



Issue no. 1 – July 2020

### Note from OLOTA Minister

How I Thank God for every Secular Franciscan!  
God is Good! ALL the Time! Launching the first edition of the Newsletter - OLOTA MESSENGER - links all the fraternities together in Western Canada. Did you know there are 25 fraternities across Western Canada, with 445 professed Secular Franciscans! Awesome is our God!  
What is OLOTA? Our Lady of The Angels Fraternity is the Regional fraternity committed to the mission of supporting all the fraternities in Western Canada. Fraternities are top priority! OLOTA Regional Council members listen to you and prayerfully attempt to help/assist fraternities. There are new initiatives which are highlighted in this newsletter. Enjoy the read.

Summer is with us... a beautiful warm Season to rest, restore, rejuvenate. "Be Still and Know that I am God" - those quiet moments to enjoy Jesus more intimately in these summer days! Be Blessed! "A single grateful thought toward Heaven is the most complete Prayer" (author unknown)

Linda Adams, ofs



**Aug 21: ZOOM Workshop: Blessings and Challenges of a Spiritual Assistant or a Spiritual Resource Person.** This workshop is designated for Spiritual Assistants and Spiritual Resource Persons. Meeting ID: 896 7996 9882, Passcode: 071627 Contact Miriam Liem ([miriamliem@gmail.com](mailto:miriamliem@gmail.com)) to register.

**Sep 8: OLOTA Formators Online Course** facilitated by Lynda Black ([ms.999@shaw.ca](mailto:ms.999@shaw.ca)). This course is the same as the National course but offered specifically to OLOTA region Secular Franciscans.

**Sep 8: National Formators Online Course** facilitated by Jewel Jasmins ([jajasmins@gmail.com](mailto:jajasmins@gmail.com))

**Sep 8: National Formators Correspondence Course** facilitated by Donna Dooling ([donnadooling@gmail.com](mailto:donnadooling@gmail.com))

**Sep 12: Spiritual Assistant Online Course** facilitated by Br. Gerry Clyne ([gerryclyne@outlook.com](mailto:gerryclyne@outlook.com))

**Oct 30: Well4Africa Contribution Deadline.** To get more information about this worthwhile project:

<https://mailchi.mp/78ff0434c0bc/well4africa-may-update-meet-the-community>

You can contribute via your fraternity then the fraternity can write a cheque payable to **Our Lady of the Angels** with a memo "Well 4 Africa" and send the cheque to the regional director of

JPIC: **Lourdes Von Burg**  
#3 Alyssum Court  
Osoyoos, BC V0H 1V1

### Franciscan Saints and Feast in August:

- 2: Our Lady of the Angels of Portiuncula
- 4: St. John Baptist Mary Vianney
- 7: Bls. Agathangelus and Cassian
- 11: St. Clare of Assisi
- 14: St. Maximilian Kolbe
- 15: Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

- 17: St. Roch of Montpellier
- 19: St. Louis of Toulouse
- 21: St. Pius X
- 25: St. Louis IX, patron of Third Order Secular

**Blessings and Challenges of a Spiritual Assistant or a Spiritual Resource Person**

On 21<sup>st</sup> of August 2020, all active Spiritual Assistants and Spiritual Resource Persons of OLOTA will have the opportunity for a workshop and meeting by means of ZOOM. Br. Gerry Clyne, who has served OLOTA for many years as the Regional Spiritual Assistant will present on the theme “Blessings and Challenges of a Spiritual Assistant or spiritual Resource Person, from his own lived experiences. The participants as well will share in short, the blessings and challenges of being at the service of the brothers and sisters of St.

Francis of Assisi. The purpose of this ZOOM workshop and meeting is to share our experience and learn from each other how to better serve the brothers and sisters of St. Francis of Assisi whom we have been given by the Lord himself to serve. Here are the times for the different provinces for the ZOOM workshop and meeting:

- 12:30-2:30pm BRITISH COLUMBIA,
  - 1:30-3:30pm ALBERTA, and
  - 2:30-4:30pm MANITOBA/SASKATCHEWAN
- ZOOM Meeting ID: 896 7996 9882  
 Passcode: 071627

Please, do not miss the opportunity, for an opportunity missed is missed forever.

Fr. Manoj Xalxo, ofm – OLOTA Spiritual Assistant



The Gospel for three Sundays in the month of July consecutively speaks about the **Kingdom of God**. Jesus uses different parables; the Mustard Seed (Mt 13:31-32), the Yeast (Mt 13:33), the Hidden Treasure (Mt 13:44), the Pearl of Great Price (Mt 13:45-46), the Dragnet (Mt 13:47-50), the Household Treasures (Mt 13:52), and the Sprouting Seed (Mk 4:26-29) to explain about the Kingdom of God to his disciples.

Jesus talks about the Kingdom of God throughout his ministry. It is generally considered to be the central theme of Jesus’ teaching. He began his ministry preaching about it; “The time is fulfilled, and the Kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the Gospel” (Mk 1.15). Kingdom of God also called Kingdom of Heaven, in Christianity, the spiritual realm over which God reigns as king, or is fulfillment of God’s will on earth. It is God’s reign through God’s people and over God’s place (creation). So, it’s about the reign of God or Kingship of God. It is the vision of the world reordered around the powerful love God in Christ. It is a new world-order, in heaven and on earth, produced by the revolutionary changes brought about Jesus’ fulfillment of the Old Covenant in his life, death, resurrection and ascension. It is wherever Christ is acknowledged, where his subjects are saved, where his enemies are vanquished and where his ways are obeyed. It is anywhere or anytime or anyone whom Jesus Christ exercises lordship. It’s the king reigning in hearts, minds and kingdom is built on grace and advances with

compassion. Therefore, in this Kingdom of God, the Throne is the Cross, Crown is the thorns, Rules are the Commandments, and the Citizens of the kingdom are those who live by the Gospel.

Here is a beautiful explanation about the Kingdom of God given by Gerald Darring (St. Louis University: Center for Liturgy): **The Kingdom of God is a Space.** It exists in every home where parents and children love each other. It exists in every region and country that cares for its weak and vulnerable. It exists in every parish that reaches out to the needy. **The Kingdom of God is a Time.** It happens whenever someone feeds a hungry person, or shelters a homeless person, or shows care to a neglected person. It happens whenever we overturn an unjust law, or correct an injustice, or avert a war. It happens whenever people join in the struggle to overcome poverty, to erase ignorance, to pass on the Faith. The Kingdom of God is in the past (in the life and work of Jesus of Nazareth); it is in the present (in the work of the Church and in the efforts of many others to create a world of goodness and justice); it is in the future (reaching its completion in the age to come). **The Kingdom of God is a Condition.** Its symptoms are love, justice, and peace. Jesus Christ is king! We pray today that God may free all the world to rejoice in his peace, to glory in his justice, to live in his love.

As the world continues to suffer from Covid-19 pandemic, let us reflect on the explanation about the Kingdom of God by Gerald Darring and check for ourselves if we have such Kingdom that God wants us to build around us and see if we have the symptoms of the Kingdom of God in our life. We all want a better world to live but do we contribute towards the better world is the question that each one of us need to ask. “Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added unto you” (Mt 6.33).

Fr. Manoj Xalxo, ofm – OLOTA Spiritual Assistant

## SOCIAL CORNER

### Photos of BC Coastal ZOOM Chapter of Mats in June 2020:

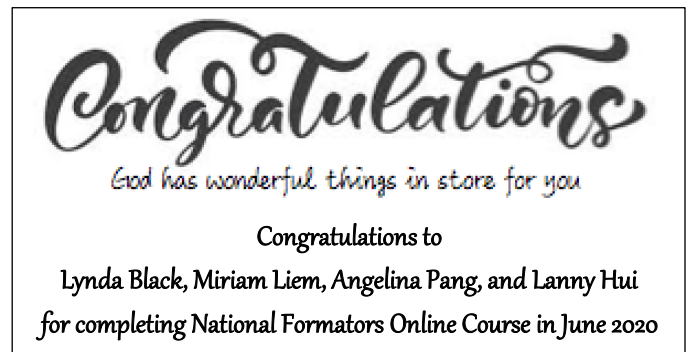


Photo: ZOOM OLOTA Regional Council Meeting in June 2020





**Photos of Formation in June: St. Padre Pio, Red Deer, AB**



The month of August they will receive an article entitled *St. Clare of Assisi Mother and Model for all Franciscans*. Also, will be enclosed the *Litany of St. Clare* which I will ask everyone to say at 7 p.m. on her Feast Day. Although we are not together, we can share prayer from our homes Covid-19 has not made our life easy. The one word I learn through all this is gratitude for my brothers and Sisters and for my vocation. Blessings to all, Yvonne Armstrong.

**Photos of Picnic in July: St. Anthony of Padua, Maple Ridge, BC**



*Greetings from St. Elizabeth of Hungary Fraternity Saskatoon, Saskatchewan*  
Hope everyone is doing well and playing safe. Even though we cannot meet together we can telephone and e-mail to keep in touch. I always tell my brothers and sisters: this is the longest retreat I have been on (ha ha). Everyone in our Fraternity, who is not on e-mail, receive a small package at the end of each month with a note ask how they are doing and is reminded that they are loved. The envelope contains a short article a prayer and a quote for the month. Those Brothers and Sisters on e-mail get the same information.