



**Message from
Fr. Peter Knaapen, OFM Conv.**

Spiritual Assistant



Many fraternities celebrated the renewal of their profession during October. This coming year we will celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the new Rule. When Pope Paul IV approved the new Rule he said to all the brothers and sisters: "Love, study, live your Rule: it is a treasure." First let us love it for it's excellence: a grace and a precious gift. Then let us continue to study it with care. Then let us live it. Let us practice what we love and study. Of course the heart of the Rule is article 4: "The rule and life of the Secular Franciscan is this: to observe the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ by following the example of Saint Francis of Assisi, who made Christ the inspiration and the centre of his life with God and people." May St. Francis and St. Clare help us to live this Rule and way of life.

Trillium Election Results

The Trillium Regional elections were held on June 15, 2002. Results as follows:

Minister: Debbie Tessier, ofs
St. Mary of the Angels Fraternity, Welland
Vice Minister: Allen Frank, ofs
St. Angela Merici Fraternity, Oshawa
Vice Minister: Cathy Kruger, ofs
St. Mary of the Angels Fraternity, Welland
Treasurer: David Mitchell, ofs
St. Bonaventure Fraternity, Don Mills
Secretary: Irene Paterson, ofs
St. Joseph the Worker Fraternity, Port Elgin
Formation Director: Michael Anthony, ofs
St. Elizabeth of Hungary Fraternity, Thorold
Youth Coordinator: Colleen MacAlister, ofs
Queen of Peace Fraternity, Madoc

The new council would like to express gratitude and prayers to Jim Vasey, Gloria Pearson-Vasey, and Anne Matyuska, for their past service and strong leadership to the Trillium Regional Fraternities and Council!

Newsflash!



Franciscan Fest is a go!
-----more news in the New Year.

Minister's Message

Greetings of peace and joy to all brothers and sisters in Christ, Francis and Clare. In thanksgiving for the opportunity to serve on the Trillium Regional Council as Minister, I extend prayers to all members of our region during this holy month of the Feast of St. Francis.

Since the elections in June, I was privileged to participate in and volunteer at the World Youth Day in Toronto, with some very special days at St. Bonaventure Church at the Franciscan Fest and also the experience of volunteering at the Franciscan vocation booth at the CNE grounds. It was a holy time of prayer, inspiration, hope, renewal and friendships, and a challenge to my French conversational skills! This newsletter includes a letter written by Troy Thompson, ofs, who was privileged to be on the platform with Pope John Paul II during the Saturday Vigil at Downsview, in July. Thank you Troy for sharing it with us!

The new Trillium Council is excited about the new position of youth coordinator. With your help, prayers and support this will be a vehicle of hope for our fraternity membership and a new direction to take in ministry. Following on the experience of WYD, a tremendous opportunity has presented itself to the Secular Franciscan Order. Thanks to Colleen MacAlister for taking this on!

It is with thanksgiving and joy that we welcome Kay Craig, ofs, of St. Mary of the Angels Fraternity, Welland, appointed as **Trillium Regional Fraternity Council's new Formation Director**, following the resignation of Michael Anthony, ofs, on Sept. 13, 2002. Michael wishes to express his gratitude to the delegates who expressed their confidence in him, but due to personal circumstances, he cannot fulfill the obligation at this time.

St. John Vianney Korean Fraternity invited me to the profession of their candidates on August 22nd at Queen of the Apostles Retreat Center. My husband Denis accompanied me, and we enjoyed the hospitality and franciscan spirit of this fraternity. Congratulations to all 13 newly professed secular franciscans!

Thanks to all of you for this joyful opportunity to serve in this capacity! Please let us know what you would like to see in this newsletter in the future. We hope to publish four newsletters per year, and we are trying to set it up so that those who wish to can receive it by e-mail. Peace and all good!

Yours in Christ, Francis and Clare,

Debbie Tessier, ofs

On Stage At World Youth Day!

What was it like?

by Troy Thompson, ofs

On July 27th, 2002 thousands of young people were all hot and tired after the pilgrimage walk to Downsview Park but the excitement was in the air. Especially among our little group who were selected to represent the Kingston diocese on stage with the Holy Father for the vigil this evening. When we arrived, there was a while to wait before checking in with security, so we all did our own thing for a few hours. Some of us searched for friends and others just relaxed. The crowd was pouring in and packing in. When the time came we regrouped and went to check in. One problem, we could not find the back stage entrance. We went from one side of the crowd to the other trying to find where we had to go. There was some bad congestion on the way past the toilets but we managed to escape by jumping a fence.

Finally we talked to someone in security and made it past the stronghold, thanks be to God. They escorted us to a place to sit and wait as they called us by country to go through the security check. It was like the kind they have at airports. All of us were very much relieved when we got there because we made it, with time to spare. Once in the backstage area I noticed a familiar face, one that I had seen on my CD album covers and a book I had read about his life a few years ago, it was John Michael Talbot. I had to get an autograph, take a picture and tell him that his "stuff" (music) really inspired me. My day did not need to get any better after that, but this was World Youth Day and my companions and I were going to be on stage with the Pope!

We arrived at the back of the stage and we were escorted up the large flight of stairs to the main stage area. Everything was so surreal when we stepped out onto that stage, it was like nothing we had seen or experienced before. Looking from the stage we could see the whole park with the enormous sea of people gathered. The flags, the colours, the view, it was breath taking. This was not just some mass of people, it was young Catholics from all over the world. The first thing I thought was, "Man, rock stars got nothing on the Pope." It was just amazing and inspiring to look out and wave to all those young people. After about half an hour of wonderment at the sights, standing at the edge of the stage we were asked to please take our seats. I was so excited to be there, so blessed. I said a prayer thanking God for this opportunity. Then the helicopters started to approach and the crowds went wild. John Paul II was arriving! The shouts and cheers were erupting all around in every language. There was a group of Polish people next to us chanting and stomping so loudly I thought the stage would come down. It was so cool! I wish I understood the language so I could have joined in.

Actually I tried, but by the time I thought I figured out the chant, they were singing another.

Then we saw him, the Vicar of Christ, the Pope himself. Proof that for 2000 years the Catholic Church has stood strong and the gates of Hell have not prevailed against it. He was visible to us as soon as he came from the elevator. What a roar! I loved every minute of it. The Holy Father looked vibrant and strong and we could feel his love for us. The vigil was an awesome, prayerful event with song, sharing, testimonies of faith and a great time praising God. It was an experience of a lifetime. The Holy Father said, "This evening the Pope, with all of you, young people from every continent, reaffirm before the whole world the faith that sustains the life of the Church. Christ is the light of the nations. He died and rose again to give back to those who journey through time the hope of eternity."

There you have it! That's what it's all about. The Holy Father continues to reach out and hope on a generation that so many have given up on. Thanks to him we know, "we are salt of the earth, we are the light of the world." He has called all of us to witness and proclaim our awesome faith, our awesome Church and our awesome God.



Youth Coordinator

Whereas, General Constitutions Article #96.1 states that "the SFO by virtue of its very vocation, ought to be ready to share its experiences 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" be it resolved that the Trillium Regional Fraternity create the position of Youth Coordinator.

The Council presented this amendment at the Chapter of Elections on June 15th, 2002, and it was passed. As a result following election procedures, our Regional Council now has a youth Coordinator. This position was filled by Colleen MacAlister, ofs, fmma, from Queen of Peace Fraternity in Madoc. Colleen has been a professed Secular since October 18, 1982 and has always been actively involved in youth ministry. If you have any inquiries regarding "youth" and the ofs, please feel free to call her at 613-473-1763 or e-mail at colleen.gii@sympatico.ca.

You will be hearing from the council, as we develop a means to support our fraternities in this area of growth and development. In the meantime, we would ask that each fraternity begin to discern who in their fraternity would be a key contact person for this outreach to the youth.

Certificates

The Trillium Region will continue to supply special certificates signed by the Minister to celebrate Professions, and anniversaries. For anniversaries of five year multiples e.g. 5,10,15,25 years etc. Please contact

Cathy Kruger, ofs
905-732-7479 or

ckrugerabc@hotmail.com

For Profession certificates please contact Irene Paterson at 519-389-3517.

June Conference 2003

The Trillium Regional Fraternity will host a conference
at the renovated Franciscan Centre
in Mono Mills

June from the 13-15, 2003

Topic and more details to be announced in next newsletter.

Franciscan Retreat

St. Elizabeth of Hungary Fraternity will host a *Franciscan Retreat* at:

Mount Carmel Spiritual Centre, in Niagara Falls

February 14-16, 2003

Fr. Peter Knaapen, OFM Conv., animator.

Cost \$170.00 for two nights, three days.

For more details:

call Michael Dubé, ofs, 905-935-9026

*Do you have news to share with
other fraternities regarding retreats or
other activities? Let us know!*

*Also, if you would like to receive this
letter by e-mail, send address to:*

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2002-2005

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Local Fraternity Bulletin Board

**Does your fraternity have
something to share
with other fraternities
in the region?**

This page is dedicated to you!

**Send us news of your fraternity,
its activities, social and ministry,
ideas for growth, animation and
youth outreach.**