



Issue no. 29 – January 2023

## Message from our Regional Minister

Dear Franciscan Brothers and Sisters,

I am very thankful for your participation in the talk by Br. Arokiam John and the Zoom Drop-In. Thanks to Colleen Finlon (Little Flowers of St. Francis, Kelowna, BC) and Marlene Welch (St. Mary's, Calgary, AB) who have worked behind the scenes to make sure that everything on Zoom worked smoothly. Future Zoom Drop-In is planned in mid-May; the date still needs to be confirmed at the regional council meeting on February 4.

Currently, plans to have "Shots of Faith" on February 15, 2023 for the Young Adults in BC Lower Mainland is underway. Thanks to Fr. Dan Gurnick, ofm, Maritza Chouza (St. Mary's, Calgary, AB), Jewel Jasmins (St. Pio, Delta, BC), and Colleen Finlon for planning the event. Please pray for the success of the event.

Though it is nothing new, interactions between members encourage fraternal bonds between Franciscans, affirm our Franciscan profession, and foster servant leadership in the fraternity.

On behalf of the regional council, I would like to thank St. Clare Korean Fraternity (Edmonton, AB), St. Clare (Busby, AB), St. Maximillian Kolbe (Red Deer, AB), and St. Anthony (Winnipeg, MB), and Little Flowers of St. Francis (Kelowna, BC) for the completing 2022 annual reports and for the annual contribution.

Looking ahead:

- The next regional council meeting is February 4, 2023. Please pray for us.
- Our council members are exploring new ideas at this time, please do not hesitate to contact our council members.
- March 11, 2023 is the Canonical Establishment of St. Clare Korean Fraternity in Edmonton. Please pray for the fraternity.

With gratitude from your servant,  
Lanny

## Message from our Regional Spiritual Assistant We are Blessed to be a Blessing

*"The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace."* Numbers 6:24-26

The first day of the New Year in the Catholic Church begins with this solemn blessing of the Lord. Three times the name of the Lord is pronounced, as if to stress that everything that is good comes from him. The whole blessing could be summed up in the following words "May you always be the true friend of the Lord, a son or daughter to him."

Jesus is not only God's gift to us but the bearer of innumerable gifts; He has made us children of his Father. He gave us his own mother to be our mother. So, as we begin the New Year, the Catholic Church reminds us that Jesus has not left us orphans; we have the Mother of God to journey and accompany us throughout our life. On the first day of the New Year, the Catholic Church honors her with the title Mary, the Holy Mother of God. On this day we celebrate the motherhood of Mary. We honor her for love, faith, obedience and sacrifice of her son for us all.

The New Year may unfold many blessings and as well as challenges. No one truly knows what is awaiting in his or her life. When Blessed Virgin Mary said Yes to becoming the Mother of God, she did not know entirely what was awaiting but she kept her faith and trust in God. She treasured everything and pondered them in her heart. We too are called to do the same. Whether blessings or challenges, take them first to God in prayer. Let us look up to Blessed Virgin Mary for example of faith and guidance in our life. Let us grow stronger in our relationship with God who only can give us peace and take us through all troubled waters. We have all been blessed by God in various ways, with gratitude in our heart acknowledge them and, in this year and life ahead, resolve to be a blessing to the other in small ways.

Through this, we can truly bear witness to being called a true child of God our Father.

Br. Manoj Xalxo, OFM

## Message from our Director of JPIC

### Laudato Si' and Climate Change

Dear brothers and sisters,

Many of you know that that the Encyclical Letter *Laudato Si'* was written by Pope Francis in 2015. *Laudato Si'* in Italian is taken from “*Laudato Si' mi Signore*” which means “Praised be to you my Lord”. The encyclical letter is about care for our common home: earth and is based on St. Francis of Assisi’s *Canticle of Creatures*. “*Praised be You, my Lord, through our Sister Mother Earth, who sustains and governs us, and who produces various fruit with colored flowers and herbs.*”

In Chapter 1, Pope Francis asked what is happening to our common home? He mentioned pollution and climate change. As you know, we are experiencing many catastrophes worldwide due to climate change.

The glaciers in the Arctic and Iceland are melting and sea levels are constantly rising, and the Antarctic continent is also melting. Coastal cities are being submerged, and some Pacific Island nations are being submerged. Atmospheric scientists are warning that humanity could become extinct due to the climate crisis. All of this is caused by greenhouse gases, carbon dioxide and methane that have been continuously emitted since the industrial revolution.

The permafrost in northern Russia has also begun to melt, and when these frozen soils begin to release greenhouse gases that contain far more greenhouse gases than currently exist on Earth, an uncontrollable disaster occurs. The permafrost contains methane, which is 25 times stronger than carbon dioxide.

As you know, all of these global problems are due to global warming caused by greenhouse gases caused by the use of fossil fuels. Fossil fuels, which began to be used after the Industrial Revolution, emitted 5 billion tons of greenhouse gases annually, and especially after 1950, after World War II, they were rapidly emitted, raising the global temperature by 1.1 degrees so far. Scientists say that by 2050 It is said that if the global temperature cannot be prevented from rising by 1.5 degrees, it will result in a huge climate disaster. Some are talking about human extinction. Many climate disasters have already occurred, and forest fires, droughts, floods, and cold waves are occurring at an unprecedented

rate. In Lytton, BC, the temperature rose to 49.5 degrees last summer or so, killing 600 people, including the elderly. Due to the destruction of the ecosystem, many creatures have become extinct and are on the verge of extinction.

In the face of this global climate crisis, how should we Secular Franciscans act for the crying earth and the poor? How should I live my daily life? Let's discuss it together.

Peace, Francis Lee

## Save the Dates

**VESPERS and FRANCISCAN CROWN ROSARY first Saturday of each month. Next: on Sat. Feb 4th, 7pm PT/8pm MT/9pm CT**

ZOOM link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86486098310?pwd=R1VOZ3EybWVraG1PTTYxb1p1WllvQT09>

ID: 864 8609 8310 Passcode: 741246

**SHOTS OF FAITH** on Weds. Feb 15<sup>th</sup>, 6-8pm at Carlos and Kelly O'Bryan's in New Westminster, BC with Friar Dan Gurnick, OFM on *The Franciscan View of Creation*. For ages 21 to 40. For further information and details contact [maritzachouza@gmail.com](mailto:maritzachouza@gmail.com)

**>>>CLICK HERE TO SEE POSTER**

**Zoom DROP IN** in MAY. Date & Time TBA

ZOOM link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82134049106?pwd=d2lXWVVB5d3Z0M2U3Q3F5enhM3YxQT09>

ID: 821 3404 9106 Passcode: 13417

**FRANCISCAN VISION GLOBAL SUMMIT** each month of 2023 to celebrate 800 Years of the Rule of 1223 and the Crib of Greccio. Next session: Sat. Feb 25th at 2am PT/3am MT/4am CT by Br William Short, OFM on prayer – personal, fraternal, common and liturgical vision of Francis for today starting from the Rule of 1223.

Register to receive ZOOM link. Registration is free.

**>>>CLICK HERE TO SEE POSTER and BROCHURE**

## Social Corner

### Winter Young Adults Retreat at Mt. Saint Francis in Cochrane, Alberta



Twenty-one young adults attended the Winter Young Adult Retreat at Mount St Francis and six did the online Lectio Divina Retreat with Fr Dan. The retreat was filled with joy. We began with a warm welcome. After they were assigned to their rooms, we gathered in the conference room for an introduction of what they should expect and to organize in small groups. The theme for the retreat was *"The Word became flesh and dwelt among us"*. There were three sessions of Lectio Divina and they expressed their appreciation learning this practice, new to most of them. Another activity that they enjoyed was walking with a partner through the beautiful natural surroundings of the Mount. They had five passages of Holy Scriptures to read along the way. They paused five times and had the opportunity to share

their reflections with their partner. We called this the "Walking of the Magi" as it was the weekend of the Epiphany. Of course, they enjoyed the fellowship during the meals and also their personal quiet time. Drumming and prayer at night around the fire pit was enjoyed by all. We had an opportunity for Reconciliation, Adoration throughout the whole night with a sign-up sheet, Holy Mass on Sunday and a very nice gathering for lunch time. Thanks to God for making this possible. Thanks to you for your prayers. I also want to give a big thanks to OLOTA Council for donating \$200 and St. Maximilian Fraternity that also donated \$100 for the retreat. The students coming from Edmonton really appreciated the sponsorships. God bless you with peace and joy.

By Maritza Chouza

### PRAYER FOR PRIESTS

O Jesus, eternal and sovereign Priest, in your infinite love,

have compassion on those you have called to share in your Priesthood.

O compassionate Jesus, remember that they are frail and weak creatures.

Revive constantly in them the grace of their ordination. Keep them close to you,

for fear that the enemy would take advantage of them, so nothing

can tarnish the brightness of their sublime vocation.

Jesus, I pray for the faithful and fervent priest and also the struggling one;

for the missionaries that work for the salvation of souls in far away countries;

for priests undergoing temptations, loneliness; for the sick ones and those in agony;

for the souls of the priests in purgatory. In particular, I recommend to you

the priest who baptized me; the priests who absolved me of my sins; the ones who celebrated Mass and gave me Holy Communion; the priests who taught, instructed and sustained me by their help and encouragement; finally, toward the ones I owe all my gratitude, especially (mention names here).

O Jesus, keep all of them close to your Heart and bless them abundantly at this time and in eternity. AMEN

### PRAYER FOR PRIESTS

Imprimatur: Paul Nicole, VG. Quebec, 31-07-1973 / Translated from French and Adapted by Alice McRae, ofs

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