



Good News Report

Secular Franciscan Order
Trillium Regional Fraternity



Number 84

Fall 2018

A MOMENT WITH THE MNISTER

St. Francis, on his dying couch, had but one desire: to die like his model, Jesus Christ. In the wonderful vision on Mount La Verna, Francis had received the five holy wounds, which made him exteriorly the living image of Christ crucified. These wounds remained on his body and gave him great pain, but St. Francis bore the pain patiently for the love of Jesus.



Francis, feeling death near, divested himself of his habit, in order to die like Christ, deprived of His garments. He asked then to be laid on the bare floor, to resemble Christ dying on the hard wood of the

Cross. He requested his weeping brethren to read to him the Passion of Christ, according to St. John. St. Francis wanted the sufferings of our dying Saviour before his mind until his final breath. Then, with his hands crossed on his breast, he blessed all his children, and began to recite with his brethren the psalm of David; *“I cried out to the Lord with my voice; with my voice I made supplication to the Lord.”*

On the last words of the psalm, *“Bring my soul out of prison, that I may praise your name; the just wait for me, until you reward me,”* St. Francis surrendered his loving soul into the hands of his Creator.

As St. Francis’ body was giving out on him he never lost sight of the words of St. Paul to the Corinthians.

“We do not lose heart. Even though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.”

Saint Francis now enjoys eternal life with our Lord, Jesus Christ.

I invite everyone to try and attend a Transitus

SPIRITUAL ASSISTANT

As we gather once again to celebrate the Transitus and feast day of St Francis we naturally reflect on his life and death. Part of that reflection is Who is St Francis, why are we attracted to him and why do we follow him. In the *Little Flowers of St Francis* we are told of how brother Maseo one day asked Francis *“Why after you? Why does everyone run after you, want to see you and hear you and obey you? After all, you are not handsome, or learned, or wise, or rich. So why is all the world running after you?”* He replied to Maseo, God had chosen him, Francis, because he was foolish and sinful, since, ‘God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world ... to reduce to nothing things that are ...’ (1 Cor. 1:27 – 28), so that all the honour and glory might be God’s.’



Francis is so many different things to different people. During the summer I read Francis of Assisi: the Life and Afterlife of a Medieval Saint by Andre Vauchez. In the preface of his book he writes: *“For centuries, we have celebrated him as the ascetic and the stigmatic, the founder of a great religious order and the paragon of Catholic orthodoxy. Then, at the end of the nineteenth century, he was considered a romantic hero, upholding an evangelical and mystical Christianity which had been destroyed by the ecclesiastical institution. In our own day, we have placed more emphasis on the image of the defender of the poor, the promoter of peace between individuals and religions, the man in love with nature, the protector and patron of ecology, or even the ecumenical saint whom Protestants, Orthodox Catholics, and even non-Christians can relate to.”*

Vauchez takes a more historical approach to life of Francis, trying to discover what we might say is the ‘real’ Francis within all the different biographies. He takes us from Celano’s and Bonaventure, to the Little Flowers and the modern writers. Read a biography of St Francis. Find another facet of St Francis to admire and follow. Happy feast day and happy reading.

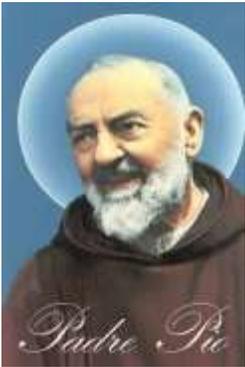
Fr. Peter Knaapen O.F.M. Conv

(Continued on page 2)

(MINISTER... continued from page 1)

service if one is available in your area. Brother Alan from St. Philip Neri Parish is planning a Triduum as they did last year from October 3- 5.

This month of September also marks some anniversaries for St. Padre Pio. He first received the stigmata on September 20, 1918 and this year marks 100 years. Padre Pio died on September 23, 1968 so this marks the 50th anniversary of his death. The prayer that many fraternities use to Padre Pio has attracted many new members to our ranks over the years.



Padre Pio was canonized a saint in 2002 by Pope Saint John Paul II. He said of Padre Pio:

"In fact, the ultimate reason for the apostolic effectiveness of Padre Pio, the profound root of so much spiritual fruitfulness can be found in that intimate and constant union with God, attested to by his long hours spent in prayer and in the confessional. He loved to repeat, "I am a poor Franciscan who prays" convinced that "prayer is the best weapon we have, a key that opens the heart of God".



*Deus Meus et omnia.
Catherine Payne*

VICE MINISTER

All Good Gifts

The song "We plough the Fields" says that "All good gifts around us are sent from Heaven above: the sunshine and the flowers" I love this beautiful song and find it intriguing, however I am not sure which intrigues me more, whether it is the lyrics or the music.



God is the creator of all good and beautiful things in creation,... but if God created all things then He also created: weeds, nettles which sting, storms, earthquakes, etc. And if all that God creates is good, are these things good too?

We like 'sunshine and flowers' because they make us feel happy inside; they make us smile and be joyous. On a warm sun-shiny day, the air feels charged with energy, excitement and optimism and the feeling that great things can be accomplished.

But how do we feel about: rainy, overcast and snowy days? Maybe we don't mind drizzle and flurries, but we call heavy snowfall and rain, "an awful day!" Recent heavy rains and stormy weather and forest fires with the occasional loss of life and property seemed disastrous - and disrupted people's plans and routines.

God made all things ... did God know what He was doing when He sent the rains and allowed the forest fires? Should we not accept the bad with the good?

When Job's 'friends' advised him to curse God and die, he responded "... shall we receive the good at the hand of God and not receive the bad?" (Job 2:10 NRSV) These forces of nature may be a test of our faith and trust in God.

"God writes straight with crooked lines" is sometimes proposed as the answer to the age-old question, "Why do bad things happen to good people?" I think God may use unpleasant situations to bring about good. Sometimes if we are patient we will see good coming out of what we considered bad.

When we don't get the answer we wanted to a prayer I think we should learn to thank Him for both the good and bad (trusting that Father knows best.) Sometimes He saves us from ourselves.

"He prayeth best who loveth best / All things both great and small; / For the dear God who loveth us, / He made and loveth all." "The Rime of the Ancient Mariner," (1798). Samuel Taylor Coleridge

God is a loving Father; I think He sometimes permits unpleasant things to happen to us. He has given us free will and, in His love for us, He does not interfere when we insist on doing "our own thing."

He has given us the Way, the Truth and the Life, but we have free will... and we are responsible for consequences of our actions... even when these consequences are dire.

With a stretch of my imagination I see our Seraphic Father Francis ploughing the fields of the souls of those who joined him, and scattering the seeds of faith, trust, love, obedience and poverty. We know that those fields were watered by God's almighty hand and they grew and became very fruitful: Francis always praised and gave thanks to God for all his gifts and so should we:

Gratias agamus Domino Deo nostro:

(Let us give thanks to the Lord our God)

Teresa Viechweg, ofs

TREASURER'S TWO CENTS



"You must know that when you 'hail' Mary, she immediately greets you! Don't think that she is one of those rude women of whom there are so many... On the contrary, she is utterly courteous and pleasant. If you greet her, she will answer you right away and converse with you!"

— St. Bernadine of Siena
Mark Rozario ofc

FORMATION

What is truth?

When you hear this question, what is the first thing that comes to your mind? I admit that Pontius Pilate's scene with Jesus in The Passion comes to my mind.

This ancient question affects us today more than ever? What is the answer?

When I hear of a lawyer claiming that "Truth is NOT truth," I think today's culture has lost its moral compass and attraction to the truth.

We have been navigating through the darkness since we lost our original innocence. For those who are comfortable in the darkness coming to the light is a painful changes. Going from Gospel to Life and from Life to Gospel produces changes in our souls. These changes allow us to receive the light, if we are willing to receive it.

Are we? St. John wrote *"in him was life, and the life was the light of all people... he came to his own, and his own received him not"*. Jesus is our light, a light that leads us through the journey of change.

St. Teresa of Avila described the soul as a garden, where flowers are virtues and the each of us is a gardener who needs to water and nurture our soul. Prayer is the water that makes them grow and bloom in their entire splendour. Prayer includes: reflection, meditation and contemplation leading us to a living faith, a lived experience of God, and knowledge of self.

Lip service is an illusion that

produces neither spiritual growth nor flowering virtues. It is an empty bucket.

Dear brothers and sisters, if our prayer life is to lead us to a deeper union with God, our prayer must be about loving rather than thinking. As we grow in love because of the Living Water, we will see Christ in the other, and see ourselves in the Christ in the other.

John 3:19 describes yesterday and today's reality: *"the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."*

Today, temporal rulers bury themselves in webs of lies to confuse or divert us from the truth. What do we do now? We need to change and to come to the truth. This change must start with us and be manifested in us.

Grace brings real change, it works on us as we open our souls and lift our hearts to God in quiet, humble and hopeful prayer. Let us gaze upon the naked crucified as He draws us to himself. Allow Him – who is the Truth, the way, and the life – to transform us in love. That is what St. Francis did.

Pope Francis reminds us that the real Christian accuses himself or herself and not others. As we see the world rushing towards power, wealth, pleasure and honour, let us never judge. Rather, with humility of soul, let us remember that we are blinded by our own pride and ego.

Bro. Xavier

The following treasures
(from our Provincial
Archive Room) may be
of interest to some
fraternities.



FOR SALE (price negotiable)

Gather Comprehensive (Red Cover) Qty = 34
Gather Comprehensive (Green Cover) Qty = 4
(Choir Editions)

FREE (1 copy of each)

CBW II, CBW III, Glory & Praise Classic Edition

Please contact Brother Alan at:

alan.gaebel@gmail.com

Trust and Temptation



Having trust in God is not always easy. Often we say we trust in him, yet in an instant, when our world comes crashing down around us, we can become a ‘doubting Thomas.’ We do not see the struggle before us as an opportunity to trust more fully in His divine plan for us. We get scared. In our humanity, we think that we need to fix the problem ourselves. Our egos take over and then the lesson God may have been trying to teach us becomes too heavy a burden for us to carry... and instead of giving it back to Him, we blame Him. The devil wants us to be overwhelmed, to question God’s love for us, to over think our issue until it consumes us. He wants us to believe that there is no solution for our problem. It is better for the devil to make us think that our struggle will never get better. The more the devil derails our plans, the longer it will take for us to be happy and understand God’s plan for our success: *“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.’* Jeremiah 29: 11-13.

It is easy to trust when times are good. Everything is easier when we don’t have to struggle. However, that is not our faith. Jesus could have easily taken himself off the cross, or better yet, not have gone through his Passion altogether, yet, he showed us, that the way to happiness is found in the Cross: found in struggle, found in Him. It is when our world is crashing down that we should trust in him the most: trusting is Word: “...aren’t you far more valuable to him than the birds?” (Matthew 6:26-34.) Our trust in God weakens because the secular world teaches that trust can be broken and that love is conditional. We then put these limitations on God.

I used to believe that when I was being tempted by the devil, he was showing me just how weak I was. To some degree, I still believe this, but now I also see that there is a strength in me that scares him and he will stop at nothing to strip me down to fear. I have had many temptations; physical, mental, and emotional. Sometimes I am able to find the strength in faith to combat and let him know that he has no foot to stand on but when I am tired or when I am weak I fall.

To be honest, I think it is in falling that I learn the most. You see, when I fall, I need to cry out to God for help. I need to go to the Rock that is my strength, my tower. Those temptations that I combat, don’t have me calling out to my God for help, my pride takes over and for a moment, I believe that I have combated the



FRANCISCAN TRIDUUM OCTOBER 3-4-5, 2018

Wednesday, 03 October 2018
St Philip Neri Parish 2100 Jane Street
Toronto ON M3M 1P1
Celebration of the
Transitus of St Francis of Assisi
7:00 PM—9:00 PM

Thursday, 04 October 2017
St Philip Neri Parish 2100 Jane Street
Toronto ON M3M 1P1
Multi-Lingual Mass Celebrating the
Feast of St Francis of Assisi
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Friday, 05 October 2017
Living with Bl. Solanus Casey, ofm, cap
"Learnings for a Franciscan Spiritual Life"
Bro. Dan Crosby, ofm, cap.
St Bonaventure Monastery
Detroit, Michigan USA
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Capuchin - Franciscans of Central Canada
2100 Jane Street, Toronto ON M3M 1P1
www.capuchins.ca

TRILLIUM REGION SFO
www.SFOTrilliumRegion.com
Email: fratellojuniper@gmail.com

devil on my own.

Honestly, I laughed a little when I typed that last sentence. It is only through God's grace that we are able to do anything of substance; forgive, love our enemies, and fight temptation.

The more you trust in God, the more you will be tempted. When God has all of you, He can work miracles. Questions of money, stability, family, and future no longer clog the mind with worry, because God has it under control: *'These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs. Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need. So don't worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today's trouble is enough for today.'* (Matthew 6:32-34)

Trusting in God brings a peace that cannot be defined. It is like a rock that won't be moved: a strong tower that stands despite the storms of life. Even in the storm, the tower stands... maybe a little worn, a few stones chipped, but it stands because God is in control.

St. John Vianney says it best: *So, you will ask me, who then are the people most tempted? They are these, my friends; note them carefully. The people most tempted are those who are ready, with the grace of God, to sacrifice everything for the salvation of their poor souls, who renounce all those things, which most people eagerly seek. It is not one devil only who tempts them, but millions seek to entrap them.*

In all honesty, this journey we are on is not easy. The Cross teaches us that nothing good comes from an easy path. Many times I have cried to God asking him, "Why me?"

Why not me? God created me for a purpose and my goal is to complete what He has started in me.

God is so good at reminding us how much He loves us; just read the Bible, or if short on time, google comforting messages from God.

When I am being tempted, I take it as a sign that I am on the right path. I don't enjoy how the devil can shake me to my core, but I know that my core rests in God alone. He is my rock, my strong tower. In Him, the impossible becomes the possible.

Lisa Theriault, ofs
Teacher and Missionary



“Whom Do You Serve?” A Day of Reflection for YOUNG ADULTS

Who: If you are a Young Adult (19-35) you are invited to join us for a Day of Reflection to help you discern your priorities in life and where God might be leading you to next.

What: The Day of Reflection for Young Adults will be led by Chris Elliott a professed member of the Secular Franciscan Order.

Where: St. Timothy's Church 21 Leith Hill Rd. North York, ON. M2J 1Y9

When: Saturday, October 6th 2018 from 10:00-6:00 PM.

Cost: The registration fee is \$10.00 and includes lunch.

RSVP: Spaces are limited so book your spot by September 21!

Email chriselliottym@gmail.com or call 416-494-6526 ext. 302.

There will also be an opportunity to go to Reconciliation and attend Sunday Mass.



Local Fraternity Bulletin Board



We congratulate your newly elected National Council members: elections held May 19, 2018 in Quebec. left to right: Pedro Zitha, OFM (General Assistant), Jewel Jasmins (National Formator), Françoise Malboeuf (Vice-Minister, Francophone regions), Michel David (International Councillor), Doug Clorey (National Minister), Marion Clorey (Vice-Minister, Anglophone regions), Harvey Levesque (Treasurer), Debbie Tessier (Secretary), Michel Janian (International Presidency Councillor), Peter Knappen, OFM Conv (National Assistant)



More than 50 Secular Franciscans attended our 25th Anniversary Picnic of the Trillium Region on Saturday July 7, 2018 at St. Bonaventure Church for Mass, fellowship and a tree dedication.

PROFESSIONS



A beautiful Profession Mass was held at the St. Francis Centre in Caledon on Sunday August 26. Four members of St. John Vianney Fraternity and one member of St. Damian Fraternity were professed. From the front row left to right: Maria Soon bok Seal, Elizabeth Gwang Jin Choi, Camilo Youl Hoon Kim, Angela Hee Sook Cho, Kang Kyung Sook Asella. From the second row left to right-->Fr. Paul, Catherine Payne, Benedict Lee, Teresa Viechweg, Gregory Lee, Joseph Hwangbo, Francis Cho.



A beautiful profession from St. Damian Fraternity on Sunday August 26, 2018 at the St. Francis Centre. Back row (left to right): Stephen Huh, Francisco Min, Fr. Paul Seo, Maria Choi
Front row (left to right): Rachel Park, Asella Kang Kyung-Suk, Catherine Payne, Maria Won



St. Peter's Fraternity in London celebrated the Profession of Murielle Plante –left, on the Feast of the Stigmata of St. Francis , September 17, 2018. Celebrant of the Mass was Father Louis Mousseau OFM Cap– right and present for the celebration was Catherine Payne ofs –middle

OBITUARIES

St. Anthony of Padua Fraternity in Sarnia

Aurette McGarrity ofs, died on August 24, 2018
Catherine Lynch ofs, died on August 30, 2018.

St. Felix of Cantalice Fraternity, Toronto.

Mario Segal, ofs

(Minister, Treasurer, and Formation Director)

Simone Vienofs, died on August 2, 2018



Capuchin Franciscan Friar
Joseph (Joe) MacDonald
died on July 10 at 85 years old
after a long battle with Parkinson's Disease.
A funeral Mass was celebrated on July 17
at St. Philip Neri Church in Toronto.



100 YEARS YOUNG

Mary Breese, a member of Sacred Heart Fraternity in Guelph receives her 40 year certificate from the Minister, Mike Guilmette, on the occasion of her 100th birthday celebration in May 2018. Congratulations, Mary from all the Franciscans!

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.ca



Installation of the newly elected council of St. Anthony of Padua Fraternity (Brampton) at the conclusion of their chapter of election on June 15, 2018.

From left to right: Brenda Wood, vice minister; Gudy Sato, secretary; Mary Reid, minister; Vera Nolan, treasurer; Venante Francis, director of formation.

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: July, September, December, and April.

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.