



CHANGES IN THE TRILLIUM COUNCIL

The Trillium Council announces that Cathy Payne, ofs, Regional Minister, will not be continuing in her role as she has moved to British Columbia with her husband, Barry. Thank you Cathy for all you have done for the Regional Fraternity! We are sad to see you go, but happy and excited for you on this new journey! May God bless you and keep you safe!

As you all know, we missed our elective Chapter in May. The Regional Council members were asked if they would continue to serve. The following members have agreed to serve until the next Chapter: Vice Minister John Carsone, ofs; Treasurer Mark Rozario, ofs; Secretary Debbie Tessier, ofs; Fr. Peter Knaapen will remain as Spiritual Assistant. The newly appointed Regional Minister is Clelia Malerba, ofs, from St. Peter's Fraternity in Woodbridge, and the newly appointed Regional Formation Director is Michel Guilmette, ofs, from Sacred Heart Fraternity in Guelph. Welcome to Clelia and Michel! Thank you for taking on these roles at this difficult time! The new interim Trillium Council has been confirmed by the National Minister and Council on August 28th at their teleconference meeting.

Thanksgiving, prayers and blessings to former Vice Minister Teresa Viechweg, ofs, and to former Formation Director Susan Luckasavitch, ofs, for their generous work and loving attention to the members of the Regional Fraternity in this last term. May God bless you with good health and strength on your Franciscan journey!

Former Youth Animator Chris Elliot, ofs, will be entering the Diaconate, so thank you Chris and we send thanks and prayers as you begin this journey as well!

Clelia Malerba, ofs Interim Minister



As I started thinking of what I should reflect on, the word "**Obedience**" kept coming to mind. For the past four months we have been doing a lot of listening and obeying to Federal, Provincial, Municipal and Church authority concerning the Covid19 pandemic. The lock-down, separation from our family and friends, Fraternities unable to meet, but above all separation from the Church and the Sacraments. Virtual liturgies and Spiritual Communion became the norm.

The churches re-opened with many new rules and conditions: Physical distancing, Eucharist on the hand only, sanitizing, masks a must and no gathering. As followers of St. Francis we have had to follow the Rule in patience and obedience finding new ways to keep in touch with our fraternity members. Paying close attention to the rules set out by each Diocese to keep everyone healthy and safe.

St. Francis of Assisi, in the *Later Rule* states: "*The Rule and Life of the Lesser Brothers is this: to observe the Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ by living in obedience, without anything of one's own, and in chastity.*" "*Brother Francis promises obedience and reverence to our Lord Pope Honorius and his successors canonically elected and to the Roman Church. Let the other brothers be bound to obey Brother Francis and his successors.*"

As followers of St. Francis we should try to have the "obedience of charity" so much praised by him. Obedience possesses two grace-filled purposes. First, obedience provides a means of self-denial and self-giving. Obedience seeks freedom from all stubbornness, selfishness and self-centeredness. It calls one to exercise self-discipline. This effort will have one great result: release from self-seeking and pride. Second, obedience of vow or spirit is to realize that it means "giving oneself to the cause." This cause is the Church's mission to live and preach the Gospel. By obedience we make ourselves available to the Church for whatever she might call us to perform.

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**NATIONAL FORMATION DIRECTOR'S COURSE
FOR ALL FORMATION DIRECTORS
Beginning in September 2020**

There is being offered both an online and a correspondence course for any Formation Director who is interested. There are limited spaces reserved for every Regional Fraternity, so respond soon!

The correspondence version of the course will be running concurrently with the online course.

For a more detailed overview of the Course or for any further information please contact Jewel Jasmins at: jajasmins@gmail.com for the online course, or Donna Dooling at donnadooling@gmail.com (1-519-651-9709) for the correspondence course.



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At the core of the Christian life is Jesus Christ, manifested by the Body of Christ as He exists among his people. Followers of St. Francis are gathered by the Spirit as a body of people called together by God to live a Gospel life of prayer and service.

We are a group of people who share a vision of a new life, who care for each other in their needs, who form a place where God dwells, a joyous and prayerful people who are sent forth to build the Lord's Kingdom.

Although the difficulties of these days are not the norm we are accustomed to, let us not become discouraged but continue to reach out to one another, and to pray for an end to the pandemic, and for those who are ill and those who have died.

St. Francis and St. Clare pray for us.

VICE MINISTER

What Do You See?



St. Clare developed a mini theology based on the major theology that we are created in the image and likeness of God. Using the image of mirror, she suggests in a letter to Agnes of Prague that we see the image of God in oneself. We are a family and we know in human families we see similarities in family members. So in the spiritual life it should be the same. The pandemic has afforded us the time to take deeper looks at everything. Most of what we hear these days is negative, but negativity can breed good if it is received in the right way. We have to admit guilt before we can move forward. This is hard and takes time. St. Clare fought until the day before she died to get approval for her rule for her sisters. If our struggle brings us to the ninth hour it will be worth it.

Deus Meus et Omnia,
John Francis Carsone, ofs, Vice Minister

TREASURER'S TWO CENTS



“Consult not your fears, but your hopes and your dreams. Think not about your frustrations, but about your unfulfilled potential. Concern yourself not with what you tried and failed in, but with what it is still possible for you to do.”

— St. Pope John XXIII (Secular Franciscan)

Mark Rozario ofs



SEASON OF CARING FOR CREATION

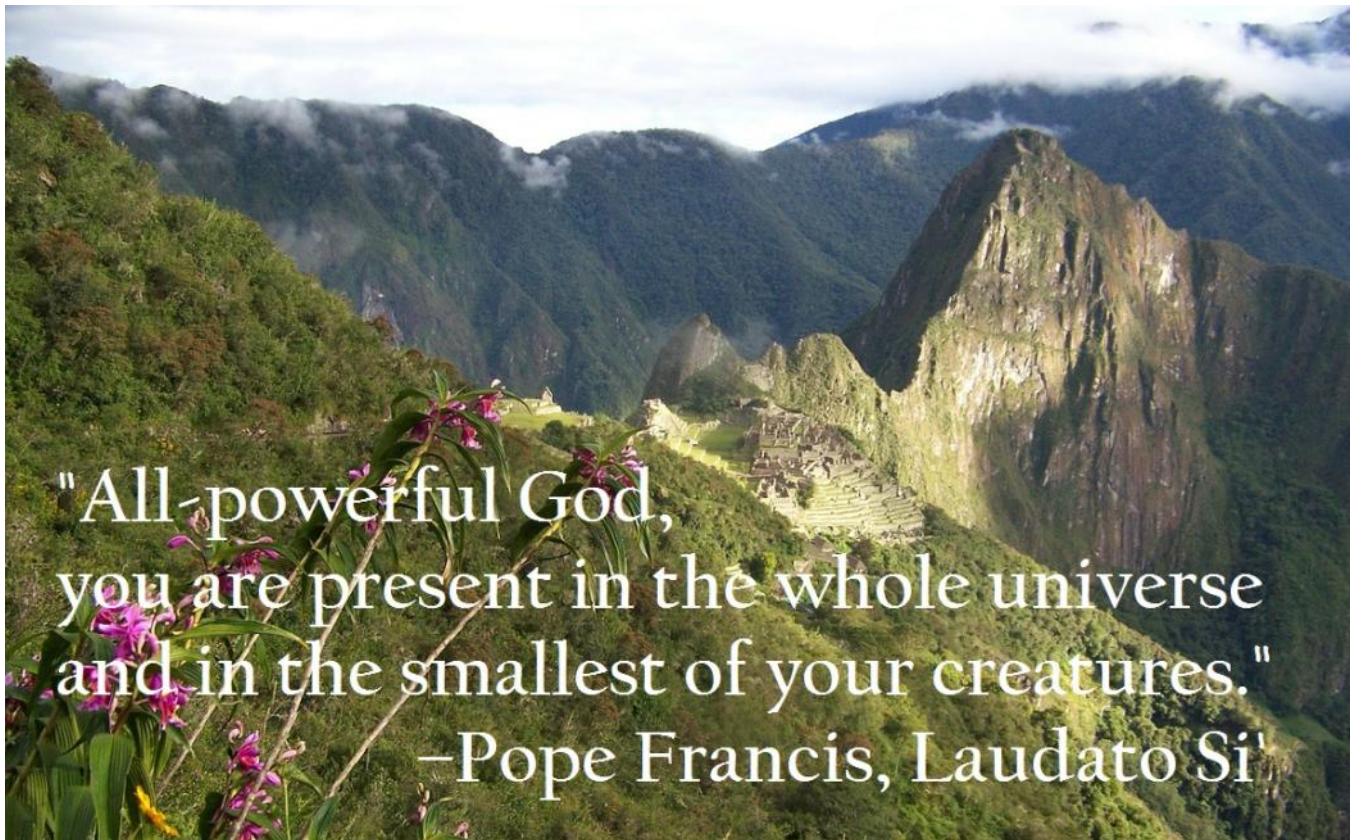
The Season of Caring for Creation begins on September 1 and continues to October 4: that is from the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation to the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi.

Pope Francis recently proclaimed it as a day of prayer for creation, as the Orthodox Church has done since 1989, to “*draw from our rich spiritual heritage the reasons which feed our passion for the care of creation.*”

St. Francis of Assisi our Seraphic Founder, gives us a model to imitate, celebrate and reflect on as the Patron of Ecology and author of the Canticle of the Creatures. Pope Francis uses the phrase ‘integral ecology’ and warns against a narrow scientific focus on the modern environmental crisis.

Integral Ecology might best be seen as a type of package to guide our daily living. Focused first on Christian worship of the Creator of all, Integral Ecology has implications for choices in the human Ecology journey, our life style and values - to confront the impact of ‘dictatorial economics’ on the world’s poor and the earth itself.

The Pope invites us to revisit the integral connection between Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation. Prayers and reflections for every week have been sent to your local fraternity Minister to share with you, so ask them about it!



Local Fraternity Bulletin Board



Thanks be to God for the Grace to be a Secular Franciscan.

Vivian and I would like to extend our sincere thanks to all members of the fraternity for journeying with us over the years to this day. We were surprised by the gift given to us by the fraternity and we will put it to very good use.

Peace and blessings.

PROFESSION

Mount Alverno Fraternity, Caledon

We are happy to welcome fraternity members and guests to celebrate the Eucharistic celebration of the profession of John and Vivian: on August 20, 2020 at 7pm. at Holy Family Parish in Bolton,



St. Anthony of Padua Fraternity, Brampton

In July one of our members Julieta Rishchynski celebrated her 90th birthday. As a fraternity we wanted to acknowledge this milestone. With the help of her husband Will we were able to arrange a surprise drive by visit. Every member of the fraternity was there. We sang Happy Birthday, and presented flowers and balloons in honour of the day while making sure to social distance. We visited for about 20 minutes outside.

Julieta was very surprised and so pleased to see everyone. Our last meeting was in February, so it was wonderful to connect again.

Also we resumed our Formation sessions in June once our area entered Phase 3. Four of us meet in a members garage while social distancing. We are hoping St. Anthony Church will allow small groups to meet at the parish hall in September.



CONNECTING WITH YOUR FRATERNITY

For anyone interested in learning more about making regular telephone or online connections with your fraternity, you may contact Debbie Tessier, ofs, at debtess@xplornet.ca or 905-734-3053.

Mount Alverno Fraternity, Caledon

We have been managing this pandemic in a unique way. We try to stay connected virtually and we managed to still have a profession ceremony for two candidates.

*Peace and blessings,
Silvia Lume (ofs)*

St. Felix of Cantalice Fraternity

The Council and Fraternity virtual meetings have been going on for the last two months. The latest was a virtual rosary prayer of Fraternity members for the intention of those affected by this pandemic.

Keeping Fraternity Alive in the Pandemic by Debbie Tessier, ofs

For these past months, our fraternity has been teleconferencing regularly. We are having a shortened monthly meeting, about one hour, as our elderly find holding the telephone receiver for a long time is hard on their hands. Some of them have speaker phone, so that works better, but can also create feedback on the call at times. We have prayed the rosary together, had a Memorial Service for the husband of one of our members, had Spiritual enrichment through a presentation by Fr. Peter Knaapen, a study/retreat on a book about St. Clare, council meetings and we continue our formation sessions with our candidate on a monthly basis.

The gathering of our fraternity is important. Our format is mainly prayer and spiritual enrichment by our Spiritual Assistant deacon Maurice. Sometimes there is a bit of business to consider, but without physical meetings and fraternity activities, there is not much business.

It is important to remember when using Zoom, Google Meet, teleconferencing or other ways of connecting, that the sound and connection should be as strong as possible, that having everyone praying at the same time creates a jumble of words, so there should be leaders who speak the prayers, while everyone else prays silently, or if online, mutes their microphones.

This is not an ideal way of communicating, but it can work. You can use video as well as have others on as teleconference call. It may be possible to do it for free, but your fraternity may also have to consider paying for a call/video system. It is well worth the effort!

St Anthony of Padua Sarnia Fraternity

The fraternity still continues their monthly Ongoing Formation. Through a draw, a senior professed member was matched with a newer professed member to form a team. Each team decided on a topic to be discussed as our monthly ongoing formation. By January, all the teams are put into an agenda for the year. When it's your turn, your formation is emailed

out to the whole Fraternity, including the Office prayers page numbers.

Since the Transitus in September needs a bit of set up, the home ceremony will be emailed out 2 days early. In the meantime, if there are any prayer requests, they are emailed to our Fraternity at any time.

*Bonum,
Marilyn Deery, ofs*

HATS OFF TO ALL OUR BRAVE FRONT LINE WORKERS



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

The Good News Report



This Good News Report is the newsletter of the Secular Franciscan Order, Trillium Region, Ontario, Canada. We aim to publish it quarterly: 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 Debbie Tessier, ofs, at debtess@xplornet.ca

Note: If you no longer wish to receive the newsletter, please let us know as above.