



Issue no. 37 – September 2023

## Message from our Regional Minister

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,  
By the end of this month, I will have the privilege to meet with people from four fraternities:

- St. Clare Chilliwack (thanks to Miriam Li, for inviting her fraternity members to a Friday morning mass (September 15, 2023) at St. Mary's Chilliwack, where I plan to meet her on our way to Salmon Arm),
- San Damiano fraternity in Salmon Arm for their election on September 16,
- St. Francis of Assisi Korean Fraternity to celebrate two admissions to candidacy, two temporary professions and four permanent professions.
- My own fraternity, later this month.

Everyone in the fraternities have affirmed my Franciscan profession, what a grace! I would like to express my gratitude to you all! Pictures from the visits are enclosed! I'm looking forward to visiting other fraternities in the future.

Also, I am inviting each of you to take a step back and savour the presence of all professed members, candidates and inquirers around you and reflect on how your Franciscan call has been affirmed by their presence.

As October is the month of Mary, I would like to invite you to deepen your devotion to Jesus through Mary in the rosary. One simple way is to add a prayer before saying Our Father in each decade:

*Oh, my dearest Mother Mary, behold us your children in prayer at your feet. We humbly pray for the virtue of \_\_\_\_\_ / the grace of \_\_\_\_\_*

-Mon/Sat: *humility, love of neighbour, poverty in spirit, obedience, piety*

-Tue/Fri: *true contrition to sin, purity, fortitude, patience, self denial*

*There  
appeared  
in him in fact  
the form of  
the Cross and  
Passion of the  
spotless Lamb  
Who washed  
away the sins  
of the world.*  
CELANO

**The Stigmata**  
(Feast Day  
Sept 17)



Link to [The First Life of St. Francis on the STIGMATA by Thomas of Celano](#)

-Sun/Wed: *faith, hope, love, devotion to Mary, eternal salvation*

-Thurs: *obedience, trust in Jesus through Mary, radical conversion, holy fear of God, Eucharistic Adoration*

Another way is to be present with Mary and add your own prayer to respond to what she experiences in each mystery. As an example, for the first sorrowful mystery, as Jesus was in Gethsemane, although we don't know for sure whether Mary was there, imagine if Mary were there kneeling and praying by her son, sweating blood, what would you do/say to her?

I hope you can participate in one of the upcoming zoom events:

- **Novena to St. Francis** from Sep 24 - Oct 2 at 7pm BC time except on Sep 26/27 at 4pm BC time. - See zoom info in Save the Dates.

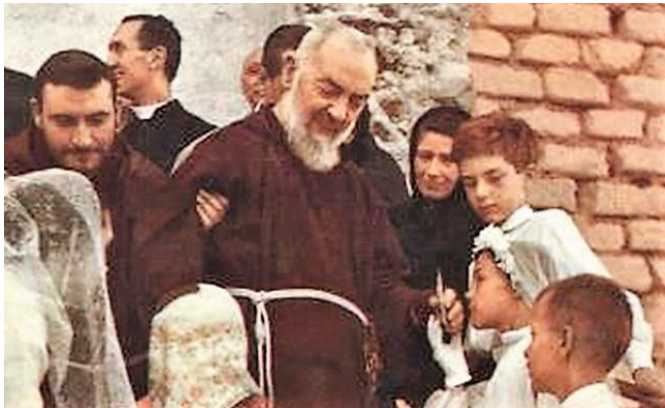
- **Discerning Regional Options for Western Canada** on Sep 26/27, Oct 24/25, and Nov 28/29 at 6pm BC time (ask your fraternity ministers for the zoom info)

- **Vespers and Crown Rosary** on Sat. Oct 7 at 7pm BC time. - See zoom info in Save the Dates.

- **Zoom Drop - In** on Wed Oct. 11 at 6pm BC time.

*Happy Feast of St. Francis, our Seraphic Father, on October 4<sup>th</sup>!*

Peace and all good,  
Lanny



*Pray...hope...and don't worry!*

Saint Pius of Pietrelcina  
(Feast day Sept 23)

## Message from our Director of Formation

In the September 1<sup>st</sup> 2023 edition of the *Franciscan Daily Companion*, we read St. Francis of Assisi's message: *Pure and holy simplicity puts all the learning of this world, all-natural wisdom to shame.* This Reflection states that studying our faith, developing programs and making great plans are not in themselves wrong. The difficulty arises when we allow these activities to take control of our lives - especially our spiritual lives. We are called to childlike simplicity, even in the midst of these efforts. Simplicity refuses to complicate the mysteries of our faith; it simply celebrates them. Prayer: *Grant me the true wisdom of your heart, Lord Jesus.*

As we meet with our fraternity brothers and sisters after the summer holidays, let us remember that we are called to be Secular Franciscans filled with joy

and peace as we reflect God's love for all people within and outside our Franciscan family.

May God bless you always,  
Catherine McNiff, ofs

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

Links to [TRANSITUS](#), [NOVENA TO SAINT FRANCIS](#)

## 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**. For more information see

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

## Save the Dates

### -NOVENA TO SAINT FRANCIS

Sep 24-Oct 2 @ 7pm PT *except on Sep 26, 27 @ 4pm PT* Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88615659055?pwd=eTFkMVFrMVN6RFRXdUhzVENxaHVZUT09>

Meeting ID: 886 1565 9055 Passcode: 051719

### -The TRANSITUS of SAINT FRANCIS of ASSISI

Fr. Manoj Xalxo, together with the Fraternity of St. Anthony of Padua in Richmond will lead the **Transitus** in commemoration of the passing of **St. Francis** on Tuesday, **October 3<sup>rd</sup> @ 7 pm** in St. Joseph the Worker Parish. 4451 Williams Rd, Richmond, BC. A reception to follow. *Everyone is invited!*

### -VESPERS and FRANCISCAN CROWN ROSARY

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

**OCTOBER 7<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm PT/8pm MT/9pm CT**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86486098310?pwd=R1VOZ3EybWMraG1PTTYxb1p1WllvQT09>

Meeting ID: 864 8609 8310 Passcode: 741246

**-FRANCISCAN VISION GLOBAL SUMMIT** each month of 2023 to celebrate 800 Years of the Rule of 1223 and the Crib of Greccio. **NEXT SESSION:**

Saturday. **OCT 28<sup>th</sup>** at 3am PT/4am MT/5am CT with **Br Paul Kallam OFM** on: *Love of Creation in the spirit of Love of Brothers as in the Rule of 1223 (A Holistic Vision of "One Earth, One Family, One Future")* Register to receive ZOOM link. Registration is free.

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

## Report on Franciscan Vision Global Summit: The August 26, 2023 Session

### Clare's contribution to preserving the heredity of the Rule of 1223 and the contributions of the Poor Clares to the Franciscan mission in our time with Sr Frances Theresa Downing, OSC

The opening hymn to the Holy Spirit was sung by six temporary professed Sisters belonging to the *Franciscan Clarist Congregation* (FCC), from the Bhopal Province in the State of Madhya Pradesh in India.

On August 9, 1253 Pope Innocent IV visited St Clare on her death bed at San Damiano as she wanted his approval of her text, *Form of Life*, based on Francis' *Rule of 1223 (Regula Bullata)* already approved by Pope Honorius III on November 29, 1223. Pope Innocent IV approved Clare's writings which also gave authenticity to their life at San Damiano in the example of St. Francis. After much work by Clare, the first three chapters of her text focussed on work, poverty and authority; the second part was a lengthy discussion on having nothing of one's own. Both Francis and Clare saw that it was the best way to imitate the self emptying of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. They were convinced, as Clare said to Agnes in 1234, to choose *most holy poverty and physical hardship would show us eternal glory and the blessed life*.

Clare was under pressure by the Church to accept an already existing monastic rule, just as Francis had been. However, Clare had gained much influence and she received a papal visit to her death bed. Although she shared Francis' vision and followed the challenges around the *Rules of 1221 and 1223*, her own trials and errors at San Damiano were elemental in writing the *Form of Life*. Clare began her journey at the Porziuncola on Palm Sunday night when she made her promise of obedience to Francis in 1209 which was approved by Pope Innocent III. She proceeded to synthesise 1) the monastic, the penitential and eremitical life from Francis, 2) tradition and 3) what worked well for the women religious of the church. Forty years of community living allowed Clare to develop and refine her text, *Form of Life*, incorporating the *Rule of 1223* and living it as her contribution to preserving its heredity.

The *Legenda* was written about Clare's life after her death and although portraying her as indeed a holy and devout model for other women, it mentions nothing about her originality and how unexpected and difficult she could be. The pressure continued on Clare as Pope Gregory IX wanted to gather all religious women into a new order founded by him and wanted Clare as the leader giving her many things for the monastery but she refused. At one time Clare even went on a 'hunger strike' as a means of communicating her displeasure with Pope Gregory who eventually gave in and then turned the situation over to the Minister General. As Clare saw the need for an approved separate way for her sisters to live the *Rule of 1223*, she was open to the influences of contemporary groups as well as more established Benedictines and Augustinians. The Italian Poor Clares say that over 63% of Clare's text in *Form of Life* is her own, 24% is from the *Rule of 1223*, 12.63% is from Cardinal Hugolino, less than 6% is from Pope Innocent, the remaining is from Benedict and the *Rule of 1221*. Clare spent most of her life establishing her vision into the legal structures of the Church. Although her challenge was greater with the Papacy than Francis' was, the sisters at San Damiano were smaller in number and more cooperative.

Clare had been at San Damiano since 1212 and the papal approval of the *Rule of 1223* became a foundation for her to gather into context what worked throughout the thirty years. In her *Form of Life*, she retains fidelity to Francis with an approach that could encompass any new arising situation. She knew she was given a mission by God as she said: *The most high heavenly Father chose to enlighten my heart with His grace, so that I should do penance according to the example and teaching of our most blessed Father Saint Francis*. In the *Form of Life*, Clare emphasizes her debt to Francis and her commitment to continue on the same path as part of his organization. Since the centenary of her birth in 1994 Clare's message has moved into a more central position. In effect, Clare's text still in use, continues to give life to many people with the *Rule of 1223* enshrined within it as a living heritage. (in particular chapters 1,2,3,8 and 10) It is important to understand that Clare's text is not a Rule but a form or pattern of life and she never once uses the word rule. The *Rule of 1223* carried the authority of Francis and the Church and her changes were because she was writing for women in contemplative life rather



than men travelling and preaching. Her call was to live the Gospel after Francis' example and teaching, not in mere imitation of him.

Clare may have begun as early as 1221 to write her own text. Her agenda would have been 1) To establish in law that she and her sisters were legitimately and canonically part of the Order founded by Francis, 2) to establish in law that her *Form of Life* was authentically Franciscan, 3) to set this down in a way which could gain canonical approval, 4) to place her *Form of Life* in the development of Franciscan legislation from the document on solitude to the *Rule of 1223*. Her primary concern was to enable the sisters to live the *most holy service of the poor crucified One*. Clare's main struggle in all of this was in seeking to be structurally part of the Franciscan Order. In succeeding with it, Francis and Clare both were able to step outside the barriers which divide masculine and feminine. Clare greatly contributed towards preserving the heredity of the *Rule of 1223* as she lived it as an authentic expression of the Gospel. 24 percent of her *Form of Life* is based on it and she lived it until her death. The Holy Spirit through the Church approved her adapted version of it as an authentic Gospel form of life.

The concluding hymn in honor of St. Francis was sung by thirteen second year Novices belonging to the Franciscan Sisters of Our Lady of Bon Secours from the Bon Secours Novitiate house in Tamil Nadu, India.

Prepared by Colleen Finlon, ofs

## Social Corner

San Damiano Fraternity Chapter of Election in Salmon Arm & visit with *Mabel Flore* on Sept 16, 2023



*Stephanie, Aleta & Marcela* of St. Anthony of Padua Fraternity, Richmond at work in the Shoreline Clean Up at Garry Point on Sept 16, 2023. This was initiated by the Social Justice Ministry of St. Joseph the Worker Parish. Not in the picture is *Dave*.

Visit with St Clare Fraternity in Chilliwack on Sept 15, 2023





St Francis of Assisi Korean Fraternity of Surrey, BC  
at St Joseph the Worker Church on Sept 23, 2023

Permanent Profession:  
*Sun Hui Park, Chang Soon Kim,  
Jong Sook Lee, Hee Kim*



Candidacy: *Myung Hwa Kim,  
Sun Kyung Lee*



Temporary Profession:  
*Da Rae Park, Bod Deuk Chun*



St Elizabeth of Hungary  
Fraternity in Saskatoon  
attend Holy Mass with  
*Fr Joseph Jacek* as Celebrant  
followed by breakfast on  
The Feast of St Clare.