

**The Good News Report of the Secular Franciscan Order
in the Trillium Regional Fraternity.**

800th Anniversary of the Stigmata of St. Francis of Assisi

**All members of the Franciscan Family are
invited to celebrate this Year of the Stigmata
of St. Francis.**



Number 106

September 2024



Minister's letter September 2024

Dear Brothers and Sisters of the Secular Franciscan Order,

This is the time for great thanksgiving for the completion of the summer days and the harvests of the land! Our leaves are starting to turn, and the garden still producing the last of its fruits, and now waiting for the trees to release their abundance! So now to see what the Holy Spirit has produced in us over these last months!

Regional News

Fraternities can still make their requests for a Fraternal/Pastoral Visitation. Thanks to those who have made their requests! For those fraternities who have not made their request yet, please contact us as soon as you can to schedule your preferred date.

The Regional Council will be meeting on Monday, September 23rd for their regular meeting.

Regional Chapter

The Regional Chapter of Elections is confirmed for May 24, 2025, at St. Bonaventure Church, 1300 Leslie St., Toronto, ON

National Chapter

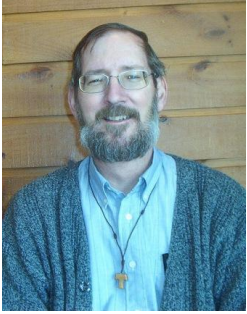
The National Chapter of Elections is confirmed for June 26-29, 2025, at Centre de Spiritualité, Loretteville, QC. The Fraternal Visitor will be our General Minister, Tibor Kauser, ofs.

International Chapter

The General Chapter will be taking place this November, 2024, in Rome. Our National Minister, Jewel Jasmins, ofs, will be attending.

THE STIGMATA OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

Fr. Peter Knaapen, OFM Conventual



The Crucified Christ appeared to Francis on two separate occasions. The first vision happened to Francis shortly after his conversion from a worldly life. St Bonaventure tells us: “One day, while Francis was praying in a secluded spot and became totally absorbed in God through his extreme fervor, Jesus Christ appeared to him fastened to the cross. Francis’ soul melted at the sight, and the memory of Christ’s passion was so impressed on the innermost recesses of his heart that from that hour, whenever Christ’s crucifixion came to mind, he could scarcely contain his tears and sighs.”

St. Bonaventure points out that from that time on Francis began “rendering humble service to lepers with human concern and devoted kindness.... He visited their houses frequently, and generously distributed alms to them and with great compassion kissed their hands and their mouths.” Two years before his death Francis went to La Verna for a period of prayer and reflection. He wanted to feel in his soul and in his body the pain that Jesus sustained at the hour of his Passion, and at the same time, Francis asked that he might feel in his heart that overwhelming love that our Lord had for all sinful humanity. St. Bonaventure in his *Life of St. Francis* tells us: “On a certain morning about the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross [September 14], while Francis was praying on the mountainside, he saw a Seraph with six fiery and shining wings descend from the height of heaven. And when in swift flight the Seraph had reached a spot in the air near the man of God, there appeared between the wings the figure of a man crucified, with his hands and feet extended in the form of a cross and fastened to a cross. Two of the wings were lifted above his head, two were extended for flight and two covered his whole body. “When Francis saw this, he was overwhelmed and his whole body was flooded with a mixture of joy and sorrow. He rejoiced because of the gracious way Christ looked upon him under the appearance of the Seraph, but the fact that he was fastened to a cross pierced his soul with a sword of compassionate sorrow.”

Following the advice of St Clare may we gaze, reflect, and contemplate our crucified Lord. May we, whenever we think of Crucified Christ, sigh with great love. May we strive to imitate the Lord’s great love for us by “denying ourselves and taking up the cross and following our Lord.”

The Good News Report of the Secular Franciscan Order Trillium Regional Fraternity

is the official newsletter of the Secular Franciscan Order, Trillium Regional Fraternity. We aim to publish it in the middle to the end of **September, December, March & June.**

Photos and articles are warmly welcomed and will be published.

Articles of no more than 250 words, may be sent by the **8th of the month** for publishing, to **Newsletter Editor, Debbie Tessier, ofs, deborahtessier57@gmail.com**

Formation News

Maria Ferrera, ofs, Regional Formation Director

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Hope you all had a wonderful summer. It's hard to believe it is coming to a close.

We will be offering the National Formators Course once again. Please pass this information along to any fraternity members who might be interested in taking this course as we would like to begin in October. The course will be offered in two ways. Cathy Payne will facilitate the online/email correspondence course and I will facilitate the online course using the Moodle platform. It is the exact same course whichever way you choose to take it. For anyone registering please fill out the appropriate form and email it back to Cathy or myself. You will notice both registration forms are attached. Also attached is the poster for the National Formators workshop taking place on Zoom Saturday Nov, 2/2024. This is just as a reminder if you would like to join this online workshop please register by October 26. All the details are on the poster. As always, any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me.

Peace and all good, Maria



 National Secular Franciscan Order in Canada

Calling All Formators!

Gather with other formators across Canada in a Zoom

FORMATOR'S WORKSHOP

Workshop Themes

Servant leadership in the Writings of St Francis & St Clare
Intro to the Thematic Guide for Formation Programs
& The Companion Document
Time to *share ideas, methods & experiences*
And to *give feedback* on the workshop

Saturday - November 2, 2024
10am PT/11am MT/Noon CT/1pm ET/2pm AT
For about 90 minutes

A unique opportunity to

- connect with other formators across Canada
- learn & share what works best for your candidates & formation teams
- be open to the Holy Spirit working through brother & sister Franciscans

Registration deadline October 26, 2024

To register send the following information to Colleen Finlon, ofs at
cmariefinlon@gmail.com

Name - Fraternity - Region - Email - Fraternal position

NATIONAL FORMATORS' COURSE

Course Duration: 6 months

Start Date: October, 2024

Course Content: Six Modules

Objectives: To equip formators with a framework of OFS formation and applied skills to facilitate Initial and Ongoing Formation in local fraternities.

Methods: Course will be delivered via email/correspondence. The modules will be sent to you on a monthly basis by your course facilitator over email (or if necessary, via postal mail). There are also three Zoom videoconference meetings over the six months of the course.

Prerequisites: Permanent profession in the OFS. Active interest in participating in OFS Formation.

Course Load: Requirement to dedicate a minimum of 4-5 hours a month to complete course readings, to write and submit monthly assignments via email (or postal mail if necessary), and to participate in the scheduled Zoom videoconferences with other participants in the course.

Course by Correspondence, contact: Catherine Payne, ofs at catherinepayne279@gmail.com
Online Course, contact: Maria Ferrera ofs at maferrera@cogeco.ca

[Hope in the Fight against Human Trafficking | Franciscan Media](#)

30 Ways to End Human Trafficking
[January 2019 \(fspa.org\)](#)

St. Josephine Bakhita, you were sold into slavery as a child and endured untold hardship and suffering. Once liberated from your enslavement, you found true redemption in your encounter with Christ and his Church. O Saint Bakhita, assist all those who are entrapped in a state of slavery; intercede with God on their behalf so that they will be released from the chains of captivity. Those whom man enslaves, let God set free. Provide comfort to survivors of slavery and let them look to you as an example of hope and faith. Help all survivors find healing from their wounds. We ask for your prayers and intercession for those enslaved among us. Amen.



Caring for Indigenous Peoples

Regional/National JPIC NEWS

Marilyn Deery, ofs

The Joy of working together with the Indigenous Peoples and Franciscans ...

1. As Franciscans, we are to learn about the 94 points of Truth and Reconciliation. From there, we are then able to move forward towards Peace and Reconciliation through making contacts and friendships with Indigenous Peoples. And, “it’s working!”

Our calling is now to move forward towards “Intercultural Healing and Blessings.” This is where we need your prayers ... for the next direction the ofs National JPIC Team is to journey to foster healing of relationships with the Indigenous Peoples and Franciscans of the Catholic Church, here in Canada.

With the utmost care, professionalism, and respect for the dignity of the human person, the ofs National Council is discerning the direction for us, and will let us know their decision after this November 2024.

Thank you for your prayers.

Covenant treaties have been made, to create peace, and to care for the lands, taking no more than what is needed, and to share with the needy, for now and for future generations. As treaty people, we honour and respect all of Creation, especially the dignity of the human person. “

Meditation on the Joy of Working Together

In our call to do God, the Creator’s will and to follow in the footsteps of Jesus and our Forefathers, we listen intently to the Holy Spirit, and learn about the Law of Love.

To love God deeply with “all our heart, soul and mind,” and to genuinely “love our neighbour as ourself” (Mt 22:37-39).

God, who is the “First Cause” of all things ... is in all things and through all things (St Thomas Aquinas).

God, the Creator ... is the Greatest Good.

In our journey of becoming lovable people, we witness firsthand the sacredness of the human person.

Through others, we experience God’s wonderful, compassionate and merciful love for us.

“When we reach out to the other person, not only is the other healed, we are healed as well” (Thomas Merton).

We are then able to feel secure, and share in the perfect joy, peace, and love of God.

Aquene/Peace

Sacred Covenant signed between Catholic Church and Tkemlúps te Secwépemc

“The covenant was signed on March 30, 2024 on Easter Sunday by Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc, the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Vancouver and the Diocese of Kamloops. The Kamloops Indigenous Residential School was one of five schools that existed within the boundaries of the Archdiocese of Vancouver” (Lauren Collins, June 26, 2024 11:20am).

[Sacred Covenant signed between Catholic Church and Tkemlúps te Secwépemc - YouTube](#)

HIDDEN FACES

A Reflection for People of Faith

Colleen MacAlister ofs
September 9, 2024

As I was waking one spring morning in 2024, in my mind's eye, I saw a flash of a photo, that had been recently taken, of a group of young people who participate in one of the ministries that I am involved with. I didn't take the photo. Everyone was smiling and waving. Then in an instant after the flash of these smiling faces came the words

"Hidden Faces of Hopelessness"

This happened, as I was waking up, you know kind of foggy, in that space of the twilight zone between waking up and fully awake, however in all clarity I immediately knew I was being told and shown something very important. I have one of those minds that tries to always listen to what God may be trying to teach me or guide me to do and I knew it was Him.

"HIDDEN faces of HOPELESSNESS!"

As I pondered those words, I realized ITS TRUE! There are hidden faces of hopelessness all around us! Undiagnosed! There is no diagnosis that says a person is feeling like there is no hope! With that comes feelings of being alone and lost! We have so much help for obvious mental health issues and obvious causes of distress, but the increase of drugs and sudden suicides, is on the rise. Could this increase be because there are "hidden" faces of hopelessness? Untreated, unhealed, unheeded, not acknowledged because they are hidden? I think we are all guilty of having been in a situation where we were asked "Hi, how are you doing?" and we have said "Great! How are you?" when maybe we just had a horrible fight with a parent or friend or spouse? Or maybe we just heard of a job loss, a family loss or nasty gossip and we are really hurting? Or today it maybe I can't buy that special meal for my child, and we don't let the sadness speak truth. We hide it. WE are hidden. However, you and I may not get to the point of hopelessness that leads to despair, and we recover.

What about those who don't?

These "hidden faces of hopelessness" are all around us! Hidden under smiles and nods. Hidden behind loud music and noise, drowned in dinners and drinks. Some of these hidden emotions move into deeper places in our hearts and souls and lead to despair and depression and then become recognized and treated. But sadly, there are some who don't get that far – and then that person is just gone mentally spiritually and physically... are some of these ends preventable? Is there a way to help? YES THERE IS. There is HOPE but often it too is hidden!

HIDDEN faces of HOPE. WE ARE THEM. WE MUST UNMASK!

That phone call we wish we had made. That smile we could have given. That love and kindness we could have shared. That slow down and listen moment. That shared tear and prayer that could have been. I don't think there should ever be a time when someone is that alone and lost that they feel they have nowhere to go and no place to turn where they can BE who they are and not need a false presentation of strength. We all know the scriptures that tell us how to live, we have heard the words spoken, the words spoken and lived by Jesus, His Mother, the prophets, the Saints!

WE know the answer to HOPELESSNESS! We have the HOPE! It is JESUS!

WE are not only His hands and feet, but we are also HIS HEART IF WE LET OURSELVES FEEL! We can be His smile! Be His miracle! What is living on our inside needs to be allowed to live through our whole being! Christ is in us, and we are in Him! Can our eyes become icons? Looking in our eyes is there a light of hope and heaven? Or would someone only see indifference and impatience? I think that if we think about it we would all agree, these times are tough and there is an urgency to become visible faces of hope.

This must begin with us. EVERY one of us.

I was amazed when I learned that the binary code that operates all computer language is in sequences of zeros and ones. Success requires ones AND zeros! Equal value in a perfect program. The zero cannot be a one or the whole language is lost, and the program of operation fails! There is none of greater importance! There is a time and a place for that zero or that one! To have a successful operation we need little plans and big plans! Little actions and big actions!

We all have a part in Gods plan. We were born for this time.

Can you give a prayer with the joy of angels to someone sad or a quarter to a stranger at the grocery store so they can get a cart? Both of those actions can move the heart of the recipient to thank God and receive hope. If we let the programmer do the programming and do the heart felt daily tasks placed before us we may one day be a zero and maybe one day a one, but ultimately God's will may be accomplished. It is not His will that any are lost or alone or hungry or hurting and we have that HOPE and knowledge of His great love for us in Jesus.

Jesus said they will know we are His followers by our love.

Francis wept through the streets and when asked why by his friends, he told them he wept because Love was not Loved. He let himself be open. Nothing hidden. And the doctors told him if he didn't stop crying, he would soon be blind as his eyes were bad and he opted to continue CARING. I can remember when I wouldn't let myself feel and cry because my mascara would run! When I realized that I was hearing Gods voice and caring in my heart and that not allowing myself to 'feel' I was hardening my heart! I stopped wearing mascara!! I am not saying don't wear mascara, but I am saying lets show faces of hope to the hidden faces of hopelessness, in all we do! Lets LIVE the prayer of St. Francis. If you would like more information on, how you can help in some practical ways to share this HOPE, contact me!

Colleen MacAlister ofs, colleenmacalister@yahoo.ca, text or call 613-242-1125

The ego's song of surrender to the divine

A pilgrimage begins the moment you say yes to it, even before you travel. I've incorporated the St. Francis Prayer into my daily spiritual practice. Sometimes I recite it myself, and other times I listen to it sung. Like all great prayers, the St. Francis Prayer is both a spiritual practice and a powerful spiritual teaching. The more you recite the prayer, the more it lives in you. It teaches you something every time you pray it.

1. Divine Surrender
2. Positive Denial
3. Ending the Search
4. Giving is Receiving
5. Gift of Forgiveness
6. Your Spiritual Birth

My invitation to you is to pray the St. Francis Prayer for twenty-one days. This will be a pilgrimage of sorts. It will take just two minutes a day, and the benefits will last a lifetime.

~ Robert Holden, Ph.D

For the full article: <https://www.robertholden.com/blog/finding-your-purpose-with-st-francis/>

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**

Phone-905-851-8220

or malerbac@yahoo.com

Please make your requests well in advance if you wish to have them on the profession day or anniversary date.

We would like to welcome you to this new website, just another to add to your bookmarks
www.franciscanpreacher.com
which intends to help its visitors in their personal walk of their Roman Catholic faith in Jesus Christ.

Local Fraternity Bulletin Board

Professions

St. Anne Fraternity, Tecumseh, Sept. 14

Raymond Search, ofs

Tracy Victoria Antonia Muscat, ofs

St. Benedict the Black Fraternity, Mississauga, Sept. 7

Mark Gueco, ofs

Korean Fraternities' Professions



Professed (1)- Daniella Young Hee Kim



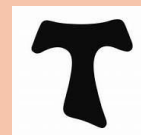
Temporary professed (5) Maria Sun Ran Lee, John Jong sun Kim, Cecilia Hae Sook Myung, Lucia Hea Jung Cho, Elizabeth Yoo Lee Lyu



Initiation (5) - Hyginus Takweon Lee, Agatha Kyung Hee Kim, Genovefa Yunkyung Lee, Rosa Chun Hwa Jang, Daniela Hee Sun Lee



Group photo of those who attended the retreat, Animator Fr. Francesco, and the regional visitor Debbie Tessier and son Tim Tessier.



St. John Vianney Fraternity, Toronto, had their annual retreat from Aug. 16 to Aug. 18, 2024. Fr. Francisco Bo Kyung Kang, OFM, from Chicago, USA, led the retreat on the topic of **"The Meaning of the Profession of Secular Franciscans"**. Eighty members from four different Korean fraternities (47 members from St. John Vianney Fraternity, 26 members from Brother Leo Fraternity in Mississauga, 4 members from Angels of St. Mary Fraternity, Montreal and 2 from St. Damian Fraternity in London, Ontario) gathered for the retreat. During the retreat, one member from St. John Vianney Fraternity (Daniella Young Hee Kim), and one from Brother Leo Fraternity (Juliana Jung Hee Kim) professed. Five members professed temporarily and another five members started initiation class from St. John Vianney Fraternity.

LA VERNA MINISTRIES, PETERBOROUGH, ONTARIO

Visit their facebook page : www.facebook.com/capuchins.ca



La Verna Ministries celebrates the

800th Anniversary of St Francis' Stigmata

SATURDAY, 21 SEPTEMBER, 2024

~ 10:00am ~ 4:00pm ~

"STIGMATA OF ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI"

Interpretations Of The First 30 Years

(and what his Stigmata might mean for us today)

Using contemporary accounts from the brothers, early biographies and the Bull of Canonization (1228) we will glimpse insights of how this event was understood at the time.

PLEASE PRE-REGISTER BY 7 SEPT, 2024

\$ 35.00 per participant includes materials, lunch, snacks and beverages during the day.

MASS FOLLOWS AT 4:10PM (Optional)

e-transfer: laverna@capuchins.ca
(auto-deposit)



820 Frank Street
Peterborough ON K9J 4N4 (T) 705.243.9131 laverna@capuchins.ca
... a Capuchin place of Franciscan Spirituality

FRANCISCAN CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS 2023-2026

2024-800th Anniversary of the Stigmata of St. Francis of Assisi

2025-800th Anniversary of the Transitus/Death of St. Francis of Assisi

DISCOVER FRANCISCAN SPIRITUALITY

Through the Secular Franciscan Order

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

Onsite at LaVerna

October-A Rich History and Tradition

Wednesday, October 16, 2024, Zoom

Wednesday, October 23, 2024, Onsite at La Verna

November-Gospel Observers

Wednesday, November 6, 2024, Zoom

Wednesday, November 20, 2024, Onsite at La Verna

Preregistration required.

A FRANCISCAN TRIDUUM



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WEDNESDAY 02 OCTOBER, 2024

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

@ LA VERNA

1pm ~ 7pm

820 FRANK STREET

PETERBOROUGH ON

(Side Lawn off Driveway, Western Ave)
WEATHER PERMITTING

THURSDAY 03 OCTOBER, 2024

TRANSITUS SERVICE @ 6.30 PM

(following Mass)

"REMEMBERING THE DEATH

OF ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI"

ST ALPHONSUS LIGOURI PARISH

1066 WESTERN AVENUE

PETERBOROUGH ON

FRIDAY 04 OCTOBER, 2024

FEASTDAY OF ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI

MASS @ 6pm

ST ALPHONSUS LIGOURI PARISH

1066 WESTERN AVENUE

PETERBOROUGH ON



The latest happening in Keswick:
A picture of the Sanctuary of our Church
in Keswick, Ontario.



Saturday,
September 7, 2024
our Parish Priest,
Father Dunstan,
blessed our newest
stained glass
window:
St. Francis of Assisi
Pax et Bonum.
Rolf Meineke, OFS



TRANSITUS CELEBRATIONS IN THE REGION

TORONTO-

St. Bonaventure Church, 1300 Leslie St, Toronto, October 3rd at 7 pm

St. Philip Neri, 2100 Jane St, Toronto, October 3rd at 7 pm

St. Jane Frances, 2747 Jane St, Toronto, October 3rd at 7 pm

BELLEVILLE-

A Transitus Service, a solemn memorial of St. Francis of Assisi's passing over from his earthly life to the Glory of God in heaven, will be celebrated on Thursday October 3rd, in the chapel, following the 5:30pm Mass at Holy Rosary Church, Belleville. Holy Rosary Secular Franciscan Fraternity invites and welcomes all to pray and remember the beauty and holiness of St. Francis last hours.

OSHAWA-

We are celebrating the Transitus after the 8:30 am Mass at Holy Cross Church, Oshawa. On the feast of St. Francis, we will attend 9:00am Mass at St. Joseph Church and then go for breakfast.

THOROLD-

St. Mary of the Angels Fraternity will be holding a Transitus celebration on Thursday, Oct. 3rd at Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Church, Thorold, at 7 pm. On Oct. 4th, the fraternity will be holding *One Hour with St. Francis*, an evening of stories and music about St. Francis, at 7 pm at St. Kevin's Church, Welland.

TECUMSEH/BLENHEIM-

St. Anne's Fraternity will go to St. Bonaventure Monastery, Detroit. Oct 3 at 6:30 PM.

Blenheim Cell will celebrate with the Capuchins at St Mary's church, Blenheim on Oct 3rd at 7 PM.

SARNIA-

St. Benedict's Church, Sarnia, October 3rd, 6pm