



# Good News Report

Secular Franciscan Order  
Trillium Regional Fraternity



Number 71

Winter 2014

## A MOMMENT WITH THE MNISTER



One of life's finest moments is when we get to hold a newborn baby. Watch your arms as you reach for the baby. They cross themselves, similar to the manger in the picture. Our arms make a cradle for the baby as we want to support their wee necks and heads. Then the baby is placed in our "human manger", we are ever so careful to ensure their head is tucked in securely.



I would imagine that St. Joseph was the first person to hold the Baby Jesus after He was born. Joseph's arms are strong as he works tirelessly with his hands and arms building in his carpenter shop. This "Special Treasure" he holds in his arms has somehow captivated him and Joseph can't seem to take his eyes from the Baby. But alas Mary calls to Joseph for her Newborn. Mary makes her "human manger" ready, as Joseph, ever so gently leans down and places the Infant in her waiting arms.



Mary holds His head in the crook of her elbow and smiles sweetly at the "Fruit of her womb". She can hardly contain her joy at this beautiful sight of her Son. Altogether in Bethlehem, Joseph and Mary, give thanks for the birth of the Saviour of the World!



In Greccio, Italy, more than 1200 years after the birth of Jesus at Bethlehem, there is another Nativity scene playing itself out. "The saint of God stood before the manger, uttering sighs, overcome with love, and filled with a wonderful happiness. The gifts of the Almighty were multiplied there, and a wonderful vision was seen by a certain virtuous man. For he saw a little child lying in the manger, lifeless

*Minister continued from page #)*

*(Continued on page 2)*

## SPIRITUAL ASSISTANT



The tradition of singing at Christmastime is as old as Christmas itself. The first Christmas carols were written in the Bible as part of the Christmas story. However we don't think of them as Christmas Carols. When Luke sat down to write his gospel, he included four songs. They are: Mary's Song—called the Magnificat, Zechariah's Song—called the Benedictus, The Angels' Song—called the Gloria in Excelsis, and Simeon's Song—called the Nunc Dimittis. We pray and sing three of them each day as part of the Liturgy of the Hours. I would like to focus on Zechariah's song.

*Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel;  
he has come to his people and set them free.  
He has raised up for us a mighty savior,  
born of the house of his servant David.*

*Through his holy prophets he promised of old  
that he would save us from our enemies,  
from the hands of all who hate us.  
He promised to show mercy to our fathers  
and to remember his holy covenant.*

*This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham:  
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,  
free to worship him without fear,  
holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our  
life.*

*You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the  
Most High;  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,  
to give his people knowledge of salvation  
by the forgiveness of their sins.*

*In the tender compassion of our God  
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,*

*(Continued on page 2)*

## FROM THE FORMATION CORNER

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, Greetings and Peace.

What an awesome time of the year! The birth of Jesus. The gift the Father gave to us – to give His Son – His Only Begotten Son – just for us. He has come to save us and make us heirs of the Father. Please take time this year in fraternity to re-read the story of St. Francis and the Crèche from the Omnibus, and meditate on the love of St. Francis of the Incarnation. This event took place so long ago – yet today we still have a Christmas Crib sitting in our homes to remind us of this most Holy and generous God. When you are sitting during a quiet moment before the crib think of the simplicity and yet the magnitude of this great moment. How blessed are we to know and love God. Pray for those who do not know Him yet long for Him. Pray for those who are alone and those who are homebound, or poor and suffering.

Please take time this year, over this Holy season, to visit someone and bring to them some of the Christ within us to the Christ within them.

I have had a formation seminar in Toronto, at St. Bonaventure Parish, and am planning to have another in Sarnia in May. I will be in touch via e-mail to advise of the date and time in the new year.

I wish all of you, and your families a Holy and Blessed Christmas and a New Year filled with the Spirit of Christ. God Bless all of you! If you have any questions and or concerns regarding “formation” please do not hesitate to e-mail me at – [donnadooling@gmail.com](mailto:donnadooling@gmail.com)

Pax et Bonum,

Donna Dooling, ofs



and he saw the holy man of God go up to it and rouse the Child as from a deep sleep. This vision was not unfitting, for the Child Jesus had been forgotten in the hearts of many; but by the working of his grace, he was brought to life again through his servant, St. Francis and stamped upon their fervent memory.” (Omnibus 85-86)

So get those arms moving this Christmas. Embrace an elderly parent or grandchild. Hold tenderly your family in the fold of your hug. More importantly, reach way out and take the hand of the needy and lonely this Christmas. Bend low and embrace that leper in your life.

Wishing all members of the Trillium Region  
A holy and blessed Christmas season.

Deus meus et omnia;  
Catherine Payne



*(Spiritual Assistant, continued from page 1)*

*to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.*

Zechariah focuses on the great purpose for the coming of Christ to the earth, that he came to save his people. Zechariah mentions this in four different ways:

*God has come to his people and set them free  
He promised...to save us from our enemies  
He promises...to show mercy  
To set us free.... free to worship him without  
fear.*

The second half of his song is directed to his Son, who will be the great prophet of the most high and who will prepare his way. Then Zechariah concludes with a beautiful retelling of words of the prophet Isaiah that we hear each Christmas Eve. “the people who walk in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light have shone... For a child has been born for us, a son given to us.” Zechariah proclaims: the dawn from on high shall break upon us, to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace. May the Prince of Peace, the wonderful counsellor and Mighty God grant you and your family all the blessings at Christmas and throughout the New Year.

## VICE-MINISTER'S LETTER

Today, as I write this article, it is the First day of Advent. (November 30<sup>th</sup>). It is also the first day of our church's Year of Consecrated Life (The observance will end on the Feast of the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple, 2 February 2016.) Though this year is predominantly directed to Consecrated Religious, Pope Francis notes the following: "*I urge you, as laity, to live this Year for Consecrated Life as a grace which can make you more aware of the gift you yourselves have received. Celebrate it with your entire 'family', so that you can grow and respond together to the promptings of the Spirit in society today.*" What an appropriate a time of year to reflect on our Franciscan Charism!



The first crèche of St Francis reminds us that Christmas is a time to celebrate the new covenant, the new life in Christ Jesus. It is a time to recall the innocence, poverty and love of God that Jesus brought into the world. It is He who came as the Living Word of God and the light of the world. We recall the Joy of St

Francis as he and the brothers animated and strove to imitate Him who came as love incarnate. From these roots of Joy and gratitude, we look to our Franciscan heritage and call... May we commit ourselves, this year, to learning more of our Franciscan heritage through our personal and fraternal, ongoing formation.

Pope Francis also states that "*This Year calls us to live the present with passion.*" What is the passion of St Francis? Perhaps it is the response of personally becoming aware of the Merciful Love of God. Francis responded with a deep sense of



gratitude and desire to become Merciful, forgiving love. Surely, this came only after Francis had experienced war, killing, prison, and other forms of violence and then discovered the violence in his own in his own soul. Like Francis, do we not also feel depressed and horrified when we discover the dark, sinful nature within our own souls, our own humanity?

Do we, like Francis, turn to hear the call of Jesus? Do we open ourselves to experience His merciful love? Do we too begin to desire a return to poor innocence that entirely trusts God? Do we desire to strive to become Jesus who is Love, peace and justice?

May we commit, especially this year, to open ourselves to the Light of Christ, trusting Him to guide us and draw us evermore into Himself.

Finally, Pope Francis asks that we "*Embrace the future with hope*". He says: "*I am counting on you to wake up the world.*" He urged religious communities to guard against gossip, jealousy and pettiness in community life. He trusts that, "*rather than living in some utopia, you will find ways to create 'alternate spaces', where the Gospel approach of self-giving, fraternity, embracing differences, and love of one another can thrive.*"

As we begin this Year of Consecrated Life and re-commit to our vocational promises, may we reveal our special Charism, as part of the Franciscan family, to bring the Poor Jesus with His light and love to the world by our witness. May we, together, WAKE UP THE WORLD to the reality of the Goodness of God who LIVES.

Peace, Joy, Love, and All Good at Christmas and throughout the coming year.

Louise Arruda, ofs



### Prayer for Peace - Ukrainian Catholic Church

Following the crisis in the Ukraine, the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Winnipeg has forwarded a prayer for Peace to the Reverend Clergy, Consecrated Religious, Seminarians, Faithful and Friends of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Canada!

*“For peace throughout the world, for the well-being of God’s holy churches and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.”*

They appeal for prayers for peace in the Ukraine, an end to violence there, for the well-being of God's churches and unity among the people of the Ukraine.

### **VICE MINIS- TER’S ARTICLE**



### **Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation**

I will continue to feature articles previously posted on the Franciscan Voice Canada website, as they pertain to the subject of justice, peace, and integrity of creation. Next newsletter I will try and address the issue of geography in our large region...and will attempt to address the issue of geography has a factor in being a Franciscan. In the mean time I will leave you to ponder this question: Should where you live determine if you are a Franciscan or not?

Buon Natale a tutti  
Pace e bene  
Marzio Apolloni, sfo

### Hong Kong Cardinal Surrenders to Police to Help End Street Protests

Cardinal Joseph Zen Ze-kium, retired bishop of Hong Kong, joined the civil disobedience movement organizers who surrendered to police Wednesday, with a hope to end the present occupation campaign that has lasted more than two months.

Zen remained at the police station for an hour. As he left, he asked people to pray for democracy in the city. The Occupy Central movement, a civil disobedience campaign to block roads in central business area, was initiated by Benny Tai Yiu-ting, an associate professor of law at the University of Hong Kong, and the Rev. Chu Yiu-ming, a Baptist pastor, in an effort to force the Hong Kong and Chinese governments to allow true democracy in the city. The protesters feel government authorities have handpicked candidates for the 2017 election of Hong Kong's chief executive.

Zen had said on his blog in late November that struggling for democracy may be a long road, but a "miracle may take place, like David hurls a stone to hit down Goliath. And no one would expect that the Berlin Wall fell down all of a sudden 25 years ago." The cardinal, 82, is a supporter to the Occupy Central movement. Last June, he launched a walking campaign, covering 52 miles over seven days in different areas in Hong Kong, to ask more people to join an unofficial referendum on democratic reforms. (*National Catholic Reporter*)



## Mining

The OFM JPIC International Council (ICJPIC) was held in Jakarta, Indonesia, 19-26 June, 2014 and focused on lifestyle, mining and hunger. The OFM JPIC Meeting of the Americas in Bogota will also have mining as one of its focus areas.

The two Canadian OFM Provinces (Christ the King & St. Joseph) and the Canadian OFS, to some extent, are supporters of the Canadian Catholic Organization for

Development and Peace (CCODP), which is also Caritas Canada. The Franciscans support CCODP by promoting CCODP campaigns through parishes, retreat centers, friaries, fraternities and as individuals.

CCODP conducted education and action campaigns about mining in:

- 2006 - Canadian mining called to account,
- 2007 - Call for an ombudsman,
- 2008 - Mining, land, water and food and
- 2013 - Renewed call for an Ombudsman: *A voice for justice.*

The 2006-2011 programs focused on three distinct but related areas - mining, land and water i.e. the promotion of sustainable human development through participatory management, democratic control, and equitable distribution of resources. The slogan was: *Life before profit!* (Andrew Conradi, National JPIC Animator, Canada.)



## Rail or Pipeline? It's About How to Reduce Our Need for Both

Rail versus pipeline is the correct or even an appropriate question. According to the recent **David Suzuki Foundation** article, **both transportation methods come with significant risks.** Shipping by rail leads to more accidents and spills, but pipeline leaks usually involve much larger volumes. One of the reasons we're seeing more train accidents involving fossil fuels is the incredible boom in moving these products by rail. According to the **American Association of Railroads**, train shipments of crude oil in the U.S. grew almost 25



times from 2008 to 2012! Beyond the danger to the environment and human health, the worst risk with fossil fuels is the carbon emissions from burning their products. Many climate scientists and energy experts, including the **International Energy Agency**, agree that to have any chance of avoiding catastrophic climate change, we must leave at least **two-thirds** of our remaining fossil fuels in the ground. **Pipelines and fossil fuel development** are not great long-term job creators either, and pale in comparison to employment generated by the renewable energy sector.

## FROM THE TREASURER

Sister Death...

The Polish Community in Ontario and Quebec, and especially the Saint Maximilian Kolbe Fraternity of Mississauga just lost their bellowed shepherd. Fr. Sylwester (Peter) Hasnik O.F.M. was a renowned retreat master and spiritual guide in Poland, Canada, England, Spain, Norway, Colombia and Equator. He passed to eternity, in his 63rd year of life, in 43rd year of belonging to the Order, and 36th year of Priesthood.

He grew up in a Franciscan parish in southern Poland. In 1999, his parents, Paul and Sophia, were among the founders of a Secular Fraternity at their local parish in Katowice, Poland. Father Sylwester was initially involved in animating this Fraternity. His love for Saint Francis and his zeal to promote the Franciscan Spirituality was very well known in Poland and abroad. His charisma and youthful fervor drew everyone to his sermons and conferences. He worked for many years with the Franciscan Youth, and later, in 1995, following the example from Italy, he initiated and created in Poland the Knights of Saint Francis, among very young children in two groups (8-12) and (13-15). These knights, after 7 years of Franciscan formation, are later joining their local OFS Fraternities. The fruits are there already! At his untimely passing Father Sylwester was the National Spiritual Assistant to the Knights of Saint Francis in Poland for 19 years.

Another area of his loving service to the Lord and to Saint Francis was his ministry to adults. It was rooted in the trans-



forming power of the Holy Mass. He connected with the healing power of God the Divine Physician, and his charismatic healing masses served to liberate people from past hurts and ills, to restore family relationships and promote forgiveness. Fr. Sylwester was specially blessed as a gifted confessor and spiritual guide for those who desire union with God, but don't know how to initiate it. He helped to identify and overcome the obstacles to spiritual growth and wholeness. When it was needed, hereally followed the directions of St. Francis "Preach the Gospel at all times, and when necessary, use words." with his loving smiling eyes and his ears always ready to listen. Thanks to him, people connected better with each other, and many started to believe that being a saint is a call for everyone.

Our Fraternity was blessed to have Father Sylwester as a "remote spiritual assistant" for the last 5 years. We have had several wonderful and fruitful retreats during his annual visits to Canada when he was repeatedly invited by parishes in 7 Canadian dioceses.

Father Sylwester has a very special friend, Saint Kateri Tekakwitha. He first told us about blessed Kateri, 6 years ago, and today many of us know and love her as well. Thanks to his initiative the project of establishing Her Sanctuary in Poland is on the way.

Our bellowed "Friend of God" went to meet Our Lord on the First Friday, in the morning of December 05, 2014.

May He rest in peace and enter into his eternal reward to be with Our Lord forever in His Kingdom. As Father has helped so many people on earth, he certainly will be mindful of us and our petitions to him now.

Pax et Bonum  
Danuta Juchniewicz o.f.s.



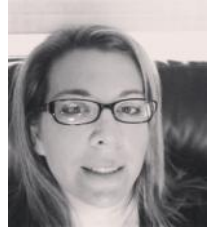
### The Good News Report

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.

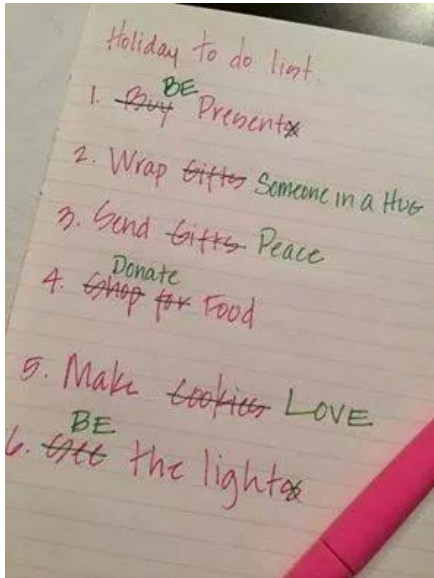
Any items you wish to include are warmly welcomed and will be published space permitting. Articles may be sent by the 8<sup>th</sup> of the month of publishing, to *Deacon Maurice Prindiville, ofs, [mpriindiville@golden.net](mailto:mpriindiville@golden.net)* Note: If you no longer wish to receive the newsletter, please let us know as above.

## YOUTH ANIMATOR'S LETTER

Peace and all good! What a joyous season we have entered. Presently, I am sitting at my desk and wondering how my students are feeling about the season. Some, I am sure, are anxiously awaiting a break, a time to breathe, a time to sit and listen. Others, unfortunately, are not anxiously awaiting this break. They are nervous about being home for two weeks because home is not a place to breathe, a place to sit or listen. For some of my students, and those within our lives, Jesus is not felt in their hearts.



So, how do we bring Jesus to others, especially our youth? I found this photo on Facebook and knew instantly it was God's 'To Do List.':



1. Be present. I have often heard it said, it is the time you spend with someone that is far more important than the money you spend. Many of our youth today need to feel loved and appreciated. If we truly want to celebrate the arrival of the Word among us, it is time to be present.
2. Wrap someone in a hug.....make love. In my over sixteen years of teaching, sometimes all the youth want is a hug. If you think about it, a hug is a simple gesture of love and acceptance. Sure it may bring with it a sense of vulnerability, but imagine how Mary and Joseph felt when the world descended to feel the 'hug' from God in the baby Jesus. Advent reminds us to open our hearts and not only receive the Greatest Gift, but also to give.
3. Send peace. Easier said than done at times. Youth know very little about peace these days unless you and I give them opportunity. So many of my students are more in-tune with their iPods than God. In the quiet we can find peace. Pray over this season that our youth find peace within; the

lasting peace of God.

4. Donate food and Be the Light. Christ calls us to be the candles of Advent. To bring hope to those without hope. To bring light to the darkness. Donating food, singing Christmas carols, working in soup kitchens are just a few examples of how we can bring light to this darkened world. I imagine what it must have been like over two thousand years ago to see the Star of Bethlehem. How bright it must have been to have so many travel so far. Be the light.

May peace, joy, love and hope surround you and your family during this blessed season. May our Lord bless you always and in all ways. Merry Christmas from my home to yours.

Peace and all good, Lisa



On Saturday November 8 a Formation workshop was held at St. Bonaventure's Church Hall. Over nine fraternities were represented at the workshop facilitated by our Formation Director, Donna Dooling.

# Local Fraternity Bulletin Board



Election Results for St. Peter's Fraternity in Woodbridge on November 16. ( L to R ) Charly Darmanin, Vice Minister; Angelo Carrera, Treasurer; Clelia Malerba, Formation Director; Mary Filangi, Minister; Anna Palombi, Secretary.



Sacred Heart Fraternity in Guelph was pleased to celebrate the Transitus of St. Francis at their October 5 meeting and to welcome with the Rite of Admission a new Candidate, Wendy Guilmette. Pictured here is (LtoR) Ann Forester, Minister of the fraternity, Mike Guilmette who is Wendy's husband and sponsor, Wendy, and the Formation Director, Cathy Payne. We welcome you and will journey with you to profession.

## OBITUARIES

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Rose Stojanov of a former member of Mary Queen of Peace fraternity in Walkerton/ Carlsrhue who passed away on November 6, 2014 at the age of 96.



Helen Fabro Secretary and Alejandro Martinez Minister received their Certificates of Recognition of 15 years serving on the St Francis of Assisi Fraternity Council. Their commitment and dedication is very much appreciated by members.



Two people made there profession on the Feast Day of St. Francis Oct. 4/14 at St. Francis of Assisi parish this evening in Toronto, Ontario. They are Anna Maria Vogel and John Carone. David Mitchell was in attendance from Trillium.

## 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](mailto:malerbac@yahoo.com) Please apply in good time if you wish to have them on the profession day or anniversary date.