

Sept. 23, 2019

OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS FRATERNITY

MINISTER'S NEWSLETTER

PEACE TO SECULAR FRANCISCANS THROUGHOUT WESTERN CANADA:

BLESSINGS UPON THE FRATERNITIES YOU SERVE!

“For I know the plans I have for you declares the Lord, plans for your Good, to give you a Hope and a future” (Jer.29:11)

With a Heart of Gratitude, I applaud you for your voice expressed through the elected members of OLOTA.

The first meeting of the Regional Council took place this past weekend, Sept. 20,21, and 22 at Mt. St. Francis Retreat Centre in Cochrane, Alberta.

The shared Love, support, encouragement in the dialogue of Councilors on the numerous agenda items exemplified great unity and team working together for the common goal: support of all fraternities and their members! Definitely God's Hand was moving for God took the ordinary and turned it to Extraordinary!....PRAISE GOD! Thank you, Secular Franciscans for your prayer support!

From your elected Council Members, many action steps currently taken by fraternities were shared and their continuation were encouraged. Your elected voice shared amazing ventures of fraternities. To list a few:

Outreach....the senior professed members were making telephone contacts to give reminders to fraternity members of upcoming events; (effective communication.....the personal connection)

Discerning groups are advancing to Emerging Status; Emerging groups are planning canonical establishment celebrations; (Fraternities are the privileged place of Franciscan Vocations.)

**Elections of Council members are scheduled....preparations for orientation and transition of newly elected Fraternity Council members takes planning!
(Learning and growing in progress.)**

Your Vice Minister will be forwarding to you Single Help Sheets entitled Checklist for Planning A Fraternity Meeting, Preparing for Permanent Profession, Preparing for Canonical Establishment, Preparing for Fraternal Visit and Elections and the Role of the Vice Minister in Elections. Watch for these Checklists...you may find them useful!

Revitalization for fraternities through the availability of the online SA Course and the assignment of Spiritual Assistants working with fraternities.(nourishing spiritual formation). The Formation Director continues to support fraternities with Ongoing and Initial Formation resource material....stay connected!

Continuation of the Youth Contest in schools...this year's theme will be How to Build Community. Your Director of Youth shared the Pope's latest Apostolic Exhortation to the Youth: "Christus Vivit" or "Christ is Alive"ALL are children of God and Jesus lives in each...through you and me, Christ is Alive!! You may find some time to read the Pope's document. (Youth are the upcoming leaders)

Prepared by the Director of JPIC is an USB to be given to fraternities from your Vice Minister...watch for this valuable short presentation...short but speaks volumes! St. Francis discovered God in ALL created!

These and many more action steps , through fraternities, were stimulating to hear about by your Regional Council. Some steps may appear to be small, but added together, they have a tremendous impact. The Franciscan Spirituality is radiating JESUS to all around us!

You are encouraged to continue to be creative and imaginative in your pursuits to share the Gospel values. Jesus is very much ALIVE in you and thus in your fraternities! May God continue to Bless each of you with His Divine Favours. Keep God first and all will be well! Continue to be in JOYFILLED Service to each other...encourage each other, love one another as Jesus loves you.

Forward Planning by Regional Council for 2019 to Spring 2022.

The theme of the Mini Retreat attended by Regional Council Members was :Go Rebuild My Church". The presentation given by our Regional Spiritual Assistant, Fr. Manoj was revitalizing to our spirit and now to be fanned out to fraternities.

When St.Francis asked the question of God: What shall I do? ..the Regional Council members asked the same question..What shall we do and the reply, as given to St.Francis, GO REBUILD MY CHURCH. How did St.Francis obey God? How are the Secular Franciscans to proceed? With much Prayer! Listen!

The Regional Council, in prayer, listened to your suggestions expressed at the Chapter of Elections in May, 2019. The many ideas were reviewed and discerned by Regional Council. A Plan became clear. We hear you!

As a result, the following PLAN that will be implemented over three years. In the months ahead, details will be developed with financial approval to be given by the Regional Council at their Spring Meeting.

REGIONAL ACTION PLAN IN RESPONSE TO FRATERNITIES

- 1. WORKSHOPS DURING 2020-21: FORMATION AND JPIC**
- 2. BRIDGING WITH YOUTH/YOUNG ADULTS THROUGH FRATERNITIES TO CHAPTER OF ELECTIONS.**
- 3. SPIRITUAL SUPPORT PROGRAM FOR SECULAR FRANCISCANS WHO HAVE BEEN APPOINTED AS SA TO A FRATERNITY.**
- 4. QUARTERLY EDITIONS TO SHARE THE VARIOUS CELEBRATIONS OF FRATERNITIES.**
- 5. POLICY MANUAL...SUBJECT INDEX, UPDATE REVIEW, THE TRANSFER FORM AMENDED TO ALLOW A PROFESSED MEMBER TO TRANSFER WHEN ORIGINATING FRATERNITY NO LONGER EXIST**

The above Plan will be implemented with Prayer and Diligence. More details will unfold and be shared with all Fraternities as we together continue to build Family, build Fraternity and GO AND REBUILD MY CHURCH.

Regional Council Members are also committed to continue their support of the current activities now within fraternities.

Regional Council finds itself facing increasing costs for Regional Meetings. To aspire to move your money back into fraternities, several adjustments have been made. Your elected Council Members are to be commended for their frugile decisions. God provides the resources and calls us to be Good stewards of HIS money. Your elected Council Members have BIG GENEROUS HEARTS....their desire is for the Best of Fraternities. Thank You, Dear Lord....Bless the Council Members for their generosity. Bless all Fraternities. Draw us together into the Sacred Heart of Jesus, unifying us in Your Love! St. Francis, St. Clare, PRAY FOR US!

Fraternally Yours in Peace and JOY

Linda Adams, OFS

Minister, OLOTA