



OLOTA Meeting Highlights Oct 17, 2020

Spiritual Reflection

Upon reflecting a passage from Pope Francis' latest encyclical, "Fratelli Tutti", Fr. Manoj asked: Who are we? Why are we here? As Franciscans, we embrace a common goal of following Christ. We are called to transcend our differences. How can Council be "one" and bring about the common goal of leading others closer to God?

Meeting Focus

Where are we today and where are we going?

Minister's Report

National Correspondence.

In a letter to all fraternities, our National Minister highlights the challenges of the Pandemic. He encourages all fraternities to be creative in connecting with their members in order to comply with Parish/BC Public Health protocols. This affects how we plan fraternity Formation meetings, Elections, and regular gatherings.

The October National Bulletin provided an update of the Restructuring Commission's progress. Meanwhile, the National Fraternity statistics continues to show a decline in membership.

3-year Overview of OLOTA Region

The Regional Council has completed most of the tasks list it adopted at the start of its mandate. In the past one and half years OLOTA has introduced guidelines and checklists. Regional councillors will ensure them work properly and produce tangible

benefits to fraternities, particularly in the areas of Fraternity Registers and Contribution form. The Contribution form could be a challenge because the data must come from local fraternity registers. Hence, proper recording of the status of Professed Members is paramount. The sample page of the Fraternity Register was discussed at the regional meeting and it would serve as a guide to fraternities.

The first stage of the OLOTA Handbook concerns reformatting the table of Contents to simplify finding the pages. The second stage is to update the Formation, JPIC and Youth.

A virtual regional council meeting has been scheduled in February, 2021 to address our upcoming Elections in 2022 spring. Please pray to the Holy Spirit for the discernment of a theme and the selection of speakers.

Treasurer's Report

OLOTA has become more experienced with virtual meetings. Correspondingly, it has reduced its expenses and resulted in savings that may help fraternities that need financial assistance in attending the 2022 Regional Council Elections.

Spiritual Assistant's Report

Fr. Manoj was happy with the success of the SA-SPR Zoom gathering. There could be another workshop in 2021.

Three new OLOTA Spiritual Assistant have been appointed. Yet two fraternities are still in need of SA.

Fr. Manoj is at present conducting Pastoral Visits and celebrating the Transitus through Zoom.

Director of Formation Report

The Online Formation Course is full and well underway. Upon its successful conclusion in spring, another online course might begin. In the meantime, the Franciscan Store continues to perform as expected.

Director of Youth Report

A virtual workshop for fraternities on how to start a Franciscan Youth Group was conducted on Oct. 31. In the meantime, there is a new Youth section on the OLOTA website.

The National Youth Committee has sent us a letter, advising the “Servant leadership in gospel living - youth and young adult retreat” will be held on May 21-23, 2021 at the Sanctum Retreat Centre in Alberta. All fraternities will be directly notified regarding this event, and the Youth Planning Committee is asking each of the fraternities to sponsor a participant.

Director of Communication Report

“The OLOTA Messenger” was applauded for its success in connecting fraternities throughout the OLOTA Region.

Director of JPIC Report

The Study Guide (Laudato Si Revolution) Lessons was prepared and will form part of fraternity program.

A workshop for all fraternity JPIC reps is currently under consideration for 2021.

The JPIC director has collected \$1,690 in donations for “Wells4Africa”. The proceeds will be forward to the National.

Vice-Ministers’ Reports: Alberta North

St. Clare Discerning Korean Group in Edmonton has received council approval: it is now an Emerging Fraternity.

Manitoba & Saskatchewan

Three fraternities are being challenged with a shrinking membership as the pandemic has rendered travelling and gathering very difficult. Many members do not have access to the internet and rely on telephone calls to stay connected. The OLOTA will pray for them and create call and prayer partners.

Alberta South

The newly canonized fraternity of Padre Pio was a bright light as they celebrated their first Anniversary as a fraternity.

BC Coastal

Fraternities in this region are faced with, and are overcoming, the pandemic challenge. One fraternity election has been postponed to a later date. BC Coastal fraternities will have the opportunity to have a joint Chapter of Mats-Christmas Advent Session that is being planned by St. Maximillian Kolbe Fraternity.

BC Interior

OLOTA plans to reach out through prayer and call partners to the small and aging fraternity in Prince George.

The fraternity in Salmon Arm will soon hold elections and plan for a virtual Pastoral Visit.
