



Issue no. 12 – June 2021

## Message from our Regional Minister

JUNE is the month where the Church calls us to reverence the most Sacred Heart of Jesus. June brings to my mind the story of Blessed Carlo Acutis, a teenager, who loved Jesus and searched out all he could find on the Eucharist. Blessed Carlo would say “Jesus is my Friend and the Blessed Eucharist is my Highway to Heaven”. Blessed Carlo lived every moment to please God. Even though he was a teenager, with a knack for computers, his daily living had a dynamic influence on all whom he encountered. He said electronic connections was no substitute for the genuine relationships that get developed with meeting, speaking directly to people with love and a compassionate heart. Indeed, Blessed Carlo is known as One of God’s Originals.... you may to research out the fuller story of this saint.

Question: Is Jesus my Best Friend? Do I know that how I speak to others or treat others is how I speak to or treat Jesus?

A few highlights from the recent May 28-29th OLOTA Meeting:

- Preparations for the Regional Elections continue: date, venue, speaker confirmed: May 5-8,2022 at FCJ Centre in Calgary, with Friar Michael Perras.
- Resolution Committee will virtually host an information session for fraternities to understand Resolutions, facilitated by Marie Semenoff.
- Young Adult Retreat is being planned late August at Mt. St. Francis...for more information contact David Bouchard.
- JPIC Workshop (virtual) is planned for early October, with Sr. John Marie Sullivan as guest speaker. More information, contact Lou Von Burg, Director, JPIC
- Next Regional Council Meeting is scheduled end of October, 2021 to be held at Mt St. Francis, Cochrane, Alberta.
- *Instrumentum Laboris*: THANK YOU to each fraternity that provided ideas, issues, comments.

A summary from OLOTA was submitted to National Fraternity.

- National Commission on Restructuring will present its Report May, 2022 at the National Chapter of Elections.
- Check out the website for this year’s young peoples’ winners of the Poster/Essay Contest. Some very creative artwork!
- Did you see our Vintage Secular Franciscans pictured in May edition? Watch for more stories and photos of our Pillars of Fraternities profiled in this edition.

Have a Blessed Summer.... most fraternities will be taking a break over July-August, regrouping in September with retreats, chapter of Mats, workshops. Whatever you plan to do for your Franciscan members will be Servant Leadership in action. Blessings to all....

Peace and joy,  
Linda Adams, ofs



## July 2, 2021 at 7pm BC/8pm AB/9pm MB Vespers and Crown Rosary

Join us at ZOOM:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86486098310?pwd=R1V0Z3EvdWMraG1PTTYxb1p1WIIvQT09>

Meeting ID: 864 8609 8310

Passcode: 741246

Or, call any of the following numbers from any phone and enter the meeting ID and passcode.

AB: 587 328 1099 BC: 778 907 2071

MB: 204 272 7920

When using telephone, press \*6 to mute/unmute and press \*9 to raise hand.

## **August 15, 2021: Deadline to submit registration for online OLOTA Formators Course**

Are you interested in learning more about guiding and animating OFS Formation? Are you a permanent professed member of OFS? Then consider registering for the OLOTA online Formators course. OLOTA Formators Online Course begins in September 2021. The purpose of the course is to equip formators with a framework of OFS formation and applied skills to facilitate initial and ongoing formation in local fraternities. The online course lasts 6 months (break in December) and begins in September 2021 and ends in March 2022. It consists of 6 modules (through the OLOTA website) and three ZOOM meetings (September, January, March). Each module has a variety of course material: readings, YouTube visuals etc. Participants should be able to dedicate a minimum of 4 to 5 hours per month to complete pre-reading of course material, completion of monthly assignments in online postings and to participate in online group discussions. Early course enrollment is required to complete the mini training by OLOTA Webmaster Lanny Hui at [lanny.hui@gmail.com](mailto:lanny.hui@gmail.com) to navigate through the Moodle website. Completed registration forms should be emailed to the course facilitator Lynda Black at [ms.999@shaw.ca](mailto:ms.999@shaw.ca) by **August 15, 2021**.

### **Franciscan Saints and Feast in July Month of the Sacred Heart of Jesus**

1. Feast of the Precious Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ
2. Feast of the Visitation of Our Lady
3. [Bl. Maria Ana Fontcuberta, TOR](#)

### **Message from our Regional Spiritual Assistant**

#### **Let us not abandon Jesus because of Judas**

Jesus asked the twelve, “Do you also wish to go away?” Simon Peter answered him, ‘Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.’ Jesus answered them, ‘Did I not choose you, the twelve? Yet one of you is a devil.’ He was speaking of Judas son of Simon Iscariot, for he, though one of the twelve, was going to betray him” (Jn 6:67-71).

The recent horrific discoveries of the unmarked graves (children’s remains) on the sites of the former Residential Schools in Kamloops and Saskatchewan have once again opened up the wounds and the pains of the Indigenous People of Canada. Right now, people in general are mostly angry with the Church for the part she played in the Residential Schools. We are taken aback, questioning whose fault it is - is it the fault of the Government in establishing the Residential Schools and implementing the policies or is it the fault of the Church for cooperating to manage the schools. Personally, I have very basic knowledge about the origin and purpose of the Residential Schools in Canada. But what I know for sure is that the evil that has happened in the past is unacceptable and

4. [40 Martyrs of China, OFMs and ofss](#)
5. [Bl. Ignace Falzon, ofs](#)
6. [St. Maria Goretti, Cord bearer](#)
7. [Bl. Oddino Barotti, ofs](#)
8. [St. Elizabeth of Portugal, ofs](#)
9. [St. Veronica Giuliani, Capuchin religious](#)
10. [8 Martyrs of Damascus, OFMs](#)
11. [11 Martyrs of Holland, OFMs](#)
12. [Sts. Geoffrey and Joachim, OFMs](#)
13. [St. Francis Solano, OFM](#)
14. [St. Bonaventure, OFM Doctor of the Church](#)
15. [Bl. Bernard de Baden, ofs](#)
16. Our Lady of Mount Carmel; [St. Marie-Magdalen Postel, TOR](#)
17. Bl. Pierre De Foligno, ofs
18. St. Camillus de Lellis, had been a tertiary before founding or joining another religious Institute
19. St. Vincent de Paul, had been a tertiary before founding or joining another religious Institute
20. St. Jerome Emilien, had been a tertiary before founding or joining another religious Institute,
21. [St. Laurent de Brindes, OFM Cap](#)
22. [Bl. Angelina of Marciano, TOR](#)
23. [Bl. Louise de Savoie, OSC](#)
24. Bl. Modestin de Jesus-Marie, OFM
25. Bl. Antoine Lucci, Bishop, OFMConv
26. St. Anne, mother of the Blessed Virgin Mary
27. [Bl. Marie-Magdalene Martinengo, Capuchin religious](#)
28. Bl. Marie-Therese of the Infant Jesus, Capuchin religious
29. [Bl. Alphonse de l’Immaculee, TOR](#)
30. [St. Leopold de Castelnovo, OFM Cap](#)
31. St. Ignatius of Loyola, had been a tertiary before founding or joining another religious Institute



shows that we as Humans and as Christians have failed to live like the creatures created in the image and likeness of God's Son. Even though individually we may not have been directly involved with what happened, nevertheless, it has brought a bad name for the Church as a universal religious institution. The entire universal Church is blamed for it and that is understandable as we call ourselves one holy Catholic Church. So, any good or evil carried out by the members of the Church affects the universal Church to varying degrees; and this good or evil also has the potential to either build our life or break it all together. God has created us good and in return only expects good from us. God always does good things for us to grow whereas the devil always does evil things to destroy us and to take us away from God.

At this troubled time, I would like to remind ourselves; who is the Church? Each individual is. Who has called you to be a member of the Church? It is Jesus who has called and chosen you to be a member of His Body, the Church. We may come across people who are indignant against the Church as an institution, or are angry with how situations have been handled in the past, or even those who are ashamed or not at ease of practicing and associating with the Christian or Catholic faith anymore, who are thinking of leaving the Church and joining some other groups and threatening vandalism, etc.; but whatever is going on in the Church and in our world, "Let us not abandon Jesus because of Judas." It's not fair or even sensible on our part to abandon Jesus because some act like Judas in our world and in our Church, betraying Him and committing sins against humanity. Jesus says, "You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit-fruit that will last-and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you" (Jn 15:16). We may have failed to live up to our calling and to bear fruits, yet Jesus loves us as we are but rebukes us for our sins. Jesus never abandons us even though we sin. He wants us to repent and journey with Him to be the best sons and daughters of His Father. He wants us to follow the **WAY**, the **TRUTH** and the **LIFE** that He preached and lived on earth so that this world will be a better place for all to live. It's time to turn the shame that we are going through to being instead a witness of the Real Church (we are) in this troubled time. Do not wait for the opportune time which may never come but each and every moment is the God-given time to be the best version of ourselves that God intended us to be.

We are always concerned about our own master plan for life and are busy working hard to fulfill that plan for our own happiness on this earth, which isn't bad. It's good to have such plans in place but we also need to pause for a while and reflect, and seek out the master plan God has made for us, which is to share eternal life with Him. It's time to let Him take control of our lives, allow Him to lead and guide us to greener pastures as the Good Shepherd who laid down His life for the sheep. "Consider, O human being, in what great excellence the Lord God has placed you, for He created and formed you to the image of His beloved Son according to the body and to His likeness according to the Spirit. And all creatures under heaven serve, know, and obey their Creator, each according to its own nature, better than you" (Admonition of St. Francis of Assisi-5). God has placed us in much greater excellence than all other creatures. Still, all creatures "serve, know and obey" the creator better than us.

Considering our highest excellence, we should have been serving God more than all other creatures. But the opposite is the case. What a shame! In other words, St. Francis is shaking and waking us up with the challenging question, "why are you still late?" Better late than never. It is time to start.

Fr. Manoj Xalxo, OFM

## **Social Corner**

### **Long-time Franciscans at San Damiano Fraternity, Salmon Arm, BC**

Over 100 years of leadership and service...

San Damiano Fraternity in Salmon Arm, BC boasts several long time Secular Franciscans. Among the longest professed are 4 in particular who have served as leaders and formators, who have founded fraternities, and lived their call to holiness in the Secular Franciscan order.

Mabel Fiore, who will be 94 this summer, often says she has been Franciscan all her life, but only discovered the Franciscans in Penticton. Here, at St Anthony's Fraternity, she was professed in 1982. When Mabel and her husband moved to Salmon Arm, she gathered friends and founded the San Damiano Fraternity, which was canonically established in 1994. She served as minister in the Salmon Arm Fraternity and later as regional vice minister for interior BC. Mabel's vocation has been her life, and the Franciscans her family.

Madeleine Sevigny "joined the Franciscans when searching and troubled. It helped her and brought her closer to God, like coming home." In 1995 she was professed in Chase BC, into San Damiano Fraternity. When her family moved, she joined the Magnificat fraternity in Creston for a few years. Then returned to the Salmon Arm area and San Damiano fraternity where she has served on council as minister, treasurer and formation director for many years.

Peggy Sikora, also professed in 1995 into San Damiano Fraternity has spent most of her life in the Salmon Arm area. She, too, has taken her turn on council as secretary, treasurer and minister. Peggy says "When I joined, I was looking for something more than I had. I liked the idea of simplicity. Can't say I stuck to it entirely, because I'm a 'pack rat'. The companionship and other's ideas were good."

Lillian Novotny was professed into the Fraternity of Mary Queen of Peace, Carlsruhe, Ontario in 1979. When the family moved to British Columbia, Lillian and husband Mike spread seeds. The Magnificat Fraternity was established in Creston, BC, in 1985. Lillian served in various positions on council. 1998 saw the Novotnys move to Vernon and transfer to San Damiano Fraternity. Lillian continued in servant leadership roles. "Being Franciscan has helped to keep me on track in my quest for authentic humility and a simple life style."

Mabel 39 years, Madeleine 26 years, Peggy 26 years, Lillian 42 years, - 4 secular Franciscans, 134 years of following God's call to love and serve. How good is our God!

### **Possibilities of improving fraternal life**

Lately, I have been thinking about my brothers and sisters and when I will be able to get together with them face to face. I remember reading once that a community is not only about being together but it is also about life. Our Franciscan Fraternities are about life and life is about relationships. It is wonderful to meet together once a month in a fraternity but we need to ask ourselves whether we need to look for other ways to deepen our relationships with other fraternity members. Perhaps, during our fraternity meeting, we could discuss ways to reach out and improve the fraternal life within our fraternities.

Blessings, Yvonne Armstrong, ofs  
St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Saskatoon, SK