



Good News Report

Secular Franciscan Order
Trillium Regional Fraternity



Number 78

Winter 2016

A MOMMENT WITH THE MNISTER

I would like to take that well known line from Luke's gospel.....
"because there was no room for them at the inn."



The innkeepers in Bethlehem, at that time, must have been very busy preparing for all the travellers arriving for the census. Since this didn't happen too often this was certainly an opportunity for them to make some extra money. How they must have scurried around getting every inch of their inns ready for the weary. The rooms are filling up quickly as the relatives from not too far away arrive early. However as nightfall comes they are still arriving from far off places such as Nazareth.



Two very tired figures appear on the horizon, a man leading a donkey and a woman riding atop the beast looking very much with child. Joseph goes to the door of the closest inn, with high hopes that he

can get Mary safely in a warm bed as soon as possible. He knocks gently on the wooden door. No answer! He knocks again and hears noises and laughing coming from the inn. Finally the innkeeper comes and opens the heavy door. He looks at Joseph who is covered in dust and sweat and then looks out further to see Mary on the back of the donkey. Joseph asks in a gentle whisper for a room for his wife who is about to give birth. I wonder what went through that innkeepers mind when he had to turn the two weary travellers away? Did he deny them a room with a heavy heart or was he just so pleased that every room was rented and



he was set financially for a while? We will never know. Yet, Jesus has come and comes again and again to each of us with that same request as Joseph. Do you have any room in your inn?

Besides being Franciscans, we are all innkeepers. Can

SPIRITUAL ASSISTANT

"And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger".
(Luke 2:12)



We all know the story of Greccio, where St. Francis began the tradition of the Christmas crib. He wanted people to understand more fully the humility and poverty of the incarnation, and so he organized a Mass at Greccio on Christmas Eve. Thomas of Celano tells us that at that Mass, *"simplicity was honored, poverty was exalted, humility was commended, and Greccio was made, as it were, a new Bethlehem. The night was lighted up like the day, and it delighted men and beasts. The people came and were filled with new joy over the new mystery. The woods rang with the voices of the crowd. The brothers sang, and the whole night resounded with their rejoicing. The saint of God stood before the manger, uttering sighs, overcome with love, and filled with a wonderful happiness."*

St. Francis wanted to show the hardships Jesus suffered even as an infant. He wanted people to realize exactly what God had done for us, and *"how poor he chose to be for our sake."* Francis himself had chosen poverty. He lived on the margin of society, with no resources or security. He saw the Son of God placing himself, as it were, on the margin of divinity. He saw a truly human Jesus, not a divine being hiding behind a deceptive physical facade. The humility of the Incarnation and of the Cross was his constant preoccupation. He wanted to think of nothing else but Bethlehem and Calvary.

He told his friars not to be ashamed of poverty, *"since God himself became poor for our sakes....Poverty is the heritage which our Lord Jesus Christ has acquired for us."*

Thomas of Celano says, *"He would often meditate on the desolation of Christ and his holy mother with tears, and he maintained that poverty was 'the queen' of the virtues, as she had become so radiantly manifest in the King and his mother."*

The crib can help us to understand the true

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we make room for Jesus in our hearts or are we already full of things of this world? Noisy, clanging things that have no meaning or substance? Check again and see if we can all find a quiet corner somewhere to welcome Jesus this Christmas Season. The world has taken Christ out of Christmas but we must put Him back.

Deus meus et omnia;
Catherine Payne



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meaning of Christmas, because it speaks of humility and the merciful goodness of Christ, who “*though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor*”. (2 Corinthians 8:9) His poverty enriches those who embrace it and Christmas brings joy and peace to those who, like the shepherds, take to heart the words of the angel: “*And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger*”.



Fr. Peter Knaapen O.F.M. Conv

**NATIONAL SPIRITUAL CONFERENCE-
LORETTEVILLE, QUEBEC
OCTOBER 28-30, 2016.**



Pictured here at Loretteville, Quebec, October 2016, is (L to R) Debbie Tessier, National and Regional Secretary, Tibor Kauser, International Minister, Catherine Payne, Trillium Regional Minister and Gilles Metivier, National Minister for Canada.

FRATERNAL IDEA

Peace.. I thought I would share this idea/plan with you as others might find it something they would like to do also - for next year. I did this when working in the deaf community and it worked well, so thought I would try it in the fraternity. There has already been some interest.

The plan is to create a small Christmas Card (for next year now) with a simple scene or message, and put the name of the fraternity, address and or phone number somewhere inside or on the back.

The fraternity funds pay the cost of supplies.

Then the cards get put into bundles of 6 for example, tied with a green or red ribbon, and given to each member to distribute over Christmas. It helps to get the word out about the Fraternity and is not so much intended to make money. If the fraternity funds need to be replenished, then members could pay something small for the cards.

One of our members is working on this after the New Year since she is good with art and photography, so hopefully it will come to be!

Margaret



VICE-MINISTER'S LETTER
Advent looks forward to a time of
Peace and Justice



The responsorial psalm response of the second Sunday of Advent reminds us that:

*“Justice shall flourish in His time,
and there will be fullness of peace for ever.
O God, with your judgment endow the king,
and with your justice, the king’s son;
he shall govern your people with justice
and your afflicted ones with judgment.”*

As our world *seems* to be falling further and further away from the Peace of Christ and the Justice that will reign, this advent season is a time for us to prepare.

We, as Secular Franciscans, recall St. Francis.

In the midst of chaos and war and a time of great materialism, Francis of Assisi created a *living nativity*. He reminded the followers of Christ that *living love, becoming love and sharing love is the true message of Christmas*.

In the midst of a world of corruption and all sorts of evil, Christ is able to create His kingdom in the hearts, minds and spirits of all who love Him.

This is the revolutionary way of both Christ and St Francis. Live Love! Become one with Love!

Now, we prepare for Christ’s coming. We open our hearts and minds. We seek Christ in our neighbour, the poor, those forgotten. We seek Him in the sacraments and the Holy Family. We seek Him in the music and beauty of this season. We seek Him in the Gospels.

May all of us, in gratitude, receive Him and participate in the revolution that began with the nativity and continues with us.

May we all experience this joy of love in our hearts! May we become instruments of Christ’s Peace and Love!

Merry Christmas!
Louise Arruda, ofs

**VICE MINISTER’S ARTI-
CLE**



From the pen of First Vice Minister, Marzio Apolloni ofm

During this Advent season, people often take extra care to be more loving, more giving, and gentler. Yet we often view these from the perspective of the ‘giver’. We let someone get in the line in front of us at Tim Hortons, or we keep the door open for the person behind us at the dollar store. We know how that feels. This year I have been on the other side of that equation. After surgery on my shoulder this fall, I needed to keep my arm in a sling for six weeks...all the time. One hand typing has been interesting! My first reaction when someone offered me the courtesy I described earlier was to say “oh no, that’s fine... I have the door!” etc.. I soon realized, after dispelling my selfish misery, that I was in fact denying people a blessing, an opportunity. It brought to mind a passage from Charles Dickens “A Christmas Carol” when Bob Cratchit described what Tiny Tim said when people saw him, a cripple:

“He told me, coming home, that he hoped the people saw him in the church, because he was a cripple, and it might be pleasant to them to remember upon Christmas Day, who made lame beggars walk, and blind men see. Bob’s voice was tremulous when he told them this...”

So, during this season do not make the mistake I made. In the spirit of Francis, encourage kindness from others, let them help you, in the fervent hope that they may see Jesus in your eyes.

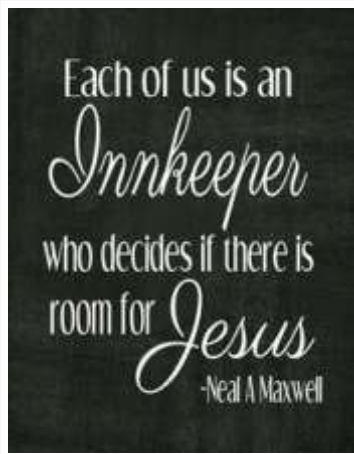
As Tiny Tim said, *“God bless us, everyone”*
Pace e Bene
Marzio ofs



Newsletter

Your Regional Council is looking for a volunteer to look after mailing the Regional Newsletter out to members who do not have a computer. The Newsletter goes out four times a year. Doris and Gus Legere from St. Angela Merici Fraternity in Oshawa have been doing this ministry for the past six years and will continue until the spring of 2017, for which we are greatly appreciative. If you are interested please contact me at:

Catherine Payne bpayne@wightman.ca or phone -519-343-2320



YOUTH ANIMATOR’S LETTER



Emmanuel: God with us. How do we see God with (in) us? See what I did there? Is He just with you or is He IN you? Those are two very different relationships. The first suggests that Jesus is around. Perhaps He joins you in times of stress, struggle or when you are upset, but usually just hangs about. The second suggests that He occupies a place in your heart, your mind, your soul. When you move, He moves, when you cry, He cries, when you laugh, He laughs. Which relationship do you have with our Lord?

Which ‘Innkeeper’ are you? The one who pushed aside the Holy Family, or the one who made room? Advent is the perfect time for us to re-evaluate which type of Innkeeper we have been. It is the time of year when we look and see where we allowed the Lord to be: with us or WITHIN us. The Lord gave us freewill for this reason. He does not just want to be there for the bad times, although he would take it. He wants to be there for it all. Our whole lives; the moments that ‘took our breath away’ and the ‘oh no, what have I done’ moments.

Every Advent season, I ask my students this: If Jesus were to return tomorrow, what would you need to get ready? Many of my students respond by saying 24 hours is not enough time. There is forgiving they still need to do, love they still need to give and room they need to make in their hearts. Are you ready?

Advent is not only the season where we look forward to the birth of Jesus, but to ask ourselves, are we ready for His return. Which ‘Innkeeper’ are you? Christmas wishes to you and your families.

Peace and all good...Lisa Theriault, ofs

FROM THE FORMATION CORNER

Greetings Brothers and Sisters in Christ!!

What a great time of the year!! How awesome is it that God sent His Only Son to redeem us – and in such a way to show us the way to Christ, through poverty, humility and simplicity. This is exactly what Francis presented in his living crèche in Greccio, Italy so many years ago. He invited ALL the townspeople, and yes, even animals, to participate, thus bringing them all together for the Glory of God.



All of this shows us how important each and every member of society is, no matter race, colour, creed, or age. It also is a lesson to teach ourselves and others by word and example to overcome the rampant greed, and materialism in Francis’ day and in today’s world. What a scene this great friend and father Francis presented to us.

It is our mission, as Franciscans to also bring this message of the Lord’s birth to the part of the world where God placed us NOW, to evangelize and share with others the true meaning of Christmas.

It amazes me each year when I read the story of Francis –“St. Francis Celebrates Christmas” by Mary Caswell Walsh, to the children in our parish. They are

amazed, as are their parents, that Francis was inspired by the Holy Spirit to re-capture the birth of Our Saviour and the fact that this was the beginning of the “Christmas Crib”, that we have in our homes. Each child leaves in awe and begs their parents to buy a Christmas Crib for their home.

A start maybe?? Children are so very open to the Lord as they are truly innocent, humble and show such excitement of such a long tradition in our Catholic Faith.

A couple of years ago, Stone Road Mall in Guelph, Ontario decided NOT to put a crib up in the Mall. The outburst of families was amazing!! They wrote letters, and phoned the Mall. The Mall had no choice but to put the crib front and centre in the Mall to appease the people of Guelph. It also just so happened that Archbishop Collins was visiting in Guelph at the time, and went to the mall to bless the crib. Many gathered, prayed and praised the Lord. They thanked the mall, and sent many letters to City Council thanking them also for attending to their wishes – to bring Christ back to Christmas – after all what is it called – not "Happy Holidays" but "Merry CHRISTmas." As Catholics and as Franciscans we can make a difference.

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So, I challenge all of you to “step out” and bring the Good News to everyone this Holy Season!!

Please don't forget the homebound, sick, and lonely Franciscan members this Christmas!! Reach out and visit them – show them you care. Bring the Christ in you to the Christ in them!! Our work, brothers and sisters is to imitate Christ and to make that experience of Christ available to others!!

I wish ALL of you and your families and friends a Peaceful, Joyful and Blessed Christmas!!

Donna Dooling, ofs

FROM THE TREASURER

THE FOURTH KING

Some say there was a fourth king, who saw the star heralding Jesus and wanted to worship the newborn King of Jews. He knew this would be the King of Love.



He decided to bring his greatest treasure for this new king: a huge, beautiful red ruby - given to the fourth king by his father.

The fourth king assembled his best servants, and many supplies and a large amount of money for the journey, because it would be long and difficult. He hung the ruby in the pouch around his neck and started his journey. He followed the star. Crossing his own land was easy because everyone knew him, and knew him to be kind, wise and generous. But as soon as he left his familiar land, things became very difficult.

He entered a country which was experiencing terrible drought. He saw burned fields, and burned forests, withered trees, the earth burnt to ashes. The villagers were starving. The fourth king hesitated to give away the food and water that would be needed for the journey, but because he was so compassionate, he soon gave away all of the food and water that they caravan was carrying. He gave everything to the needy .

But even this was not enough, so he postponed his journey and employed his camels and servants to bring food for outside the starving kingdom - using up all of the money that he had intended for the journey to see the new king. When he had done all this, he continued his journey, following the star.

He hoped there would be no more obstacles because he was already late in going to greet the newborn King. But soon he entered a country ravaged by the plague, the 'Black Death.' He was tired, stripped of money and food... and had only the camels and his

faithful servants. But he was sure that if the new king was the King of Love, He would want him to care for these suffering people too.

He released any of his servants who were too frightened to help, but he and the remaining servants tended to the sick: feeding, soothing, and embracing them. From morning to evening they went from house to house, bringing food, cleaning and caring for the sick. After many weeks he himself became sick... and grew so weak - for so long - that, when he did recover somewhat, he did not even know how many days, or weeks, or years had gone by. As he regained his strength, he saw with joy that the village was also recovering - slowly but surely.

No one there had even known that he was a king. To them, he was just a stranger who had come and helped.

He was uncertain now about whether to give up his journey to see Jesus or to begin again. Years had been lost. He was old and his once black beard had become silver; his arms had become feeble, and his skin wrinkled. But the star was still shining, so he decided to go ahead. After all he still had his greatest treasure - the wonderful ruby.

As he went on, he had to hire himself out in menial jobs to earn food and accommodation. He went from village to village, from town to town. One day he arrived in a big city. He was unfamiliar with its language and its customs. He came to the big square market, where the market was held, trading cattle, goats, sheep, horses, camels. He was shocked to discover there a slave market; people were being bought and sold. This was unheard of in his country.

In horror, he recognized that some of the slaves were, in fact, his people - his former subjects - now tied in ropes like animals: men, women, children, old men. Some enemy must have attacked his country during his long absence, and captured and enslaved these people.

Pain gripped his heart. He wanted to help them, but he had no money to buy their release. And then he remembered the treasure which he still had around his neck. The ruby was supposed to be his gift of love to Jesus. He felt, "It's not really mine any more; it's already His. Do I have the right to sell it for any reason? " But, in his heart, he knew that Jesus would make any sacrifice to redeem his poor people. Without hesitation, he went to the dealer and said, "I want to buy these people from you."

The trader looked with contempt at the old man in worn clothes and said, "You cannot pay - or

even imagine what you would have to pay - for them."

The fourth king drew the purse from his bosom and showed his ruby. The trader apparently knew about precious stones because his eyes gleamed greed, and he asked the fourth king, "How much do you want for this stone?"

He replied, "I want these people." The trader sold all of his former subjects to the fourth king for the precious ruby.

The king told the people in their own language, "You are free; go home." At first they could not believe it ... but when they did they began crying and laughing. They threw themselves on his neck to thank him. They didn't recognize him as their former king, because the years and the hardship had changed his appearance so much.

When they had all set off for their home, the fourth king asked himself, "What now? What to do now? Why go to Jerusalem? I have nothing to bring this new King who now is certainly a grown man. Why go? What will I tell him? What will I offer him?"



In the evening, he found his star still shining, and decided to go ahead. He said to himself, "I'll see how the King of Love has ruled His kingdom. Surely, by now, his country is transformed by love: in the people, in their laws, in their ways." So, he went on to see the Kingdom of Love.

And again he went from village to village ehe had to delay and work to earn his food and accommodation. After a long time he came to Jerusalem. First he saw, from afar, the beautiful walls the city, and then the great Temple of Jerusalem. And he was anxious to see the wonderful life that must be going on inside the city.

The star was beginning to dim and fade; this worried the king; he didn't know what it meant. And he was surprised and troubled when he entered the city be-

cause the people he saw there looked so tired, so poor, so hungry for love.

In the distance he heard a great clamor: it was soldiers; it was some sort of parade: prisoners were being led out to be crucified. To king this was incredible. He asked himself: "Do they crucify each other here, in a land ruled by the King of Love?"

The procession slowed. There were two prisoners first - then a third. A soldier was holding a tablet behind the third man on which was written his name and the 'crime', for which he was being put to death on the cross. "*Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews*" was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek.

In horror, he realized that this condemned man was the King of Love that he had been seeking through so many years, through so many dangers and difficulties. Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews, had a crown of thorns on his head, and He staggered exhausted under the tree of the cross.

Jesus stopped before the fourth king. The fourth king saw Jesus' face bathed in sweat and blood... and the trembling red drops of blood on the crown of thorns reminded him of something... they reminded the beautiful ruby that he had tried so hard to bring to the newborn king.

He was overwhelmed by Jesus' eyes. He had never seen such eyes. In the eyes of Jesus there was no hatred. Jesus was stopping to console him, to comfort him, to love him. The man condemned to death, so terribly wounded, cared more about the suffering of an old and feeble stranger than he did about his own suffering.

Jesus' eyes told the fourth king that Jesus knew about everything that the fourth king had suffered and lost on his journey. And in a moment of shining light (as from a star), he knew that Jesus was accepting all of the fourth king's suffering as his gift to the newborn king.

The shining light lasted only a moment, but it was filled with the joy of encountering Jesus. The fourth king's heart could not hold all the LOVE he received even in this brief encounter.

Jesus accepts all of our sorrows and all of our joys as the greatest gift, a gift far more valuable than thousands of the world's most beautiful rubies. Wishing you all to encounter Newborn Jesus and His Love this Christmas.

Pax et Bonum
Danuta Juchniewicz, o.f.s.

Local Fraternity Bulletin Board



Such a joyous gathering for the elections at Queen of Peace fraternity in Madoc on October 16, 2016. Front row: Don MacAlister, vice Minister and Brother Alan Gaebel, Spiritual Assistant. Second row: Jackie Flagler, secretary, Gudrun Wegner, Minister, Colleen MacAlister, Formation Minister and Catherine Payne, Minister of the Region. Back row: Mike Painter, Treasurer and Louise Arruda, Vice Minister of the Region.



Wonderful celebration of Professions held at Mount Alverno on Sunday November 6, 2016. Pictured here from (L to R) Catherine Payne – Minister of the Trillium Region; Veronika Vistica – newly professed ; Theresa Anderson - newly professed ; and Frankie Burg-Feret -Minister of Mount Alverno Fraternity. Congratulations to all.



St. Clare of Assisi Fraternity Midland held their elections on October 18, 2016. Front row left is Ellie Vanden Heuvel, Vice Minister and right is Florence Carson, Minister. Back row left is Colin Herring, Treasurer and right is Bill Carson, Formation Director. Absent that day was Carmelina Farrugia who was elected, secretary.

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

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



New Council at St. Anne’s Fraternity in Windsor/ Tecumseh. From left to right: Bert Van Berlo – Council member, Silvana Alvarez, Secretary, Luis Alvarez, Formation Director, Sharron Pelland, Treasurer, Matt Lacey, Minister and John Verhaegen, Vice Minister.



Fraternal Elections held at St. Benedict the Black Fraternity on November 5, 2016. We welcome the new Council: (L to R) John Glyn Williams – Vice Minister; Angela Tedjo- Treasurer; Carlos Abug – Formation Minister; and Mario Perez – Minister; absent was Anton Tedjo who was elected –Secretary.



St. Felix of Cantalice Fraternity ...Trillium Certificate of Profession for Venus Navalta, ofs and Rebeca Mendoza and Certificate of 16th Anniversary Profession for (From left to right: Iuminada Aguilar, Br. Alan Gaebel, Teodora La Madrid, Venus Navalta, Rebeca Mendoza and Gerry Elises)



St. Anthony of Padua Fraternity, Sarnia was pleased to celebrate two Professions with Father Peter as celebrant. On the left is Maria Ferrera and on the right is Shelley Filia. Congratulations!

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.