



Good News Report

Secular Franciscan Order
Trillium Regional Fraternity



Number 88

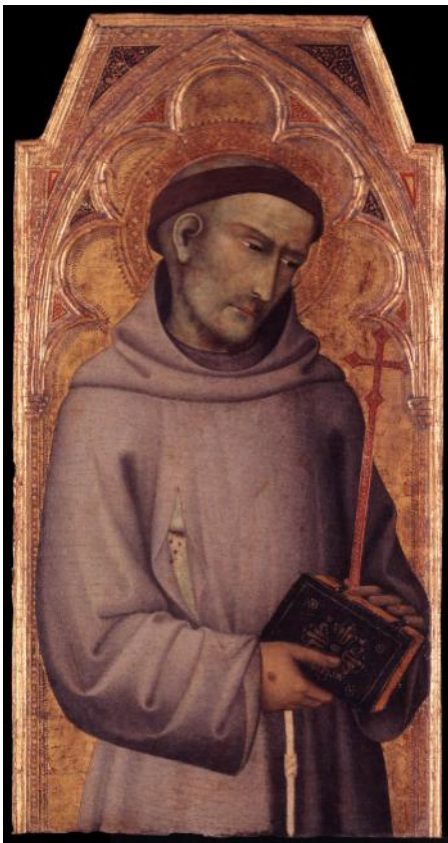
June 2019

A MOMENT WITH THE MINISTER

Have you noticed that the language St. Francis uses is often a repeat of the words from the Bible? When greeting others he never says, "Good morning." Rather he greets with the words, "The Lord give you His peace." When he blesses Brother Leo he uses the blessing that God commanded Aaron and his sons to say over the people of Israel:

*"The Lord bless you and keep you.
May He show His face to you
and have mercy.
May He turn His countenance to you
and give you peace.
The Lord bless you!"*

Numbers 6:24-26



SPIRITUAL ASSISTANT

This year marks the 800th anniversary of the encounter of Saint Francis with the Sultan, al-Malik al-Kamil. This was probably the first meeting of two holy men of the Christian and Muslim faiths. It occurred during the Fifth Crusade and the siege of the Egyptian city of Damietta which is at the mouth of the Nile River. Francis, the man of peace, was horrified by the fighting and the atrocities committed by both forces. Francis appealed to the Christian leaders to seek a truce and to initiate negotiations for a peace agreement. But they ignored his suggestions and mocked him.

So he and Br Illuminatus, who knew a few words of the Arabic language, crossed no man's land and headed towards al-Kamil's headquarters. They were captured by the soldiers, and unbelievably they were not killed. In fact they were brought before the Sultan. The Sultan recognized in Francis a fellow holy man. Against the advice of his advisers – who recommended killing Francis, the usual punishment for Christians in a Muslim land who, though allowed to practice their faith, were legally subject to capital punishment should they try to preach conversion away from Islam – he spared Francis and even invited him to spend a week with him as an esteemed guest.

While we know nothing of the content of the conversations between Francis and the Sultan, we do know that Francis and Illuminatus left a week later, untouched and unharmed. The Sultan offered gifts to Francis but he refused them, which impressed al-Kamil even further.

Both were changed by the encounter. Francis had left for Damietta with martyrdom on his mind. He hoped the Sultan would have him executed, so he could die what he deemed a glorious, saintly death. Instead he returned to Italy and three years later after an extended period of prayer on Mount La Verna would receive the stigmata of Christ. The Sultan also was changed. He allowed safe passage for pilgrims wanting to go to Jerusalem and gave care of the holy shrines to the Franciscans.

The topic of the National Spiritual Conference this year will be about this very encounter of St. Francis and the Sultan. It is being held at Loretteville, Quebec from October 10-13. Friar Michael Cusato, OFM, will be the presenter. I do hope many of you can make this conference. The cost of the conference is \$250.00. To register please contact Sherrill Guimond at Sherrill.rfec@gmail.com



(Continued on page 2)

Fr. Peter Knaapen O.F.M. Conv

(Continued from page 1)

St. Francis takes the language of the Bible as his own. As Franciscans we too must use the words of Scripture as our own. I have found these ten little ways from Scripture that we can show our love to one another. Over the summer, give them a try.

Listen without interrupting.	Proverbs 18
Speak without accusing.	James 1:19
Give without sparing.	Proverbs 21:26
Pray without ceasing.	Colossians 1:9
Answer without arguing.	Proverbs 17:1
Share without pretending.	Ephesians 4:15
Enjoy without complaint.	Philippians 2:14
Trust without wavering.	Corinthians 13:7
Forgive without punishing.	Colossians 3:13
Promise without forgetting.	Proverbs 13:12

When St. Francis and St. Clare spoke, their words were guided by the Holy Spirit which filled their listeners with amazement and inspiration. How can we Secular Franciscans do this in our everyday world?

Remember these wise words once spoken: "The tongue has no bones but it is strong enough to break someone's heart. Be careful how we use our words."

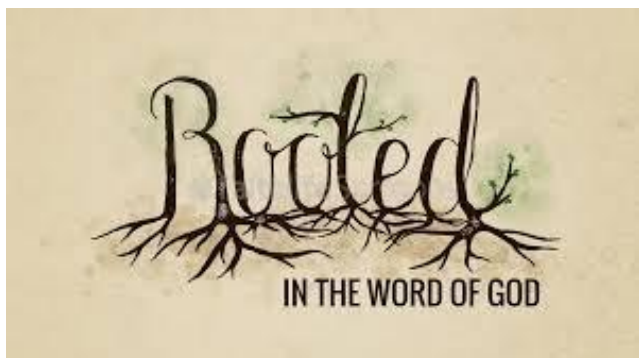
THINK before you speak!

Let your speaking be:

T rue
H elpful
I nspiring
N ecessary
K ind

Deus meus et omnia

Catherine Payne ofs



TREASURER'S TWO CENTS

"I am struck by how sharing our weakness and difficulties is more nourishing to others than sharing our qualities and successes."

— Jean Vanier, (Sep 10, 1928 - May 7, 2019).



Peace,

Mark Rozario,ofs



Jean Vanier Remembered

The Archdiocese of Toronto remembers Jean Vanier, the Canadian humanitarian, Catholic theologian and moral leader, who passed away on May 7, 2019 at the age of 90.

In 1963, Vanier saw that many people with intellectual disabilities lived lonely, isolated lives. He created communities where those with disabilities were respected and their gifts were shared, called L'Arche (the ark). North America's first L'Arche community — Daybreak — opened in Richmond Hill, Ont., in 1969.

Today there are more than 150 L'Arche communities in 38 countries. Vanier left his mark on Canada: he wrote more than 30 books, was a Massey lecturer, a Nobel Prize nominee and was awarded the Order of Canada. On Vanier's passing, Archbishop of Toronto, Cardinal Thomas Collins, said: *In his simple, humble and loving way, inspired by the Gospel of Jesus Christ, Jean Vanier taught us to value the dignity of every individual. In a world that increasingly pushes us to gauge success and worth by what we own or who we know, he reminded us that authentic love, friendship and community are what we really need. L'Arche communities, in Canada and in more than 35 countries throughout the world, will continue his legacy of unconditional love offered to every individual. May his example of peace and gentle care live on through those he inspired for years to come. We give thanks to God for his life.*

VICE MINISTER The Languishing Heart



The month of June is my favourite month of the year; not only because it is summer, but because it is the month dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

I remember, as a little boy, looking at this picture or statue of the man with the sad eyes, looking out at me and pointing to His heart. I felt drawn to this image without fully understanding.

Now, as an aging adult, with more life behind me than ahead of me, this Jesus with the sad eyes and open heart still follows me.

Jesus has much cause for sadness as His languishing heart burns with so much love for us - but we gaze at Him only momentarily, if at all, and we still continue to love our sin more.

Even worse than our sins, are the self pitying excuses that we offer. I know that life is hard and often filled with injustice. Jesus with the sad eyes hanging naked on a tree for us knew this too. Yes, He rose from the dead, and we glory in this as we should, because we are Redeemed... not saved, but redeemed by this greatest act of love. However, He still bore the marks of His suffering that, so many years later, Father Francis was anxious to bear them too because he was so much in love.

Suffering leads to love and love leads to joy of heart which is God and God alone.

We can scale any wall as the psalmist tells us bearing our wounds and reaching for the outstretched arms and marked hands of the man with the sad eyes and open heart.

Pax et Bonum!
John Francis OFS

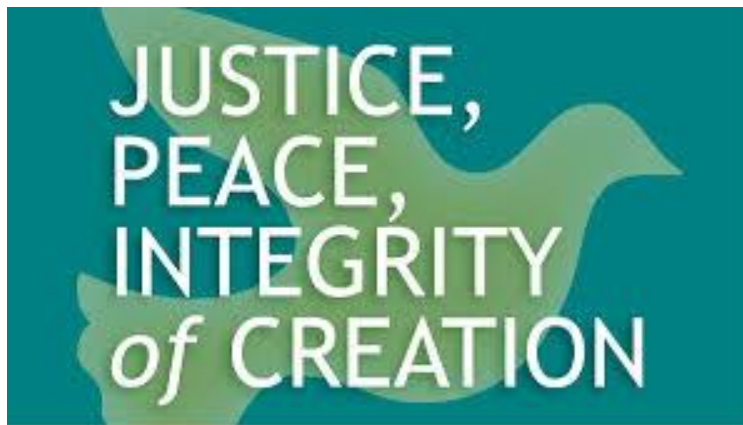


National Spiritual Conference Thursday, October 10, 2019



The 800th Anniversary of the Encounter between Saint Francis and the Sultan

Animator: Fr. Michael Cusato, OFM
Centre de Spiritualité des Ursulines, Loretteville, QC
All Secular Franciscans are invited to participate!

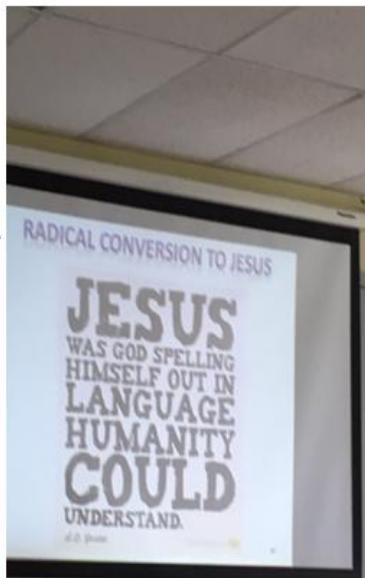


The Trillium Region is looking for a volunteer to work with our National Council on the Justice Peace and Integrity of Creation Commission.

Please contact me at bpayne@wightman.ca if you can help. Thank you.

Living Fraternity

Living Fraternity is a monthly ongoing formation program published by the National Fraternity. It includes spiritual reflections, excerpts of Church documents, and questions for discussion, as well as selected passages from the Gospels and articles of the Rule and General Constitutions. It is available in French and English. You can find it at www.offsnational.ca



Formation Workshop



April 27, 2019



St. Philip Neri Church

Ministers' Conference - May 25, 2019



We had over 10 fraternities represented at the Ministers' Conference held on May 25 at the Queen of Apostles Retreat Centre. Thanks to all who attended.

Local Fraternity Bulletin Board

Two New Canonically Established Fraternities in the Trillium Region



San Damiano Fraternity in London celebrated their Canonical Establishment on Saturday May 11, 2019. Father Peter Knaapen presided and guests were present from St. Peter's Fraternity in London, St. John Vianney Fraternity in Toronto and the Trillium Regional Council.

Congratulations to all members of San Damiano Fraternity.



St. Benedict the Black Fraternity in Mississauga joyfully celebrated their Canonical Establishment on Saturday June 1.

From left to right: Angela Tedjo, Mario Perez (Minister of the Fraternity), Cathy Payne (Regional Minister) and Father Peter Knaapen OFM Conv.

Recently the fraternity has nearly doubled in size with some transfers and we hope their fraternity continues to thrive and grow.

Do you need a certificate for a newly professed member or for a special anniversary for a fraternity member?

Please contact: **Clelia Malerba at:**
malerbac@yahoo.com



St. Mary of the Angels Fraternity in Welland celebrated their 40th Anniversary as a Fraternity on Sunday May 5, 2019 and also the 40th Anniversary of Profession for 2 of their members:

top left: Cathy Kruger of's and Anne Matyuska of's were presented their TRF certificates from their Minister, Debbie Tessier.

Congratulations on this joy filled celebration.

Anniversary certificates were given out at St. Clare of Assisi Fraternity in Midland on April 5.

Carmelina Farrugia (L)
 was professed in 2002 and
 Ellie VandenHeuvel (R)
 was professed in 1982.

Congratulations on your long service
 to the Secular Franciscan Order!



Profession



What a wonderful way to celebrate the Feast of St. Joseph on March 19, 2019 with the Profession of Deacon Victor Salazar from St. Peter's Fraternity in London.

Chapters of Election

St. Mary of the Angels, Welland Chapter of Elections June 2:

Minister	Debbie Tessier, ofs	second term
Vice Minister	Cathy Kruger, ofs	first term
Secretary	Nelly Schouten, ofs	first term
Treasurer	Valerie Norris, ofs	second term
Formation Director	Louise Cowan, ofs	second term

Elections held in Port Elgin

St. Joseph the Worker Fraternity celebrated their Chapter of Elections on Sunday April 14.

Seated, is new Minister Mary Lou Rancourt, standing (left to right) Trudy Cook, Vice Minister, Bob Perrault, Formation Director, Brenda Murray, Secretary and Fran Valeriotte, Treasurer.

May St. Francis and St. Clare bless you in your service to your Fraternity.





***Praised by You, my Lord,
through our Sister
Bodily Death,
from whom no one living
can escape.***

OBITUARIES



Please remember our Secular Franciscans
who have passed away:

Mary Breese ofs

March 12, 2019. Sacred Heart Fraternity

Muriel Williams ofs

March 17, 2019 St. Felix of Cantalice Fraternity

Paul Doran ofs

May 14, 2019. Holy Rosary Fraternity

Lori Konstofs ofs

May 15, 2019. St. Francis Fraternity

Good News Report

The Good News Report is the newsletter of the Secular Franciscan Order, Trillium Region. We aim to publish it between the middle and end of: March, June, September, and December.

Opinions expressed by individual contributors do not necessarily reflect positions of the Trillium Regional Fraternity.

Any items you wish to include are warmly welcomed and will be considered, 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.