

Good News Report

Secular Franciscan Order
Trillium Regional Fraternity



Number 60

October 2011

MINISTER'S REPORT



The Lord's creation presents us with two seasons for busy activities. One happens at planting and the other at harvest time followed immediately by Thanksgiving.

We were supposed to wait on the silent growth during summer but the Lord had other plans. By the beginning of July the *Local Fraternity meeting and Contact Information* was compiled and posted to the Web followed by the summer issue of the *Good News Report* – also on line. We appointed *all Fraternal Visitors* in keeping with the Regional Resolution passed at the May, 2011 Chapter of Elections and had a meeting with them on August 20 to outline some of the key considerations in visiting Fraternities.

The Regional Council divided the region into six areas. The appointed Fraternal Visitors are: 1.North: Marzio Apolloni; 2.London and West: Donna Dooling and Catherine Payne; 3.Guelph, Burlington, Niagara Falls: Mark Rozario and Gail Barrett; 4.Oshawa to Ottawa: Colleen MacAlister and Gudrun Wegner, 5.East GTA (and ambassador at large): David Mitchell; 6.Toronto West: Les Alberti. It is my distinct pleasure to introduce them to you as most worthy Franciscans to represent the Region. A request was made to all Fraternal Visitors to contact each fraternity within their respective areas this fall and arrange for a friendly introductory meeting with them. In addition, they will likely be delegated to preside over the planned five local Chapters of Elections this fall.

On August 28 I attended at the profession of five new Franciscans at the St. John Vianney Fraternity's retreat at the Queen of Peace retreat centre in Mississauga. A wonderfully moving celebration presided over by Mary Kyung Soo Kwon, ofs, Minister and Father Francis Ki-Su Kim, OFM with some 80 members in attendance at the retreat and profession along with their Spiritual Assistant, Sister Rita Eun Suk Kim, FMM. At the

closing mass a number of recognition certificates were handed to members of this Fraternity commemorating their profession of the past five, ten and twenty years. On behalf of the entire Region we congratulate them all.

Also during the summer with the assistance of all local Ministers the Region's membership database was updated. There were a number of changes but this task remains an eternal work-in-progress. The International Fraternity requested information through the National for certain information on fraternity life in the Regions. I wish to thank all Ministers who kindly assisted in compiling the requisite information in record time.

On September 17th your newly elected Regional Council will have its second meeting this year. Among items for discussion will be the theme for the 2011 year – Evangelization as a means for renewal. [ref the 2011 on-going National Formation Program] Now it is up to all of us to plant the seeds of renewal. And in this task the Regional Council is most interested in supporting your efforts. Along with the recommended study program, cited above, we are completing a brochure for use by all willing Fraternities. While hoping that we can soon post it to our website in a printable format, I would expect that Fraternal Visitors would also be able to provide you with copies. Special thanks are extended to Colleen MacAlister ofs and her support team for bringing this task to completion.

The Franciscan Family Fest flyer is also completed for our region-wide meeting: June 24, 2012 at Mono Mills. A mini-poster for The Franciscan Fest is included on page six of this Good News Report. Reservations have already been made and we ask that you start preparing for this large outdoor event. Please register as soon as possible with Catherine Payne, ofs our Treasurer. [bpayne@wightman.ca]

Future plans of the Regional Fraternity include the organization of the first all-minister's retreat during this session; the re-issuing of the Local Fraternity Handbook with the inclusion of a new section on *Justice, Peace and Integrity of*

Creation, updating the regional contact and meeting information and the posting of the complete work on the Regional Website. We are looking forward to the reports from the youth that the Region sponsored for World Youth Day. We hope to share their experiences with you in the next edition of the Good News Report.

The Regional Council is also looking forward to discussions with Fr. Peter Knaapen to see what can be done to expand the Spiritual Assistant's program and in fact to secure additional worthy appointments by the provincial for the Trillium Region. This was a direction of the Regional Chapter last May.

With the onset of fall comes the Transitus service calling to mind the passing of our beloved master and exemplar St. Francis. Not all details are finalized at the time of publication but we are looking forward to attending at the closest celebration. During the fall session, especially on November 2, we will pray for all our brothers and sisters whom the Lord has called to their eternal home.

Your Regional Council has much to be thankful for. The Lord has been kind in granting us insight and strength to serve our brothers in Christ throughout the Region and beyond.

Fraternally
Les Alberti ofs



Franciscan mosaic created by Magdalena Leroux in the Franciscan monastery at El Palancar, Spain (1992)

SPIRITUAL ASSISTANT



The feast of St Francis of Assisi is a time for us to celebrate and to renew our commitment to following his Gospel way of life. The opening prayer for the feast challenges us to once again deepen our resolve to imitate Francis “*May we follow your*

Son by walking in the footsteps of St Francis of Assisi and by imitating his joyful love”.

The first reading for the feast is from the book of Sirach. It is well chosen. It states: “*Behold him in whose time the house of God was renovated, in whose days the temple was reinforced*” (Sir 50,1). These words remind us of God’s call to Francis, “*Go rebuild my house, for see it is falling apart*”. Francis and Clare and their followers did rebuild the Church in their day, the house of God was renovated, and the temple was reinforced. This is something to truly celebrate. However it is also a challenge for us. We too are called to rebuild the church in our day; we too are called to renovate God’s house.

Chapter five of the Ritual of the Secular Franciscan Order has a ceremony for the Anniversary of Profession. Usually we only celebrate this ceremony at significant anniversaries such as 15, 25 or 40... and have the jubilarians renew their commitment. However, I think, as individuals and as a fraternity, we should celebrate this each year, around the time of the feast of St Francis. The renewal of commitment is below. Take some time to prayerfully read it, recalling the day of your profession. May it inspire you to greater effort to follow the example of St Francis and St Clare

We thank you Lord, for calling us to the Secular Franciscan Order.

We ask your pardon for all our shortcomings, weaknesses, and transgressions against our commitment to the Gospel life and against the Rule. We pray that you will allow us to experience once again the fervour and the readiness of that first day when we entered the fraternity.

We renew once again our commitment to the Gospel Life, according to the Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order, until the ends of our days.

Grant also that we may live in harmony with our brothers and sisters, and may give witness to the world of the great gift we received from you: our Franciscan calling to "go forth as witnesses and instruments of the Church's mission among all people, proclaiming Christ by our life and words."
"All praise be yours, O Lord, through all that you have made."
 Amen.

pax et bonum

Fr. Peter Knaapen OFM Conv.

VICE MINISTER



May the Lord give you Peace! I have been busy with family, the San Damiano Foundation and our Trillium Regional Council! The summer has flown past! And now there are only nine more months until the first ever "**FRANCISCAN**

FAMILY FEST!" June 24, 2012 - the feast of St. John the Baptist!

By now all of you should have received the POSTER to place in your Fraternity Meetings and possibly in your Churches. I have been in communication with all Ministers and have asked for a ball park figure of the number of members of their fraternity attending, and details about who in their fraternity would like to volunteer and share their gifts in the planning and orchestration of this event? We should be able to do most of the planning over the telephone and/or email and SKYPE. We will plan at least two preparatory meetings as well before the event. CONTACT ME if you have some ideas! I look forward to hearing from you! colleenmacalister@yahoo.ca or 613-242-1125.



"DAME FE RECTA" - YOUFRA INTERNATIONAL MEETING
 (MADRID 12-15 AUGUST 2011)

WYD/YOUFRA – The WYD / YOUFRA event was life-changing for those that attended. There were 5 from Canada: Kendal Freeman, Aaron Arbuckle, Martine Gingras of, and a couple, Alexandra and Carl Bouchard. Please look closely at the picture until you find the Canadian flag. Martine is holding the flag. The enthusiasm of Franciscan Youth was quite amazing and contagious.

In the USA, there are efforts to establish YOUFRA and they are having an event similar to our planned event. Kendal Freeman, from Madoc, in our Region, will be organizing some Franciscan Youth to attend our Event. And Kendal, who is in school in the USA right now, is planning to attend the USA event, on Sept. 17 in Maine. I am sure she will bring ideas back. Already she has sent an email to the YOUFRA group that is growing and forming in Ottawa, about supporting our event.

NEW BROCHURE – We are working to support the local Fraternities and have completed a new brochure. This brochure should be on our website soon, allowing you to download and print as many as you like.

In a letter regarding October 27, 2011 and the 25th anniversary of the "Spirit of Assisi", the International Minister, Encarnación del Pozo, offered this reflection from Pope Benedict XVI:

"The world needs God. It needs universal, shared ethical and spiritual values, and religion can offer a precious contribution to their pursuit, for the building of a just and peaceful social order at the national and international levels. Peace is a gift of God and at the same time a task which is never fully completed." (Message for the Celebration of the World Day of Peace, 1 January 2011, 15)

What a beautiful reminder from the Holy Father! Let us see what we can do in our Fraternities to share in the anniversary of the "Spirit of Assisi."

May this autumn season bring brilliant colours into our lives and fill us with the joy and peace of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, as we continue to be penitent troubadours, in the footsteps of our seraphic father – St. Francis.

God bless you and keep you!

Peace and All good

Colleen MacAlister ofs

JUSTICE AND PEACE IN CREATION



A Call to Action: The National Commission on Justice, Peace, and the Integrity of Creation.

What is it? What does it mean to your fraternity, to yourself as a Secular Franciscan? It is a call to action. The goals of the National Commission are predicated on Rule 15 which states: *“Let them individually and collectively be in the forefront in promoting justice by the testimony of their human lives and their courageous initiatives. Especially in the field of public life, they should make definite choices in harmony with their faith.”*

And thus,

- We are called to re-explore and re-think the basics of the rule.
- We are asked to identify systems which deny human dignity and freedom.
- We are called upon to adopt focused and non-violent confrontation into those systems as an aspect of Secular Franciscan ministry, at every level.
- We are encouraged to collaborate fully in the peace and justice work of our local churches.
- We are to seek to integrate and co-ordinate the peace and justice efforts of the Secular Franciscan Order with other branches of the Franciscan Family.
- We are challenged to recognize, understand, and embrace peace and justice ministry as an essential element of our vocation.
- We are to inform all of the ways the Franciscan Vision of peace and justice is being made real.

The second last point from the list above expresses the most crucial question, “Is the Peace and Justice Ministry an essential element of our being Secular Franciscans?”

Friar David Couturier, OFM Cap. asks a thought-provoking answer in the 2011 Spring issue of the “Good News Report”:

“...justice, peace and the integrity of creation are not what a Franciscan community does when it has

time or energy left over from its other more important work...it is the primary task of each and every community of faith that dares to claim a role in the evangelizing work of the Spirit today” (A Talk to Franciscan Directors of JPIC, Nov. 27/03).

We certainly know of the example that Francis set for us. He said, *“It is no use walking anywhere to preach, unless our walking is our preaching”*

Within our own order we the example St. Elizabeth of Hungary, the Patroness of the Secular Franciscan Order; she was the first ‘Fair-trader.’

“Elizabeth saw that each poor or sick or marginalized person she came across was a child of God, and a brother or sister of Christ. Because of this, each and every human life was precious to her; each of the poor, sick and handicapped was a person of unique dignity, including the unborn children. As St. James, said: “Did not God choose those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom that he promised to those who love him? But you have dishonored the poor person (James 2:4-5).” Today's culture of death desperately needs to learn this truth. Recognition of human dignity requires us to act not just with charity and compassion for the unfortunate but preservation of their human rights and assuring justice for them, including the right to work. Elizabeth is also our example in this” (Formation program for the Eighth Centenary of St. Elizabeth of Hungary).

Ultimately, scripture tells us what we must do...as it told Francis, and all who followed him:

“What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister has nothing to wear and has no food for the day, and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, keep warm, and eat well,” but you do not give them the necessities of the body, what good is it? So also faith of itself, if it does not have works, is dead”
James 2:14-17

So, let us go forward, going from Gospel to life & life to Gospel, knowing that God is love.

pax et bonum

Marzio Apolloni ofs (Vice Minister)

TREASURER



Greetings to all brothers and sisters in Christ;

We have been busy this summer getting some plans prepared for our first Franciscan Family Fest. We are praying that this event will be well received and well attended by all the fraternities in the Trillium Region. Much more information will be forthcoming in the next few months.

Our own Fraternity, Sacred Heart, in Guelph, was fortunate enough to enjoy some special social time at the Rosary Shrine in Welland this past July with members from St. Elizabeth of Hungary Fraternity and St. Mary of the Angels Fraternity. We met new and old friends and had a wonderful, prayerful, spirit-filled day.

Donna Dooling and I have some fraternal visits lined up for September. We will be attending St. Anthony of Padua Fraternity in Sarnia on September 27, and then to London to meet with the St. Peter Fraternity. St. Mary's Fraternity in Blenheim is on our calendar for a visit in October. We are both really looking forward to meeting with our brother and sister Franciscans. We are praying that our meetings will be informational, formational, spiritual and social.

We must always bear in mind that the hallmark of Franciscan service is the spirit from which our service arises and the goal to which it is aimed. Our service must arise from Jesus' exhortation, "*I have set for you an example, that you should do as I have done to you.*" (John 13:15) Franciscan service must have as its goal love for one another as Jesus loves us. By the love we have for one another, by our service to one another, we will be known as Jesus' followers and sons and daughters of Francis and Clare.

Fraternally;

Cathy Payne ofs



FORMATION CORNER

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, Greetings and Peace.

Well, summer is almost over and we begin with our

Franciscan month of October. What a glorious way to start off our new year of 2011- 2012... The awesome feast day of St. Francis.!

This month I plan on having a Formation Meeting on October 15, from 9a.m. – 4p.m. at St. Bonaventure Church, located at – 1300 Leslie St, Don Mills, Ontario. I sincerely hope as many formation directors as possible can attend. I am looking forward to meeting with all of you.

The principal idea of this formation meeting is to "meet and greet", get to know others and discuss what each fraternity is using for materials in their initial formation and in their ongoing formation. We will share information that could be helpful to each other. We will also have a morning reflection on The Prologue, which was originally written to and for Secular Franciscans by St. Francis himself.

I will also plan a Formation meeting in the London/Sarnia area in the Spring similar to the above. Date to follow.

This year I hope all of us can keep in touch on a regular basis using e-mail, and I will be "getting out there" to as many fraternities as I possibly can for an informal visit.

Please forward your e-mail address to me so we can keep in touch. My e-mail address is – donnadooling@gmail.com - I look forward to hearing from you.

I wish all of you a Blessed, Happy, Peaceful St. Francis Day, and a joyful, thankful and blessed Thanksgiving!

Pax et Bonum

Donna Dooling, ofs

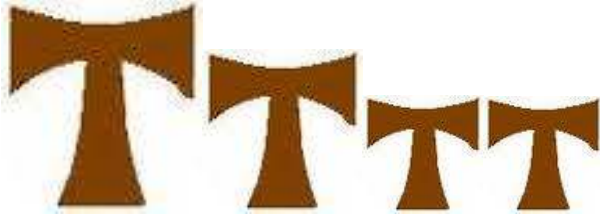
The Good News Report

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.

Franciscan FamilyFest



**You and your family are invited
are invited to the
1st Franciscan “Family” Fest**

**Sunday, June 24, 2012
St. Francis Center in Caledon, Ontario.**

**More details will follow shortly!
Keep this date booked!
Faith and Fun for the whole family!**

YOUTH COORDINATOR



I hope you have all had a summer in which you enjoyed God’s creation, including the people you love! As the psalmist proclaims, “*So teach us to number our days that we may gain wisdom of heart*”.

I started my summer with a course called PAUL, whose focus was forming evangelists. For the first time I experienced what the apostles felt and did after leaving the Upper Room. They had powerfully encountered the Holy Spirit and then they boldly proclaimed the Good News to all they met. They had no fear, only a mission. I am still in awe.

At our first Youth Commission meeting in Oshawa on August 13, I shared my experience regarding the effectiveness of evangelizing Youth by utilizing an ‘evangelization cube’, which gives the 6 main points of the Good News (the heart of the Gospel) with

scripture references. St. Francis was an evangelist and we agreed that evangelizing youth should be our first goal in YouFra, followed by more structured Franciscan formation, as would unfold in fraternity life. Pope Benedict considers evangelization to be both “*urgent and necessary*,” and asks us to use new methods. The evangelization cube is a new method for Catholics. It can be ordered by phoning

1 888 354 9411, or online at www.e3resources.org

After opening prayer, we reflected on the following poem by Kayla’s brother:

A Poem of Peace by Nicolas A. Rodrigo

*freedom from disturbance
serenity through transcendence
silence and tranquility
one of God's many specialties
that is peace*

*cessation of a fight
the stillness of the night
watching a sunset with a loved one
joyfully singing,
playing or having fun
those are the feelings of peace*

*a simple act of kindness
humbleness and calmness
confidence and compassion
a time when we all listen
those are the actions and nobility of peace*

*if God created a perfect world
we would not have confessions to make
or crosses to bear
but, He did not
He has given us a life
and given us choices*

*peace is a result
a result of compassion, forgiveness and justice
the only way how we can achieve world peace is if every
single human in the world fully understands the true
meaning of
compassion, forgiveness and justice.*

Following this inspiration, we explored the FRANCISCAN YOUTH “YOUFRA”- A Sample Draft of National Statutes. The purpose was to understand the nature of YouFra, goal of YouFra, the logistics of formation and organization of YouFra with emphasis on the responsibility of the

SFO as Fraternal Animator. This role is one of WITNESS and FORMATION. The whole council, including the Spiritual Assistant, who has a primary role in formation, and the Fraternal Animator determine the focus of the formation delivery.

We also looked at the FORMATION PROGRAM FOR YOUFRA as found in the present Trillium council Handbook. The outline of topics, though helpful, still requires the amassing of materials for delivery. A sample from "Lessons from the Life of St. Francis" was also offered as a possibility for formation and is to be found at www.shrinesf.org/life-of-st-francis.html

The daily topics from the 2009 "*Giovani Verso Assisi*" (Youth towards Assisi) Pilgrimage, "The Gospel: this is my life!" were considered. Everyone agreed that the Franciscan and scriptural material in this book would be a good systematic first year for YouFra:

"THE LORD GUIDED ME"

"WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO, LORD?"

"THE LORD GAVE ME BROTHERS"

"THE LORD POPE APPROVED MY WAY OF LIFE"

"THE LORD GAVE ME THE GRACE TO WORK"

"THE LORD SEND ME AFAR"

"THE LORD TAUGHT ME TO PRAY"

"THE LORD SENT ME TO PREACH THE GOSPEL"

I will copy and distribute the above material to all SFO fraternal animators and Spiritual Assistants for YouFra in our Trillium Region.

A sample YouFra brochure was given and the suggestion of having business size cards printed with contact info, meeting night and YouFra on it with a motto of St. Francis to be easily distributed on university campuses, churches or wherever. Motivating youth to gather must be done with a personal invitation. A social justice focus or topics wedded to Franciscan spirituality such as the problem of consumerism could be the drawing card needed to spark an interest in coming with a friend.

The video, Affluenza, was recommended. (www.bullfrogfilms.com/catalog/afflhv.html)

Lastly we discussed a workable format for YouFra meetings:

- a) social time (meal or dessert & beverages);
- b) opening prayer (St. Francis' Prayer before the crucifix or Cantic of Creatures)
- c) music (chosen for its' message)
- d) delivery of specific topic

e) discussion

f) challenge for the week

g) closing prayer (intercessory and one that can be prayed together)

It would be good to have the new YOUCAT catechism book which was approved by the Vatican for youth and a Catholic Youth Bible readily available at all meetings.

Please keep Greg and Kayla in your prayer as they pioneer a YouFra group at Laurentian University in Barrie. Greg teaches there and Kayla has begun her first year. Pray for Sylvia Elek who will contact the chaplain at the University of Ontario in Oshawa to discuss YouFra, for Paul Jadasjki, who is pioneering YouFra at McMaster University, and Lisa Theriault who will explore beginning a pre-YouFra group in her high school in Bracebridge.

The next Youth Commission meeting is Saturday, Dec. 3, in Oshawa or Woodbridge,. Details will be announced soon. Any Fraternity member feeling called to this mission of evangelizing young adults through the spirituality of St. Francis and St. Clare please attend!! Be not afraid.

As Pope John Paul II clearly stated, *"There exists today the clear need for a new evangelization. There is the need for a proclamation of the Gospel capable of accompanying man on his pilgrim way, capable of walking alongside the younger generation."* And so be it!

**Peace and All Good,
Silvana Loughheed**



Present at the meeting (from left to right, BACK ROW) were Silvia Elek, Sharon Robinson, Kayla Rodrigo, Greg Rodrigo, FRONT ROW Colleen MacAlister and myself.}

Local Fraternity Bulletin Board

Obituaries

St. Angela Merici Fraternity, Oshawa
Mildred Thompson of passed away on the Feast of the Annunciation on March 25, 2011. She had been a member of the SFO since May 14th 1998. The funeral mass was held at St. Mary of the People Church, Oshawa.

St. Francis of Assisi Fraternity, Burlington

Robert Pinnington, of, passed away on May 14, 2011. Robert professed in March 1981, and went to his eternal reward after being active in his fraternity for over 30 years. Friar Maurice Richard ofm conv. the fraternity's Spiritual Assistant concelebrated at the funeral mass.

St Peter Fraternity, London

Anne Ahlers, the wife of long time Minister of St Peter Fraternity, John Ahlers, passed away peacefully after a long battle with cancer at Parkwood Hospital on July 23, 2011. Mass of Resurrection was held at St. George Parish July 27, 2011

Fraternity News

St. Angela Merici Fraternity, Oshawa:

Carole Geofroy of was professed on June 12th, 2011 at St. Gregory the Great Church. Father Peter Knappen was the celebrant.

St. Felix of Cantalice Fraternity, Toronto

Anniversary of Profession: Simone Vien, of - 25 years

St Mary of The Angels Fraternity, Welland

Congratulations to Toni Dan Hezewyk on her permanent profession to the Secular Franciscan Order. St. Kevin's Church in Welland on Sep 11, 2011. Fr. Peter Knaapen ofm conv. officiated.

St. John Vianney Fraternity, North York

Francisco Sang Hun Chun, Clara Young Hae Chun, Maria Ho Jeong Seo, Julianna Sang Hee Shin, Daniella Sin Gyun Oh made permanent

professions in the Secular Franciscan Order at the Queen of Peace retreat centre in Mississauga on August 28, 2011. The celebration was presided over by Mary Kyung Soo Kwon. of, Minister and Father Francis Ki-Su Kim, OFM.

The parish of Holy Name of Jesus in North Bay now has a new emerging Franciscan Fraternity. Seven parishioners were professed during the Saturday evening Mass on September 10th in front of a full church of family and friends who were there to offer their support. Father Ken Gauthier presided. The new Secular Franciscans were led in their studies by Marlene and Ray Walter. The newly professed are Kas Pelc, Alana Pelc, Susan Lariviere, Sophia Dahiroc, Carol Boulley, Lynn Bonany, Doreen Primeau.

Celebrations were continued in the parish hall with a dinner prepared by the new Fraternity for over 100 of their family and friends. Pax et bonum

Ray Walter is standing on the far left and his wife Marlene is at the far right. The seven in the middle are the professed.



Trillium Certificates

For Trillium Certificates to mark Professions, Anniversaries of Profession & Service Recognition for Spiritual Assistants, (usually 5 year milestones) please contact: **Clelia Malerba, of;** malerbac@yahoo.com
Please apply in good time if you wish to have them on the profession day or anniversary date.