament persistent failings, for forgiveness has risen from the grave.

Let no one fear death, for the death of our Saviour has set us free. The Lord has destroyed death by enduring it. The Lord vanquished hell when he descended into it.

(Continued on page 2)

(MINISTERS LETTER Continued from page 1)

The Council developed promotional pamphlets and other materials too for use by local fraternities in promoting new vocations and the Franciscan Fest.

The themes for the upcoming year will focus on thanksgiving for the fortunate situation we collectively find ourselves in, in this region, relative to some of our brothers and sister abroad. The Order has identified an urgent need to assist them with our prayers, and with fiscal and material support...to help them develop better capacity for formation and for the important task of evangelization in their respective environments. Charity is ever so significant a measure of the vibrant life in a Fraternity. Charity on its own, though, seems never enough - even when (in our own limitation at times) it may be all that we can do. The issue of social justice for our fellow Franciscans and members of all humanity, in many issues (from just laws, to basic life support, to the protection of the environment) is a new area for exploration under the banner of Justice Peace and the Integrity of Creation within the Trilium Region in the upcoming year. In short, we need to focus not only on what we have been doing well traditionally, but become more and more aware of issues in the larger context of the entire Franciscan Family. Two priority issues are the promotion and support of vocations - both to the Secular Order and to YouFra - and truly standing up for the marginalized of this world.

We pray that the risen Lord grant us His strength, as He did at Pentecost, in order to realize such an ambitious program within the means He has granted this Region.

Peace and all good.
Les Alberti ofS



(SPIRITUAL ASSISTANT Continued from page 1)

The Lord put hell in turmoil even as it tasted of his flesh.

Isaiah foretold this when he said, "You, O Hell, were placed in turmoil when he encountering you below." Hell was in turmoil having been eclipsed. Hell was in turmoil having been mocked. Hell was in turmoil having been destroyed. Hell was in turmoil having been abolished. Hell was in turmoil having been made captive. Hell grasped a corpse, and met God. Hell seized earth, and encountered heaven. Hell took what it saw, and was overcome by what it could not see.

O death, where is your sting? O hell, where is your victory? Christ is risen, and you are cast down! Christ is risen, and the demons are fallen! Christ is risen, and the angels rejoice! Christ is risen, and life is set free! Christ is risen, and the tomb is emptied of its dead. For Christ, having risen from the dead, is become the first-fruits of those who have fallen asleep. To Christ be glory and power forever and ever. Amen!

Christ is Risen! Alleluia! Truly He is Risen! Alleluia!

Fr. Peter Knaapen OFM Conv.

FROM THE FORMATION CORNER

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, Rejoice! Christ is Risen!!!

The feast of the Risen Lord fills us with great joy and hope. The Resurrection was not just the restoration of Jesus to life, but by rising from the dead He restored our life!!

In His appearance to the disciples after the resurrection He said "As the Father sent me, so I am sending you".

It is good to remember "what would give light must endure burning" (Dr. Viktor Frankl). Jesus Christ, the light of the world willingly endured the humiliation and suffering of the cross. He calls us, His followers "the light of the world" and sends us to the ends of the earth to proclaim the Gospel. In order to do this we must generously give of ourselves for the good of others, and as Francis said "Preach always, use words only when necessary".

Cardinal Collins recently talked about the three symbols of being a cardinal, and how these



symbols of being a cardinal should speak to each one of us. The one symbol that struck me was the colour of the vestments and biretta, which of course is a bright, brilliant red. This colour reminds the cardinals, (and as the Cardinal said, each one of us) that we need to stick out in a crowd, not so much in our clothes, but by our personal brightness in witnessing to our faith. Let us all be witnesses to our Faith, as was Francis, having the Church as our foundation, and being centered in prayer and in service.

I will be attending the ministers conference on April 28th at Mt. Alverno, and also the National Chapter of Elections in May.

There will be a formation meeting on June 2, 2012 in London, Ontario, for our formation directors in the west and north areas of our region.

I wish all of you and your families a Joyous and Blessed Easter Season.

Peace and All Good,
Donna Dooling, ofs

TREASURER

Fraternity to Fraternity Franciscan to Franciscan Friend to Friend

Come and engage your senses at our Franciscan Family Fest on Sunday June 24th

See

the displays, relics and scenery of Mount Alverno.

Hear

the music, laughter and talent of each other.

Smell

good food, fresh air and wildflowers.

Taste

the exciting activities planned for you.

Touch

the hand of a fellow Franciscan and meet a new friend. See you there.

Catherine Payne ofs



VICE MINISTER

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Hallelujah! He is Risen! By the grace of Jesus Christ in Him we live and move and have our being! We know God as our Father! How blessed are we to know Him!

Called and chosen. Here we are following Jesus in the footsteps of St. Francis of Assisi! Called and chosen. It is not by chance that I am writing these words or that you are reading them. It is by God's grace! You have been called and chosen!

Easter is a time of family. It is family that gives us life and the loss of family sometimes takes away the essence of life; joy and laughter, even our peace. How our Lord gave us example, dying with dignity in a most undignified form of execution! How saddened were His followers. How agonizing was the pain of His friends! Jesus lived in family. Two families – biological and spiritual. Aren't we the same? We have a biological family and a spiritual family that is with Christ and in St. Francis.

Mary showed the beauty of being in both with Jesus- biological and spiritual family, Mary was there! In the pain and sorrow and then in the greatest JOY!! Her beloved Son rose from the dead! What great hope! What great joy! The Gospels are not only GOOD NEWS they are everything that brings life! Mary took us as her children! She is the Patron under whose mantle we are protected. Can we do the same in our families? Can we bring life? Can we be like Mary? We are called and chosen.

Can we share our Charism, with all especially the Youth as our Rule tells us? Do we realize the large family we are part of? As a Secular Franciscan we are part of one of the largest, if not the largest spiritual families on earth! You are part of your local fraternity AND the Regional, National and International Fraternities! Called and chosen. May we all, participate in all our Fraternal Gatherings as much as humanly possible! We need each other!

Please pray for the OFS NATIONAL CHAPTER OF ELECTIONS, happening MAY 24 to the 27 at Manoir d'Youville, Chateaugay Quebec. The theme is "Bearers of Peace and Love: Be Not Afraid". If you want to attend come- you will be welcomed! The Trillium Region will be sending voting delegates to this Election. (for info call or email



613-242-1125 or colleenmacalister@yahoo.ca) Called and chosen.

Spring is a time of new beginnings, rebirth, freshness and beauty. May we all embrace the teachings of Jesus with the zeal of St. Francis!! May we live out our rule with great joy and hope! May we be family!! There are always opportunities to share faith!! May the Holy Spirit give us the words and the strength to live the Gospel in 2012- 24/7!!

I look forward to seeing you at the "Franciscan Family Fest on June 24th this year!! Bring your biological and spiritual families! May the Lord bring to us joy and laughter, and peace! Come Holy Spirit and renew us!! In Him! And may we humbly realize fully that we, Secular Franciscans, have been called and chosen, and (as I often say to myself, when I am tired) as St. Francis said, Today let us begin to serve the Lord, for 'til now we have done nothing. Amazingly a refreshing comes!

JESUS IS RISEN AND ALIVE!

Pax et Bonum,
Colleen MacAlister ofs

YOUTH COORDINATOR

Dear Brothers and Sisters, who love St. Francis and our Lord,

Have you ever given a cross, crucifix or Bible as a gift to a young person?

There have been some interesting developments in our secular world that merit our considerations.

Number 1:

Article 9 of the European Convention on Human Rights states, "Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief, in worship, teaching, practice and observance."

A woman has been asked by her employer to remove the cross she wears around her neck. Does the law protect the right to wear a cross or crucifix at work?

The Government's official response states that wearing the cross is not a "requirement of the faith" and therefore does not fall under the remit of Article 9.

This is not only happening in Europe. A young adult I have worked with for five years was chided for wearing a cross at his place of employment. It was deemed offensive. Yet the complainant sees no contradiction in visibly wearing a Wiccan symbol. "The language of the cross may be illogical to those who are not on the way to salvation, but to those of us who are on the way see it as God's power to save." (1 Corinthians 1:18)

Number 2:

In the news recently, in our own backyard, being Catholic and Christian has been under attack. You may be saying, "There is nothing new about that," and you would be correct. However, because young people hear thousands of voices through media, especially the internet, music and television, we must be so much more aware of the need to spread the voice of Truth, the voice of the Gospel i.e., the voice of Jesus!!

The freedom to wear a cross and to believe in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, our Lord and Saviour, should be reason enough for taking evangelization seriously- especially the evangelization of our young people!! "For I am not ashamed of the Good News; it is the power of God saving all who have faith." (Romans 1:16)

One of the beautiful charisms of St. Francis is simplicity. Francis did not have it "altogether" when he began and brothers were given to him. He got his direction from one source and one source alone: the Gospel, who is Jesus Himself.

One thing I love about St. Francis is that he accepted each person where they were at on their journey. Though I sometimes fail miserably in this area, young people continue to be good teachers in my life. Is this so in your life?

Let us pray:

"Our God and Father, You call us to proclaim Your Gospel with our lives. Raise up leaders among us who are open to Your grace to introduce young Catholics to the spirituality of St. Francis and St. Clare through the formation of Franciscan Youth in Canada. Inspire many Catholic Youth to embrace Your call to go from Gospel to life and from life to Gospel.

We ask St. Francis, St. Clare and all the Franciscan Saints to pray with us that YouFra can be a way for our young people to deepen their love for you and for each other. We ask this prayer in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen."

What is YouFrat? Every fraternity has a Trillium Regional Handbook with the roles of the Council defined. The YouFra pages entitled, *FORMATION PROGRAM FOR YOUFRA*, clearly and simply defines YouFra. Please make yourself well acquainted with these pages and use them for anyone that who needs clarification. In addition there is a resource page, recently revised.

Please make use of the YouFra brochure, handy for your approaches to chaplains, Youth Ministers etc. Make sure that you add your own contact info on the back!! It is available on the YouFra page on our website.

YouFra is a means to help youth hear the voice of Jesus in their lives. We must reach out as has St. Angela Merici Fraternity members. They have met with the Catholic Club at the University of Ontario where they shared their charism of prayer, who St. Francis is, the meaning of the Tau Cross, and social justice opportunities with Franciscan International as well as locally. They shared pizza, left them with prayer cards and invited them to the Franciscan Fest. Praise God!!

Who are the Youth coming with your Fraternity to the Franciscan Fest? Invite, invite, invite!! Let us witness through this wonderful family opportunity!



Let us work side by side with our Youth to rebuild our Church. Wear a cross and be not ashamed of being Catholic and Christian, professing the Real Presence of Jesus in His Word and in the Eucharist!!

Peace,
Silvana Rossi Loughheed ofs

Through the Secretary's Eyes

Hello everyone, this is my first report and I am not sure what I can say that others of the Region have not said in regards to their works within the region.



This report is to keep you informed of what is underfoot so to speak within the Trillium Region and to create within you a fire to ask more questions and find out what God, Our Blessed Mother Mary, St. Francis and St. Clare are asking of us to do through the work that we are doing.

It is true that there is a Minister's conference coming up, April 28th and it is to be held at Mt. Alverno. It seems that we are breaking some ground in asking ALL MINISTERS to consider to come to this meeting. Remember to car pool if at all possible and bring along other Franciscan Ministers from nearby Fraternities that might not be able to make it. I guess that is one of our first lines of reaching out to all the fraternities through the Minister. At our last chapter of Elections we were asked to make it possible for the Ministers to meet with other Fraternities and we believe that this will be the first step in helping the Ministers to take on their role of continually leading their members with the proper information to form their fraternities.

The National Chapter of Elections is happening on May 24th and we are sending representatives to represent the Trillium Regional Fraternity. We are excited to see what GOOD NEWS that they will be bringing back from the National that will help our Region grow and multiply.

Then there is the Franciscan Fest that so many of our Council members are working so hard to accomplish and meet the goals that you as the Trillium Region Fraternities have asked us to meet. I am sure that you can see that Colleen and her helpers have laid out quite an interesting day with many special events planned for us as Franciscans, with many things that will be able to share with our families and friends. Yeck, we discussed the budget! We discussed at great length and understood which areas the monies

were to be spent to educate and bring forth the information to the fraternities.

JPIC is a new area that we are bringing forward to all the fraternities and Marzio has a great handle on all that is going on and has laid out some plans that I am sure that you will be hearing more about in the next few months. We all need to linked into what is happening around us and this will give us the upper edge and will also allow us to talk with others with understanding and conviction.

We also have some emerging fraternities that are taking place and that is so exciting how our Region is growing. Remember to say your prayer to Padre Pio and ask him for assistance with growing your fraternity.

In Christ, Mary, St. Francis and St. Clare I ask of their Blessings for you

Respectfully submitted
Secretary of Trillium Regional Fraternity
Gail Barrett

It's Time for Emmaus - reprinted from CIOFS ongoing Formation Project. Read the entire article at www.ciofs.org/ratio/2012/EN_2012_02.doc

It's Time for Emmaus - (Excerpts)

Who are the characters in the text of the passage of Emmaus? How many are there? Three: the two disciples and Jesus...

What does Jesus do here with these two? First, He sees. And, what does He see? He sees these two that pass in front of him who are going from the centrality of hope to the periphery of despair. His first act is to find out what is happening...

First he sees, and, then, he approaches. (The second step ... and He has still not said a word). And then he walks with them. He has already done three things, and He still has not said a word. He looks, approaches and walks. And then what does He do? Here's the key. He asks a question: *What is the matter with you?* Notice that he starts with the experience of the other. He doesn't come and start with any discussion. He wants to know 'where does it hurt you?', 'what is the reason for your sadness?', 'what is the reason that you left your hope hanging?' And, you are going to the periphery of despair?

And, then, you hear the answer... 'could you possibly be stupid?' 'Are you the only one who does not know what has happened in Jerusalem?' What is the reason for Jesus, and, what does he say to them? What was it? A new question, a new attempt, to try to start from the other's experience.

Begin to rebuild hope

And, it is only at that point, after doing these five things (seeing, approaching, walking, questioning, listening) that you can start talking... that you can begin to rebuild hope, in order to build this bridge between hope, anchored in the heart of Israel, to the very presence of God in history made flesh, of God 'converted' to us in Jesus Christ. This is Emmaus! This is today's time; this is the pedagogy for today. ...

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION IN FRATERNITY

1. What does it mean to say that "this is the time to go back to Emmaus"?
2. What did Jesus do (*remember: five things!*) as he realized the sad situation of the two disciples walking on the road to Emmaus? How does this apply to our own ways of dealing with people?
3. What do we as Secular Franciscans have to do (or better: how do we have to be) in following our vocation and mission of building a "common house" with room for everyone without exception?



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 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.

Why are Peace, Justice, Ecology important today in Franciscan Formation?

Excerpts from: *Peace, Justice, Ecology for Franciscan Formators* <http://www.ciofs.org/doc/ef93enp1.htm>



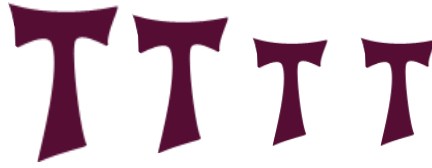
"No generation of franciscans should be allowed to lose sight of the fundamental objective which all persons of good will are summoned to embrace - to live together on planet Earth as sisters and brothers.

This is what Francis lived and preached. And even today, nearly 800 years later, this is what is attracting multitudes of people to his message. In Gospel terms this means having a concerted will to contribute to the building of the Kingdom of God, a Kingdom of Justice, Peace and joy, accessible to all and excluding none, in the Spirit.

...Peace is one of the foundational values of the franciscan family and so is part of its special character and purpose. Peace includes peace proclaiming, peace making and peace building. The charism of peace in the franciscan family has existed from the very beginning...

Justice and Ecology should [not] be divorced from Peace. On the contrary, these three values form a particular kind of unity within franciscanism that gives franciscan peacemaking its own unique flavour and method of approach. A franciscan tends to see injustice and irreverence for creation, first and foremost, as obstacles to peace. These obstacles need to be confronted, with that motive in mind, in order to help peace flower."

Franciscan Family Fest



Franciscans, Family and Friends are invited
to the **1st FRANCISCAN FAMILY FEST**
SUNDAY JUNE 24, 2012
At Mount Alverno Retreat Centre
Caledon Ontario

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

May you all be richly blessed by having entered in the sacred moments of Holy Week with our Lord.

This is a quick update on a few items regarding the Franciscan Family Fest on June 24. There are always changes at the last minute in attendance for these kind of events but if we can have registration forms sent in by May first, that would be awesome! We can always add names later or take some off, but we want to make sure we are provisioned for the expected attendance.

NOTES

- Each Fraternity will have its own table under the big tent. This is where you could have your poster or banner with your fraternity name etc. Also this is where you can store your food under this table, coolers etc.
- You can bring your own lunch or share in the potluck under the Big Tent. There will also be some foods available for purchase at the canteen. We need to know numbers to make sure we have all that is required for food etc. on hand. Barbeques are not allowed on the site.
- *FRANCISCANS HAVE TALENT SHOW* will take place under the Big Tent during the lunch break which will be from 12:00 to 1:30. Will your fraternity participate?
- There will be a “nurse” present, and we need to know of any special needs, as well as the ages of attendees, and who are fraternity and who are guests. The application form requests all the information required – so please fill it out diligently.
- The “Market Place” will have a gift store as well as static displays on JPIC, YOUFRA, Franciscan Ministries or Charities, as well as Vocational Information.
- Please send photos of your fraternity to Marzio as indicated on the bottom of the registration form.

Peace and all good!

Colleen MacAlister ofs
Vice Minister – Chair of Steering Committee Franciscan Family Fest 2012

Local Fraternity Bulletin Board

PROFESSION

On Tues. March 27. Sonia Aristizabal was professed into the Secular Franciscan Order at St. Anthony of Padua Church in Brampton. Mass was celebrated by Fr. Peter Knaapen with a reception afterward in Our Lady's chapel.

TRANSITUS 2012

Members of the Franciscan Family celebrated the Transitus in Toronto (Wednesday, October 3, 2012) at St. Jane Frances Church - North York



RETREAT



Members of St. Maximilian Kolbe Fraternity (Mississauga) on retreat on Saturday and Sunday, February 11 and 12, at Carmel Heights Seniors Home in Mississauga. *Our retreat was a very fruitful time for all: with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass both days, Exposition of the Most Holy Sacrament, Confessions, beautiful homilies, and most needed guidance, sharing, questions and answers time, meals and singing.*

OBITUARIES

Mary Caruso (St Felix of Cantalice Fraternity, Toronto) passed away Sunday March 04, 2012. Funeral Mass was on Wednesday, March 07 at St. Bonaventure Church, Toronto

Reverend Deacon Bert Cambre (St. Francis Fraternity in Burlington) passed away on March 29, 2012. His eminence the Cardinal Carter sent a personal letter of remembrance and his eminence Bishop Douglas of Hamilton participated in the prayer of commendation. The funeral at Holy Rosary Church, Burlington, on April 4, 2012 was attended by three generations of family, and friends, priests, deacons and those who knew him. Friar Maurice Richard gave the homily.

PROFESSION ANNIVERSARIES

St Mary of the Angels, Welland congratulates
Pauline Leonard, ofs 40 years professed
Andrea Nigro, ofs, 30 years professed
Mary Bartok, ofs, 25 years professed

Sacred Heart Fraternity, Guelph would like to congratulate Pierrette Robbie on her 30th Anniversary as a Secular Franciscan. We are so blessed to have her among our members.



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.