



Good News Report

Secular Franciscan Order
Trillium Regional Fraternity



Number 71

Spring 2015

A MOMENT WITH THE MINISTER

Again and again Pope Francis reminds us that we're to go out to meet people where they are, not wait for them to come to church. And we can't wait at the top while people struggle on the way up. We need to join them on the journey. We need to bring Christ to them on the way.

-from Pope Francis and our Call to Joy

It has been my pleasure to be travelling the roads of Ontario this spring! From Windsor to Kingston and North Bay to Burlington I have been there. My guide and companion on my journeys has been St. Francis. During my visits I pray that I bring the joy of St. Francis with me and a hug and a smile are always welcomed. I pray on my journey for: True faith, Certain hope and Perfect charity; Sense and knowledge!

With a heart full of these qualities, the Lord helps to make the visits fruitful and loving. From professions to elections and just a warm fraternal visit our Region's hearts are always open. Thank you to all I have had the pleasure to meet with so far; thank you for making me feel so blessed. I also extend a hearty thanks to the drivers who have driven me to my destinations safely.

It was wonderful to have over twelve fraternities represented at our Spiritual Conference at Loyola House in Guelph. It was a day full of openness and peace. Even though the rain fell, it did not dampen the spirits of the Franciscans in attendance.

Our Facilitator, Tarcia Gerwing of fs, gave us an insight into our relationships with each other and Mother Earth. Many enjoyed the ecological Stations of the Cross which showed the comparison between Jesus' Passion and our Earth's struggle in today's society. (All illustrations were done by students). Congratulations to Rolf Meinecke and Betty Roelans who were the winners of our door prizes.

May I wish everyone a summer full of sunshine and warmth and of time spent with family and friends and St. Francis and St. Clare.

Catherine Payne



SPIRITUAL ASSISTANT

"Laudato Si". "Praised Be You: On the Care of Our Common Home" is already being called by some, the most important encyclical of the century. Its name is taken from the invocation of St. Francis of Assisi, "Praise be to you, my Lord", in his Canticle of the Creatures. Pope Francis reminds everyone that the earth, our common home "is like a sister with whom we share life and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us" (1). "This sister now cries out to us because of the harm we have inflicted on her by our irresponsible use and abuse of the goods with which God has endowed her" (2). Her cry, united with that of the poor, stirs our conscience to "acknowledge our sins against creation" (8). Taking the words of the beloved Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, the Pope reminds us: "For human beings... to destroy the biological diversity ... by causing changes in its climate ...; to contaminate the earth's waters, its land, its air, and its life – these are sins" (8).

The appropriate response to this is what St John Paul II already called a "global ecological conversion" (5). In this, St Francis of Assisi is "the example par excellence of care for the vulnerable and of an integral ecology lived out joyfully and authentically. He shows us just how inseparable is the bond between concern for nature, justice for the poor, commitment to society, and interior peace" (10).

The Encyclical is developed around the concept of **integral ecology**, as a paradigm able to articulate the fundamental relationships of the person: with God, with one's self, with other and with creation. As the Pope Francis explains this movement starts by listening spiritually to the results of the best scientific research on environmental matters available today, "letting them touch us deeply and pro-

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Laudato si



vide a concrete foundation for the ethical and spiritual itinerary that follows” (15). Science is the best tool by which we can listen to the cry of the earth.

There are rays of hope throughout the encyclical which gives a clear message: “*Humanity still has the ability to work together in building our common home*” (13). “*All is not lost. Human beings, while capable of the worst, are also capable of rising above themselves, choosing what is good, and making a new start*” (205).

At the heart of *Laudato si* we find this question: “What kind of world do we want to leave to those who come after us, to children who are now growing up?” (160). Pope Francis continues: “This question does not have to do with the environment alone and in isolation; the issue cannot be approached piecemeal”. This leads us to ask ourselves about the meaning of existence and its values at the base of social life: “What is the purpose of our life in this world? Why are we here? What is the goal of our work and all our efforts? What need does the earth have of us?” Unless we struggle with these deeper issues – says the Pope – I do not believe that our concern for ecology will produce significant results.”

You can read the entire encyclical at www.vatican.ca or summaries at www.cccb.ca or interesting videos at www.saltandlighttv.org/laudatosi. Development and Peace office has a good summary of the encyclical and some nice prayers, including the Cantic of the Creatures, that can be downloaded at www.devpo.org/en/encyclical

FROM THE TREASURER



Saint Kateri Tekakwitha was born in Ossernenon, Iroquois Confederacy (New France until 1763, modern Auriesville, New York) and died April 17, 1680 in Kahnawake (near Montreal), Quebec, Canada. She was beatified on June 22, 1980, by Pope John Paul II and canonized on October 21, 2012, by Pope Benedict XVI.

There have been many books about Kateri, especially recently, but my favorite one, is *Kateri of the Mohawks* by Marie Cecilia Buehrle, 1954.

Here are some excerpts from of this wonderful book.

.... It was the year 1656 in the village of Ossernenon on the south bank of the Mohawk River. In Chief Kenhoronkwa's lodge, Kahenta, the Algonquin wife, looked long and lovingly into the face of her sleeping papoose. At dawn, when the child was born, the women of the long house had gathered about her. The squaws of the village had come and gone. Nearly all the day her husband had been sitting near her by the fire, saying nothing, pulling meditatively at his pipe. He was a war chief; but no war paint slashed his face today. There was at least an interval of peace and the gentle Algonquin was glad.

Finally, without a word he slipped out of the cabin, and now for the first time Kahenta was alone. Timidly she glanced about the deserted long house. There was no sound but the hesitant crackling of the fire. She leaned over the child and it opened its eyes. She picked it up, wrapped the soft doeskin around it and rocked it in her arms, humming softly a poignant little tune to which gradually she found the words.

It was Brébeuf's lullaby for the Christ Child, written for his Indian children at Christmas time long ago, when he had just come to the land of the Hurons.

*“Within a lodge of broken bark
The tender Babe was found;
A ragged robe of rabbit skin
Enwrapped His beauty round.
And as the hunter braves drew nigh
The Angels' song rang loud and high:
'Jesus, your King, is born; Jesus is born.
In excelsis Gloria.'”*

Kahenta clasped her papoose more closely. Then more

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words came:

*"The earliest moon of winter time
Is not so round and fair
As was the ring of glory on
The helpless infant there."*

*Kahenta's head bent lower. Here words trailed
slowly into silence. The child was asleep.*

*A French woman had taught her the
words of this song when she was a child. How
she longed for her now! In this cruel pagan
land to which she was a stranger, would her
little girl ever learn as she has learned, to
know, and to love Rawenniio, the white man's
God? Would the Blackrobe ever come to the
castle of the Turtles and Baptize her?....*

*While working the corn field soon after,
....she hung her papoose onto the low-reaching
branch of the maple tree, she knew that here
within this tiny compass, here was home.*

*"Great Spirit," the heart of Kahenta
prayed, "breathe upon my little one that the
poison may not touch her. Rawenniio, God of
the Blackrobes and the French! You send the
sunshine and the rain. You teach the birds to fly
and make the corn grow for the red man too.
Give wings to the soul of my Mohawk papoose
and plant a lily in her heart."*

I wish that this book will be printed again and
that many people will get to know St. Kateri
better.

Saint Kateri, pray for us.

Danuta Juchniewicz, ofs

VICE MINISTER'S LETTER

Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation

The past few months events transpired
which were important for Secular Francis-
cans and filled with symbolism and God's
will, perhaps to the chagrin of even this
Secular Franciscan! Even a trillium (yes,
the plant) played a roll.

As you may be aware (and others may have already
reported here) the National Chapter of Elections took place
in May in Quebec City. I was nominated for the position of
Vice Minister Anglophone...and I was elected. I have in-
credible shoes to fill. Tom Wilkinson was an inspiring and
modest Vice Minister and I thank him for being a role
model.

Our dear Minister of Trillium Cathy Payne and For-
mation Director Donna Dooling conspired to nominate me,
and to them I wish the peace of Christ, as there is no other.

It was wonderful to see wonderful Franciscans let-
ting their names stand for this position: our own Coleen
McAlister and Irene Manning, Minister of Our Lady of An-
gels Region (Western Canada) . It should invoke a sense of
gratitude and encouragement to all to let God be their guide
when your own chapter of elections take place. Such in-
credible talent!

Finally I ask for your prayers, as I try to discern
God's will in all of this. I will let the warm breath of the
Holy Spirit fill the sails of my sailboat....and take my hand
off the rudder.

Il Signore tibenedica, sempre
May the Lord Bless you, always
Pace e bene
Marzio Apolloni, sfo



God our Father,
Whom Kateri Tekakwitha liked to call the Great Spirit,
We thank You for having given us this young woman
as a model of Christian life.
Despite her frailness and her community's resistance,
she bore witness to the presence of Christ.
With her companions, she drew close to the elderly and to the sick.
Every day, she saw in nature a reflection of Your own glory and beauty.
Grant that by Her intercession we may always be close to You,
more sensitive to the needs of those around us,
and more respectful of creation.
With Her, we shall strive to discover what pleases You
and try to accomplish it until that day You call us back to You.
Amen!

VICE-MINISTER'S LETTER

Rise Above it

One of the great joys of meeting with different fraternities in our region is the wonderful stories that beautiful people share.

While visiting St. Maximilian Fraternity in Kingston with Cathy Payne, Victor shared a profound story.

While he and his wife travelled to Europe and walked the El Camino Santiago, they noticed that tired tourists were getting rather crabby and irritable amongst each other.

But one couple stood out. That couple seemed joyful and full of peace. Rather than getting caught up with the frustrations, discomforts or other negativity, this couple seemed to have simply risen above it all.

The simplicity and wisdom of this little story continues to be part of my daily walk with the Lord. I hope that it may now be part of your walk too. Thank- you Victor and all my brothers and sisters in Belleville.

Louise Arruda, offs



FROM THE FORMATION CORNER

Greetings Btothers & Sisters in Christ:

I sincerely hope all of you are having a restful & and peaceful summer!!!

This is the greatest time for outdoor prayer and contemplation. The Lord is truly present in creation at this time.

Now is a good time also to start preparing for Formation, both initial and on-going. Please utilize some time for preparation, allowing for the Holy Spirit to inspire you and your fraternity.

I also would like to remind you of our upcoming feast of St. Francis in October. Please inform us of any celebration that you may be planning for the Transitus

Peace and ALL Good
Donna Dooling offs.



YOUTH ANIMATOR'S LETTER

One thing I wish I could have said to the me I was in high school would have been...**FIND PEACE THROUGH GOD.**

I was not patient in high school. I always rushed from one thing to another, never really letting anything sink in; never knowing peace. In fact, I ran from church to church trying to find God/Peace just to have meaning in my life (at this point you may be shocked, my journey to God and the Catholic Church is definitely a story). Thing was, I did not truly find Him until I was 25. I went to a Steubenville Youth Conference in Ohio; the theme of that Conference was "Going Home to My Father's House." I had finally found some Peace.

This summer I will be attending the Conference here in Toronto as Youth Animator...God works in mysterious ways.

So, what does any of this have to do with our youth today? Well, I see myself in many of them, running from life, yet trying to find meaning. It is difficult for the young to find inner peace. Many of them do not even know what that is.

I was visiting in a science classroom today and a student was almost in tears because he only received an 80% in science. **TEARS!!** I took him aside and told him to take a deep breath and breathe. He looked at me and said it is so hard to find that inner peace. There was just too much going on in his life to even focus on the



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present. Youth today have messy worlds: family break-ups, abuse, premarital sex, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, cell phones, texting...the list is long and sad. God is the inner peace these kids need.

God can heal, but He needs to be found. He needs to be seen in you and through you. Your actions will speak louder than your words. Talk to the youth about your faith. Tell them your struggles and your fears. True, you may have to be vulnerable, but in my opinion their souls are worth it. The youth know how much I love God and how much peace I have in my heart, because I talk about it and live it always. I am not ashamed to tell them of my struggles and my fears. I open myself so that they may open up to me and then, if the timing is right, they will open up to God. We might not be able to change their circumstances, but we can be the positive influence in their life, which can help them find peace.

I recommend that you get your youth to the events that are happening and/or I am planning: Steubenville Toronto, 2015, Mission Trips to Guatemala...great opportunities to find peace. Email me for more information and pass my email on to those who might be able to use it: ltheraiu@gmail.com

May our Lord bless.02 you always and in all ways...Peace

Lisa Theriault, ofs

50th Anniversary of Nostra Aetate

2015 marks the fiftieth anniversary of the promulgation on October 28, 1965 by Pope Paul VI of ‘*Nostra Aetate*,’ the Declaration on the Relation of the Church with Non-Christian Religions of the Second Vatican Council.

Its opening words, “*In our time, when day by day mankind is being drawn closer together, and the ties between different peoples are becoming stronger...*” points to an urgent moment in history, fifty years ago, for dialogue and tolerance among the great world religions. Certainly the needs for mutual understanding and for dialogue have become even more urgent in ‘our times.’

St Francis of Assisi was a pioneer in dialogue with the Muslim world. In 1219, in the midst of disastrous Fifth Crusade, Francis crossed enemy lines to gain an audience with al-Kamil, the sultan of Egypt and a nephew of the great Muslim warrior Saladin, in his camp on the banks of the Nile. Francis, who opposed the warfare, hoped to bring about peace by converting the sultan to Christianity. He didn’t succeed, but came away from the peaceful encounter with revolutionary ideas that called for Christians to live harmoniously with Muslims.

Please consider including some recognition of the anniversary of this important document in your fraternity this fall. If possible, consider attending the Interfaith conference in Toronto on October 8 sponsored through the ‘Ecumenical and Interfaith Committee’ of the Conference of Catholic Bishops of Ontario.



**The Global Village:
Our responsibility to Engage**

**Thursday Oct 8, 2015
8:30 am—4:30 pm
University of St Michael’s College
Brennan Hall**

**For information or to register,
please visit www.cjdt.org
or email info@cjdt.org**

Registration deadline Sep 30, 2015

Local Fraternity Bulletin Board



Candidates (at St Bonaventure Fraternity) during the Rite of Admission” in June 2015. From left..Noel Brackney; Catherine Mackie; Rose Sheppard; Mike Karwat and Joseph Thompson, Minister Louise Aruda



Rosanne Creery (middle) presented with her 20 year Certificate of Profession, St. Francis Fraternity in Burlington, June 14, 2015.



A visit with St. Anne’s fraternity in Tecumseh
L to R . Sylvana Alvarez, Fr. Pierre Woods ofm Cap., Marie and John Vajdik, Catherine Payne



St. Maximilian Kolbe Fraternity in Kingston – June 4, 2015 (LtoR)Mike Foley, Diane Bruce, Bob Howard,



The five newly professed from St. Pio Fraternity, North Bay, with their Minister, Ray Walter on the far left. L to R- Francoise Albert, Lynn Boivin, Diana Georgie, Robert Manary, and Judy Montgomery. May 30, 2015.



A Celebration for Father Joe MacDonald! (50 years ordained)

A celebration is being organized for Friday October 30th at 7:30 PM beginning with a Mass followed by a reception at St. Philip Neri Church.

He will be celebrating with his classmates: Fr. Ron McIntyre and Bro. John Corriveau, ofm, cap., Bishop of Nelson, BC and also Bro. Gerry Craig, ofm, cap. (51 years ordained,)



The new fraternity council of **St. Felix of Cantalice** on April 26; (From L to R) Minister, Gerry Elises, Vice Minister, Iluminada Aguilar, Secretary, Guadalupe Lugo-Estok, Treasurer, Venus Navalta and the Formation Director, Teodora La Madrid. Blessings on the new Council



Newly elected Council for St. Anthony of Padua, Sarnia (L to R) Kay Williams, Pat Heit, Pat Daamen, Allana Myslawchuk
Absent- Wilhelmina Kole



St. Francis fraternity in Toronto enjoying together praying and singing hymns outside to Our Blessed Mother on Mother's day in May 10, 2015



New Council elected on Tuesday June 16 at ST. Anthony of Padua Fraternity in Brampton.

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 Please apply in good time if you wish to have them on the profession day or anniversary date.



St Francis & Immaculate Conception Fraternities in Toronto look on as Dave Mitchell from the Region presents a reflection on Charity. 'Giving,' forgiving,' and 'transforming-not conforming' were the grace-filled words for Franciscans in a world needing love and mercy. A little love goes a long way!



Some of the Ministers in attendance at Mount Alverno, with Dr. Simone on May 28, 2015.

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 8th of the month of publishing, to *Deacon Maurice Prindiville*, of *ofs*, mprindiville@golden.net Note: If you no longer wish to receive the newsletter, please let us know as above.