



## A MOMMENT WITH THE MNISTER

*“Let our walking be our preaching.”*

These are the words of St. Francis, and our theme for our Regional Chapter of Elections held the weekend of May 5-7.



We had a most successful weekend with 18 fraternities represented at the Chapter and close to 60 Franciscans in attendance on Saturday. My sincere thank you to all who made their walking their preaching that weekend by showing your support for your Regional Elections. Our discussion groups proved very fruitful and some of the results are the following. The question was; How can our walking be our

### How can our walking be our preaching?

- Keeping a positive attitude.
- Performing the Corporal and Spiritual Works of mercy and getting involved in Parish ministries.
- Listening with an open heart was brought forward several times in discussion.
- Being bridge-builders of peace and love in our families and workplaces.
- Uplifting those who are feeling down.
- Wearing the Tau as a symbol of our identity and using it as a way of evangelizing.
- Trying to bring joy with you in your travels through music, smiles and generosity.

These and many more ideas were all positive characteristics that we can employ on our journey through life. People are quick to judge you within a few seconds so you want to.....preach often and use words only when necessary.

preaching?

Our Saturday discussion groups revolved around our priorities for the next three year term of your new Regional Council.

We looked back first over the past term, and determined that the Newsletters are a positive enrichment to the Region. Many were pleased with the gatherings that were afforded including workshops, pic-

*(Continued on page 2)*

## SPIRITUAL ASSISTANT

We celebrate the Feast of St Clare on August 11. I thought I would share an excerpt from the Papal Decree of Canonization of St Clare by Pope Alexander IV. The full text can be found in St Clare - the Lady: Early Documents, pages 262 ff.



*Clare, brilliant by her bright merits, by the brightness of her great glory in heaven, and by the brilliance of her sublime miracles on earth, shines brilliantly.*

*Clare, her strict and lofty way of religious life glows here on earth, while the magnitude of her eternal rewards radiates from above and her virtue begins to dawn upon all mortal beings with magnificent signs.*

*Clare: here [below] she was endowed with the privilege of the most exalted poverty; on high she is repaid by an inestimable source of treasure;*

*[Clare]: she is shown full devotion and immense honor by all.*

*Clare: her brilliant deeds distinguished her here [on earth].*

*Clare: while on high the fullness of the divine light shines on her.*

*Clare: her amazing works of wonder make her known to the Christian people.*

*Clare, endowed with so many brilliant titles! Bright even before your conversion, brighter in your manner of living, brighter still in your enclosed life, and brilliant in splendor after the course of your mortal life!*

*O how great is the vibrancy of this light and how intense is the brilliance of its illumination! While this light remained certainly in a hidden enclosure, it emitted sparkling rays outside.*

*Placed in the confined area of the monastery, yet she was spread throughout the wide world.*

*Hidden within, she extended herself abroad. Yes, Clare hid, yet her life has come to light. Clare was*

*(Continued on page 2)*

(MINISTER... Continued from page 1)

tics, conferences and Transitus services. Everyone who is using the Franciscan Journey book, for Formation with their Candidates, seem pleased with the program.



Now looking forward ... some items that were mentioned included: gatherings with other fraternities in our area, better use of technology, sharing our resources, and more information about what is going on at the National and International levels... (If I remember correctly that was an important priority that was sent to International when we did our priorities.) Many groups mentioned Youth as a priority going forward: that we need to encourage the Millennials and Youth into the Franciscan Family as our generation is aging. We must continue to offer social gatherings, workshops and conferences so we can continue to learn from one another and to keep in touch.

One unique idea I noted was to have every Fraternity make a banner and when we gather as a group we can bring our Fraternal Banners and display them proudly. So if your fraternity doesn't have a banner yet, perhaps you could look at getting one made to bring to our next gathering.

A very special thank you to Debbie Tessier who organized our multicultural Mass on the Saturday morning of our Chapter. It was very moving to hear such a wide variety of languages spoken in offering their prayers of the faithful. It certainly showcased the variety of Franciscans in our Trillium Region.

Wishing everyone a rest filled, peaceful summer. Blessed Feast of St. Clare on August 11.

Deus meus et omnia;  
Catherine Payne ofs



(SPIRITUAL ASSISTANT Continued from page 1)

*silent, yet her fame was proclaimed. She was hidden in a cell, but was known in cities.*

*It should not be surprising that a light so enkindled, so illuminating could not be kept hidden without shining brilliantly and giving bright light in the house of the Lord; nor could a vessel filled with perfume be concealed so it would not give fragrance and suffuse the Lord's house with a sweet fragrance.*

*Moreover, since with her harshness she broke the alabaster jar of her body in the severity of her cloistered solitude, the whole aura of the Church was thoroughly imbued with the fragrance of her sanctity.*

Fr. Peter Knaapen O.F.M. Conv

**Linda's Walk 2017**  
**Saturday, August 19**  
**from 8:00 am - 1:00 pm**



The secular Franciscans of St Bonaventure fraternity have formed a team to participate in Linda's Walk. This is a 5K walk to raise money for **St Clare Inn**, a ministry of the Conventual Franciscan Friars and Friends of St Francis. The walk is at St Bonaventure Church, 1300 Leslie St, Don Mills.

St. Clare Inn is a transitional home for homeless women living with mental health challenges. It is a home where they can live with dignity while rebuilding their lives. Within this safe, drug and alcohol free environment where respect, peace, safety, and dignity are key values, women can begin to heal and start to build a better future. For more information or if you wish to participate please go to

<http://www.stclareinn.com/>

If you want to sponsor one of the members please contact Fr Peter at [knaapenp@outlook.com](mailto:knaapenp@outlook.com) or 416-447-5571 ext 233.

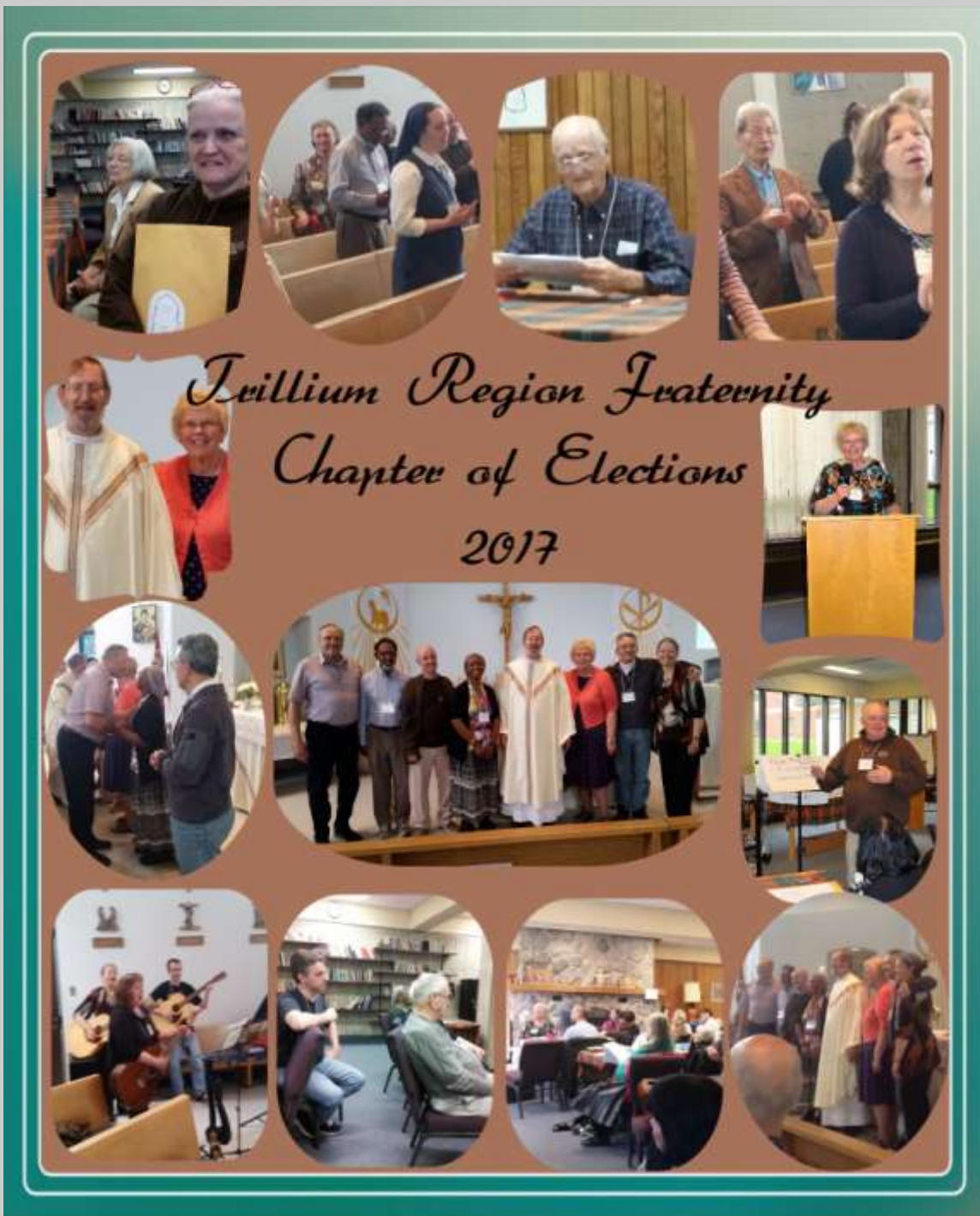


### **PICNIC on the Feast of St. Clare of Assisi, August 11, 2017**

*Hosted by St. Angela Merici Fraternity*

- 12:00 Noon ~ Mass at St. Michael's Church, 379 Division St., Cobourg
- 1:00 pm ~ Potluck lunch (bring your own to share)  
Cobourg Beach, 138 Division St. (Pavilion available)
- 2:00 pm ~ Talent show.

*Information is on the Trillium Website.*



*Trillium Region Fraternity  
Chapter of Elections  
2017*

**Your Trillium Regional Council 2017-2020**

Minister – Catherine Payne ofs  
 Vice Minister- Teresa Viechweg, ofs  
 Vice Minister – John Francis Carsone ofs  
 Secretary – Debbie Tessier ofs  
 Treasurer – Mark Rozario ofs  
 Formation Minister – Sergio Iturri ofs  
 Youth Animator – Christopher Elliott ofs  
 Spiritual Assistant – Father Peter Knaapen OFM Conv.

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## VICE MINISTER

### *Hail Full of Grace*

This year, 2017, the hundredth anniversary of Our Blessed Mother's visit to Fatima, there is a plethora of information written about her, and there are celebrations ongoing throughout the year and throughout the world. Information is forthcoming not only about the Fatima apparitions, but also about her many other appearances throughout the years. There is nothing that I can write which has not yet been written, so my focus will be on my life with her.

As a young girl I remember my mother's devotion to our Blessed Mother, and getting us together for the family Rosary. At High School, the Rosary was said immediately on returning to school after lunch. Unhappily, my devotion to her abated over a number of years, but although I may have forgotten her - said the Rosary infrequently or without thought - she never forgot me. She gazed lovingly at me in Medjugorje and gave me a memento - the Miraculous medal - not only for myself but for others.

My favorite image of her is as "Our Lady of



Grace". She brings to mind incomparable beauty, gentleness, and compassion... and an all-encompassing love. Through her hands flow all the graces from Jesus that one can ever wish for. When God the Father created her, He made

her the most perfect being to be the mother of His Son. His son, Jesus, on the cross gave her to us as a parting gift, when, seeing His mother and John the disciple standing at the foot of the cross, He said: "*Woman behold thy son*"; and to the disciple: "*Behold thy mother.*"

How much thought is given to what we say when we pray or ask Mary's intercession? Have we really thought of, and accepted her or recognized her as our mother?

I have learnt to place my trust in her intercession, going to her in my "ups and downs". Remembering my dependence (in my youth) on my mother, I have transferred that dependency on my



Heavenly mother and go to her for all my needs - recognizing myself as a young child in need of her mother. For this reason I have made a Total Consecration to the Immaculata. Maximilian Kolbe says that entrustment to her makes us totally hers. Pope St. John Paul II's motto, *Totus tuus*, is a reminder of his great love for her.

One of my favorite Franciscan stories is about Friar Leo's dream about St. Francis going up the red ladder to Heaven. He was encouraging his brothers to climb up too, but they were unable to and were falling off. He directed them to try climbing up the white ladder on which the Blessed Mother stood, pitiful and kind - welcoming the Friars.

When my friends are depressed, in need or even searching for misplaced items, I always encourage them to: **GO TO THE MOTHER.** She always comes through.

Peace

*Teresa Viechweg, ofs*

## VICE MINISTER

### *An Observer's Viewpoint*

I thought that I was only an observer at the Chapter: a solemnly professed Secular Franciscan with no voting privilege. Somehow I left that said Chapter a 2nd Vice Minister; the shock is still with me!

I need so much help, especially with the technical stuff like email; fortunately I have Brother Alan and the Toronto Public Library and your prayers to assist. If you're at all like me (hopefully not) you tell God that you want to do His will and then go about manipulating your own life giving one hand to Him while keeping the other hand fixed firmly on your own will. God quietly waits for you to hand over the reins.

It's always good to think of our Lady. St Francis had such a love for her. Now as we celebrate the Fatima Centenary we marvel at the messages, and at those three shepherd children, two now saints, and a servant of God on her way to sainthood. Our Lady's request of these young innocents should penetrate our hearts, while shaming our lack of faith. "*Are you willing to give yourselves entirely to God?*" she asked. Their fiat produced another awesome statement - "*Then go, you have much to suffer.*" It sounds pretty grim until you realise that true joy comes only from a giving sacrificial heart. Bringing "life to gospel and gospel to life" requires this of all of us.

*(Continued on page 4)*



I don't come to you as a teacher, but as a student of your many years of sacrifice and service to the church as Secular Franciscans. Over the next three years you will be teaching me. I will still be an observer. Perhaps my greatest shock is that one so young in this life has been asked to do this big job. I don't mean young in age, for I am 71 years old, but pretty green in my Franciscan experience.

St Francis will continue to delight us even as we experience sorrow and doubt, with his sense of freedom that only comes from complete trust in God. I often think of my favourite story about him. As he walked along he picked up two sticks and began to fiddle and dance like a man without a care in the world. How could he have any cares? He didn't have anything that the world would value. "My God and My All", this was his only possession. What a great possession to not only be in the presence of God, but to feel the presence of God. His desire to be with God led him to Mount Alverna where the relationship was made complete, all the bitterness of his life was made sweet: beginning with the leper, to the wolf of Gubbio, right to the altar of God as a Saint. A true "Alter Christus" as many popes have said of him.

This is the goal of all who live the Gospel to life and life to Gospel.

Pax et Bonum

Br John Francis Carstone, ofs

**TREASURER**

- Whether you drive a BMW or a Maruti, the road remains the same.
- Whether you fly Economy or Business Class, the destination doesn't change.
- Whether you wear a Titan or Rolex watch, the time is the same.
- Whether your phone is a Samsung or an Apple, the people who call you are the same...

What we must ensure is that our need does not turn into greed—because our need can always be met, but our greed can never be satisfied.

Peace,

Mark Rozario ofs



**FORMATION**



My dear sisters and brothers, the Lord give you peace and also the joy of trusting that we are the beloved children of a loving God whose justice is perfected by His infinite mercy.

During our last Trillium elections, I was truly inspired by your dedication, your openness to love and serve the poor. It gave me a little taste of what it must have been during the times of Brother Francis - when all the brethren converged in Assisi to share in the fraternal spirit and build the community. Yes, and what a beautiful community it was!

Here is the amazing thing: a Franciscan fraternity is a community, consequently WE are a community!! And the stronger that sense of community is in each of our fraternities, the stronger it will become in the Trillium. A community is like a team that depends on the strength of each member and on the unique richness each member brings.

How can we strengthen our community? Following the maxim that a family that prays together stays together, I encourage each fraternity to pray together during your monthly meetings: using either gospel contemplation or Lectio Divina and to share your prayer experience as a group. Although this may expose our inner thoughts, and make us feel vulnerable, it is precisely the point of this exercise! Only when one brings down the wall that protects the ego can one truly be whom God has made, and thus become strong in the community by depending on God who is present in one's brothers and sisters.

God talks to us in many ways, mostly he uses our brothers and sisters to talk with us, and in listening to the shared experience we hear what God is trying to tell us. Yes! God talks to us through others because we are on a journey together, all our souls are, to quote St. Bonaventure, 'in journey to God.'

Our hearts are never at rest until they rest in the Lord, and it is the Holy spirit that will take us to the glorified Christ as the ardent flame of Love is fanned by our frequent prayer.

Please, keep the new council in your prayers that we may dedicate the next three years of our lives to serving you in the Franciscan spirit of humility, loving kindness, and of walking humbly with our God.

May the Lord bless you and keep you always!

Your brother

Sergio Iturri ofs

## YOUTH ANIMATOR

Just by way of introduction, my name is Christopher Elliott, and I am the new Youth Animator for the Trillium Regional Fraternity.



It was a great blessing for me to be asked to take on this responsibility which just so happened to coincide with the start of my new job as Youth Minister for St. Timothy's Church in Toronto.

A big part of my job will be finding ways to share our Franciscan spirituality with teenagers and young adults. To that end I am working on creating a presentation on the lives of Sts. Francis and Clare, and all things Franciscan, that I will share with parishes, schools and youth groups in our region. My hope is that the young people of today will find the lives of St. Francis and St. Clare just as inspiring today as they were over 800 years ago. If you would like me to visit your parish when this presentation is ready and share it with your youth group I would be more than happy to do that!

The other project that I am working on as Youth Animator is the formation of a Franciscan Fraternity for young people. For this group to flourish it must be built around a clear purpose that inspires youth and makes a positive impact in our world. The prayer I have included (*above to the right*) forms the central ideals around which this group would revolve.

To that end, I am praying and discerning about the possibility of planning a Franciscan mission trip for youth ages 17-21 for some time next year. Those who take part would have to attend monthly meetings to prepare for the mission as well as receive formation in Franciscan spirituality. They would also be encouraged to get involved with their local fraternity who would support them by helping to collect donations for the mission trip both financial and material. We hope that calling these young people to mission will be the start of a group called "Young Franciscan Missionaries," that will continue and grow with God's blessing.

Please pray for the youth!

*Christopher Elliott, ofs.*  
chriselliottym@gmail.com

MAY GOD BLESS US WITH DISCOMFORT  
AT EASY ANSWERS, HALF-TRUTHS, AND SUPERFICIAL  
RELATIONSHIPS, SO THAT WE MAY LIVE DEEP WITHIN  
OUR HEARTS.

MAY GOD BLESS US WITH ANGER AT INJUSTICE,  
OPPRESSION, AND EXPLOITATION OF PEOPLE,  
SO THAT WE MAY WORK  
FOR JUSTICE, FREEDOM AND PEACE.

MAY GOD BLESS US WITH TEARS TO SHED FOR THOSE  
WHO SUFFER FROM PAIN, REJECTION, STARVATION  
AND WAR, SO THAT WE MAY REACH OUT OUR HANDS TO  
COMFORT THEM AND TURN THEIR PAIN INTO JOY.

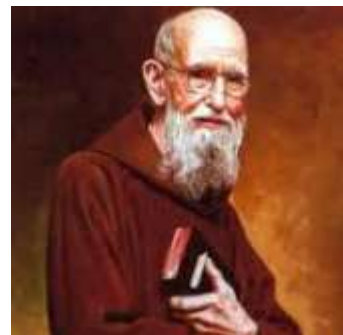
AND MAY GOD BLESS US WITH ENOUGH FOOLISHNESS  
TO BELIEVE THAT WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THIS  
WORLD, SO THAT WE CAN DO WHAT OTHERS  
CLAIM CANNOT BE DONE.

AMEN



## BEATIFICATION OF VENERABLE SOLANUS CASEY ofm Cap.

Capuchin Friars across  
North America rejoice and  
anticipate the upcoming Be-  
atification of: Venerable  
Solanus Casey ofm, Cap.  
in November 2017.



Details to follow

## A Triduum of the Transitus of St. Francis October 3 to 5, 2017

will be offered at St. Philip Neri Church  
2100 Jane St, North York,

More information will be forthcoming on the events  
but please mark your calendars now.





# Local Fraternity Bulletin Board

## OBITUARIES

### ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA: SARNIA

**Anna Benusik** passed away peacefully on May 11, 2017. Both Anna and her late husband, Peter were Franciscans: professed together in 1999. They were also Consecrated to Jesus through Mary. For their devotions, they kept a Prayer Room in their home. With a kind and loving heart, Anna always greeted you with a smile and a hug.

### ST. ANGELA MERICI FRATERNITY: OSHAWA

Over the past four months, the St. Angela Merici's Fraternity has shared the grief of the sudden deaths of some family members of our Fraternity: Irene McEvers' grandson, Sydney; Elizabeth Sheedy's son, Michael; Freda Langford's grandsons, Danny and Jeremy. Michael Thompson was pre-deceased by his grandmother, **Mildred Thompson**. We also grieved the death of **Eleanor Dickie**, who would have celebrated in November, her 25th Anniversary as a Secular Franciscan.

### ST. ANNE FRATERNITY: WINDSOR, TECUMSEH :

**Michael Quinn** Died: April 19, 2017 professed over 45 years

### ST. BONAVENTURE FRATERNITY: TORONTO

**Angie Morrow** Died: May 8, 2017

### MARY QUEEN OF PEACE FRATERNITY: HANOVER, CARLSRUHE

**Robert Cassidy** Died: May 15, 2017

### From ST. FRANCIS CHURCH: TORONTO

**Blaise Fernandes** – Father of Father Conrad Fernandes OFM Died: June 6, 2017



### ST FELIX OF CANTALICE FRATERNITY,

Members of St. Felix of Cantalice Fraternity attended a special screening of 'The Sultan and The Saint' at the Aga Khan Museum in Toronto, on June 11. It was an enjoyable evening for our fraternity.



### PROFESSIONS

A wonderful celebration of the five newly professed members of **St. Anthony of Padua Fraternity in Sarnia** on Thursday June 15, 2017.

*from left to right - front row:* Allana Myslawchuk, Minister, **Scott Molson, Helen Taveres, Tony Muir, Patricia and Brian Blonde** and Wilhelmina Kole, Formation Director.



### RITE OF ADMISSION

The Rite of Admission was celebrated on Sunday June 11, 2017 at **St. Francis Fraternity, Burlington.**

*from left to right:* **Lori and Brian Konst**, the newly received, Rosanne Creery, Formation Director, and Mark Rozario, Minister of the Fraternity.



### PROFESSIONS

A beautiful celebration of four Professions was held on April 22 at Immaculate Conception Church in **Sutton, Ontario.**

Father Peter Knaapen celebrated the Mass and with him in this picture are (*from left to right:*) **Catherine Mackie, Michael Karwat, Joseph Thompson, Rose Sheppard** and the Minister of **St. Bonaventure Fraternity**, Moira McKe-

### 25th ANNIVERSARIES

In May, **St. Angela Merici Fraternity** celebrated the 25th Anniversaries of **Irene McEvers** and **Camile Norton.**

Irene made her "Renewal of Commitment", after which we celebrated with cake and treats.

Unfortunately Camile has been ill for a number of months and has not been able to attend some of the meetings. Please keep her in your prayers.

Through their dedication and guidance, these two great ladies have contributed immensely to the Fraternity's development.

### 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.

### 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,* [mprindiville@golden.net](mailto:mprindiville@golden.net) Note: If you no longer wish to receive the newsletter, please let us know as above.