



Good News Report

Secular Franciscan Order
Trillium Regional Fraternity



Number 71

Fall 2014

A MOMENT WITH THE MNISTER

We recently celebrated the Feast of the Stigmata of St. Francis, on September 17.

St. Francis saw in the poor and crucified Christ, to His last breath and drop of blood what He meant when He said; "I am the way the truth and the life." (Jn.14:6) Jesus' love for humanity and for each one of us was this great. The desire to love like Jesus, was so great in St. Francis, that he prayed the following;

"My Lord Jesus Christ, I pray You to grant me two graces before I die; the first is that during my life I may feel in my soul and in my body as much as possible the pain, which You Dear Jesus, sustained in the hour of Your most bitter Passion. The second is that I may feel in my heart, as much as possible, that excessive love with which You, O Son of God, were inflamed in willingly enduring such suffering for us sinners."

Thus St. Francis became so identified with Christ that he became an "alter Christus," or another Christ. The Stigmata became a visible sign of St. Francis' complete cooperation with God's grace. The wounds in Francis' hands, feet and side, like those of Jesus, teach us the goal of Franciscan formation and our Secular Franciscan way of life. We too are to become "other Christs" and we must love God and each other this much. These are lofty goals to aspire to, no doubt, but each day is a new chance to start over and begin again to empty ourselves of worldliness and fill ourselves with Christ.

I had the most interesting experience last month that made me reflect on my own idea of evangelizing. I was walking through downtown Guelph on my way to a doctor's appointment. Guelph is like any other city during the day, filled with people bustling here and there. There are also the benches, often filled with younger folk with their bicycles leaned up against the backs of the seats. Someone is asking a passer-by for money for a coffee. The pigeons are flying overhead and often landing in the "Family Fountain." There is graffiti on some of the sides of the buildings, and I marvel at the artistic ability of whoever is responsible. Away I go, headed towards the office when, with my head down, I notice something written on the sidewalk in fairly large letters. It is written in yellow and white and the person who had done it, not only printed a phrase, but adorned it with flowers and curls and underlines. Usually I don't like to look at any profanity but something turned my head to read the message. And there it was:



 **BE KIND TO ONE ANOTHER** 

Well, a smile came over my face and I thought, what a fool I was for doubting that a sidewalk message might teach me a lesson!!! Those five little words changed my mood for the day! Whoever wrote the words had also done it in chalk so that it wouldn't stain the sidewalk. Thoughtful? Perhaps, or maybe that is the only writing instrument they had available. Whatever the reason, I for one, of many in downtown Guelph that day, was touched with a sense of God's goodness. I almost skipped into the doctor's office full of joy. I had been taught many things that morning - not least of all, that evangelization takes place where and when you least expect it.

I want to be filled with the love of Christ as St. Francis was. To empty myself of stress and worry and of misjudgement and ignorance, to open myself to the laughter and joy of others around me and the often missed signs of God's work present everyday in my life.

Please take time to join in a Transitus Celebration being offered this year in several locations. As Psalm 116:15 says, "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints."



Deus meus et Omnia
Catherine Payne ofs

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.”

OFS Rule 15



VICE MINISTER’S ARTICLE Justice, Peace, & Integrity of Creation

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

While the advent of a national website on JPIC (<http://www.franciscanvoicecanada.com>) is a great development, there are many of us who cannot access this resource, but who use this newsletter as a primary source. For those who can access the internet, links have been provided. Consequently we will try and feature current articles from the JPIC website here on our newsletter. This issue the article is most timely: the plight of Christians in the Middle East.

In response to the need for emergency assistance and reconstruction in the Middle East, three Canadian Catholic agencies are collecting funds for the suffering people of Iraq, Gaza and Syria: the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace (CCODP), CNEWA Canada, and Aid to the Church in Need. The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB) and Canadian dioceses are encouraging Catholics to support the three agencies in their work.

The Pontifical Council speaks out against terror in name of religion. Haaretz picked up on this and wrote:

“The Vatican’s call came as Egypt’s top religious authority, Grand Mufti Shawqi Allam, condemned Islamic State as a corrupt, extremist organisation that is damaging Islam.”

Iyad Ameen Madani, secretary general of The Organization of Islamic Cooperation condemned the actions in Mosul and Nineveh. He said the ISIS “forced displacement is a crime that cannot be tolerated; and that the practices of ISIS have nothing to do with Islam and its principles that call for justice, kindness, fairness, freedom of faith and coexistence.”

Who are the moderate Muslims? Where are they and how can we support and encourage them to speak out?

To start, you could read Raheel Raza, a Sunni Muslim married to a Shia Muslim. She is the author of *“Their Jihad, Not My Jihad: a Muslim Canadian woman speaks out”* and *“How Many Moderate Muslims Does it Take to Give a Message?”* (Look for both at your local public library)

We can:

- Provide Emergency Assistance

(Continued on page 3)

“#WeAreN” campaign reclaims Arabic letter for Iraq’s persecuted Christians

A global social media campaign is using the Arabic letter Nun to show support for Christians being driven out of the Iraqi city of Mosul as well as Nineveh, where Jonah in the Old Testament famously preached repentance. The “N” is the first letter of “Nasrani,” or Nazarene, a common Arabic term for Christians.

Using a hashtag of #WeAreN, social media users are claiming the letter, which reportedly is being painted on property owned by Christians in Mosul, who have now fled the city. Radicals from the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, or ISIS, had demanded Christians either convert to Islam, pay a tax critics call excessive, or face execution.

Under such threats, the last Christians in Mosul, which for two millennia hosted Christian believers, have reportedly left the city, according to AlJazeera.com.

Read more at <http://national.deseretnews.com/article/1971/WeAreN-campaign-reclaims-Arabic-letter-for-Iraqs-persecuted-Christians.html#ImvuyewjeXGQE0dQ.99>

VICE-MINISTER'S LETTER

Rainbows Celebrate SFO Joys

Since our last newsletter, there have been so many blessings shared with our fraternities and with our Minister, Cathy Payne.

If you want to know what "Heaven on Earth" feels like, just attend a Korean ceremony of OFS professions. After a week-end of prayer, reflection and retreat at The Franciscan Centre, John Vianney OFS Fraternity enjoyed the celebration of mass that included four new permanent professions to our order. The music was so joyful and the Korean newly-professed were dressed in a rainbow of bright coloured gowns. The hospitality and shared love was tangible. I could see it, smell it, taste it, hear it and breathe it. Love and joy and a deep sense of community permeated everything and everyone. This really felt like "Heaven on earth". A big thank you is warmly sent to all our Sisters and Brothers at St John Vianney Fraternity.



Cathy and I also had a joyful day of fraternity with the Queen of Peace Fraternity in Madoc. We were greeted with a wonderful lunch (including Don MacAllister's home-made tomato soup and sourdough bread delicious!!) and such gracious hospitality. The fraternity was joined by Br Alan, OFM Cap who is the spiritual assistant. There were also three guests. Two of these came to the meeting as a result of an outreach invitation from the church bulletin. After lunch, we all moved into another room for the meeting.

Cathy presented Colleen MacAllister with a beautiful statue of St Francis. ***This was in recognition and gratitude for her many years of service (16 in all) on our Trillium Regional Council.*** This



was great opportunity for a photo op. Prayer, music and very lively discussion were shared by all. The Fraternity then continued with planning their Transitus celebrations as Cathy and I took our leave. We were thrilled to see this fraternity alive and well and stretching to include newcomers. The love and hospitality was wonderful.

As we drove home from Madoc, the rain came for a bit and then - a Double Rainbow!! Wow!! Another great photo op. It certainly feels like God is shining His light on our Region and its fraternities.

Here's wishing all of you a beautiful Transitus Celebration, many Thanksgiving Blessings and Rainbows of love and joy!!

Louise Arruda, ofs

(Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation, from page 2)

- Support Moderate Muslims
- Write to our local media to highlight what the moderates are saying
- Challenge local Muslims to promote the Islamic principles that call for "justice, kindness, fairness, freedom of faith and coexistence."

When St. Francis crossed enemy lines to meet the Sultan Malek el-Kamil during a Crusade, he fully expected to be martyred. Instead, he was embraced as a friend.

Pace e Bene
Marzio Apolloni, sfo,



FROM THE FORMATION CORNER



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 2013 - 2014!!!

The awesome feast day of St. Padre Pio was on September 23, followed by the feast of our seraphic Father St. Francis on October 4. Some of us gather together and celebrate the Transitus in our local fraternities, and we also have the option to attend a Transitus at one of our Franciscan Parishes on Oct 3. At each seminar that I have given, I have provided a Transitus Celebration format which you can follow.

There will be several Transitus celebrations in Toronto and in London, all of which you are free to attend.

I will be holding a Formation Meeting on November 8, 2014 at St. Bonaventure Parish, 1300 Leslie St., Toronto, Ontario. Mass will be at 9 a.m. followed by our meeting at 10 a.m. (bring your own lunch). The focus will be on Formation and its many stages: from Inquiry, Candidacy, through to Profession and beyond. I ask that as many formation directors as possible attend. This meeting is also opened to Ministers of our local fraternities.

I will also be holding the same meeting in late April / early May in the London, Sarnia, and Windsor area.

I ask that those who will be attending the November meeting to e-mail me at donnadooling@gmail.com so that I can ensure that I will have enough handouts for everyone.

Please keep in touch with me at the above e-mail address if you have any issues, concerns, or suggestions regarding formation in your fraternity.

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

POPE FRANCIS AT MASS: “Christian life simple, radical”

2014-09-24 Vatican Radio [excerpts]

...the Holy Father focused on the simplicity of the Christian life and the Gospel’s call to radical simplicity in life and action.

“... These are the two conditions in order to follow Jesus: to listen to the word of God, and to put it into practice. This is the Christian life – nothing more. Simple, simple. Maybe we’ve made it a little difficult, with many explanations that no one understands, but the Christian life is thus: listening to the Word of God and practicing it.”

... The point is not to hear casually, but to bend our ears



(Vatican Radio) Pope Francis said Mass in the chapel of the Santa Marta residence on Tuesday morning. [Sep. 23, 2014]

– really to listen to the word of God, which we find in the Gospel – the pages of which need to be heard, and heeded, rather than merely read by rote

“Listening to the Word of God,” said the Holy Father, *“means reading it and*

then asking, ‘What does this say to me? How does this speak to my heart? What is God saying to me, with this word?’ This, said Pope Francis, is a life-changing line of questioning:

“Every time we do this – each time we open the Gospel and read a passage and ask ourselves: ‘Is God speaking to me with this? Is He saying something to me?’ – and if He is saying something, what is it that He is saying?’ This is [what it means] to listen to the Word of God: to listen with your ears and hear with your heart. Open your heart to the Word of God. ... God not only speaks to all: yes, he does speak to all of us – but He also speaks to every one of us – to each of us. The Gospel was written for each of us.”

The Holy Father went on to say that putting into practice what we have heard is *“is not easy”* and that *“it is easier to live a mellow life without worrying about the exigencies of the Word of God.”*

FROM THE TREASURER

*Blessed Angela (Aniela) Salawa
Patroness of Secular Franciscans
in Poland*

September 9, 1881 - March 12, 1922



Recently, on September 9 we celebrated the feast of blessed Angela Salawa. Her first name, in Polish, is actually Aniela.

In October of 1992, during the Second Chapter of the National Council, she was chosen the Patroness of Secular Franciscans in Poland.

Blessed Angela lived her short 40 years on earth, during two centuries, 19 years in the 19th century and 21 years in the 20th century. She received the spiritual formation typical to the 19th century and followed it, yet she was open to accepting the changes of the next century; for example, the decrees of St. Pious X regarding frequent Holy Communion. In her short life she spent 16 years in her home village Siepraw, 20 years in Cracow where she worked as a maid. During her five last years on earth she was very sick, for four of them, bedridden. She looked at her poor health and later constant illnesses as a gift from God.

She chose the Secular Franciscan Order for her life, after considering the Dominican Tertiary and the Carmelite Tertiary. She went to Holy Confession once a week, and she participated daily in a Holy Mass, always when she could. It was her love for the Crucified Lord and her love for simple and poor life that brought her to the Seraphic Order.

She joined the Secular Franciscan Order on March 15, 1912, and professed her vows on August 6, 1913.

She dedicated her life to others, gave her own little money and food to the even more needy, and she nourished and fed their souls, not just their bodies. By the example of her simple, virtuous life she brought so many people to Christ.

She always kept secrets confined to her, and was very far from vanity and wasting time on empty and trivial matters. Blessed Angela is an example to us all, that life obstacles can be overcome with grace.

At her 1991 beatification in Cracow Saint Pope John Paul II said, *“It is in this city that she worked, that she suffered and that her holiness came to maturity. While connected to the spirituality of St. Francis, she showed an extraordinary responsiveness to the action of the Holy Spirit”*

Blessed Angela pray for us!

Pax et Bonum

Sayings of Blessed Angela

“Oh how happy will I be when the Death will come to get me.”

“Lord! [If] it is your will that I live, [then I will] die when You decide...”

“Ardently I ask Mother Mary to help me not to offend God - even with the smallest sin.”

When criticized by her girlfriends for being too elegant, she said: *“A person is dressed by the sanctifying grace. A girl who loves God must dress nicely for Him.”*

She encouraged all to pray for the departed souls stating that these purgatory souls help those who pray for them.

In her presence, nothing bad could be said about another person; she would say, *“Everyone is seen by God, each has their own vices and shortcomings.”*

“never demand anything from anyone, and never refuse when asked for help.”

“There is no salvation without suffering, do you think that we go to Heaven just like that, without sacrifices.”

“Oh, if there were souls who would take the offences and sins of others upon themselves, how many miracles could happen then.”



YOUTH ANIMATOR'S LETTER



“A way has to be found to enable everyone to benefit from the fruits of the earth, and not simply to close the gap between the affluent and those who must be satisfied with the crumbs falling from the table, but above all to satisfy the demands of justice, fairness and respect for every human being.” (Pope Francis)



One of the greatest joys I have is being a high school Theology teacher. To some, teaching high school sounds about as much fun as having a root canal, but to me, it is an honour and privilege to learn from such honest human beings. Six years ago, I started a Teen Homeless Night fundraiser for the Out of The Cold program in our community. Each student is asked to donate a minimum of \$25 to sleep outside. We normally have to cap at 80 students every year! The support has been tremendous and it is one event many students have come to look forward to year after year; perhaps not so much my aging body, but their joy gets me through it (and to coffee the next day)



The evening begins with a Mock Soup Kitchen, and then we leave the warmth of the school and begin to construct our lodgings outside using cardboard, rope, tape and tarps. We spend the evening in small groups discussing how we can help the disadvantaged in our community - and spend some time in prayer asking God to bless us and others as we try to follow in the footsteps of St. Francis and his love of the poor.



This year, I have tried to schedule this evening as close to the feast day of St. Francis for two reasons: one, because it will be my sixth anniversary as a professed Secular Franciscan; and two, so that we could pray with the poor under the leadership of our seraphic father. With other conflicting events, it has been booked for October 9—10. Sure it is the week after, but I feel that his spirit will be with us as we celebrate the example he gave us in doing the best for the poor. I believe this evening allows students to analyze their own lives and how they could more effectively live out the challenge offered by Pope Francis in the quote above.



The Guatemala March Break, 2015 Mission Trip is full! We have youth from North Bay to Toronto participating and I could not be more thrilled to be able to offer this program again. New this time, we will be going to assist the poor at the Guatemala City Dump where over one million people live! As always, we will have the opportunity to join the Poor Clare's at Mass.....one of my personal favourite activities!!!



We have started some fundraising activities and are getting to know each other through the Youth Followers of St. Francis and St. Clare Facebook group. If you have not already joined the group, please do so!!!

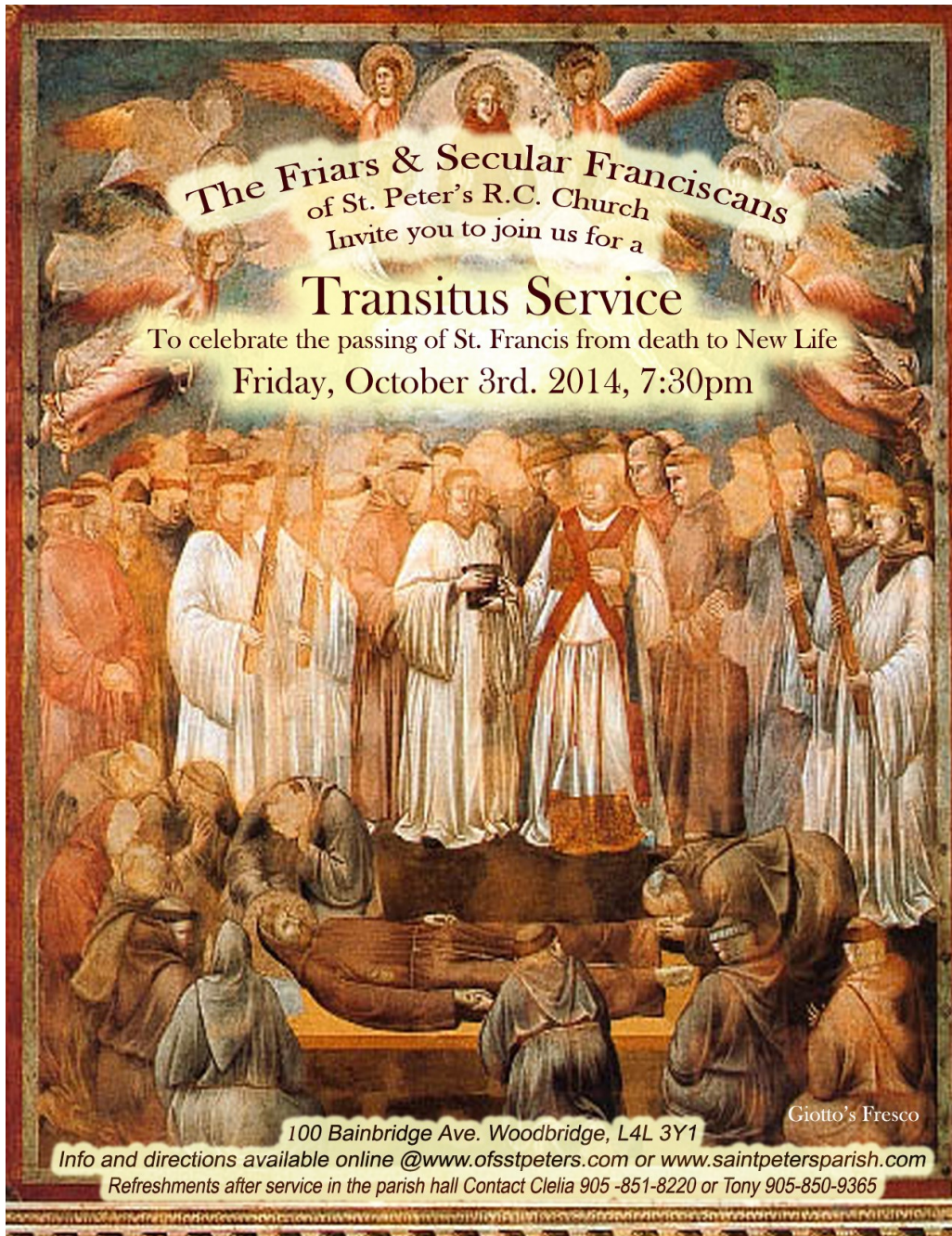
I am presently waiting on more information regarding this August's pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi for youth. The *Giovani Verso Assisi* program is absolutely GOD-mazing and I can't wait to take youth on an encounter with St. Francis and St. Clare. I

have been told to expect information regarding this event in mid-October. If you or others you may know are interested, please add yourself to the Facebook group.

As always, I am available to visit your Fraternity and/or meet with your Youth representative. Let us continue to lead the children to our Lord through the spirit of St. Francis and St. Clare.

Peace and all that is good.....Lisa Thereaut ofs

Local Fraternity Bulletin Board



The Friars & Secular Franciscans
of St. Peter's R.C. Church
Invite you to join us for a

Transitus Service

To celebrate the passing of St. Francis from death to New Life
Friday, October 3rd. 2014, 7:30pm

100 Bainbridge Ave. Woodbridge, L4L 3Y1
Info and directions available online @www.ofsstpeters.com or www.saintpetersparish.com
Refreshments after service in the parish hall Contact Clelia 905-851-8220 or Tony 905-850-9365

Giotto's Fresco

Transitus Liturgies

St. Peter's in London is offering a Transitus service on October 3 at 4:30 p.m. at **St. Peter's Cathedral Basilica** ; 196 Dufferin Street, London.

Friday October 3rd - Transitus Celebration at 7 p.m. will be held at **Sacred Heart of Mary Parish in Madoc**; light refreshments following.

"Who was St. Francis of Assisi"

Saturday, October 4th - A presentation, "Who was St. Francis of Assisi" held at the Arts Centre in Madoc, (beside the local Skate Park) from 1 pm-3 pm. Featuring "The Reluctant Saint" DVD and a "Friar-side Chat" with Bro. Alan Gaebel, ofm cap. who grew up in Madoc.

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.



St. Felix of Cantalice Fraternity warmly welcomed the Profession of Rebeca Mendoza (far right) on Sunday September 14th 2014. Her sponsor, Betty McKinstry is beside her followed by Brother Alan, Spiritual Advisor, and Teodora LaMadrid their Minister. Welcome Rebeca!



On August 31, 2014, in the Chapel of the St. Francis Centre in Mono Mills, the St. John Vianney Fraternity and the St. Damian Fraternity were pleased to welcome five newly professed members. They are Kim, Mi Sun Agnes; Lee, In Ock Rachel; Song, Gi Young Cecilia; Lucia Eun Suk Min; Rachel Sun-Hee Park. We give thanks to the Lord and St. Francis and St. Clare for these new members of the Trillium Region.

Sacred Heart Fraternity in Guelph was pleased to present (L to R) Gail Misale and Vicki Veri their 10 year certificates at our September meeting. Michel Guilmette also received his certificate but was absent from the picture. Congratulations to you all!



The Trillium Region was very pleased to present our former Vice Minister, Colleen MacAlister, with a statue of St. Francis and a copy of Pope Francis', *Evangelii Gaudium*. Thank you Colleen for fifteen years of faithful service to the Region. We all appreciate your hard work and dedication.

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.