



Good News Report

Secular Franciscan Order
Trillium Regional Fraternity



Number 72

Fall 2015

A MOMENT WITH THE MINISTER

It was my great pleasure this past July to spend a week at St. Bonaventure University just south of Buffalo, New York taking a Secular Franciscan course on "Assisi, Birthplace of the Secular Franciscans." It was given by a learned professor, Jean Francois Godet, originally from Belgium. He prides himself on being given the same names as St. Francis, John and Francis. We learned much about the area, conflicts and the influences of Assisi at the time of St. Francis. We also learned about the life of St. Francis and reflected on the journey of the Secular Franciscans beginning in the eleventh century. We studied the *Letter to All the Faithful*, which might I say was written not only for the time of St. Francis but for all of us, right here and now. It is well worth a reread as we can get so much out of it for our way of life.



One of my classmates was our own Minister General of the Secular Franciscan Order, Tibor Kauser, from Hungary. He gave us a wonderful, inspirational talk on the Seculars around the world. We are in 116 countries with numbers around 350,000. From the questionnaire that we filled out last year on, "How to Manage an Order like the SFO," the conclusions were discussed.

First and foremost, Formation is always a priority: both Initial and Ongoing. Communication was mentioned as a major highlight and how locally we should be reaching out to each other in our areas and planning common gatherings. Finally, Tibor mentioned emerging National fraternities who need our prayers.

It was also interesting to find out that Thomas Merton had spent time in the 1940's on the campus of St. Bonaventure as an English teacher. Just south of the campus are the Allegany mountains reaching over 2000 feet high and Merton loved to hike the area. Up in the hills there is a clearing that is fondly known around St. Bonaventure's as Merton's Heart.

The University of St. Bonaventure just celebrated their 150th anniversary a few years ago. I met

(Continued on page 2)

SPIRITUAL ASSISTANT

Most of you are aware of Pope Francis' recent encyclical, *Laudato Si - On Care for Our Common Home*. It's hard to imagine anyone being opposed to caring for our planet. After all, it's our home; if we don't take proper care of it, we are the ones who will suffer. This new encyclical on the environment is now available at most religious bookstores and online at the Vatican or CCCB Website. Many may not be aware that he made September 1st the annual World Day of Prayer For the Care of Creation.



Each year, on September 1st, the Pope invites us to "*renew our personal participation in this vocation as custodians of creation, raising to God our thanks for the marvelous works that He has entrusted to our care, invoking his help for the protection of creation and his mercy for the sins committed against the world in which we live.*" Wherever we live, we are called to embrace this vocation, taking small and large steps to clean up our common home, and entrust a healthy planet to our children and grandchildren. Many people prayed the following prayer composed by Pope Francis on World Day of Prayer For the Care of Creation.

May this prayer be part of our daily prayers.

A Prayer for our Earth

*By Pope Francis**

*All-powerful God,
you are present in the whole universe
and in the smallest of your creatures.
You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.
Pour out upon us the power of your love,
that we may protect life and beauty.
Fill us with peace, that we may live
as brothers and sisters, harming no one.
O God of the poor,
help us to rescue the abandoned and
forgotten of this earth,
so precious in your eyes.
Bring healing to our lives,*

(Continued on page 2)

(Minister: continued from page 1)



Minister General of the Secular Franciscan Order, Tibor Kauser

the most friendly and vivacious students who were on campus for the summer and their hospitality was outstanding.

As we approach the great feast of St. Francis I feel compelled to quote from St. Bonaventure these few lines; *“At the hour of the passing of the holy man, the larks—birds that love the light, and dread the shades of twilight—flocked in great numbers unto the roof of the house, albeit the shades of night were then falling, and, wheeling round it for a long while with songs even gladder than their wont, offered their witness, alike gracious and manifest, unto the glory of the Saint, who had been wont to call them unto the divine praises.”*

If even the birds can observe in such a holy manner the death of their dear Saint, how much more are we to do the same? Make our songs strong and heard around the land on this October 3 and 4. Attend a Transitus service on October 3 and the Eucharist on Sunday, October 4 with your fraternity. Notice in the quote that the larks flocked in great numbers as we will on our Saint's feast day. Make our presence felt in our parishes and communities.

Catherine Payne



(Spiritual Assistant: continued from page 1)

*that we may protect the world and not prey on it,
that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.
Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain
at the expense of the poor and the earth.
Teach us to discover the worth of each thing,
to be filled with awe and contemplation,
to recognize that we are profoundly
united with every creature
as we journey towards your infinite light.
We thank you for being with us each day.
Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle
for justice, love and peace .*

Fr. Peter Knaapen ofm cap

** Pope Francis published this prayer in his Laudato Si' encyclical, and it is meant for sharing with all who believe in a God who is the all-powerful Creator .*

VICE MINISTER'S LETER

Peace and all good! I am a Secular Franciscan, but I am also a retired librarian. My love of books, the printed word, has never wavered. Thus whenever I see a bookstore, I am compelled to enter it. Inevitably I will end up buying a few volumes (as some of you have already witnessed at our retreats!). I have confessed to you one of my many weaknesses! So I will now invite you into that world of mine: that world that not only includes God and Francis, but books as well. I want to share with you some books, but before I do that I want to tell you what happened to me a few weeks ago in the monster bookstore Chapters.

As is my habit, I visited Chapters in Sudbury Ontario. Sudbury is one of the largest cities in Northern Ontario, a city whose population includes a significant number of Catholics. I cruised through the history section and checked out the reduced table. I then meandered over to the religious section wondering if they may have anything on Thomas Merton and even a travel Catholic bible. I wasn't surprised to find nothing on Merton. He has always been popular, but I also enjoy being surprised there happened to be something there. But I found next was perplexing. There were many, MANY, bibles. In fact they took up the space of an entire section. But not a single Catholic bible. Remember now, Sudbury has quite a few Catholics. After I purchased my books (my wife will get me for that!) I expressed my disappointment with the lack of Catholic bibles in the store. The young sales person insisted they had just sold three in the past day, all King James Version. In fact, the sales person said, when she was confirmed (yes...she was Catholic, but here comes the surprising part) they were all given a bible...King James. I shared with her



the truth...that they were not Catholic bibles, and told her the difference. Non-Catholic bibles have seven books missing...Catholic bibles do not. Big difference.

When you are in a bookstore you will be helping the store by ensuring they have Catholic bibles on the shelf. It makes a difference.

Now...some books you may consider reading:

“The Mass of the Early Christians” by Mike Aquilina, Our Sunday Publishing Division ISBN 978-1-59276-320-7 The author reveals the Church’s most ancient Eucharistic beliefs and practices. Using the words of the early Christians discover that how we worship today, is how it was over 2000 years ago.

“The Very Lowly: A Meditation on Francis of Assisi” by Christian Bobin, New Seeds Books, ISBN 1-59030-310-5. This is an amazing little book, very spiritual and great for self retreats and contemplation. The author is the winner of France’s *Grand Prix Catholique de Litterature*. The passages relating to the Transitus are most compelling. It all has to do with holy innocence...and a dog!

Here is a passage from the book *“The child left with the angel and the dog followed behind.”* This sentence (from the Book of Tobit in the Bible) suits Francis well...there are whales, lambs, birds, and serpents, but very few dogs. In fact you know of no other dog but that one, roaming the roads, following its two masters: laughter and silence, playfulness and grace. The dog is Francis of Assisi. All I can say is ‘read it’!

“Laudato Si, On Care for Our Common Home” Pope Francis ISBN 978-1-61278-386-4. Yes, this is THE encyclical. You can download it, but for \$16.00 it’s worth saving paper ...and it’s nicely bound, and the discussion questions and end-notes are very helpful. The questions are divided into seven sections corresponding to each section of the document. It would be very suitable for a workshop or retreat...but the work is done for you! Recommended.



These books can be purchased using the ISBN number I included (librarian habit!). You can try and borrow it from your local public library (free) or try any bookstore (Chapters, Amazon etc)

Marzio Apolloni ofs

VICE-MINISTER’S LETTER

Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation

How timely it is to write a small article on this topic!



Pope Francis has published his new encyclical, *“Laudato Si”*. He is also visiting Cuba and the USA where he continues to express and explain how ALL elements of *“Catholic Social Teaching”* are integrated and teach us to view all life with a holy view of creation together with gratitude for the Goodness and love of God who has created all.

How Franciscan is this teaching!! In his *“Canticum of Creatures,”* St. Francis clearly expressed his deep understanding of seeing the world from God’s perspective which appreciates the integrated interdependence of all created things and beings.

Isaiah (55:8) also calls us to see the entire creation from God’s perspective, where each element is integral to the whole.

“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,” declares the LORD. ⁹“For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways And My thoughts than your thoughts. ¹⁰“For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, And do not return there without watering the earth And making it bear and sprout, And furnishing seed to the sower and bread to the eater...”

Hopefully, as OFS fraternities, we will give greater emphasis to the study of Catholic social teaching as it is connected to forming holy attitudes and understanding towards issues of justice, peace and the integrity of the environment.

“Laudato Si” provides a wonderful basis on which to begin anew our ongoing reflections on all our relations with God, each other and the world.

May Mary, our Mother, St. Francis and Clare, and especially our Triune God bless us as we pursue holiness via prayer, study, reflection, discussion, meditation and action in our daily lives.

“May we begin again, for up to now, we have done little.” (St Francis)

Louise Arruda, ofs

FROM THE FORMATION CORNER



Greetings, Brothers and Sisters in Christ: Well, here we are again, at the beginning of the school year, the beginning of our regular Secular Franciscan meetings, and for a lot of us the end of summer vacation.

This season reminds me of the beginning of creation, and the work of God's hand in His majestic beauty... only a very small taste of what is to come in eternal life. Fall and Spring always bring my thoughts to the *Canticle of Brother Sun*, or as some refer to it, *Canticle of Creatures*. The Our landscape in Ontario is so profound and beautiful.

The *Canticle of Brother Sun* was written in the Umbrian dialect and is one of the earliest Italian poems/songs.

St. Francis wrote this great prayer of praise to God when he was suffering immense physical torments and mental agonies. He was weakened by the stigmata, and most probably by tuberculosis. For fifty days or more he could not bear the light of sun during the day, nor the light of fire at night. It is out of this terrible darkness that the *Canticle* breaks forth from St. Francis. It is a poem of faith, hope, and love. Though physically blind, he could see more clearly than ever before, with the inner eye of his mind. He saw the basic unity of ALL creation and his own place in the midst of God's creatures.

Taken from the Classics of Western Spirituality:

Song, music, and poetry were so deeply a part of the nature of Saint Francis that in times of sorrow and sickness as well as of joy and good health he spontaneously gave voice in song to his feelings, his inspirations, and his prayers. The clearest expression of this aspect of the personality of the Poverello is the Canticle of Brother Sun. G. K. Chesterton, in his reflections on the saint, wrote of this work: "It is a supremely characteristic work, and much of Saint Francis could be reconstructed from that work alone."

Eloi Leclercq, O.F.M., has written: "The manner in which Francis here looks at the created world is

a key to his inner self, for the Canticle undoubtedly has elements that reveal in a special way the personality of its author. "

The Canticle of Brother Sun comes at a transition period in the development of language, that is, when Latin was slowly becoming Italian. For this reason, philologists and literary scholars as well as students of spiritual theology have studied this work. In the twentieth century more than five hundred articles have examined the Canticle and within the past twenty years ten books have been written about it.

The Legend of Perugia narrates the circumstances of the composition of the first section of the Canticle, in which the saint invites all creation to praise its Creator. (43) The Legend describes the intense suffering of the Poverello in that period after he had received the stigmata. "For his praise," [Francis] said, "I wish to compose a new hymn about the Lord's creatures, of which we make daily use, without which we cannot live, and with which the human race greatly offends its Creator." The second section of the Canticle, consisting of two verses concerning pardon and peace, was composed a short time afterward in an attempt to unite the quarrelling civil and religious authorities of Assisi. The same Legend of Perugia describes the reconciling power the Canticle had in the resolution of the conflict. (44)

The final verses of the work, which constitute the third section, were written at the death of Saint Francis. Once again the Legend of Perugia provides the details of the scene at the Portiuncula where the Seraphic Father enthusiastically sang the praises of Sister Death and welcomed her embrace. (100)

This magnificent hymn expresses the mystical vision of the Saint of Assisi and, since it springs from the depths of his soul, provides us with many insights into the profundity of his life of faith in the Triune God, Who so deeply enters into creation. In this vision, however, the Little Poor Man does not lose himself in space or in the vastness of the created world. He becomes so intimate and familiar with the wonders of creation that he embraces them as "Brother" and "Sister," that is, members of one family. More than any other aspect of the Canticle, this unique feature has enhanced the spiritual tradition of Christian spirituality



Therefore, Brothers and Sisters let us all reflect on this work of art left for all of mankind, but especially for we, the followers of St. Francis. Take time to marvel at creation, sun, moon, stars, all kinds of weather, water, wind, fire, earth, flowers, trees and all creatures and one another. Get out, even if you are in the city and spend time alone in meditation and contemplation in a quiet place and see the face of God right there before your eyes.

Read the Canticle of Brother Sun and just let the Spirit of God inebriate your very being (mind, body, soul).



As regards the Formation process, I ask that if any of you need help or require ANY information please feel free to contact me at donnadooling@gmail.com or I can be reached at (519)651-9707.

Please pray for all our Brothers and Sisters that are ill, visit the shut-ins, and most of all, take time to be with your best friend “Jesus” EVERY day!

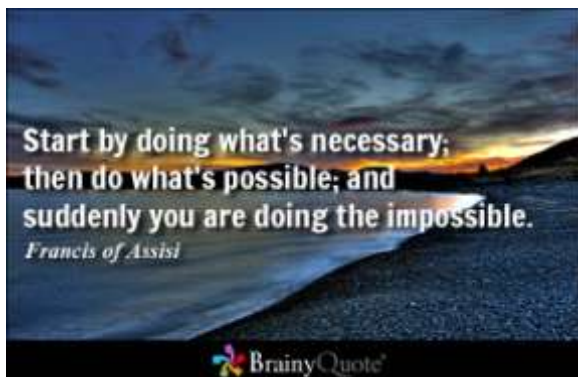
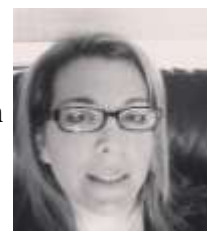
Happy Feast of St. Francis! Please share your Transitus experiences with all of us – pictures/articles for our newsletter.

Peace and ALL Good to all & enjoy the marvels of Our Creator!

Donna Dooling, ofs

YOUTH ANIMATOR’S LETTER

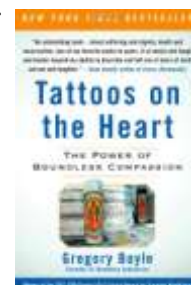
I am sure many years ago, when the Trillium Regional Fraternity began their emphasis on youth, YOUFRA seemed impossible. Sure, YOUFRA is very big in Europe, but it has not seen too much action in the United States and even less here in Canada. However, I am sure those who started this journey felt it was necessary work.



I want to thank Colleen and Silvana for all their hard work, and anyone else who had their ‘hand’ in this journey. Over the past year, I have been working with Youth Ministers and other OFS to see if YOUFRA would even be possible for our Regional Fraternity. I always felt that it could be possible, but only if God had His hand in it. I am happy to announce that our region may be doing the impossible! There are two Fraternities who have made YOUFRA a priority and I will have the privilege of spending the Transitus with one and the feast day of St. Francis with another. Both of these meetings look to start the process of YOUFRA here in Canada.

I can’t imagine spending my 7th year as a Professed Secular Franciscan in any other way; seven years ago I professed on October 4. I remember feeling as though St. Francis was asking me to ‘rebuild’ the youth movement to Christ. Now, one ‘stone’ at a time, it is starting to be rebuilt, with Christ and St. Francis leading the way. Our thirsty youth are coming to the Water. Praise God! There is still much work to do, and I ask you to please continue praying for our youth and that the ‘impossible’ will become possible. Please pray also for those youth ministers and OFS who have committed themselves to accompanying me on this journey.

On another note, I had the privilege of reading a great book over the summer. The book is for anyone, however I highly recommend it for those involved with youth because of its simple language and heart-warming and hopeful stories. **“Tattoos on The Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassion”** by Fr. Gregory Boyle, is about Fr. Greg’s mission to bring hope to the gangs in Los Angeles through the creation of Homeboy Industries. Emotionally I was all over the map with this one, and could not put it down. I am now reading it to my students daily for reflection. “Tattoos on The Heart” reminds us that no life is less valuable than any other.



Lisa Theriault, ofs

Local Fraternity Bulletin Board

St. Bonaventure Parish
1300 Leslie Street
Don Mills, Ontario M3c 2K9

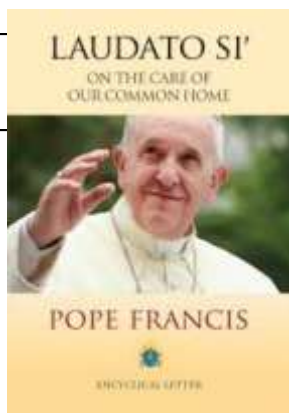
St Bonaventure has been offering a series of four workshops. Two were in September, but the third and fourth are in October:

Workshop #3 – October 1st, 7:00 PM
Change the family, change the world

Workshop #4 – October 8th – 7:00 PM
Fruit of the Earth and Work of Human Hands

This series will draw on the Canadian Bishops' 2003 and 2007 pastoral letters on the environment, and the Ontario Bishops 2014 reflection paper on agriculture. Spirituality and prayer with presentation, reflection, and discussion will inspire hope in participants as they discern practical steps toward what Pope Francis calls an "ecological conversion."

These sessions will be led by Laurie van der Hurk from the Archdiocesan Office of Formation for Discipleship.



Mount Alverno Retreat Centre
20704 Heart Lake Road
Caledon, Ontario L7K 2A2

"Cultivating and Caring For Creation"

Using video presentations and study guides that are available from

www.greenspiritv.com, Mount Alverno Retreat Center will present a series of twelve sessions, facilitated by Brother Alan Gaebel ofm cap, at Mount Alverno: beginning Monday Oct. 12, 2105 ... and concluding Monday March 21, 2016. There is no charge; a free will offering is welcomed. Contact Mount Alverno for information or to register:

Mary English - Administrative
Co-ordinator & Reservations

Email: mount-alverno@on.aibn.com

Phone: (519) 941-7059

Fax: (519) 941-3099

Email: mount-alverno@on.aibn.com

Office Hours: Monday to Friday,
8:30 am to 4:30 pm



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,)

A SPECIAL THANK YOU...

to Fr. Conrad Fernandes, OFM for his spiritual reflection on the "Stigmata of St Francis" given to St Francis Fraternity.

It was a beautiful enlightenment leading up to the Transitus and Feast Day of our Holy Seraphic Father, St. Francis of Assisi.

God bless you!

OBITUARIES

St. John Vianney Fraternity - Mary Mal Soon Kwon

Mary died on August 2, at the age of 93. A Funeral Mass was held at the at the Highland Funeral Home, 3280 Sheppard Ave. E. Scarborough, ON, on Wednesday August 5.

St. Joseph the Worker Fraternity - Mary Hagen

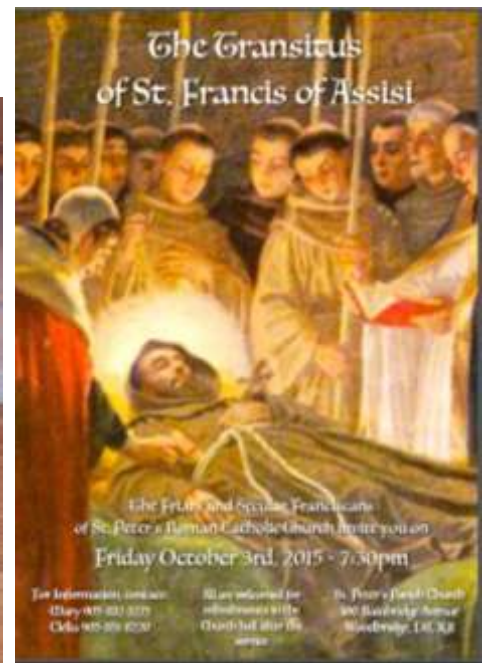
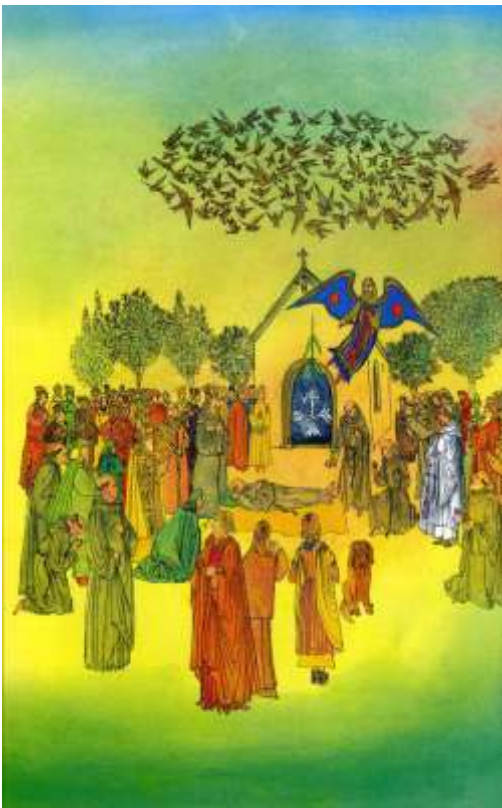
Mary Hagen – Her funeral Mass was celebrated on Wednesday, September 2, at 11 am, at St. Patrick's church in Southampton.

St. Mary of the Angels, Welland - Mary Sullivan

Mary was a founding member of St. Mary of the Angels. A Franciscan Wake was held on Tues. Sep. 29. Her funeral Mass was celebrated at St. Kevin's Church, 303 Niagara St. Welland, Wed. Sep. 30.

Transitus Services

Everyone is invited to join Friars and Secular Franciscans in celebrating the age-old custom of recounting the life and death of St. Francis of Assisi. Through song, scripture, and accounts from the life of St. Francis, we remember this man who has touched the lives of believers and non-believers throughout the centuries.



**Hosted by St Bonaventure Parish,
St. Bonaventure Parish
1300 Leslie Street
Don Mills, ON
October 3rd -7:00 PM**

**Hosted by St Mary of the
Angels Fraternity,
at Mount Carmel Monas-
tery, 7020 Stanley Avenue,
Niagara Falls, ON
Sat Oct 3, 7:00 pm**

**Hosted by St. Peter's Roman
Catholic Church,
100 Bainbridge Ave.,
Woodbridge, ON
Oct 3, 7:30 pm**



Election for St. Maximilian Kolbe, Mississauga

from left: Frank Szubert, Teresa Sroczynska, Wacław Romaniewicz, Wit Siwiec, Wojciech Szelag



Members of St Francis Fraternity sharing in St Clare's Feast Day celebration with Fr Xavier at St Clare's Parish Toronto



Members of St. Angela Merici Fraternity, Oshawa, receiving certificates for 15 years of service: September 20, 2015.

Left to Right: Susan Luckasavitch ofs, Elizabeth Faria ofs, Marie Smith ofs, Donna Marks ofs

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, ofs*, mprindiville@golden.net Note: If you no longer wish to receive the newsletter, please let us know as above.

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.