

800th Anniversary of “The Canticle of all Creatures” of St. Francis of Assisi

All members of the Franciscan Family are invited to celebrate this
800th Year of the Canticle of All Creatures

Issue 108

February 2025

지극히 높으시고,
전능하시며 선하신 주님,
찬양과 영광과 존귀와 모든 축복이
오로지 주님께 속하나이다.
지극히 높으신 주님,
이 모든 것이 오직 주님께 속하며
어느 인간도
감히 주님의 이름을 입에 올릴
자격이 없나이다.

*Most High,
all-powerful, good Lord,
Yours are the praises, the glory,
and the honour and all blessing.
To You alone, Most High,
do they belong
and no human
is worthy to mention Your name.*



Link to opening ceremony: [\(20+\) Facebook Live](#) | [Facebook](#)



Minister's Letter

800th Anniversary of the *Canticle of All Creatures*

The Jubilee 2025 Pilgrims of Hope

The year 2025 is a year radiant with the graces of God as we celebrate two significant events, the 800th Anniversary of the *Canticle of All Creatures* and the Church's **Jubilee 2025: Pilgrims of Hope**. All members of the Franciscan Family will be as one in reflecting, celebrating, and bringing to life the spiritual flame of these milestones side by side. *The Canticle of All Creatures* was written in poetic form, and meant to be sung. There are many settings of these praises to God written by Saint Francis of Assisi. Let us begin by speaking or singing the praises of God for all that God has created every day to our brothers and sisters in the Order, to our churches, and to our communities. Francis' text may be supplemented with the scripture of Daniel 3:57-88, which captures God's creation in even more detail. Through these praises and prayers may we be transformed by Jesus Christ into pilgrims of hope, advocates for all creation and peace among all peoples, laying aside our economical, social, political views and preferences, loving and reconciling our brothers and sisters with each other, ourselves and with all creation. This is not a new mandate for us, but it does present itself at a time of spiritual urgency. Be courageous, brothers and sisters, take heart, and drive the vehicle of conversion that we have been given, to this sure hope in our God that brings blessedness, with our Lord Jesus Christ, in the fire of the Holy Spirit, and in the creation that is sustained by them in our time.

Election Prayer for OFS Leadership

*Give us, O God, leaders whose hearts are large enough to match the breadth of our own souls
and give us souls strong enough to follow leaders of vision and wisdom.
In seeking a leader, let us seek more than our own enhancement –though enhancement we hope for
-more than security for our own plans and vision-though security we need
-more than satisfaction for our own selfish wants-though many things we desire.
Give us the hearts to choose and follow the leader who will work with other leaders
to bring Your will to the agenda and help us to fulfill it.
Give us leaders who will lead us to virtue
without seeking to impose their own version of virtue on others.
Give us leaders who will provide for the advancement of our order
without dictating to others to achieve it.
Give us insight enough ourselves to choose as leaders those who can tell strength from power,
growth from greed, leadership from dominance,
and real greatness from the trappings of grandiosity.
We trust You, Great God, to open our hearts to learn from those to whom You speak
in different tongues and to respect the life and words of those to whom You entrusted
the good of other parts of this globe.
We beg you, Great God, give us the vision as Secular Franciscans
to know where holy leadership truly lies, to pursue it diligently,
and to ask it to respect the integrity of every person in the entire Order.
We ask these things, Great God, with minds open to Your word
and hearts that trust in Your eternal care. Amen.*

*Adapted by Anne Mulqueen, SFO and Fr. Kevin Queally from "Prayer for Leadership"
Published by Pax Christi, USA*

Regional Council: Why consider running?

by Debbie Tessier, ofs

There are seven positions available on the regional council: Minister, Vice Minister 1, Vice Minister 2, Vice Minister 3, Secretary, Treasurer, Formation Director

The Minister heads the council and is a liaison with the National Fraternity, passing on National directives and information to the local fraternities; the Vice Ministers support the work of the Minister and Council, especially for Chapters and Fraternal Visits; the Secretary records the minutes of the meetings, archives them and helps with communications, mailing of the newsletters; the Treasurer keeps track of the finances, pays expenses from the account, prepares the budget and advises the council on funds available; the Formation Director provides local formation directors with current materials and links, meets with them a few times during the term.

On various levels,
each fraternity is animated and guided by a council and minister who are elected by the professed according to the constitutions. Their service, which lasts for a definite period, is marked by a ready and willing spirit and is a duty of responsibility to each member and to the community.

Benefits of being on a regional council:

Being a part of regional council expanded my experience of fraternity and exposed me to meeting so many more Secular Franciscans than in my own fraternity and immediate area. Learning how the Order is administrated on a new level helped me to appreciate it so much more. It challenged me to spruce up on my second language and even learn another. It formed me into a stronger spiritual leader and enhanced in me new levels of organization.

It allowed me to travel to places in Ontario and Canada and make many lasting friendships.

Servant Leadership

“The ministry of service cannot be understood if one does not start from the basic concept of Franciscanism: the Fraternity, which necessarily implies fraternal relations and, with regard to the subject matter of this document, interaction between different people temporarily called to pursue a common purpose that is the animation and guidance of brothers and sisters.”

Art. 21 Rule (recalled by the corresponding art. 31.1 GGCC) establishes that at all levels the Council, in particular, is “soul and guide”: this means that it’s a human and Christian instrument of service, exercised with love for the good of the Fraternity and of each member.

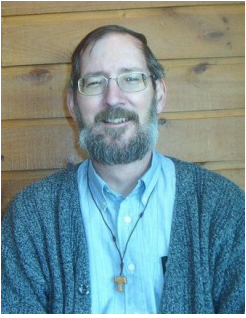
“Its members are committed to carrying out with creativity the project established by the Chapter of the Fraternity and to perform the functions specific to each office, striving to always be proactive for the good of the brothers and sisters.”

“The Council’s task: to stimulate and encourage observance of the Rule and fraternal communion, as well as ecclesial activity; implement the actions and acts provided by the GGCC; respect subsidiarity because a higher level should not do the task of the lower level.”

Guidelines for OFS Council Members, 2021, CIOFS

CANTICLE OF ALL CREATURES: PRAISE BE YOU, MY LORD

Fr. Peter Knaapen, OFM Conventual



This year we celebrate the 800th anniversary of Francis composing the *Canticle of the Creatures* also known as the *Canticle of Brother Sun*. This prayer of praise was written in the months after he received the Stigmata at Mount La Verna in September of 1224. Biographers tell us he was in poor health. He was nearly blind; sunlight bothered his eyes greatly. Francis decided to move to the church of San Damiano. There Clare and the sisters made a little hut against the wall of the church for him to live in.

Image being racked with pain, you cannot see, and light hurts your eyes. We would not blame a person in this situation for feeling despondent. But not St Francis. He composes this beautiful prayer of praise. *Most High, all powerful, good Lord, Yours are the praises, the glory, the honour, and all blessing.* Francis praises God through and with brother Sun and sister Moon, brother Wind and sister Water, brother Fire and Sister Mother Earth.

The canticle is a beautiful hymn of praise. It is something we should pray and reflect on during this centenary year. As I was recently reading the Canticle this verse stood out for me. *"Praised be You, my Lord, through those who give pardon for Your love, and bear infirmity and tribulation. Blessed are those who endure in peace for by You, Most High, shall they be crowned"*. Scholars tell us that this verse was added later to the Canticle. They say that there was a dispute between the mayor and the bishop of Assisi. Francis wanted them to make peace. So, he wrote this verse and then told his friars they were to sing it outside the residences of the mayor and bishop. They were embarrassed by the words and after some days they made peace and were reconciled to each other.

As important as giving pardon are the words that popped out for me: those *who bear infirmity and tribulation*. That certainly described St Francis. He was nearly blind and in constant pain. But it also describes many of us. We have gone through Covid. This winter was/is a bad season for flu, colds, and respiratory illness. Even our Holy Father was not spared. We have the aches and pains of getting older. We have financial worries. This may be exasperated by tariffs and a trade war that will make everything cost more. With all these infirmities, worries and tribulations we could easily say we are justified in being discouraged and downhearted. Yet Francis shows us the true attitude. One of praise and thanksgiving. *Praised be you, my Lord through those who forgive for your love, and who bear sickness and trial...for by you, Most High, they will be crowned. O praise and bless my Lord, thank him and serve him in all humility.*



Be praised, my Lord,
through all Your creatures

Spirituality, Formation, Fraternity, Apostolate

Franciscan foundation: the four pillars

Formation News

Maria Ferrera, ofs, Regional Formation Director

On Feb 3, a zoom meeting was held for the Formation Directors in the region. To those who were able to attend, thank you. I appreciate your sharing of ideas and resources. As we look to this year's centenary theme, I encourage you to keep sharing those ideas and resources. Reflecting on this year's centenary theme, "The Canticle of the Creatures", one can't help but connect the beauty of this canticle to the beauty of the 2025 Jubilee Year theme, "Pilgrims of Hope". Reading Pope Francis' papal bull *Spes Non Confundit (Hope Does Not Disappoint)*, his message tells us that we must practice the virtue of patience to be hopeful and makes reference to the Canticle. ***"Were we still able to***

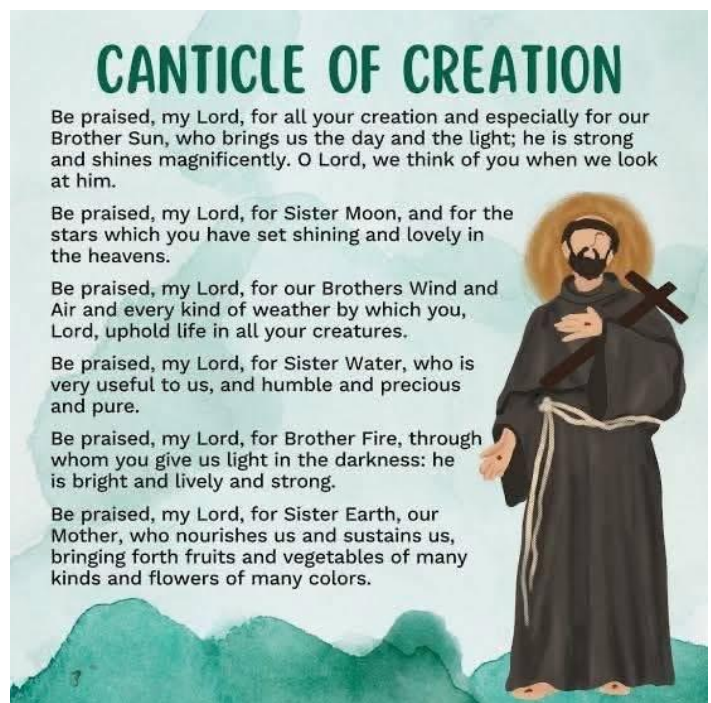
contemplate creation with a sense of awe, we might better understand the importance of patience. We could appreciate the changes of the seasons and their harvests, observe the life of animals and their cycles of growth, and enjoy the clarity of vision of Saint Francis. In his Canticle of the Creatures, written exactly eight hundred years ago, Francis saw all creation as a great family and could call the sun his "brother" and the moon his "sister". A renewed appreciation of the value of patience could only prove beneficial for ourselves and for others." As we spend this year reflecting and celebrating the Centenary of the Canticle of the Creatures, may we also embrace this year's Jubilee theme to be "pilgrims of hope".

Following in the footsteps of St. Francis, may we always be ready to be witnesses of God's love for us and for all creation. May we be very deliberate in our care for one another and for our common home. "Christian hope does not deceive or disappoint because it is grounded in the certainty that nothing and no one may ever separate us from God's love." *Pope Francis.*

Some resources on the Canticle of All Creatures:

[The Canticle of Creatures](#)

[Home - Centenari Francescani](#)



"A pilgrimage is a journey to a holy place, which can lead to a personal transformation, after which the pilgrim returns to their daily life."

Come! Join us on a Franciscan Pilgrimage to the Tomb of Blessed Solanus Casey, ofm, cap.



SOLANUS CASEY CENTRE AND ST BONAVENTURE MONASTERY

1780 Mt Elliott St, Detroit, MI 48207

Friday, 13 June, 2025 ~ Sunday, 15 June, 2025

ITINERARY

FRIDAY

Depart: 9:00 am from St Alphonsus Parish, Peterborough ON
Arrival : 4:45 pm Capuchin Retreat Center

SATURDAY

Depart: 9:00 am to Solanus Casey Center, Arrive: 10:00 am
Guided tour, Lunch, Mass, Reflection time
Depart: 3:20 pm to Capuchin Retreat Center, Arrive 4:20 pm
Dinner, Social & Movie:
Solanus Casey, Priest-Porter- Prophet

SUNDAY

Depart: 11.30 am to Peterborough, Arrive: 7:00 pm



CAPUCHIN RETREAT CENTER

62460 Mt Vernon Rd,
Washington, MI, 48094

\$585.00 per person

Double Occupancy

add \$65.00 for Single Supplement/Occupancy

(We have space for 45 pilgrims)

For complete details and booklet
including a registration form
please contact

Please contact **La Verna** Ministries



820 Frank Street

Peterborough ON K9J 4N4

... a Capuchin place of Franciscan Spirituality

(1) 705.243.9131 laverna@capuchins.ca

A prayer for **POPE FRANCIS**

by James Martin, S.J.

Loving God,

We ask you to look with favor on your servant Francis, who has served you as a Jesuit, a priest, an archbishop, a cardinal and now as a pope.

Most of all, he has served you as a faithful Christian, sharing the love, mercy and compassion that your Son showed to all he encountered, especially those who were poor or struggling.

As Francis faces this new illness, help the doctors and nurses who care for him, help him to bear any pain with grace, and help him to heal quickly.

We ask this in your Holy Name.
Amen.



The Jubilee Prayer

Father in heaven, may the faith you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of charity enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel. May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally. May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope, a yearning for the treasures of heaven.

May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth.

To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever.
Amen.

St. Peter Fraternity, London

St. Peter's Secular Franciscan Order in London gathered in the hall after Holy Mass in St. Andrew the Apostle parish, December 21, 2025, with family and friends to congratulate the newly professed members to the Order. Br. Etienne Nadonye, OFM Cap. officiated. A truly blessed event!



Front row L-R: br. Robin Francis, sr. Anne Beaulieu, newly professed br. Oscar Medina, sr. Sharon Lindenburger, sr. Susan Marino, br. Harold Lenfesty.
Back row L-R: sr. Helen Borbely, sr. Murielle Plante, partially hidden, br. Dc. Victor Salazar, sr. Marilyn Conklin, Br. Étienne Nadonye, OFM Cap., br. Dc. Len Hughes.



St. Joseph Fraternity, Port Elgin

Here is the photo of the newly professed members to our St. Joseph the Worker Fraternity here in Port Elgin last October 22, 2024. Profession was celebrated by Bro. Alan Gaebel and Bro. Stephen who celebrated the mass for us. The day was started with a retreat, followed by supper and then Profession within mass. A very inspiring day for all our fraternity. Front row: Anita Peplow, Sharon Neale. Back row: Deborah Jennings. Robert (Rob) Peplow. Our Formation Director, Bob Perrault is in the middle. He guided these 4 members along their journey to becoming Franciscans.

CANTICLE OF ALL CREATURES/JUBILEE 2025: PILGRIMS OF HOPE

How is your fraternity celebrating these important milestones?
Please send us articles and photos for the next newsletter in April!

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*

Regional Chapter

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

Delegates and participants will be asked to bring a bagged lunch.

Beverages and snacks will be provided.

National Visitors: Jewel Jasmins, ofs, National Minister, and Fr. Alix Poulin, OFM Cap, National Spiritual Assistant.

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.

NATIONAL FORMATION RETREAT-YOU ARE LOVE

It was so good to see so many members from the Trillium Regional Fraternity at the retreat last Saturday! The Retreat was well attended, over 180 people from across Canada! The Animators represented the OFM's, Poor Clares, and a Secular Franciscan, talking about how, through their Orders, they become LOVE to the world.

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, 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.