



# Good News Report

Secular Franciscan Order  
Trillium Regional Fraternity



Number 81

Fall 2017

## A MOMMENT WITH THE MNISTER

We celebrate the Feast of our Father St. Francis in a few short days. After his holy death so many miracles were performed at the invocation of his name that Pope Gregory IX solemnly canonized St. Francis only two years after his death.

What a great glory for St. Francis to be in heaven surrounded by so many Franciscan saints who have followed his rule and imitated his life.

What another great glory of St. Francis to be the founder of one of the largest religious families in the Church. He is loved, venerated and imitated as the perfect imitator of Christ. If we wish to share in the glory of St. Francis in heaven we must imitate him in his humility, for he who humbles himself will be exalted. Suffer always patiently with Christ: for, if we suffer with Him, we shall be glorified with him, says St. Paul.

St. Francis was called to live a life of penance and to look after the needs and sufferings of others.

(Continued on page 2)



## SPIRITUAL ASSISTANT

As we celebrate the feast of our founder, St. Francis, we take time to reflect on what he has to say to us today not merely with words but by his life? The following is part of what our Holy Father, Pope Francis, said in his homily at the Basilica on the Feast of St. Francis in 2014.

*His first and most essential witness is this: that being a Christian means having a living relationship with the person of Jesus; it means putting on Christ, being conformed to him.*

*Where did Francis's journey to Christ begin? It began with the gaze of the crucified Jesus. With letting Jesus look at us at the very moment that he gives his life for us and draws us to himself. Francis experienced this in a special way in the Church of San Damiano, as he prayed before the cross which I too will have an opportunity to venerate. On that cross, Jesus is depicted not as dead, but alive! Blood is flowing from his wounded*

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<b>FRANCISCAN TRIDUUM OCTOBER 3-4-5, 2017</b>			
		<p>Tuesday, 03 October 2017 St Phil Neri Parish 2100 Jane Street Toronto ON M3M 1A1 Celebration of the <b>Transitus of St Francis of Assisi</b> 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm **</p>	
		<p>Wednesday, 04 October 2017 St Phil Neri Parish 2100 Jane Street Toronto ON M3M 1A1 Multi-lingual Mass Celebrating the <b>Feast of St Francis of Assisi</b> 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm</p>	
		<p>Thursday, 05 October 2017 St Phil Neri Parish 2100 Jane Street Toronto ON M3M 1A1 <b>Interfaith Prayer for Peace</b> <i>"THE NAMES OF GOD"</i> 7:00 – 8:30 pm **</p>	

Please plan on attending and bring something to share at the reception.

(SPIRITUAL ASSISTANT Continued from page 1)

hands, feet and side, but that blood speaks of life. Jesus' eyes are not closed but open, wide open: he looks at us in a way that touches our hearts.

The cross does not speak to us about defeat and failure; paradoxically, it speaks to us about a death which is life, a death which gives life, for it speaks to us of love, the love of God incarnate, a love which does not die, but triumphs over evil and death. When we let the crucified Jesus gaze upon us, we are re-created, we become "a new creation". Everything

else starts with this: the experience of transforming grace, the experience of being loved for no merits of our own, in spite of our being sinners. That is why Saint Francis could say with Saint Paul: "Far be it for me to glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Gal 6:14).

We turn to you, Francis, and we ask you: Teach us to remain before the cross, to let the crucified Christ gaze upon us, to let ourselves be forgiven, and recreated by his love.

Fr. Peter Knaapen O.F.M. Conv

(MINISTER... Continued from page 1)

What is our calling: to look after our needs first or to look upon the other and try to alleviate their suffering before our own? Our Profession calls us to live the grace and dedication of our baptism more intensely and faithfully by following Jesus Christ according to the teachings and example of St. Francis of Assisi.

As we long to join St. Francis in the glory of heaven, may our journey be filled with love, compassion, humility, forgiveness, reconciliation and peace.

A special thank you to Hermy Villasenor from St. Felix Fraternity and one of our Area Councillors, who has provided a template for ballots for our Fraternal elections. Our website master, Virginia Mees has posted them under "More" and then go to – General Resources. They are all labelled for each position.

**We are pleased to also offer a place to purchase our Franciscan Formation book, The Franciscan Journey, Taus and the Ritual Book right here in Ontario.** Please check the website again under General Resources and Virginia has the website there for **Joseph Inspirational in Markham.** That will save on the exchange and very expensive shipping costs to Canada.

Our website offers many informative resources and useful information so please use it regularly at:

[www.ofstrilliumregion.weebly.com](http://www.ofstrilliumregion.weebly.com)

We enjoyed a very successful Training Session at St. Bonaventure on Saturday August 12. All the Fraternities in the Region now have an Area Councillor dedicated to them for visits and elections over the next three years. As always we at your Region look forward to serving you as best we can.

Deus meus et omnia;  
Catherine Payne ofs



Immediately the holy man began to reflect the light radiating from the face of God and to sparkle with many great miracles, so that the sublimity of his holiness which, while he was still in the flesh, had been made known to the world as a guide for conduct- through examples of perfect righteousness now that he is reigning with Christ was approved from heaven as a confirmation of faith through miracles performed by the divine power.

In different parts of the world, his glorious miracles and the abundant blessings obtained through him inflamed many to devotion to Christ and incited them reverence for His saint.

The wonderful things which God was working through His servant Francis- acclaimed by word of mouth and testified to by facts- came to the ears of the Supreme Pontiff, Gregory IX

## TRANSITUS CELEBRATION

St. Peter's SFO Fraternity is pleased to celebrate the Transitus again this year.... at **St. Peter's Cathedral Basilica, 196 Dufferin Ave., London** on **Tues. Oct 3, 2017 commencing at 7:00pm.** Fr. Louis Mousseau, OFM Cap. will preside.

Join with your Franciscan brothers and sisters in a prayerful celebration of the transitus of the seraphic Father, Francis... and share some refreshments and hospitality afterwards.

## VICE MINISTER

LEST WE FORGET: Blessed Fr. Frederic Janssoone, O.F.M.



The first time I saw the Tau, I was amazed. It looked like a cross, but a personalized one because it was shaped like the letter “T”. “What is this? Isn’t that my name?” I asked myself. So I started to search for my own Tau. While on a pilgrimage to Quebec, I finally found my “T”. After visiting the Tomb of Fr. Frederic Janssoone in Trois-Rivières, I visited the bookstore and by God's grace, while climbing up the stairs from the basement, I glanced down at a counter and there I saw it. My trip to Trois-Rivières was my first encounter with Blessed Frederic Janssoone, and I soon claimed him as my own.

The Blessed was born in the town of Ghyselde, in France on Nov. 19, 1838. In 1848, his father died, and four years later, Frederic enrolled in College, but shortly after left school and became a traveling salesman to support his family. After his mother's death in 1861, he resumed his studies and was ordained a Franciscan Priest on Aug. 17, 1870.

In 1876, Fr. Frederic was sent to the Holy Land where he worked as Custodial Vicar. He re-established the practice of the Way of the Cross along the Via Dolorosa in Jerusalem, which had been abandoned in 1621. He also orchestrated the building of the Church of St. Catherine of Bethlehem, adjacent to the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem. In Jerusalem he proved himself to be an excellent diplomat, a capable builder and an exceptional preacher.

'God's Peddler,' as he affectionately known, was invited to Quebec, Canada in 1881 on a fundraising tour for the Holy Land. He gave many retreats to large crowds. At one of these retreats, Fr. Frederic spoke about liberalism, which he considered to be a threat to moral development. His words relate to what is happening in our world today. He said, *“If all the countries are sick today, it is due in large part to the great evil of liberalism. That disease is doing great harm to France. It prefers to attack children, for thus the liberals hope to reform society. They don't want God in the schools any more. They take away the crucifixes and pictures of Mary in order to teach the children to blaspheme something which they know nothing*

*about [...] Let us therefore fight against that enemy. Let us be true Catholics - and liberalism will never take root in Canada.”*<sup>1</sup> Because of this speech, delivered in the highly political environment of his time, he was asked to leave Quebec City.

Fr. Frederick returned to Quebec on a permanent basis in June 1888, to continue his work as Commissariat of the Holy Land. He built a small Holy Land Commissariat in Trois-Rivières, and then the St. Joseph Friary at Trois-Rivières, the first community of Friars Minor in Canada in over seventy years since the disappearance of the Recollets.

He worked to revive The Third Order (SFO), which had been established by the Recollect Friars in 1681, but whose numbers had dwindled. By 1897, 34 Parish Fraternities existed, 17 of those founded by him, with a total of 12,000 members.

He was the co-founder of the Marian shrine at Cap-de-Madeleine and the promoter of pilgrimages to the Quebec Shrines.

Good Fr. Frederic died on Aug. 4, 1916 and is buried in the St. Anthony Chapel in Trois-Rivières, where pilgrims continue to visit his tomb yearly. The process for his canonization began in 1927. On Oct. 25, 1988, he was beatified in Rome by Pope (Saint) John Paul II. His feast day is Aug. 5.

1. Romain Legare, O.F.M. (1959). *An Apostle of Two Worlds* (R. Brown, Trans.). Quebec: Imprimerie de Bien Public. (original work published, 1958)

Peace  
*Teresa Viechweg, ofs*

## VICE MINISTER

Transfigured

We must all climb a mountain to find him. Peter, James, and John climbed a mountain Tabor. Francis climbed Alverna and found Jesus crucified and was penetrated with His love. The Apostles found Moses the lawgiver, and Elijah the prophet.

The feast of the Stigmata reveals the aloneness with God and the sacrifice of lover for beloved. Our love for God is a response to His love for us. This love must be as deeply rooted as possible even at the risk of loss of all else. Francis understood this, and He gave all.

Charles Dickens' *Oliver Twist* looked everywhere for love. He thought it might be under his favourite tree or in the stars, but as a friend recently told me, it is often right in front of us.

Francis never took his eyes off his love. All that Francis desired was God and God alone even in his suffering. Coming to this time in his life would be beyond belief to those who knew him in his youth as the



(VICE MINISTER Continued from page 3)

swashbuckling knight and party goer who could curse and swear worthy of a son of Peter Bernadone as one writer confesses.

The mercy of God turned Francis' former life on its head. God used both Francis' desires and his passions to pull him closer to Himself. Francis' closeness to God led to a strange request made to the two friars who accompanied him to Alverna. He only permitted them to come so far and went the rest of the way on his own.

He instructed them not to follow him - and if they called for him and he did not reply, to stay where they were and not to look for him. Most of us would expect trouble.

Francis was aware in his heart that he was moving into a new and different phase. He asked to be drawn into this deep love and to drink this cup of suffering to the last drop. You see this is what love is that willingness to accept that all in the other. Only love makes this easy and perfect love makes it a joy. The Lord showed us through Peter how this is done when He asked him if he loved him three times. The last time He asked He added "more than these"

What a question to ask a man who denied Him three times publicly. He used the weakness of Peter as He uses our weakness to accomplish His will.

Blessed be God in His great love for us.

Pax et Bonum

Br John Francis Carstone, ofs

**TREASURER**

Of all the quotes attributed to St. Francis of Assisi, I find the following quote to be among the most inspiring. I hope it inspires you as well.



“Keep a clear eye toward life's end.

Do not forget your purpose and destiny as God's creature. What you are in his sight is what you are and nothing more. Remember that when you leave this earth, you can take nothing that you have received...but only what you have given; a full heart enriched by honest service, love, sacrifice, and courage.”

— St. Francis of Assisi

Peace,

Mark Rozario ofs



**YOUTH ANIMATOR**

“GIVE ME A VOICE” YOUTH RADIO SHOW IS GOING ON THE AIR!



A live weekly radio show for high school youth is beginning this month! Radio Maria Canada, Toronto’s Catholic Station, have asked me to develop a show for youth that deals with topics that are relevant to them. We plan on discussing important subjects like dating, sexuality, peer pressure, family issues, etc. But we also want to talk about lighter things such as what’s in fashion, music and movies they like, etc. The whole point is to witness to young people how their faith can enhance and improve their lives. This is also an opportunity to expose the listeners to others their own age that are searching for answers to the same questions they might have.

To that end we are reaching out to local high schools and inviting students to take part in our show as on-air panelists, reporters, and production assistants. For those who feel a vocation to media arts this is a unique opportunity to get some actual experience. The radio program will also be a good platform for us as Franciscans to connect with Catholic youth and tell them about who St. Francis was and what his life was all about. I would love to do shows on St. Francis and Clare and share the idealism and faith that has made becoming a Franciscan attractive to youth for over 800 years!

If you would like to listen to our show it will air starting in late October on Tuesday evenings. Go to <https://www.radiomaria.ca> for more info. You could also listen online or download the free app to your phone.

Christopher Elliott, ofs.



**TRANSITUS AT MOUNT CARMEL MONASTERY,**  
7020 Stanley Ave. Niagara Falls, 905-356 4113  
Freewill Offering - **Wednesday Oct. 04** - 7:30 p.m.

## FORMATION

My brothers and sisters, as we came close to the transitus of St. Francis we remember that there was something very special in the way that Francis and Clare loved God, and they transmitted it through the message of love and peace, fraternal love not only with humans but also with living creatures.



Francis not only knew but could also see, in his heart and soul, the presence of the living God in all his creation. Through prayer, Francis was restored to original innocence and found the true meaning of the holy cross. *“The cross signifies to us that if we are free enough to love then we are free enough to die, and if we are free to die then we are free to live.”*

Francis was very insistent that the Brethren needed to pray, it was the one thing that could not be neglected and should be fitted in together with the friars’ responsibilities, *“let them be in prayer and contemplation says the rule”*. St. Bonaventure wrote that St. Francis became the perfect follower of Christ because the flame of heavenly desire was fanned in him by his frequent prayer and the desire of the heavenly home; Prayer, he added, is the mother and source of ascent. Prayer is the lifting up of the heart to God, the opening of our entire being to God.

But what kind of prayer did our seraphic father practice which brought him to a close union with God?

Some scholars divide prayer into two types: verbal and mental, Many are familiar with Lectio Divina and Gospel contemplation as examples of mental prayer, as are mediation and reflection. All

are very important as they feed the soul and prepare it to receive the graces our Merciful Lord wants to shower us with every time we come to him.

St Francis was contemplative in prayer. Union with God changed him and transformed him into what he loved most, Christ. This is the **transformative power** of Love, which many saints have written about - claiming that “the lover becomes the beloved”.

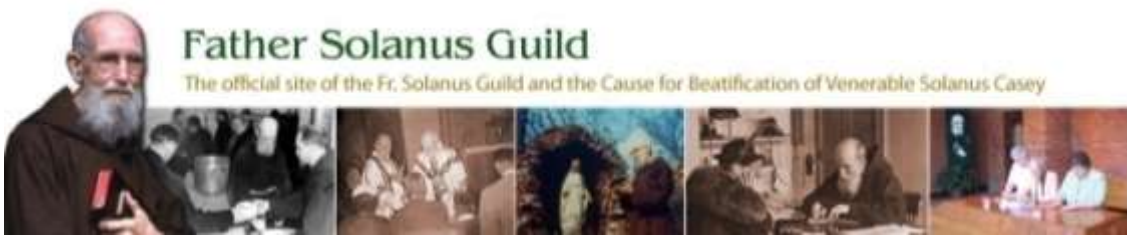
But what is contemplation and how do we pray in silence? As one initially practices contemplation, one may think of it as something unclear, uncertain and we may even wonder if it is a prayer at all.

There are some passages that come to my mind that inspire us to continue this prayer: 1. *“Be still and KNOW that I am God”* (Psalm 46:10); 2. *“KNOW that the Lord is GOD”* (Psalm 100); 3. Elijah meets God present in the sheer silence at Horeb (1 Kings 19:11-13.)


St. Augustine wrote that he looked for God everywhere externally only to find the real presence of God within. Silent prayer is the longing for God, love too deep for words, a gift not given by man but by God’s grace.

St. Francis found this kind of prayer so rich that he wanted to spend the rest of his life removed from the world and in contemplation, but once you have ascended through the eye of contemplation, you do not remain there You descend and serve your brothers and sisters just as Jesus did - and love your neighbor as Jesus does. Contemplatives give beautiful fruit to the Lord through the perfect charity of their actions.

May the Lord give you peace.  
*Sergio Iturri ofs*



**Father Solanus Guild**  
The official site of the Fr. Solanus Guild and the Cause for Beatification of Venerable Solanus Casey



**FATHER SOLANUS CASEY BEATIFICATION MASS**  
4 p.m. ET on Saturday, November 18 at Ford Field in Detroit.

Tickets will be available to the public on Monday, October 9 at 9 a.m. ET, only at [www.fordfield.com](http://www.fordfield.com), 4 tickets per transaction, while supplies last. Tickets will be available to the public on Monday, October 9 at 9 a.m. ET, only at [www.fordfield.com](http://www.fordfield.com), 4 tickets per transaction, while supplies last.

## FRANCISCAN LIFE ON MISSION: OBEDIENCE, POVERTY AND CHASTITY

I have been a Professed Secular Franciscan for almost 9 years now. These years have been wrought with blessing and trial. There is much I still need to learn. Over the years, the Promises have been, at times, daily challenges. We have a disservice in Canada: we are bombarded daily with the fortunes of our fate. We have more than we could ever want - and will never live long enough to use it all.

Obedience, Poverty and Chastity are not words we hear on a regular basis. It was not until I started doing Mission work that I truly understood the Promises I made

I understood how I was going to change my life when I took my Solemn Promises. I tried hard to live with what I needed as opposed to what I wanted. To allow the Spirit of God to permeate my whole life. I believed that what I was doing was God's Will, and I tried daily to be obedient to God and the needs of my Fraternity. I worked hard to not only ensure that my lifestyle was modest, but to



bring that also into my classroom. Then I went on a mission: a mission that changed my life - challenged me in ways that I could never have imagined. At times I wanted to

run back to the comfort of Canada and never return. I felt that what God was asking of me was too hard. No one would have thought any less of me if I stopped doing mission work. It is hard and demanding. As I was praying through all of this, God answered: "My dearest child, you can hold on and stay in the boat and I will protect you and always guide you, or you can jump, keep your eyes on me and I will teach you to walk on water." I want to walk on water. I want to be the change in the world. As Michael Jackson said: "*I'm starting with the man in the mirror I'm asking him to change his ways and no message could have been any clearer: If you want to make the world a better place. Take a look at yourself, and then make a change.*" I want to walk on water.

So, how do I see my Franciscan life? Unimaginably blessed. Being on mission has brought

me to deeper understanding of my Promises.

First: **Obedience** brings blessings. It is hard to keep the vision when the path is riddled with thorns. It is easy to just give up and 'stay in the boat.' But God's plan is to bring us joy. Doing the work He asks of us will only bring us happiness in the end. St. Mother Teresa once said: "*God will never give us more than we can handle.*"

Two years ago, when I left Guatemala, I started to make plans to return the following March and July. God had other plans. Sickness, surgery and the loss of finances from the two, left me unable to return when I wanted. I was devastated. I couldn't understand why God would give me such joy, only to take it away. I am sure I could have found a way to return to Guatemala, but I decided to be obedient and rest. Mission takes a lot out of you emotionally, spiritually and physically. As I type from the office space at Valley of the Angels Orphanage in Guatemala, I understand the blessing in the waiting. God did not take Guatemala away from me, rather he gave me the opportunity to stay in the boat and see what I would be missing if the boat was where I decided to stay. While I was healing, I was learning: learning to trust in Him, learning to be obedient even when the process didn't seem to match the vision, giving it all to Him, trusting Him when the road didn't make sense. Had I not taken those two years to rest, I know I would not be here now. Obedience brings blessings.

Second: **Poverty**. Poverty is very difficult to live in Canada. Try as we might, we are always attached to what our society deems is successful. We are lured into believing that we always need the next best thing. Prior to coming to Guatemala this July, I had to pack up my house and put everything in storage. Our new place is not ready for two and a half months. We had SO much stuff. I was overwhelmed with what had accumulated in my home over the past nine years. I began to throw stuff out - lots of stuff. I sold stuff. In the end we were left with a small storage container. The belongings of a family of five now sit in a small storage container. As I told my children, "*home is not our stuff, or the building that our stuff is in. Home is in our hearts, in our minds and in our souls. Home is where we are together.*"

Poverty is detachment. Mission has taught me the importance of detachment. Nothing is permanent. Everything is changing. Holding on to things only adds to our 'baggage.' As I continue to (continued on page 7)



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detach from this world, I am making more room in my heart for Him. His strength permeates my being, and I rest in the knowledge that I am worth more than the lilies of the field and the birds of the air (Matthew 6: 26-34)

Third: **Chastity**. Modesty. Loving oneself. Being on mission, there is not a salon to run to when the grey hair grows out or access to all we are used to in Canada. It is freeing. Not having to live up to pressures of societal beauty has been a blessing and one of the hardest things I have had to do. Through the many years I have been volunteering in Guatemala, I have been transformed. The best definition I have found is this one: *Transfiguration: a complete change of form or appearance into a more beautiful or spiritual state.*

I remember when I returned from my first mission trip, people noticed that I looked different. They asked me if I had changed my hair or had lost weight. I hadn't. What I had was 'a little Guatemala.' I finally looked how I felt inside: beautiful. Perhaps not

in the way our society sees beauty, but I was finally able to look at myself and be happy. I had joy in my face.

This is not to say that I have not had my struggles with mission work. Throughout the years I have to manoeuvre through some very difficult moments. I have met sides of me that I did not like. Being an introvert is not always easy when you are thrust into large group situations or when unexpected situations arise. This is mission life. Nothing is scripted. Trust in God in key. Nothing else matters except how much more I can do for Him. Through Him all is possible. Mission work has taught me more about myself than I could have expected. My heart is a mission heart. Guatemala is my home. I am a 'chapina.'

*Lisa Theriault, ofs  
Teacher and Missionary*



## A LOVE LOUDER THAN NOISE

*The New York Times and National Post recently discovered the "trend" of young women entering religious orders to become nuns. Marlena Loughheed didn't need to read the news. She listened to her heart, and shares with Convivium why she answered the call to consecrated life.*



My post-secondary studies were directed toward satiating my appetite for human connection and my love of storytelling. I earned degrees in communications and journalism. My studies and internships allowed me to live in six major North American cities in six years. By the time I was 25, I was well-

educated, well-travelled and had landed my dream job as a faithful young Catholic in the Office of Public Relations and Communications at the Archdiocese of Toronto.

Life in Toronto is noisy. And I'm not just talking about traffic and the Ornge ambulances that fly over my apartment regularly on their way to St. Michael's Hospital. For a young professional, Toronto provides endless stimulus. It is the perfect place to experience all the things the world suggests will lead to fulfillment.

Here's the link: <https://www.convivium.ca/articles/a-love-louder-than-noise>  
Marlena Loughheed (*daughter of Silvana Loughheed from Holy Rosary Fraternity in Belleville.*)  
July 27, 2017

### 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

### 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.

# Local Fraternity Bulletin Board

## OBITUARIES

St. Anthony of Padua Fraternity in Sarnia mourns the death of John Williams who passed away on July 20, 2017.

## PROFESSIONS

*St. Francis Fraternity in Burlington was pleased to welcome Lori Konst at her Profession on Monday September 11, 2017.*

*Pictured here at St. Raphael's Church from L to R is Rosanne Creery, Formation Director, Father Peter, Lori Konst and Mark Rozario, Minister of St. Francis Fraternity.*



*On Monday, September 18, the St. Angela Merici Fraternity celebrated with its newest Member, Patricia Mitchell: her Permanent Profession to the Secular Franciscan Order. The ceremony was held at St. Philip the Apostle Church in Oshawa and officiated by Fr. Peter Knaapen, O.F.M. (Conv.)*



## PICNIC - FEAST OF ST. CLARE

The St. Angela Merici Fraternity hosted the Regional's Summer picnic in Cobourg on August 11th. Celebrations began with Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral at 12 noon, celebrating the Feast of St. Clare, followed by the picnic at the Lake with a potluck lunch and entertainment. We had 5 fraternities represented and a big thanks to Teresa Viechweg, Minister of St. Angela Merici Fraternity and all the members who attended.

