



Issue no. 36 – August 2023

## Message from our Regional Minister

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I hope all of you have listened to Br. Gerry's talk on discernment. If you haven't, please listen [here](#). It is time for us to have some honest dialogues between fraternities across the regions to discover the needs of each fraternity and what is the best regional structure to support local fraternities. The proposed dates for discussion are: September 26/27, October 24/25 and November 28/29.

The voice of each local fraternity member is important and needs to be heard. We hope that everyone could attend the upcoming discussions. I am looking forward to meeting everyone on zoom for now, and hopefully in person in the near future. All fraternity ministers and/or representatives are encouraged to a pre-discussion zoom meeting on September 15.

Just a short summary of fraternities in Our Lady of the Angels region: some fraternities are growing, others are aging and shrinking. This year, we had one fraternity canonically established and one became inactive. Congratulations to Little Portion, St. Anthony of Padua (Maple Ridge), St. Anthony of Padua (Richmond) for professions within your fraternities. Let me know if your fraternity has profession this year.

I would like to draw your attention to a few upcoming events. The Season of Caring for Creation (September 1 - October 4); please use the handout to pray whether personally, within your fraternity or your parish community. Also, we will have the novena to St. Francis (Sep. 24-Oct. 2) this year being one day early as some fraternities are celebrating the Transitus of St. Francis on Oct. 3.

Peace and all good,  
Lanny



*Place your  
mind before  
the mirror  
of eternity.*

Saint Clare  
of Assisi  
(Feast Day  
Aug 11)

[Link to SEASON OF CARING FOR CREATION](#)

[Link to TRANSITUS](#)

[Link to NOVENA TO SAINT FRANCIS](#)

## Message from our Spiritual Assistant

**The Lord gave me brothers...**for the first time after the Covid-19 Pandemic, the brothers of the Holy Spirit Province, Canada, were able to come together this August at Mount St. Francis, Cochrane for the annual retreat. Br. Michale Perry, OFM, the former Minister General preached the retreat on "Heroes of Faith and their vocation journey" leading us through the experiences of Abraham & Sarah, Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Francis of Assisi. He highlighted the experience of St. Francis and how he became the icon of mercy which is an invitation for all of us to follow and live in our life. He also shared his own experience of encountering and serving the brothers of the Order. Brothers together for spiritual nourishment through retreat talks and

liturgies, jubilees of religious life, one to one conversation and Gaudium, etc. marked the week. One of my formators often said "always enjoy the presence of a brother as you may not get the same brother to live with in your next community." The presence of brothers who could not make for the retreat this year was missed. Being with the brothers is always great joy and learning for me because they are my family.

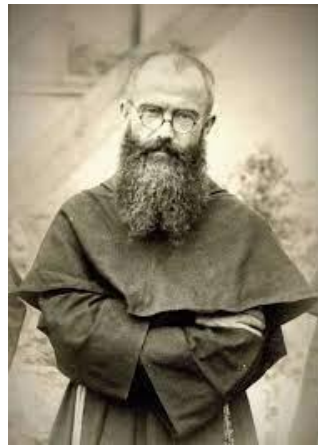
After the retreat I had some time to meet with my extended Franciscan family: Secular Franciscans of Alberta South (St. Mary's Calgary, St. Padre Pio Calgary and Mary Queen of Peace Pincher Creek). I truly felt very much connected and fulfilled meeting my brothers and sisters of St. Francis of Assisi. It was a great joy connecting to brothers and sisters, listening to their vocation stories and how they bear witness to the Franciscan life in their own time and space. Brother Gerry Clyne and Ron Semenoff joined me for a long road journey of about six hours back and forth on the road from Cochrane to meet the fraternity of Mary Queen of Peace Pincher Creek. All along the road we not only admired the beauty of creation, mountains and unending ranches but enjoyed our time together, shared our Franciscan experience, listened to country music and sang along. The unending ranches also reminded me of my own story of being a cowboy, helping my father in farming and caring for the livestock before I joined the friars. Very nostalgic moments passing through mountains and ranches. Indeed, God's creation is breathtaking...**Praise be to you my Lord for my brothers, sisters and entire creation.**

Brother Manoj, OFM

### **7<sup>th</sup> Franciscan FINE ARTS & POSTER CONTEST**

Our Lady of the Angels Regional Council invites children and youth to participate in our 7th Franciscan **FINE ARTS & POSTER CONTEST** held on **December 3, 2023**. This year marks the 800th Anniversary of the Christmas Greccio, in which St Francis of Assisi is credited with creating the first nativity scene in 1223 in a cave near Greccio, Italy. The Christmas Greccio is the creative theme for contest participants in each age group and media.

Links to [POSTER](#), [INVITATION](#), [ENTRY FORM](#), [LETTER TO PASTORS & SCHOOLS](#)



### **Martyr of Charity**

*Life begins to make sense when we recognize and acknowledge God's infinite goodness and our absolute dependence on Him. Our response will be praise and total love expressed in obedience.*

**Saint Maximilian Kolbe**  
(Feast day Aug 14)

Link to [Ongoing Formation: SUMMER 2023](#)

## **Spiritual Assistant Course**

The on-line Spiritual Assistant course is called **A Course for Spiritual Assistants**. It was created by a committee from the OFS region of Trillium - including one of our National Spiritual Assistants Fr. Peter Knaapen OFM Conv. - and supplemented by the instructor, Br. Gerry Clyne OFM. It is primarily designed for those Secular Franciscans aspiring to become Spiritual Assistants for an OFS fraternity (other than their own). But as the course contains much general material on Franciscan spirituality, it is offered to those who may be interested in taking it for their own spiritual advancement.

The course consists of twelve chapters. At the end of each chapter are questions to reflect on and share with the instructor and the other students. Two chapters are scheduled per month. This course is not academic. Those who want to take the course should not feel intimidated. It is offered free of charge. The only thing that is required of the students is to put in a good effort.

The course provides the opportunity for Seculars from across Canada to meet online with each other. The sharing of reflections on their mutual love of serving Christ through the Franciscan charism creates friendships and strengthens the sense of belonging to a national Franciscan community. There will be occasional Zoom meeting as well where students get to see those they have been sharing with.

The course will start on September 11, 2023 with responses to Introduction due September 23, 2023. Please register with Br. Gerry at [gerryclyne@outlook.com](mailto:gerryclyne@outlook.com).



## Save the Dates

### -VESPERS and FRANCISCAN CROWN ROSARY

**\*\*New Time\*\*** On first Saturday of each month.

Saturday, **SEP 2<sup>nd</sup>** at **9am** PT/**10am** MT/**11am** CT

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86486098310?pwd=R1VQZ3EybWMrG1PTTYxb1p1WllvQT09>

[OZ3EybWMrG1PTTYxb1p1WllvQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86486098310?pwd=R1VQZ3EybWMrG1PTTYxb1p1WllvQT09)

Meeting ID: 864 8609 8310 Passcode: 741246

Link to [PRAYER IN TIME OF WILDFIRES](#)

**-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. **SEP 30<sup>th</sup>** at 3am PT/4am MT/5am CT by **Br Arokiam John OFM** on: *The absence of the semantic family; "To follow Christ and His Mother" in the Rule of 1223 - its meaning and significance for today.* Register to receive ZOOM link. Registration is free.

>>>Link to [POSTER](#) and [BROCHURE](#)

## Social Corner



St Anthony of Padua fraternity of Richmond, BC celebrates permanent profession on August 6, 2023. The three newly professed are *Aleta Atengco, Cynthia Chen & Marcela Ramirez.*

*Br Ben Ridley, OFM from Trois Rivières, QC visits with St Anthony of Padua fraternity in Richmond, BC in August 2023.*



*Brs Jerry Clyne & Manoj Xalxo visit Mary Queen of Peace fraternity in Pincher Creek, AB on August 21.*



*Br Manoj visits Padre Pio fraternity in Calgary on August 19.*



Fifty members of fraternities from Red Deer, Olds and Calgary along with inquirers joined the Friars Minor and Franciscans Sisters of the Missionaries of Mary at Mt St Francis in Cochrane, AB for a Franciscan BBQ. At the yearly gathering conversations flowed feely, laughter filled the air and in the midst of it all, a deeper connection had forged – a connection to one another, to the food, and to the spirit of Saint Francis himself.

### Sunlight Reflections by Linda Adams of

Sitting in the warmth of the sun, my mind turns to the awesomeness of God and His creation. At this time of year, in the Okanagan, there is an abundance of a variety of fruit ready for the picking from the trees. This scene quickens to my heart the Holy Spirit reminding of His abundance of Divine Fruit: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, Self Control. *Gal 5:22-23*

When the Holy Spirit controls our lives, HE will produce this kind of FRUIT in us for others.

God is Love. LOVE forgets mistakes. *Prov 17:9*

The JOY of the Lord is my Strength.

*Neh 8:10*

For Christ is the way of PEACE.

*Eph 2:14*

Be PATIENT with each other.

*Eph 4:2*

A GOOD man produces GOOD deeds. *Luke 6:45*

A FAITHFUL man shall abound in blessings. *Prov 28:20*

Be GENTLE and ready to forgive.

*Col 3:13*

SELF CONTROL controlling the tongue. *Prov 13:3, James 3:2*

BY OUR FRUIT WE ARE KNOWN.....

### Franciscan Vision Global Summit: The July 29, 2023 Session

**Fidelity to the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and His Church in the Rule of 1223 and in the pontificate of Pope Francis.** The July session of the Franciscan Global Summit dealt with the important issue of faithfulness to the Gospel and the Church, especially in today's complex world. It was presented by Br. Joseph Dolphy Pais OFM Cap., a priest who holds a doctorate in Franciscan Spirituality. Br. Arokiam John welcomed participants and invited the sisters of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary (General House, Rome) to begin the session with a hymn to the Holy Spirit. Br. Joseph noted that his talk would revolve around the following:

- 1) Fidelity to the Gospel
- 2) Fidelity to the Church (in the time of Francis)
- 3) Fidelity to the Church (today)

**Fidelity to The Gospel:** Being truly faithful calls for one to be creative. What we are being faithful to must be re-assessed and reaffirmed as the world and the people around us change. Fidelity thus cannot be static but must be a "living, changing process". Creative fidelity involves the willingness to trust, to be attentive to and to suffer with changes in order to bring about some newness. There is a huge cultural divide between life in the time of Francis and life of mankind today. So, is it possible to be faithful to the rule of 1223? Francis understood that the Holy Gospel contained all the law that was needed for the Christian to journey through life. The initial Rule, therefore, outlined ways in which friars could "live the Gospel". The four main foundations of the Rule were:

- 1) The friars must live in the spirit of the Gospel.
- 2) The friars must live in union with the Church.
- 3) The friars must live life fixed in contemplation of the poverty and humility of Jesus Christ.
- 4) The friars must live a life of obedience.



Following the rule required Fidelity to the Gospel which led to an evangelical life.

**Fidelity to The Church:** Francis desired a connection between the Church and his life. He went to the Pope. He found inspiration from the Gospels but desired papal confirmation. "Francis promises obedience and respect to the Roman Pontiff and his successors and the brothers are bound to obey Brother Francis and the Ministers General who succeed him." (Reg. B 1, 2-3). Fidelity to the Church involves a bit more. It demands avoidance of destructive criticism of the Universal Church. Francis was keenly aware of this: "And I desire to fear, love and honour them (priests) and all others as my masters. And I do not wish to consider sin in them because I discern the Son of God in them and they are my masters. And I act in this way since I see nothing corporally of the Most-High Son of God in this world except His most holy Body and Blood which they (priests) receive and which they minister to others." (Testament of St Francis 8-10 Francis and Clare – The Complete Works p. 154)

Obligation of the friars to recite the Breviary of the Roman Curia, at a time when many religious used their own breviaries or those of their Diocese also indicated that Francis wanted faithfulness to the Church. Fasting, a crucial dimension of prayer, followed the practice of the church and Francis additionally commanded the ministers to petition the Pope for a cardinal of the church to be "governor, protector and corrector of the fraternity."

### **Creative Fidelity to the Church Today:**

The Rule communicates a way of living; a life chosen and shared. In it, Francis stressed:

- 1) Maintenance of relationship.
- 2) Retaining of a minority identity.

Striving towards these goals in the world today, one is presented with serious challenges arising from globalization and the complexity of modern technology, the situations facing the Church and the overall fatigue of the Order. (Friars are getting older while new enrollment is diminishing) To follow the Gospel life does not come by one's own initiative, but rather, it is a call. To live in the spirit of minority means to consciously choose to become a brother/sister; choosing Christ as a model of humility and choosing to live with others and share their destiny. It requires patience and humility. To encounter Christ in the downtrodden and the marginalised today would truly be a minority experience. As in Francis' time, the Church is in need of repair. Pope Francis recognises this. He appears, like St. Francis, to recognise that the church needs to be reformed from "bottom to the top" Francis took religious life to the streets. Pope Francis notes that we must "take to the streets to look for people." Francis guided his brothers to life in communion; walking together spiritually as companions on the journey of life. Pope Francis calls today for a synodal church, for lives lived in the mystery of communion. The synodal spirit requires trust and openness, a mature faith and fidelity to the church. This is the way of Francis of Assisi. This is the Franciscan way of life.

Prepared by Marlene Welch of