



Good News Report

Secular Franciscan Order
Trillium Regional Fraternity



Number 71

Spring 2015

A MOMENT WITH THE MINISTER

How many of the hundreds of times that you have placed your Tau over your head have you stopped to really think about it? During this past Lenten season I have tried to reflect on the Cross and its significance in my life.



Franciscans know that St. Francis chose the Tau as his signature. The Tau cross e signified for Francis that he wanted to be the least among many. The Cross held a special significance for St. Francis. He adored Jesus Christ and above all wanted to be

transformed into “another Christ.” The Cross showed to St. Francis the love, mercy and forgiveness of his beloved Saviour. These are the qualities that St. Francis wanted to show in his own life and we like Francis must try daily to imitate in our own lives. By wearing our Taus we are showing our own love of the Cross of Christ.

Rule # 10 states, *“Let them also follow the poor and Crucified Christ, witness to Him even in difficulties and persecutions.”* St. Francis accepted suffering in its many forms, and always saw suffering as an opportunity to imitate Christ. St. Paul tells us in: 1 Corinthians 17, *“I do not fill my sermons with profound words and high sounding ideas, for fear of diluting the mighty power there is in the simple message of the cross of Christ.”*

Each day as we don our Tau do we think of the message of the cross of Christ? To follow Francis is to be willing to accept sacrifices and sufferings. St. Francis carried the crucified Christ always in his heart.

The shape of the Tau always reminds me of someone with their arms outstretched! Again another reminder to get my arms out into action, either by holding an elderly person’s arm into Church, carrying a load for someone, picking up the telephone to check on a sick friend or simply making the sign of the Cross in prayer. The Tau, a simple symbol with some powerful impact. Let the Tau speak to you and listen carefully to the message. Am I the least of many, am I living a life of love

(Continued on page 2)

VICE-MINISTER’S LETTER

Time, Money and Franciscan Spirituality

This Easter season is a time of renewal of our commitments to our SFO way of life. During lent, we prepared for this joyful renewal by recalling that we, as



members of the Franciscan Family, are called to a penitential way of life. We desire to truly sacrifice ourselves, like Jesus and like Francis and Clare.

How? We looked at our habits, and looked how and where we spend our time and our money. We consider how we most often choose to serve God and others. We look at the attitudes we bring to our sacrifices. We look deeply to see our motives. We look to see if we give out of a real desire to serve God and His people OR if we seek appreciation, accolades, power or other forms of reward. (Too often, I discover a lack of sincere altruism)

As penitents, we look deeply into our souls and discover our poverty of virtue and realize that only the Grace of God and trust in Him allows us to truly experience the true JOY of the Gospel. We discover, particularly during Lent when penitence is our focus, that we too often excuse ourselves by making financial choices that serve our own wants rather than the good and justice of others. Do we buy Fair Trade products versus those produced by companies who exploit labour? Do we excuse ourselves from contributing to the financial needs of our fraternities and Region? Do we buy more food than we need and throw out the excess but do not contribute to our local food-banks?

We also discover our practiced poverty when we review honestly our use of time. Do we make time for prayer every day? Do we attend the sacraments often? Do we contribute to the life of our communities, fraternities, families, and friends as needs arise? Do we make time for spiritual reading or study? Do we share of faith journey with others?

(Continued on page 2)

(Minister: continued from page 1)

for the Cross and am I doing all I can to reach out, way out to help others?

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Father Peter Knaapen and Les Alberti who together have ensured almost all our fraternities have their Canonical Establishment papers in order. This has been a big job over the past three years and I am grateful that Father Peter and Les have shown such true dedication to this cause.

Next month, Father Peter, myself and two delegates will be attending the National Chapter of Elections in Lorretteville, Quebec from May 15-17. We ask for your prayers at this time that the Chapter will be successful and the Holy Spirit will help us choose dedicated Franciscans who are willing to represent us at the National level.

With the nicer weather upon us, we at the Region hope to get to visit many of the fraternities this spring. Please get hold of your Area Councillors to book a time for a visit.

You should have all received the registration forms for the upcoming Regional Spiritual Conference on "Peace in Today's World" on June 27th at Loyola House at the Ignatius Centre in Guelph, Ontario. I look forward to seeing many of you there. It is going to be a wonderful, "peaceful" day!
Catherine Payne ofs



(Vice Minister: continued from page 1)

I don't know about you, but I find that Lent shatters many of my illusions about any holiness that I may have. When I look deeply and honestly, I always find that I am so very poor in the eyes of God. At the same time, I recall the depths of God's love for me and recall how much He has already accomplished in me. I go to confession and recommit myself to my OFS promises and my baptismal promises.

Then come Easter and Mercy Sunday, and I open by heart in trust to Jesus. My gratitude for His great sacrifice and greater love overwhelms me. My love for Him grows deeper. Hope and joy are renewed and I trust Jesus to help me to be a better penitent and to make better choices in how I use my time, money and other resources.

Louise Arruda, ofs

ABOUT THE JUBILEE OF MERCY



On March 13, 2015, in St. Peter's Basilica, Pope Francis announced on the celebration of an "extraordinary Holy Year." This "Jubilee of Mercy" will commence with the opening of the Holy Door in St. Peter's on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, 2015, and will conclude on November 20, 2016 with the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. At the start of the new year, the Holy Father had stated: "This is the time of mercy. It is important that the lay faithful live it and bring it into different social environments. Go forth!"

The Divine Mercy Message of St. Francis of Assisi *By Dr. Robert Stackpole, STD (Oct 4, 2013)*

In the High Middle Ages, the theme of the merciful love of God was certainly not the exclusive property of St. Thomas Aquinas, St. Catherine of Siena, and the Dominicans. The early Franciscans also contributed to the Church's meditations on Divine Mercy in their own distinctive way.

For example, we know from *The Life of St. Francis*, written by St. Bonaventure (1217-1274), that one of the divine perfections that St. Bonaventure saw most clearly reflected in St. Francis of Assisi was the Divine Mercy. Bonaventure writes the following lines in the very "Prologue" to the biography:

In these latter days the grace of God our Saviour has appeared in his servant Francis to all who are truly humble and lovers of holy poverty. In him they can venerate God's superabundant mercy, and be taught by his example to live in conformity with Christ, and to thirst after blessed hope with unflagging desire.

(Continued on page 3)

Later in the same work, St. Bonaventure tells us that one of the principal intentions of St. Francis's own prayers was pleading for mercy upon the world, on the basis of the sorrowful passion of Jesus Christ (chapter 10, section 4):

When the man of God was left alone and at peace, he would fill the groves with sighs, sprinkle the ground with tears, striking his breast with his fist, and having found there a kind of secret hiding place, would converse with his Lord. There he would answer his Judge, there he would entreat his Father, there he would entertain his Friend; and there also on several occasions the friars who were devoutly observing him heard him groan aloud, imploring the divine mercy for sinners and weeping for the Lord's passion as if it were before his eyes.

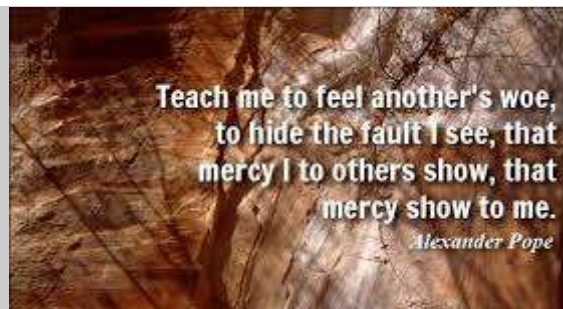
Still later in his biography, St. Bonaventure tells the story of the words of St. Francis about Divine Mercy to a hardened sinner that brought about the man's conversion (chapter 11, section 6):

Another time, a noble woman, devoted to God, came to the saint to explain her trouble to him and ask for help. She had a very cruel husband who opposed her serving Christ. So she begged the saint to pray for him so that God in His goodness would soften his heart. When [St. Francis] heard this he said to her: "Go in peace, and without any doubt be assured that your husband will soon be a comfort to you." And he added: "Tell him on God's part and on my own, that now is the time of mercy, and afterwards of justice." After receiving a blessing, the woman went home, found her husband, and delivered the message. The Holy Spirit came upon him (Acts 10:44) making him a new man and inducing him to answer with gentleness: "My lady, let us serve the lord and save our souls." At the suggestion of his holy wife, they lived a celibate life for many years, and both passed away to the Lord on the same day.

We know from other sources that the message of Divine Mercy was also on the mind of St. Francis at the time of his death. In a biography entitled *Francis of Assisi: The Man Who Found Perfect Joy* (Sophia Institute Press), Michael de la Bedoyere tells how, as Francis lay dying, he asked his brethren to sing with him the "Canticle of the Sun" that he had composed in praise of the Creator.

Brother Elias, seated by his side, protested: "Should you not keep recollected and silent?" Saint Francis replied (p. 302): "O let me rejoice in God, and in praising Him in all my sufferings, since by a wonderful grace, I feel myself so close to my Lord that, in the knowledge of His mercy, I can sing again." As the litter on which he lay was carried out in sight of the city of Assisi, Francis offered up this prayer (p. 315-316):

Lord, whereas this city was in olden times a place inhabited by wicked men, I see now that through Your great mercy, in Your own good time, You have been merciful to it more than to other cities. You have chosen it to be the home of those who acknowledge and give glory to Your holy Name. It is giving the world an example of good report, saintly life, full and pure teaching, and of evangelical perfection. I ask You then, my Lord Jesus Christ, Father of all mercy, to overlook our ingratitude, and always to bear in mind Your great pity, that the city should forever be the home of those who truly know Thee and glorify Thy blessed Name forever and ever. Amen.



Postscript. In the article, which may be viewed at <http://thedivinemercy.org/news/4241>, Dr. Stackpole also offers three examples from the *Little Flowers of St. Francis of Assisi*:

"How St. Francis taught Friar Leo to answer, and how he was never able to speak except to say the opposite of what St. Francis desired" (Chapter 9): "How St. Francis converted three robbers by preaching to them about God's mercy: " (Chapter 26) and "How a certain Friar Matthew relieved a soul of an inordinate fear of damnation" (Chapter 25)

Dr. Robert Stackpole, STD, is director of the *John Paul II Institute of Divine Mercy*, an apostolate of the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception.

FROM THE TREASURER

*Blessed Ceferino (Zeffferino)
Giménez-Malla*



The Spanish Civil War, just some 80 years ago (1936-1939), stands as one of the most traumatic events of the twentieth century. Historians see it as setting the stage for World War II. As many as a million people, civilians included, may have died in a conflict that pitted class against class, ideology against ideology, unbelief against faith.

The Catholic Church was one of the main sufferers. Thousands of priests, religious and lay-people died for the faith in execution-style killings. Historians called the killing of clergy and religious “the worst example of anticlerical violence in modern history,” surpassing even the French Revolution. Of claims that the Church brought it on herself, someone said, “Even then it was fashionable to blame the victims”. Nazi Germany, fascist Italy and the communist Soviet Union each provided significant military aid, material and personnel: Germany and Italy to the Nationalists of the right, and the Soviets to the Communists who made up a major element of the Republican coalition on the left.

Blessed Ceferino, also known as El Pele was born on August 26, 1861 of a Catholic gypsy family. He lived like a nomad for forty years and then settled in Barbastro. Although he was illiterate, he taught the gypsy and non-gypsy children the first elements of Christianity, using the Bible above all, and he trained them to pray daily. He married Teresa Gimenez Castro, but had no children. They adopted Teresa’s relative Pepita. Zeffferino was active in his community. Teaching faith to children, conducting a choir, leading a Rosary Prayer Group was among his daily activities.

His neighbors and companions had a high respect for him and often asked him to settle a dispute or grievance. While trading horses he was always very honest and just. During the last 20 years of his life he attended the Holy Mass daily, and always prayed the Holy Rosary. In 1926, four years after the death of his wife, he entered the Franciscan Third Order.

In July of 1936, when the Civil War started, he stood in defense of a priest tortured by the soldiers. He was arrested and put into jail. When a Rosary was found in his possession he was offered

a release if he would stop praying it and disrespect it. He denied and he was shot. He died shouting, “Long live Christ the King!” holding a Rosary in his hands. His body was thrown into a common grave and never found again. On May 04, 1997 in Rome, John Paul II proclaimed him Blessed. On that special day, tens of thousands of Romani from all corners of the world arrived in Rome to celebrate the beatification of the first one from their ethnicity.

During the homily Holy Father JOHN PAUL II said”*In Barbastro, the Gypsy Ceferino Giménez-Malla, known as “El Pelé” died for the faith in which he had lived. His life shows how Christ is present in the various peoples and races, and that all are called to holiness which is attained by keeping his commandments and remaining in his love.*

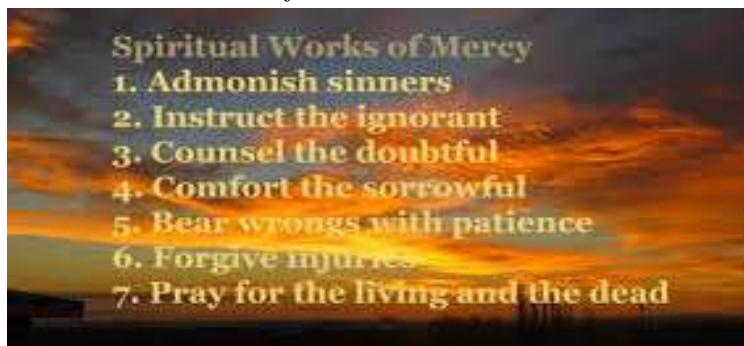
El Pelé was generous and welcoming to the poor, despite his own poverty; honest in his activities, faithful to his people and his Gypsy race, endowed with an extraordinary natural intelligence and the gift of counsel. He was above all a man of deep religious beliefs. His frequent participation at Mass, devotion to the Blessed Virgin with the recitation of the Rosary, and his membership in various Catholic associations helped him to firmly love God and his neighbor. Thus even at the risk of his own life, he did not hesitate to defend a priest who was about to be arrested, and for doing so he was put in prison where he never ceased to pray and was later shot, as he clutched his Rosary in his hands.

Bl. Ceferino Giménez Malla knew how to sow peace and solidarity among his own, often mediating in the conflicts that relations between Gypsies and farmers sometimes involve, showing that Christ’s love is not limited by race or culture.

Today “El Pelé” intercedes for all before our common Father, and the Church proposes him as a model to follow and a significant example of the universal vocation to holiness, especially for Gypsies, who have close cultural and ethnic ties with him.”

Blessed Ceferino pray for us!

Danuta Juchniewicz ofs



YOUTH ANIMATOR'S LETTER

LOVE....one word, so many meanings. One of the greatest challenges I have had working with youth over the years is helping them to understand that they are loved. Our North American society is saturated with the word 'love,' but not in a good way. We 'love' everything, from our favourite desserts, to a song, to a flower and maybe, a person. It is no wonder then how youth have a difficult time with this word. How can they feel love if they themselves don't understand it? Lent is a beautiful season to examine the true meaning of LOVE. Many people I speak to find it odd that Lent is my favourite liturgical season. However, after I explain that our Lord on the Cross is the GREATEST example of LOVE, they seem to understand a little more. Lent is a time of sacrifice, yearning, mercy, forgiveness, but most of all LOVE. When I look at the crucifix and see my Saviour there, I see love; true love, AGAPE, love worth dying for. There is no better example of love than through the crucifixion of Christ. Youth are thirsty for this love. The issue is that they don't know Christ. They don't know just how much He loves them. This is where you and I come in. It is our Catholic duty to teach the world of His Love. I have seen youth change when they understand true love. I can't tell you how blessed I feel to sit with youth as they finally realize the love our Lord has for them; their tears say it all. I encourage you to speak of love....His love. Preach to anyone and everyone. It is LOVE that will change the world. Blessings to all of you over this Easter Season. My prayers will be that through you, the youth will encounter HIS love. Peace be with all of you always and in all ways.

Peace and all good,
Lisa Theriault, ofs



FROM THE FORMATION CORNER

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
Greetings and Peace. Christ has Risen! Alleluia!



He holds out the promise of New Life to all of us, so let us continue to do things in our fraternities which are "life-giving". Please encourage and re-enforce this to those professed and those in initial formation. Formation is an important part of being Franciscan. It is the basis on which our life of being Franciscan is all about. If not formed properly, we are not "grounded" in our commitment to a Franciscan way of life – a life-time commitment, and a solemn promise of daily conversion and renewal.

During the month of May (May 23) I will be facilitating another formation seminar in Sarnia. Please e-mail me at – donnadooling@gmail.com if you plan to attend. This way I can ensure that I have enough handouts!!

Coming up is the month of May – the month of Mary. Francis considered Mary as his mother and also reminded us that, as his followers we are to be mothers to each other. You may want to do the Crown Rosary at your month of May meeting, after reading of Scripture, and a quiet reflection.

This time of year some of my favourite gospel readings are read and I think they offer special openness to reflection and contemplation. They are:

Apr. 19 – The road to Emmaus where we realize that Jesus walks side by side with each one of us and we break bread with Him on a regular basis!! How awesome is that?

Apr. 26 - The Good Shepherd where we must ask ourselves, "Do we see and profess that Christ watches out for us and loves and protects us constantly – not just once in a while?" He never leaves us. He always is there – ever watchful and ever caring.

May 17 - The Ascension of the Lord where the Lord calls us to take action and to bear witness to Him, the Risen Lord, to proclaim Him to the ends of the earth, and to preach the good news to the whole of creation by action and by word. Now we ask the Lord to send His Holy Spirit to work through us. He has breathed the Holy Spirit into each and every one of us, and whatever our gifts, we are to cherish and utilize them to our fullest extent with His help.

I pray that all of you have a Blessed and Peaceful spring. Be ever aware of creation at this time. The Lord has truly Blessed all of us to see even just this portion of His beauty here on earth.

Peace and All Good!!

Donna Dooling ofs

SPIRITUAL CONFERENCE 2015
PEACE IN TODAY'S WORLD
JUNE 27th 2015

Venue

Location ~ Ignatius Jesuit Centre of Guelph, Loyola House
Facilitator ~ Tarcia Gerwing, ofs, Sacred Heart Fraternity, Guelph
Cost ~ \$50.00 includes Lunch. Time 9:30 am - 3:30 pm
Registration Forms available January 2015
Mass, Reflections and Nature Walks on the Grounds.

For Information about
the Ignatius Jesuit
Centre, location, map
and directions
click on

[PEACE](#)

www.ignatiusguelph.ca
www.loyolahouse.com
519-824-1250



VICE MINISTER'S
LETTER Justice,
Peace &
Integrity of Creation

*Global
Catholic
Climate
Move-
ment
The
Global



Catholic Climate Move-
ment is requesting of us
all to ask "Should we
take action on climate
change?" at this web-
site: [http://
catholicclimatemove-
ment.global](http://catholicclimatemovement.global). The peti-
tion you are free to
sign, addresses world
leaders:

"Climate change
affects everyone, but
especially the poor and
most vulnerable people.
Impelled by our Catho-
lic faith, we call on you
to drastically cut carbon
emissions to keep the
global temperature rise
below the dangerous
threshold of 1.5°C, and
to aid the world's poor-
est in coping with cli-
mate change impacts."

On the 20th February 2015 at his morning meditation in the Chapel of the Domus Sanctae Marthae, Pope Francis said "*Using God to cover up injustice is an extremely grave sin*". Pope Francis emphasized that Lent is not only about "not eating meat on Fridays", meaning "doing some little things" while one's "selfishness, exploitation of others, ignorance of the poor" grows.

To accompany the morning prayer that Friday, Pope Francis issued the above stern warning against social injustices of all kinds - employee exploitation, long hospital waits, people in prison. He called on us to consider how outwardly observing Lenten fasts should foster an inner transformation in us, that "*bears fruit in the Spirit*". So, the fast is not a formality but becomes real and concrete. Just as we will not fast from meat to dive into a banquet of fish, so we will not "torment" our workers: argue with them, exploit them; we will consider how we can provide for the needs of the poor and the marginalized where we are and pray for those who have fallen.

He reminded us of Jesus words: "*Do not fast any more as you did today, change your heart. And what is the fast that I choose? Dissolve the chains of wickedness, cut the thongs of the yoke, let the oppressed go*"

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

free and break every yoke, share your bread with the hungry, bring the poor and the homeless into your house, clothe those you see naked, without neglecting your kin". This is "doing justice", the Pope said, this "is true fasting, which is not only external, and outward observance, but a fast that comes from the heart".

Dear brothers and sisters, a significant amount of time has transpired since an attempt to set up a Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation (**JPIC**) Committee for Trillium Region. Thus, to paraphrase our Seraphic Father St. Francis, we are to begin again in setting up the committee.

To Ministers of Fraternities, please forward the name(s) and contact information of all who would be interested in serving on the JPIC Committee. The information can be sent to me:

Email: marzioapolloni@gmail.com / Phone: 519-832-2751

Mail: M. Apolloni ofs, 499 Crawford St., Port Elgin, Ontario, N0H2C2

Local Fraternity Bulletin Board



Sacred Heart Fraternity in Guelph was pleased to present Mary Trent with her 5 year certificate last month. Mary has been a wonderful blessing to the fraternity as secretary and also through all her sewing projects. Thank you Mary!



Mary, Queen of Peace Fraternity in Hanover were the hosts for the Franciscan Stations of the Cross held on Friday, March 27 at Holy Family Parish.

A Come and See display was set up after the Stations and many came to chat and find out about the Secular Franciscan Order. Thank you to Deacon Charles Fernandes and Gary Agombar, the Minister of the fraternity.

The Good News Report

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

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

OBITUARIES

St Mary of the Angels Fraternity, Welland

The death of **Kirk Arbuckle**, father of Aaron of St Mary of the Angels Fraternity was reported on December 11, 2014. Kirk was the Minister of a Fraternity in Prince Edward Island.

The St. Angela Merici Fraternity, Oshawa

Mrs. Marilyn Anne Crinnion was instrumental in the starting of the Fraternity in Oshawa in 1983.

Marilyn died on January 27, the feast of St. Angela Merici, the Patron of the Fraternity. His Eminence Thomas Cardinal Collins celebrated he funeral Mass at St. Philip the Apostle Church in Oshawa on Monday, February 2;

Cecile Gaboury died on January 28. Cecile was professed as a Secular Franciscan on July 22, 1946. This January 22, she celebrated her 92nd birthday. Her funeral Mass was held at the St. Joseph the Worker Roman Catholic Church on Saturday January 31.

PROFESSIONS

St. Benedict the Black Fraternity, Mississauga

Angela Tedjo and John Glyn-Williams were welcomed into profession on Saturday January 10, 2015. Angela and John are seen here with Father Peter Knaapen.



ELECTION



St Francis of Assisi Fraternity

Sunday December 14, 2014

This was the fraternity's first since returning to the Trillium Region. I was welcomed by acting Minister Margaret Maines. The fraternity has 14 active members.



The results are as follows:

Minister:	Margaret Maines,
Vice-Minister	John Francis Corzone
Secretary	Dawn D'Cruz.
Treasurer	Alejandro Martinez
Formation Director.	John Francis Corzone

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.