



Issue no. 33 – May 2023

Message from our Regional Minister

I would like to congratulate two Korean fraternities who just had a chapter of election: St. Francis in Vancouver and St. Clare in Edmonton. To the previous council members, I would like to express my gratitude for serving your fraternities. I thank the newly elected council members for stepping up to serve your fraternities. May the Holy Spirit guide you as you serve your brothers and sisters. Leadership-wise, I am still green and have made mistakes, through which, I have witnessed God's graces and forgiveness. Mistakes do not discourage me; on the other hand, through them, I have seen God's strength and the generosity of my Secular Franciscan brothers and sisters in the form of forgiveness. It is beautiful, and for the experience, I am truly thankful to see it. It sounds strange: God gives me the grace for me to be at peace in my weaknesses, in that, my weaknesses made me see God's grace and keep on focusing at the tasks. I am also deeply grateful to all those who accompany me in this journey with prayers and moral support.

Here are the regional updates:

- By this time, I hope that nearly all of you have submitted the survey to Debbie Tessier. If you need more time, please let Jewel and Debbie know. If you have not completed the survey, please discuss the responses with all of your fraternity members and submit the form immediately.
- We renewed our subscription to the regional Zoom account (\$224/year)
- Our in-person regional council gathering is on July 11-13, let a council member know if you would like us to discuss anything



He embraced the Mother of Jesus with inexpressible love, since she made the Lord of Majesty a brother to us. He honoured her with his own praises, poured out prayers to her, and offered her his love in a way that no human tongue can express.
(Thomas of Celano)

- The regional council is organizing the novena of vespers and rosary to honour Our Lady of the Angels. The novena will start on July 24, 2023 at 7pm BC / 8pm AB-SK / 9pm MB.
- Stay tuned for the region-wide initiative to recruit fraternity new members, we hope to provide files (soft copies) for the fraternities: posters, parish bulletin announcements, pamphlets and prayers.
- We are awaiting further instructions from the National Fraternity Council to proceed with the next step of Discernment of the Regional Options for Western Region. The National Fraternity Council will have a meeting on June 8, 2023.

Our hearts go to those who are affected by the wild fires. Some of our brothers and sisters are suffering from respiratory illnesses. Please pray for them.

Peace and all good,
Lanny



Message from our Spiritual Director

Come, Holy Spirit! Pentecost brings to a close Eastertide and marks the birth of the Church. We are in the era of the Holy Spirit that Jesus has made over his Church. The gift of Pentecost - the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, and the spiritual gifts and blessings of God - are made possible through the death, resurrection, and ascension of the Lord Jesus. After his resurrection Jesus "breathed" on his disciples and gave them the Holy Spirit. Just as God breathed life into Adam. God "breathes" His Spirit into our souls that we may live in His life and love; God ignites the "fire" of His Spirit within our hearts and minds that we may seek God in all things in order to realize the coming of His reign. Holy Spirit is God living in us and transforming us so that we may bring His life and love to our broken world. So, the gift of the Holy Spirit is an impartation of "new life" for his people. With the gift of the Holy Spirit a new creation begins.

The Holy Spirit is sometimes called the forgotten person of the Blessed Trinity. In comparison to our Lord Jesus, who lived upon this earth as a man and whose works and preaching are so familiar to us, and even in comparison to the Father, to whom is attributed the work of creation, Catholics often neglect devotion to the Holy Spirit. Nevertheless, the works of sanctification are commonly attributed to him. The solemnity of Pentecost is a great reminder of all the works of the Holy Spirit.

Pentecost is an event of both the past and the present. St. Oscar Romero said, "Pentecost is not just one day, but every day. Without breath, there is no life. Without the Spirit, the Church is a field of dry, dead bones." The Holy Spirit did not descend upon the Church on this one occasion to desert it. He reigns with it still. For in the words of Christ, "I

will send you another Advocate, to dwell with you forever." As the soul abides in the body of humans, so the Holy Spirit abides in the body of the Church. With the descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost the disciples were enlightened and empowered as they went forth to preach the gospel of our Lord. They were touched, torched and transformed by the fire of Holy Spirit. Their fear turned to fortitude, cowardice to courage, mess to message, test to testimony and vice to victory. All through their mission, the Holy Spirit consoled, comforted and counselled them.

The Lord Jesus offers each one of us the gift and power of his Holy Spirit. He wants to make our faith strong, give us hope that endures, and a love that never grows cold. He never refuses to give his Spirit to those who ask with expectant faith. Jesus instructed his disciples to ask confidently for the gift of the Spirit: "If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!" (Lk 11:13). Do we thirst for God and for the abundant life he offers through the gift of his Spirit?

The gift of the Holy Spirit moves its recipients to action and inspires them to share this gift with others. St. Paul insists that these spiritual gifts are to be used in the present time for the benefit of others, for the common good, and for the building up of the Body of Christ. Let us ask the Holy Spirit to rekindle in us the spirit of new life and enthusiasm, the fire of God's love.

Come Holy Spirit!

Make our ears to hear.

Make our eyes to see.

Make our mouths to speak.

Make our hearts to seek.

Make our hands to reach out

And touch the world with your love.

AMEN. (St. John Henry Newman)

Fr. Manoj Xalxo, OFM

Message from our Director of Formation

Saint Francis reminds us: *The peace, which you proclaim with words, must dwell even more abundantly in your hearts. Do not provoke others to anger or give scandal. Rather, let your gentleness*

draw them to peace, goodness and concord. This is our vocation: to heal wounds, to bind what is broken, to bring home those who are lost.

- Legend of the Three Companions

The sixty Little Red Rule Books have arrived to join the sixty Franciscan Journey Books on the shelf waiting to go to fraternities for our new Inquirers in the Fall.

God bless all the work you do in your fraternities - you heal wounds, bind what is broken and bring home those who are lost.

Catherine McNiff, ofs

Save the Dates

-VESPERS and FRANCISCAN CROWN ROSARY
first Saturday of each month. Next on -

Saturday, **JUNE 3rd** at 7pm PT/8pm MT/9pm CT

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86486098310?pwd=R1VOZ3EvbWMraG1PTTYxb1p1WllvQT09>

Meeting ID: 864 8609 8310 Passcode: 741246

-Next **ZOOM DROP IN: Oct 11th Wednesday**
at 6pm PT/7pm MT/8pm CT for an hour or so.
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88615659055?pwd=eTFkMVFrMVN6RFRXdUhzVENxaHVZUT09>
Meeting ID: 886 1565 9055 Passcode: 051719

-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. JUNE 24th** at 3am PT/4am MT/5am CT by **Br Benedict Vadekkekara, OFM Cap** on: *Franciscan mission and the solidarity with the poor in the World to live fully the Rule of 1223 in our time.* Register to receive ZOOM link. Registration is free.
>>>CLICK HERE TO SEE [POSTER](#) and [BROCHURE](#)

-ALBERTA CHAPTER OF MATS
Saturday, **JUNE 17th** at Sacred Heart Parish Hall in Red Deer. Theme: *Live & Love Your Rule*
Presenters: Paul Vanderham ofs, Deacon Thomas OToole ofs, Deacon Roger Reilander ofs.
All professed members, candidates and inquirers are welcome!

BIBLE STUDY every **Tuesday** from **MAY 9th** to **JULY 4th** at 6:30-8 pm PT/7:30-9 MT/8:30-10 CT

Topic: *God-the Mystery of the Trinity in the Bible* with Dr Elizabeth Klein

ZOOM LINK: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81323887291?pwd=aXNsaWV5dVA0VDRydEJ2KzZaWjljQT09>

Meeting ID: 813 2388 7291 Passcode: 654163

What do we mean when we say "God"? Misconceptions about God abound, even among Christians, and these misconceptions can become obstacles in our relationship with God. Join Augustine Institute Assistant Professor Dr. Elizabeth Klein for a careful study of Scripture that will lead you to a deeper and clearer awareness of who God is, equipping you to share this truth with others.

Click here for>>> [PENTECOST LETTER](#) from Minister General Tibor Kauser, ofs in Rome.

Social Corner

Proverbs 31:15-29 Selected Verses

She gets up before dawn to prepare breakfast for her household and plans the day's work. She is energetic, a hard worker and watches for bargains... She works far into the night... She is a woman of strength and dignity and has no fear of old age... When she speaks, her words are wise and kindness is the rule for everything she says. She watches carefully all that goes on throughout her household and is never lazy... There are many fine women in the world, but you are the best of them all!

From Linda Adams, ofs

My Mom's Final Testament

This is Mom's reply when I spoke about death. I asked Mom to leave us a spiritual will, her desires for us when she is gone. The following is what she wanted us to do. These are mom's intentions in her daily prayers.

Of what I know we do not live forever on earth. Be on the right path always. Understand each other mutually. The family to agree with each other. May you have peace among you. Maybe we think that one needs more than the other, one is worse than the other. It is left to God to judge. We cannot judge. For all to succeed in your enterprises and make good use of all that God gives. May you say a very short prayer every night before you sleep. If you would say this prayer:

*Now I lay down to sleep
I pray thee Lord my soul to keep.
If I should die before I wake
I pray thee Lord my soul to take.
AMEN*

Anonymous Contributor

2023 Franciscan Vision Global Summit: April 29th Session via Zoom

Brothers from the Order of Friars Minor (OFM) of the Province of the Immaculate Conception of New York sang the opening hymn to the Holy Spirit from Rome. Fr. Xavier Durairaj, OFM, the Provincial of the Franciscan Province of St. Thomas the Apostle, India, gave the welcome address. - Peace is the essence of all religions. Saint Francis said peace is a gift of God. *May the Lord give you peace!* With this greeting Francis was invited to spread peace to everyone.

Br Ignacio Ceja Jiminez, OFM from Mexico presented **The Friars Minor as Peacebuilders Today: Echoing the Rule of 1223**. The basis for the presentation is The Rule of 1223 within the context of a violent world of the time. Francis was involved in the wars between Assisi and Perugia in 1202; the war between the Papacy and imperial forces was being fought in Southern Italy in which he served in 1204. Francis experienced a conversion in 1206 at age 24. A 5th Crusade was launched in 1215 under which Francis visited the Sultan in 1219 as a gesture of peace.

The life of St Francis and his writings have foundation in the Holy Scriptures.

Scripture: *Whatever house you go into, let your first words be, "Peace to this house"; and if a man of peace lives there, your peace will go and rest on him; if not, it will come back to you.* (Lk 10:5)

Rule of 1223: *Into whatsoever house they may enter let them first say: Peace be to this house!* Rb 3,13.

Testament: *It is also the Lord who revealed to him this salutation that we should say: "The Lord give you peace."* Test 23 (Num 6:24-26)

The Life: *Whensoever he preached, before setting forth God's word to the congregation he besought peace, saying, "The Lord give you peace".* 1C 23.

Francis is a preacher of peace in that he preached the Gospel of Jesus Christ. St Bonaventure said the Portiuncula is where the Order of Minors began, where the Franciscan charism was born as Francis conceived and gave birth to *the spirit of Gospel truth*. LM 3,1. The Franciscan charism, the life and mission of the brothers, is the proclamation of peace.

In Chapter 3 of The Rule of 1223 Francis describes how the brothers are to go through the world.

*I indeed counsel, warn, and exhort my brothers in the Lord Jesus Christ that when they go through the world, they be not litigious nor contend in words, nor judge others; but that they be **gentle, peaceful, and modest, meek and humble, speaking courteously** to all as is fitting...Into whatsoever house they may enter let them first say: Peace be to this house!*

The five adjectives plus the adverb, courteously, refer to the ability to come out of oneself to enter into peaceful relationships with others, to move from possessing peace to announcing it. The theme of peace is ever present in the mind of Francis. He refers to the brothers as *guests and pilgrims*, having a pilgrim character while moving towards the goal of the future Homeland with God the Father. Most importantly Francis clarifies that peace is a gift in The Blessing to Brother Leo. *...May He turn His countenance to you and give you peace...* The promotion

of peace is essential to a Franciscan life-mission. The peace that Franciscans are called to announce is the good news of the Kingdom of God and not merely limited to social peace. Only those who become children of peace, who have received from God the gift of peace, can generate peace. *Each one has the enemy in his power.* Admonition 10,2. It is necessary to know ourselves, to be attentive to our feelings and inner wounds so not to lose control and through inner healing move towards peace and tolerance. Franciscans must be deeply rooted in God, but at the same time immersed in the life of the world with all its joys and sorrows. Saint Francis says in Admonition 15, *Those people are truly peacemakers who, regardless of what they suffer in this world, preserve peace of spirit and body out of love of our Lord Jesus Christ.* Francis ascertained that peace can only be found in God and that its fruits must mature in the heart of a person before they can be shared with others. Going through the world *as brothers and minors*, without claiming to be masters of anything, abandoning all attitudes of superiority, makes witnesses of the goodness of God, the only true master, and allows them to affirm the dissolution of greed and domination which are often causes of human conflicts.

As you announce peace with your mouth, make sure that greater peace is in your hearts. Let no one be provoked to anger or scandal through you, but may everyone be drawn to peace, kindness, and harmony through your gentleness. L3C 58

The Congregation of the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart (FMSC) sang the closing hymn from Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh, India.

By Colleen Finlon, ofs