

Good News Report

Secular Franciscan Order
Trillium Regional Fraternity



Number 59

July 2011

**Directory of the Trillium Regional Council for 2011- 2014
elected at the Chapter of Elections
Marylake Retreat Center, King City, Ontario, May 13-15, 2011**

Minister	Les Alberti, ofs	les.alberti@sympatico.ca
Vice Minister	Colleen MacAlister, ofs	colleenmacalister@yahoo.ca
Vice Minister	Marzio Apolloni, ofs	mapollo@bmts.com
Secretary	Gail Barrett, ofs	gbarrett.gbrenner@rogers.com
Treasurer	Catherine Payne, ofs	bpayne@wightman.ca
Formation Director	Donna Dooling	donnadooling@gmail.com
Youth Coordinator	Silvana Loughheed, of;	silvana_rossi@sympatico.ca
Spiritual Assistant	Fr. Peter Knaapen, OFM Con.	knaapenp@bell.net

Chapter of Election of the Trillium Regional Fraternity: Visitation Report

Background:

I was delegated by the National Minister to preside over the elections of Trillium Regional Fraternity. In addition to the elections, as customary and in the interest of minimizing associated expenses, I conducted a fraternal visitation in accordance with Articles 92-94 of the S.F.O's. General Constitution. In preparation for this fraternal visitation the Regional Council prepared and made available to me the Council's administrative, financial and fraternal records for my review and comments. I express my thanks to the regional minister and council for their cooperation and support for me to carry out the visitation.

Complimentary Remarks:

On behalf of the National Council of Canada I would like to congratulate the Trillium Regional Fraternity for managing the affairs of Trillium Region to the best of their ability, with care, love and respect for its members. In a special way I congratulate the past Minister and council for their leadership and ongoing commitment to the region in spite of the unexpected resignation of the previous

Minister. The council has compiled a suitable agenda for the elective chapter. In addition, the Chapter was held at a suitable location, with meals and accommodation provided for all delegates. I wish to thank Fr. Peter Knaapen, O.F.M. Conv. for his spiritual guidance and direction to the regional council and all fraternities within the region. Lastly, I would like to congratulate all the delegates and observers at the Chapter. They have demonstrated a strong sense of fraternal life which I trust is reflective of their participation and involvement in their respective fraternities.

Observation:

The theme of the Chapter was "Franciscans- The Call to be Visible". The Chapter's agenda highlighted the theme which was evident throughout weekend. The atmosphere throughout the Chapter was peaceful and spirit-filled. I would like to acknowledge the tremendous work that was done in preparation for the Chapter. Special mention is being made to the Nomination Committee for being able energize capable members to let their names stand for election and was able to obtain a full slate of nominees to fill all the vacant positions on the regional council. The Resolutions Committee is worthy of acknowledgement for presenting two resolutions to improve the operation of the regional council,

which were passed. The regional council is responsible to include these two resolutions as an amendment to the Trillium Regional Statute and to submit the entire regional statute to me for approval by the National Minister.

My understanding is that the regional council will continue to appoint four area councilors to assist the two vice-ministers. These four area councilors will conduct fraternity visitations to ease the workload of the vice-ministers. Based upon my review of the work description of vice-ministers and area councilors, as well as Trillium Policy manual, there is reason to believe there is good communication between the regional council and the fraternities.

I am pleased to see the pastoral guidance provided by the regional spiritual assistant; Fr. Peter Knaapen, OFM Conv. His compilation of the document on the role of the Spiritual Assistant along with his guidance in the training of lay Spiritual Assistants to serve the needs of the region should be highly commended. His presence and willingness to serve on the regional council is an asset to the leadership of the regional council and the promotion of spiritual maturity among Secular Franciscans.

I understand that all the active fraternities in the Trillium region, as well as the emerging fraternities are engaged in some sort of ongoing formation programs appropriate to their needs. The 'Fully Mature in the fullness of Christ' formation program was mainly used for initial formation in the region. With the recent introduction of the new formation program initiated and approved by CIOFS Presidency, the region is encouraged to begin implementation of the new formation program in accordance with the format presented and distributed by the national formation director.

From my observation, the local fraternities are faithful in their financial obligations to the regional council in accordance with Rule 25 of the Secular Rule of St. Francis. The regional council appears to have adequate finances to carry out the efficient operation of the region. My review of the financial records and audit report confirmed that proper financial procedures were carried out.

Challenges:

The inconsistency of the leadership of the regional council gave cause for concern. However, in spite of two regional minister's resignation, members of

the regional council stepped up to the challenge and provided the leadership of the council to the best of their ability. Other challenges include transportation cost in driving to serve all the fraternities in the region. This challenge was addressed by continuing the appointment of Area Councilors. I am in favor of these appointments but I would like to suggest that their title be changed to Area Representative. The term "Area Councilor" implies that these persons are integral members of the regional council and to my understanding they are not.

With the declining number of O.F.M. Friars available to provide Spiritual Assistants to all the fraternities in the region, the regional council under the guidance of the regional Spiritual Assistant Fr. Peter Knaapen is conducting a training program for lay persons to be appointed as spiritual assistants for the local fraternities in need of a Spiritual Assistant. This trend may become the norm in future years within the region.

My Suggestions:

Continue to uphold with high esteem your Franciscan Vocation. Be faithful to the Secular Rule and to the daily morning and evening prayers. The regional council should pay special attention to the local fraternities because that is where the life of the Secular Order lies, among the S.F.O. sisters and brothers.

Continue to encourage regular attendance of monthly fraternity meetings. It is important to keep in contact with one another. No one should feel totally isolated. It is good to remember that all Secular Franciscans belong to all four levels of fraternities: their local, regional, national and international fraternities. In effect, we are all one large Franciscan family united throughout the world through our prayers, our rule, our teachings and our commitment to follow Christ in the footsteps of St. Francis and St. Clare. Also, the regional council should pay close attention to what is happening within the Church, and maintain good rapport and good communication with the bishops and pastors throughout the region.

The decline of Spiritual Assistants in the region will most likely continue for some time. The region should continue to train Secular sisters and brothers to take on the responsibility of Spiritual Assistant. As much as possible, the region should utilize the services of Fr. Peter Knaapen for the

training and monitoring of newly appointed Spiritual Assistants.

Formation should be the number one priority of the region which would be in line with the International Council's priorities. Formation Directors should be dedicated and where possible given the resources necessary to accomplish the maximum benefits of their work.

I offer for your consideration, offering up the deceased members who have passed away from your region since your last chapter. This can be done at one of the masses during the weekend of the chapter. In remembrance of what they have given to the order and for the love we once shared with them, it is good to commend their souls to the mercy of God.

As I presided over your elections, I was pleased to see the number of nominations for positions on your regional council. This shows the zeal and enthusiasm among members to serve the order in spite of their other responsibilities. This can be a building process for further growth within the region.

I was also please to see the enthusiasm of those willing to serve as Youth Coordinator on the regional council. I would encourage the regional council to continue to give support to youths that have shown an interest in the Franciscan Spirituality.

Conclusion:

Congratulations to Colleen MacAlister for taking on the position of minister at the dawn of the regional chapter and dealing with all the preparation and logistics of the chapter. I also congratulate the other council members who have undertaken additional responsibilities in preparation for the Chapter. I commend all those who have allowed their names to stand for office and to those who have been elected. It was my privilege and pleasure to confirm the election of each position on the regional council. I wish the newly elected council God's blessings as they embark on their role for the next three years. I pray through the intercession of St. Francis and St. Clare that the region will achieve all its goals and aspirations. I wish the new council every success in their endeavors. Finally, I would like to thank everyone at the elective chapter who have warmly welcomed me and have expressed their warm hospitality. On behalf of the National Council, I wish to thank the Trillium regional council for their

hard work and dedication to the Secular Franciscan Order as they continue to serve the members of the Trillium regional council.

Submitted with love, peace and joy,

Merle Moses s.f.o.

National Anglophone Vice-Minister

National Fraternity of Canada

MINISTER'S LETTER



Praise God! The Regional Elective Chapter took place in May 2011. We offer a special thanks to David Mitchell, Louise Arruda and Clelia Malerba for their work in registrations and arrangements for the Triennial Chapter of Elections.

Present at the election were Debbie Tessier (National Minister) and Merle Moses (National Vice Minister and in charge of the election process), Br. Gerry Clyne ofm (National Spiritual Assistant), and Fr. Peter Knaapen - our much-loved regional Spiritual Assistant, mentor and main celebrant. We are eternally thankful for their wisdom and love, their music and the selfless giving of their time in prayer, in song and in their pursuit of joyous fun.

Registered fraternity leaders and delegates attending this important regional event were from the following fraternities -

Holy Rosary – Belleville;
Sacred Heart – Guelph;
Mount Alverno – Orangeville;
Maximilian Kolbe – Mississauga;
St. Angela of Merici – Oshawa;
St. Bonaventure – Don Mills;
St. Clair of Assisi – Midland;
St. Damian – London;
St. Felix of Cantalice - Toronto
St. Frances – Burlington;
St. Jean Vianney – North York;
St. Joseph the Worker - Port Elgin;
St. Elizabeth of Hungary - St. Catharines;
St. Mary of the Angels – Welland;
St Peter – Woodbridge;
Queen of Peace – Madoc

and six voting delegated from the Trillium Regional Fraternity. We remembered all missing fraternities in our prayers for they were truly with us in spirit.

Prior to elections, two motions were put

forward and adopted by the Chapter. One dealt with the appointment of Area Councilors by the TRF Council and the second mandated the establishment of the Justice and Peace commission for the Trillium Region. The newly elected council is composed of three newcomers and four councilors from the outgoing council.

During this past term Debbie Tessier after years of dedicated service to this Region, called by the Holy Spirit, was elected as National Minister. Vice Minister Michel Guilmette took over from Debbie until he was forced to take a medial leave - a cross only the most loved of the Lord get the privilege to carry. Thank you Debbie and Michel; we keep you in our prayers. Colleen MacAlister took over from Michel for the balance of the term, and had a major hand in organizing the Chapter. That wonderful and successful leadership demonstrated by Colleen was welcomed on all fronts. Thank you Colleen. We thank Cathy Kruger for years and years of selfless service as editor of the quarterly newsletter, for being in charge of the regional database, for all those wonderful certificates and for her wise and fearless advice. Deacon Maurice Prindiville has kindly agreed to take on the role. Thank you both. Thanks to Clelia Maleba our appointed vice minister who was instrumental in organizing the creation of the Trillium Website and our programmer, Domenic Marando. Both hail from the St. Peter – Woodbridge Fraternity. Louise Arruda has for years served the region as Treasurer and we now give thanks to the Lord for her kindness and commend her to His healing hand.

We wish to welcome Marzio Apolloni as vice minister. Marzio needs no particular introduction – just go to see his creative inspiring marvel on Youtube on the life of St. Francis and Franciscans. We also welcome our new Regional Treasurer Cathy Payne – she will truly follow in the footsteps of David Mitchell – so please prepare your annual report – before you are called. Kindly welcome Donna Dooling as our new Regional Formation director. Donna just completed the Spiritual Assistant's course under the able guidance of Fr. Peter. Donna has the love and the time to fully engage in all areas of this important regional work. Keep tuned to announcements soon from Donna concerning area meetings.

During the Chapter of Election a survey of fraternity leadership was conducted by Colleen

MacAlister, our outgoing interim Minister, that resulted in a very clear statement of the needs of Fraternities. The two main themes that emerged were: the need for renewal within the Region and all fraternities without exception, including the need to attract new members by example and by clearly telling who we are: by word of mouth, by video presentation, by pamphlets. Like St. Francis and the brothers of his day we are all missionaries for Christ - among the saints and the sultans.

The newly elect Council of the Trillium Regional Fraternity will assist you in any way we can during our mandate. This will also include assistance with Youfra, the forming youth wing of the Region under the able leadership of Silvana Loughheed, Trillium Youth Director, and the creation of the Justice and Peace Commission. We also hope to communicate all activities and new national and international developments through our new website and in this regional newsletter.

The second main theme dealt with the sense of isolation felt by individual members and by Fraternities. The new Trillium website <http://www.trilliumregionalfraternity.com/> has been a step to address this issue, but fewer than half of our 950 members have internet access. To better address the coming together of the larger Trillium Franciscan family and to celebrate our achievements we will hold a one-day retreat and picnic at the Franciscan Retreat center and grounds in Orangeville one year from now – God and volunteers willing. Fraternities please begin planning how best to prepare for this event; kindly invite your Spiritual Directors now - they will need lots of advance notice. Other items identified were quarterly newsletters, appointment of new Area Councilors, a schedule of regular visitations and a new area map. Invitations were already sent to all fraternity Ministers to attend regional meetings as their schedule and resources permit. We are already at work on a number of these initiatives.

The Chapter concluded with a Eucharistic Celebration praising God for the amazing manner in which His Spirit led the Chapter and for allowing us a new start in His spring garden.

Les Alberti ofs
Minister in training
Trillium Regional Fraternity

TRILLIUM REGIONAL WEBSITE



The Trillium regional website has been revised and relocated. Please visit it at

<http://www.trilliumregionalfraternity.com/>

This is the text you will read on the welcome page

Welcome to our HOME PAGE. This website was created by the Trillium Regional Council of the Secular Franciscans in Ontario, Canada.

Through this web site we wish to inform visitors about our life and work and at the same time support all Secular Franciscans and Franciscan Youth in our Region. It is our hope that you will find this website informative and inspirational in your following of Jesus Christ, through the example of St. Francis and St Clare

Secular Franciscans are people who seek to follow Jesus in the footsteps of St. Francis, who made Christ the inspiration and the centre of his life. Living the Gospel 24-7 is our goal. From the Gospel to LIFE and from life to the GOSPEL: is this possible? By the grace of God – St. Francis did it. AND he wrote a 'rule' to help us follow Jesus this closely! You are not here by chance. Perhaps you have been called here?

YOU are WELCOME here! Please visit all our pages and links. If you have any questions please contact us at the email listed below. May the Lord bless you and keep you with his PEACE and Goodness! Pax et Bonum.

Useful information is available under each of the headings on the Welcome Page

- Who we are
- Franciscan Spirituality
- Formation

- Social Justice
- Youth
- Newsletter
- News & Events

TREASURER'S REPORT

May peace be in your hearts and souls.

Greetings, my name is Cathy Payne and I would like to introduce myself as the new Treasurer of the Trillium Regional Fraternity. I was born, raised and married in Hamilton, Ontario at Sts. Peter and Paul Parish. We moved to Guelph in 1987 where I was in formation and professed a secular Franciscan. We now reside in the rural setting of Palmerston, Ontario where the Spirit has chosen me for the work of Treasurer of the TRF. I hope to be a good and faithful steward of our funds. I am looking forward to meeting many of you through fraternal visits and gatherings. Please feel free to get in touch with me at any time as I am happy to hear your concerns. I hope during my term as Treasurer to help build up a sense of community among our many fraternities.

*In Francis and Clare;
Cathy Payne ofs*

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.

YOUTH COORDINATOR

Dear Franciscan Brothers and Sisters, thank you for entrusting me to serve as Youth Coordinator for our Trillium Regional Council for an additional 3 years. Please keep **all** of us in your prayers!

Please explore and familiarize your fraternities with the Youth page on our Trillium Region website, and invite young adults to view it and voice their opinion on it. Feedback is welcome and necessary!!

There are numerous fraternity members who have committed to brainstorming on the **Youth Commission**. Thank you!!! We will meet on Saturday, August 13 at St. Gregory's in Oshawa from 10am to 12:30 followed by lunch. The **purpose** of our meetings is to become familiar with what **YouFra** is, to pray for discernment as to what practical actions we can take for our fraternities and then determine how and when to implement our actions. **Discern. Decide. Do!**

The long-term goals of the youth commission are:

- a) **educate** local fraternities about YouFra
- b) **identify** whose gift and desire and call it is to mentor young adults
- c) **discern** what small steps can be taken at the fraternity level to promote Franciscan spirituality for young adults in their communities

The first official **YouFra Young Adult Prayer Group** met in my home on the feast of St. Anthony-June 13th. Five young adults attended and we had a teaching on the call of St. Francis "Go rebuild My Church". Is this still relevant today? We looked at St. Anthony's move to the Franciscans and his homily on "Actions speak louder than words". We ended with the Franciscan Office intercessions.

I was very pleased to visit St. Angela Merici Fraternity on Friday, June 10th. I encouraged them, as I do all of you, to read the YouFra section in the **Trillium Region Local Fraternity HANDBOOK**. Could you consider doing this as a fraternity meeting?

I look forward to helping you in any way that I can. Helping young people find their way to Christ through St. Francis and St. Clare is our mission. Do not hesitate to contact me by email, phone or skype!

*Prayerfully in Christ,
Silvana Rossi Loughheed
Youth Coordinator*

FROM THE 'FORMATION CORNER'

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, Greetings and Peace.

I, like all of you, follow in the footsteps of Francis and Clare, ever towards God. I am presently retired, and have in the past been a mother, bank manager, and personal support worker. I have taken the Spiritual Assistant Course with Fr. Peter, teach RCIA to adults, and bring Communion to the sick and shut-ins. As a personal support worker I worked with those suffering from Alzheimers. In my retirement I have given my life to the Lord to, as Francis, help "Rebuild the Church".

This coming year I hope to get to know and meet all of you; and plan, with your help, to assist you in both initial and on-going formation. I plan to have meetings with formation directors from the west end, east end and central areas of our region. Please stay tuned for further details!!!

I would ask that all formation directors forward me their e-mail addresses, along with the name of their fraternity and location, so that we can open a door to communication amongst each other (good news, problems, etc). Please forward this info to me ASAP, at donnadooling@gmail.com. We will start fresh in September!

I wish everyone a wonderful summer, and encourage you to meet sometime during July and/or August. A trip together, a picnic lunch with families is always a great way to show our Franciscan Spirit to each other and to our extended families.

Remember to celebrate the coming feast days of our Franciscan Saints, who are our inspiraton. Plan ahead and keep these dates in mind.

St. Bonaventure	July 15 th
The Portiuncula	Aug. 2
St. Clare	Aug. 11
Louis IX, (patron of sfo)	Aug.25
The Stigmata	Sept. 17
Transitus	Oct. 3
Feast Of St. Francis	Oct. 4
St. Elizabeth of Hungary	Nov. 17

Until September, God Bless and Keep you always!!!!!!!

*Donna Dooling, ofs
Regional Formation Dir.*

VICE MINISTER'S REPORT

Dear Brothers and Sisters. Trillium Greetings and blessings! The Chapter of Elections has come and gone and was a wonderful experience! I feel a great joy – perhaps similar to the joy St. Francis felt when he expressed his great joy! I say “Praised be Jesus for He has given to us brothers and sisters!” The Lord has chosen – and spoken through all of you – and I am on this council once more!

How God works! I am so grateful for each of you! Brothers and Sisters! All of us part of 4 fraternities! We are one – “local-regional-national and international”! We are always learning from each other and we are all welcome – in each fraternity! Did you know that – YOU and I - we are all part of four fraternities?

The Trillium Regional Council is the Council for the whole Region and every SFO member is part of the “Trillium” fraternity! AND then we are all part of the National Fraternity! AND the International as well!

I have met people in all four fraternities! I am on the National Council, in a non-elected position as “Youth Animator” on the National Council and I attended the YOUFRA meeting in Spain in 2007 where I met our International Minister! The love and spirituality of the Franciscan family is truly unique. It “feels” the same and in fact it “is” the same in every fraternity on ALL levels!

One of the things we attempted to do at our Regional Chapter of Elections was to receive information from fraternities of “ways” we could support the local Fraternities, and reach out to YOUTH and YOUFRA. We asked some questions of those at the Chapters, and we are responding to the needs!!

Following is a “short list” of ways the “local” fraternities would like the Regional Council to assist! Please read it over and know that we are already responding! MARK June 24th 2012 on your calendar! More details to follow!

God bless you and keep you! Peace and All good.

Colleen MacAlister ofs
Vice Minister Trillium Regional Council

FEEDBACK

*From the Trillium Regional Chapter of Election,
May 2011*

The question asked was “How can the Trillium Regional Council support the Local Fraternities? What kind of help would they like to see?” These were the responses, in order of frequency.

1. Franciscan Fest - with all of the Franciscan family together (*included in 14 responses*)
2. Youth – how to attract- make resources – help fraternities become youth friendly (*11 responses*)
3. Communication-should be constant and consistent – 2 way street (*11 responses*)
4. Workshops for Ministers (*8 responses*)
5. Language (*8 responses*)
6. Map of Fraternity locations (*7 responses*)
7. Formation with guidelines and workshops (*4 responses*)
8. Aging, more testimonials, Retreats (*4 responses*)
9. Web addition –postal code search (*2 responses*)
10. Get web site on our Parish Bulletins (*2 responses*)
11. Visit us (*2 responses*)
12. Event or Pilgrimage (*2 responses*)
13. Consultation on sensitive issues (*2 responses*)
14. Listening – (*1 response*) and testimonials

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.

Local Fraternity Bulletin Board

About This Page: Local fraternities, please send us notice of events, (past or upcoming). This is your page.

Obituaries

Bette Ann Kuehn, ofs of St. Felix of Cantalice Fraternity was interred on June 14, 2011 at Mount Hope Cemetery, Toronto. Her family - Henry, Monica, Clare, and Stephen - extend their gratitude to Secular Franciscans for all their prayers. Bro. Alan R. Gaebel, OFM, Cap. officiated the internment.



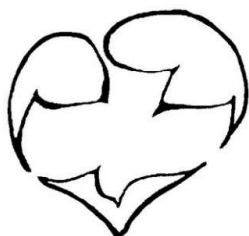
Fr. Gentil Turcotte, OFM died in July 2010 in Trois Rivières. Fr. Gentil received joyfully all the pilgrims who came to St. Anthony's Chapel and visited the tomb of Blessed Fredric Jansoone, OFM. Fr. Turcotte was a spiritual assistant of the SFO, Trois Rivières Fraternity.

Fraternity News

St. John Vianney Fraternity, Toronto, elected its new council members in February of 2011.

Minister :	(Mary) Kyung Soo Kwon
Vice Minister :	(Lucilla) Hye Ja Kang
Secretary :	(Benedict) Jin Kook Lee
Treasurer :	(Jemma) Su Ja Chang
Formation Director :	(Rosa) Ok Ja Lee
Book & Religious items:	(Benedict) Jin mun Chun
Amity :	(Damiana) Eun Ja Lee

The Trillium Region wishes to congratulate newly elected members of all fraternity councils, and to pray for the blessings of the Holy Spirit in all their work



St. John Vianney Fraternity, Toronto, will hold its annual retreat, in the Korean language. Friday Aug.26 to Sunday Aug.28 at the Queen of Apostles Retreat Centre.

St. Felix of Cantalice Fraternity, Toronto, announces:

Anniversaries of Profession:

Mary Caruso, ofs - 48 years
Julia Gardiner, ofs - 30 years
Betty McKinstry, ofs - 25 years

Birthday Anniversaries:

Simone Vien, ofs - Aug. 2
Mario Sega, ofs - Aug. 15

Sacred Heart Fraternity, Guelph, St. Mary of the Angels Fraternity - Welland - St. Elizabeth of Hungary Fraternity - St. Catharines report:



St. Mary of the Angels hosted Sacred Heart, and St. Elizabeth of Hungary at their summer picnic on the grounds of the Rosary Shrine, between Welland and Port Colborne. Sharing food, fellowship and prayer with three fraternities made for a wonderful day.

St. Bonaventure Fraternity, Toronto reports:

Our June meeting was outdoors amidst the wind, the trees, and a few koi. It was a really great meeting. For July, if possible, we'll be outdoors again. We hope to make it a picnic. In August, we may meet outdoors again, and the plan is to have a big feed of desserts and fruit after our August meeting. Feel free to contact us about joining in these events or to share other meeting ideas.