



Good News Report

Secular Franciscan Order
Trillium Regional Fraternity



Number 76

April 2016

A MOMENT WITH THE MINISTER

"All praise be yours, my Lord, through our Sister Mother Earth, who sustains us and governs us, and produces various fruits with coloured flowers and herbs."

St. Francis' Cantic of the Creatures

Earth Day is approaching on April 22 and we as Franciscans "should respect all creatures, animate and inanimate, which bear the imprint of the Most High," and they should strive to move from the temptation of exploiting creation to the Franciscan concept of universal kinship." (Rule #18)



Many of us had a chance to go through Pope Francis' encyclical, **Laudato Si**. It carries a powerful message about creation as well - The encyclical calls us to a compassionate listening to the cry of the land and of the impoverished, and it calls us to see that our neighbor is every being—human or non-human—because every creature has unique value and meaning that deserves to be respected.

The sense of Sister Mother Earth is a sense of belonging to it and of loving it deeply. St. Francis possessed this to a remarkable degree. His love of the earth was a true and authentic love. He loved the earth because it was the fruit of God's free and loving decision to create it. And "Creator" is among the names of God that St. Francis cherished most!

"Trees are earth's endless effort to speak to the listening heaven." Rabindranath Tagore

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SPIRITUAL ASSISTANT

Father Cantalamessa, OFM Cap, is the preacher to the Papal household. The focus of his homily for the Good Friday was mercy. He said that, "The opposite of mercy is not justice but vengeance." He added, "In forgiving sinners God is renouncing not justice but vengeance; he does not desire the death of a sinner but wants the sinner to convert and live." He called for the need to "demythologize vengeance," observing how it pervades many of the stories "seen on screen and video games" in which the "good hero" seeks revenge. "It has become a pervasive mythic theme that infects everything and everybody, starting with children."



In his homily, Fr. Cantalamessa placed special emphasis on the role of mercy in saving marriages and families, which is "the most precious and fragile thing in the world at this time." "In the very beginning," he said, "there was love, not mercy. Mercy comes in only after humanity's sin." "So too in marriage, in the beginning there is not mercy but love. People do not get married because of mercy but because of love."

After this initial period, challenges and routine "quenches all joy" in the family, he observed. "What can save a marriage from going downhill without any hope of coming back up again is mercy, understood in the biblical sense." In this context, marriage is "not just reciprocal forgiveness but spouses acting with "compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness and patience." "Mercy adds **agape** to **eros**, it adds the love that gives of oneself and has compassion to the love of need and desire."

"Shouldn't a husband and wife, then, take pity on each other? And those of us who live in community, shouldn't we take pity on one another instead of judging one another?"

I found those words very challenging. The rule calls the fraternity to be a 'community of love' so we need to witness to the world not just the love that we have for one another but also the

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(Spiritual Advisor continued from page 1)

mercy that we show one another.

Fr. Cantalamessa concluded his sermon, by calling for the removal of “any desire for vengeance from the hearts of individuals, families, and nations, and make us fall in love with mercy. Let the Holy Father’s intention in proclaiming this Year of Mercy be met with a concrete response in our lives, and let everyone experience the joy of being reconciled with you in the depth of the heart.”

Fr Peter Knappen OFM Conv.

(Minister continued from page 1)

A great big thank you to all the fraternities that participated in the questions on the priorities on managing the Order at the International Level. Those suggestions have been sent off to Marion Clorey our International Councillor, from our National Fraternity of Canada. Another note of gratitude to those fraternities that have submitted the Census forms for National. They are due by June and if you need me to resend them to you please let me know.

Hoping everyone has their calendars marked for the Ministers’ Conference on Saturday May 7 at Queen of Apostles Retreat Centre beginning at 9am sharp, with the theme of the Good Shepherd. Registrations are due on Earth Day, April 22!

Our Regional picnic is scheduled for Martyrs’ Shrine on Saturday July 9 at the upper level pavilion with Mass at 10:30 AM. The picnic will go ahead rain or shine and we are paying the group rate for parking. Everyone is to bring a picnic lunch and there will be lots of time for socializing.



Catherine Payne ofs

VICE-MINISTER’S LETTER



What’s New?

A new regional JPIC Commission was formed in our Trillium Region. Fraternities are represented by Liaisons and/or representatives on the commission. The commission held its first meeting on January 16th, 2016 at St



Bonaventure Parish.

Friar Conrad OFM, facilitated our meeting and provided wonderful insights into the meanings of Justice and of Peace. We discovered that the terms “Justice” and Peace” have several meanings depending on particular perspectives and descriptions.

We have come to understand several of these meanings and to understand how Christian and Franciscan perspectives differ from other views and approaches. The Commission will meet again on April 23rd.

We hope that we will soon develop a process and some helpful tools to assist fraternities in developing a mature view and approach to JPIC from a Franciscan perspective. Then, commission members may be invited to share this deeper learning and understanding with local fraternities.

Meanwhile, let us all pray for guidance that we may bring freshness and Franciscan simplicity and love to each other and our world by BECOMING JUSTICE and BECOMING PEACE, like Francis and like Jesus.

Louise Arruda, ofs

VICE MINISTER’S LETER

In the World, but not of the World

As Secular Franciscans we are called to “follow Christ in the footsteps of St. Francis of Assisi” (Rule #4). We are called to live the Gospel daily, strive to be the least and the last, to be in the world, but not of the world. All this can be found in the Rule (Pope Paul VI, June 24, 1978), something we all read during formation and hopefully continue to read and reflect on it today.

It is often a challenge to develop and maintain a Franciscan demeanour in the ‘world’ today, especially the world of the Internet. And the internet indeed is part of our world that we are called to behave in a certain way. The following are some more pertinent aspects of the rules. In truth, all of them should be listed!

4. The rule and life of the Secular Franciscans is this: to observe the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ by following the example of Saint Francis of Assisi
5. Secular Franciscans, therefore, should seek to encounter the



living and active person of Christ in their brothers and sisters

6. ..Therefore, they should go forth as witnesses and instruments of her mission among all people, proclaiming Christ by their life and words....

13. As the Father sees in every person the features of his Son, the firstborn of many brothers and sisters²¹, so the Secular Franciscans with a gentle and courteous spirit accept all people as a gift of the Lord and an image of Christ.

14. Secular Franciscans, together with all people of good will, are called to build a more fraternal and evangelical world so that the kingdom of God may be brought about more effectively.

15. Let them individually and collectively be in the forefront in promoting justice by the testimony of their human lives and their courageous initiatives.

19. Mindful that they are bearers of peace which must be built up unceasingly, they should seek out ways of unity and fraternal harmony through dialogue, trusting in the presence of the divine seed in everyone and in the transforming power of love and pardon. Messengers of perfect joy in every circumstance, they should strive to bring joy and hope to others.

Read those points and consider what transpires on the internet and even in your own email inbox. We may find at times people sending so-called jokes to all, when in fact there is nothing funny about them.

These days there seems to be a preponderance of anti-Muslim, anti-refugee, anti-immigrant statements hidden in those 'jokes'....often not hidden at all. How many of us have inadvertently forwarded the message on without considering what it really is? How can you put an end to it?

Social media is perhaps the worst source of this sort of thing. I have seen it myself and it has been the source of much concern on my part. I grew up facing that kind of racism and bigotry. Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram has been bad, but Facebook perhaps worst of all. There you will find postings like these (the spelling errors were made by the original posters...so I left them in. Says a lot):

"Ex-service man living in a car. Share if you think he should be housed before any refugees"

"2,300 homeless in Edmonton AB. Just heard some diner in Edmonton raised 15,000 to sponsor a Syr-

ian family to live in Canada. To bad you couldn't sponsor a Canadian family first. Share if you agree"

"Ban the Burka! Share if you agree"

*"Muslims hate pork, beer, dogs, bikinis, Jesus, and freedom of speech. My question is, what the h*** do they come to America for?!"*

"Asylum seekers: housed in luxury hotels! Homeless vets: left on the streets! Share if you find this disgracefull"

There are many more. My apologies if you found them offensive. I did. But we need to know what to look for...and what to do when we see or hear comments like these. The source of many of those postings is the U.S. and illustrates the challenges that society has today. Sadly it has infected Canada.

As Secular Franciscans we need to bring our Franciscan spirit to the internet. That means reading the rule and understanding the rule. It means being bearers of peace and seeking ways of unity and fraternal harmony through dialogue (Rule #19). We are to be messengers of perfect joy in EVERY circumstance.

Francis once said that '...It is no use walking somewhere to preach unless our walking is our preaching'. So, delete those emails, admonish those who sent them, don't share anything which remotely resembles the points above, as it very much perpetuates hatred, anger, and violence. Remember, what we say and do makes a difference. Dear Mother Angelica of EWTN once said "God wants you to be in the world, but so different from the world that you will change it. Get cracking." Let's do it!

Now, technology today is not all bad. This cartoon was posted a week ago. It's ok to smile!

Marzio Apolloni, ofs



"He's not in there! Oh, wait - he's changed his status to 'risen'"

FROM THE TREASURER

Blessed Mother Teresa's canonization has been announced. It falls on Sept. 4, which this year will also mark a special jubilee for workers and volunteers of mercy.

What a joy! The Angel of Mercy will officially be named by the Church – Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta. Allow me to reflect a bit on her life, yet I do realize that it will never say what should be said about her holy life.

Mother Teresa of Calcutta was helping the sick, the poor and the homeless for over 45 years of her life. By the seventies of the past century, she was already well known to help her brothers and sisters in Christ. In 1979 she received the Peace Nobel Prize, and asked that the funds be given to the poor in India. A year later she also was awarded the Bharat Rana, for humanitarian work, the highest award from the country of India.

Born as Agnes GonxhaBojaxhiu, on August 26, 1910, in Skopje, she spent her childhood mostly in Macedonia, and later in Albania. As a teenager, she made her decision to answer the call from God and to give her life to Him. She left her family home, and entered the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary, whose members are commonly known as the Sisters of Loreto. She became a missionary, and took the name Teresa after St. Teresa of Lisieux, patron saint of the missionaries.

At age 17, she was sent to Calcutta, where she later contracted tuberculosis, and was sent to rest in Darjeeling. On the way, she felt what she called



“an order” from God to leave the convent and live among the poor. After she left her convent, Mother Teresa began working in the slums, teaching poor children, and treating the sick in their homes.

In 1950, the Missionaries of Charity were born as a congregation of the Diocese of Calcutta. In 1952, the government granted them a house from which to continue their mission of serving Calcutta's poor and forgotten. Their goal was to work with joy among the poorest of the poor.

Mother Teresa also travelled to assist and minister to the hungry in Ethiopia, radiation victims at Chernobyl, and earthquake victims in Armenia. In 1991, she returned for the first time to her homeland and opened a home of Missionaries of Charity Brothers, in Tirana, Albania. By 1996, Mother Teresa was operating 517 missions in more than 100 countries. She died Sept. 5, 1997, and was beatified just six years later by St. John Paul II Oct. 19, 2003.

On 17 December 2015, the Vatican confirmed that Pope Francis recognized a second miracle attributed to her involving the healing of a Brazilian man with multiple brain tumors. The Vatican has set 4 September 2016 as the canonization date.

Please find some quotes, realize that she really *walked the talk*, and ask for her help to incorporate them into our daily Franciscan life. I am sure that Mother Teresa loved our Holy Father Saint Francis, as they share so many holy qualities. Blessed Mother Teresa pray for us.

Danuta Juchniewicz,



If you judge people, you have no time to love them.

It's not how much we give but how much love we put into giving.

The most terrible poverty is loneliness, and the feeling of being unloved.

What can you do to promote world peace? Go home and love your family.

The hunger for love is much more difficult to remove than the hunger for bread.

If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other.

Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love. Peace begins with a smile.

If you are humble nothing will touch you, neither praise nor disgrace, because you know what you are.

I can do things you cannot, you can do things I cannot; together we can do great things.

Do not wait for leaders; do it alone, person to person.

FROM THE FORMATION CORNER

Greetings Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

The Easter Season is here. Alleluia!!! Christ is Risen!!!! The Risen Christ holds out the promise of New Life to all of us, so we continue to do things in our fraternities which are life-giving.

It is also the year of Mercy – it is easy to love the neighbour with whom we have no contact – if we live in a castle behind a moat and drawbridge, we will never have to refuse mercy to the poor – we won't even be aware they exist.

But to isolate ourselves is already to refuse mercy. “Jesus went around to all the towns and villages.” It was “at the sight of the crowds” that “His heart was moved with pity for them”.

Pope Francis wrote that we NEED to “go forth” in order to have mercy, especially to the poor and sick, those who are usually despised and overlooked.

We can feel safe and religious walled off from sin within structures which give us a false sense of security, within rules that make us feel safe, while at our door people are starving for light and love. The same pertains to our life in fraternities – we should feel the obligation to move forward and take on positions of council, thereby expanding our wings with Christ as our Head – it is essential that we take an active role in our fraternities as well as in our parishes – to be witness to the Good News!!! Believe me, it is a rewarding experience!!!

May is the month of Mary, and I suggest that at your local meeting you pray the “Crown Rosary.” June celebrates the feast of St. Anthony!!!! (June 13th) – some fraternities celebrate this Feast by giving out “St. Anthony Bread” in the parishes. This can be a great witness to our Secular Franciscan Vocation!!!!

There are two seminars coming up soon. Please take note of dates and times. If you are coming to the May 28 Seminar in Belleville, please e-mail me at – donnadooling@gmail.com If you are coming to the seminar on Sept. 24 please e-mail me sometime in the month of June so we can be prepared to have enough handouts for everyone!!

Both seminars are for Formation directors, their team members, and the whole of the Fraternity Council. Also anyone wishing to run for the position of Formation Director within your fraternity!

Seminars:

May 28th– Belleville, Ontario –

Forming the Formators (same seminar given in Toronto last year).

Sept. 24- Toronto, Ontario, St. Bonaventure Church. Jewel Jasmins, our National Formation Director will be our facilitator.

Peace and ALL Good,
Donna Dooling ofs



*A life not lived for others
is not a life.*

*The Simple Path:
Silence is Prayer
Prayer is Faith
Faith is Love
Love is Service*

The Fruit of Service is Peace.

*If you can't feed a hundred people,
feed just one.*

Work without love is slavery.

*Be faithful in small things because
it is in them that your strength lies.*

*Let us always meet each other with
smile, for the smile is the begin-
ning of love.*

*Never worry about numbers. Help
one person at a time and always
start with the person nearest you.*

*The person who gives with a smile
is the best giver because God loves
a cheerful giver.*

*Spread the love of God through
your life but only use words when
necessary.*

*When you don't have anything,
then you have everything.*

*Each one of them is Jesus in dis-
guise.*

*Prayer in action is love, love in
action is service.*

*How can there be too many chil-
dren? That is like saying there are
too many flowers.*



YOUTH ANIMATOR'S LETTER

“Do not abandon yourselves to despair. We are Easter people and hallelujah is our song.”
Pope St. John Paul II



As I write this, I am looking out the window at the birth of another season of Spring. Spring is actually my favourite season. I enjoy meditating on the new life that surrounds me; from the buds on the trees, the flowers pushing their way through the soil and the sounds of nature returning. Sometimes it takes the hibernation of winter to remind me that we are indeed an Easter people. We face dark, let's say, winter times, but through it all we have a Saviour who annually reminds us that we are loved, nourished and, if we take the plunge, can begin anew.

Pope Francis calls us to evangelize; to spread the Good News to everyone, everywhere. Spring is a perfect time to go forth and awaken those who have been hibernating. Many of these are our youth. They have been sleeping for so long, they have forgotten how it feels to awaken.

As Secular Franciscans, one of our mandates is to foster faith in our youth. Let's be honest, if we don't, who will fill our spot at the Fraternity meeting? No one. It is easy to place the youth on someone else's plate; to think someone else can do the work. Nope. If we all think this way, our spaces will remain empty and our voices silenced. I don't think that is what St. Pope John Paul II had on his mind when he started World Youth Days.

Many of you have commented that you have no connection with the youth in your parish. There are no youth groups you have introduced yourself to. To this I say, leave your winter cave which has nourished you and seek out the youth in your parishes.

With this being said, I offer an opportunity for you. Two very good friends of mine heard the call of Pope Francis and started 'HopeStone.' Their mission is to provide opportunities for youth and young adults to encounter the Risen Lord: to put the Catholic Church's teachings into adventurous, practical, creative, and easy-to-understand experiences.

Their programs fuse valuable teachings with recreation in hopes of engaging participants to physically, emotionally and spiritually experience their faith. At the heart of 'HopeStone' is their genuine love of young people. Their commitment is to be au-

thentic and real. Spreading the Gospel; keeping it real and not watered-down, but presented in ways that reach into the hearts of the souls they serve. To truly see the good in young people and for them to know that they are loved unconditionally and non-judgmentally and to seek God's kingdom in everything we do.

Presently they do not have a retreat center, but are praying that our Lord will bless them with the money and land to someday call a place their own. They are willing to travel to parishes and schools as requested by people like YOU! Yes, you.

You may not have a calling to serve the youth, but you now have an option to bring faith to them. I urge you to talk with your Parish priests, school teachers and families to organize a retreat for the youth around you. I have worked very closely with the founders of 'HopeStone.' Youth are brought to Jesus through opportunities such as these. Here is their website: <http://hopestone.ca>. You can also reach Pete or Stacey Leitmann by email at INFO@HOPESTONE.CA.

I pray you continue to let the Lord awaken you throughout this Easter season and allow yourself to begin anew. Let the faith be heard and let us return to being Easter people.

Lisa Theriault, ofs

HOPESTONE

CATHOLIC FORMATION INC





Welcome Secular Franciscans to our Regional Picnic July 9, 2016

WHERE? The Martyrs Shrine-- 16163 Hwy 12 West, Midland ON

WHEN? July 9th, meet at Upper Pavilion **9:30 -10:00 AM.**

WHO? All Secular Franciscans, Candidates,
Inquirers and our families in the Trillium Region

*Parking is paid for the group by the Trillium Region.
Please car pool wherever possible*

Agenda

09:30-10:00am	Gather in the Upper Pavilion (Meet and greet each other)
10:00- 10:20	Franciscan Peace Prayer followed by short prayers
10:30-11:30	Mass
11:30-12:45 pm	Lunch Bring your own bag lunch or purchase on site.
01:00- 01:20	Meet at the Filion Centre for preparation before entering the Mercy Doors.
01:20- 02:00	Enter the Mercy Doors for private prayer time , confessions
02:00 – 03:00	Stations of the Cross (indoor if raining)
03:30-04:00	Gather in upper Pavilion for wrap-up songs and farewell
04:00	Departure

Local Fraternity Bulletin Board

20th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

It was a great privilege to be able to attend the 20th Anniversary luncheon for St. John Vianney Fraternity on March 12, 2016 at St. Andrew Kim Church.



(L to R) Father Peter Knaapen, Catherine Payne, Andrew Oh – Minister of St. John Vianney Fraternity.

The Good News Report

is the official newsletter of the Secular Franciscan Order, Trillium Region. We aim to publish it between the middle and end of: July, September, December, and April.

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

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

CANDIDACY

St. Francis of Assisi Fraternity, Toronto welcomes Sylvia Lorenzo into Candidacy Sunday March 13, 2016. Sylvia comes from Uruguay however has lived in Toronto and maintained a friendship with the OFM Friars for several years. She is a very prayerful participant thus far and is planning a pilgrimage to the Holy Lands in June. Please pray for Sylvia! Thank you & God bless!

ELECTION

Elections held at Mount Alverno Fraternity on January 28, 2016 presided by Catherine Payne (far right) Elected were;

L to R- Dan St. Pierre, Formation, Debi Golden, Treasurer, Laurie St. Pierre, Vice Minister, and Silvia Lume, Secretary. Frankie Burg-Feret was re-elected Minister but was absent from the photo.

Congratulations to all the new Council on your dedication and service to the fraternity.



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.