



Issue no. 13 – July 2021

Message from our Regional Minister

Summer is flying by... Days are getting shorter... Dawn of the nights are gaining length. "God is my Lord, My All" was the prayer of St. Francis. No changing situations or seasons deterred St. Francis as he trusted in God Almighty. Trust and Faith in God were pillars of strength and courage that filled the heart of St. Francis. May the needs of all OFS be met by God, from the wellspring of love and care from the Divine and Merciful Heart of Jesus. God desires to meet our every situation with His Goodness. There is no rationing of God's Blessings. Open our hearts to receive. May the balance of Summer be filled with Peace as we sense autumn on the horizon! More on unfolding plans by OLOTA in the next edition.

Peace and joy,
Linda Adams, ofs



Sat., Aug 7, 2021 at 7pm BC/8pm AB/9pm MB Vespers and Crown Rosary

Join us at ZOOM:

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

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 to navigate through the Moodle website. [Completed registration forms](#) should be emailed to the course facilitator Lynda Black at ms.999@shaw.ca by **August 15, 2021**. Also, other formats are available:

- **French Correspondence version**
Facilitated by Francoise Malbouef, ofs
Email: fmalboeuf@sympatico.ca
Format: correspondence or email and 3 Group Zoom tele/videoconferences
- **English Correspondence version** Facilitated by Catherine Payne, ofs
Email: catherinepayne279@gmail.com
[Registration form](#) deadline: **September 1, 2021**
Format: correspondence or email and 3 Group Zoom tele/videoconferences
- **English Online version**
Facilitated by Jewel Jasmins, ofs
Email: jajasmins@gmail.com
[Registration form](#) deadline: **September 1, 2021**
Format: Online version using a Moodle platform and 4 Group Zoom videoconferences

Servant Leadership in Gospel Living
YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT RETREAT
Aug 27 - 29, 2021
Mount. St. Francis Retreat Centre, Cochrane, Alberta
[Mount St. Francis - Mount St. Francis Retreat \(mountstfrancis.ca\)](http://MountSt.Francis-MountSt.FrancisRetreat(mountstfrancis.ca))

Link: [Info, Schedule and Registration form](#)

Message from our Director of Youth

HELLO TO ALL OLOTA SECULAR FRANCISCANS!
I hope you are enjoying a great summer with family and friends! The OLOTA Franciscan Youth Web Page has been updated for the Summer. You can check out a Special Prayer to St. Joseph written by Nathalie Dumas of St. Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal, Montreal, PQ. Nathalie is delighted that her prayer will appear in the Franciscan Youth Web Page and is giving us permission to publish it in our Summer Edition. Ritz the Cat is back again in the Kid's Corner with his thoughts about Brother Gerry's move to Montreal and how he expects to adjust to the loss of his friend!

Peace and All Good, Catherine McNiff, ofs

Franciscan Saints and Feast in August Month of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

1. St. Alphonse de Liguori, had been a tertiary before founding the Redemptorist Order
2. [Our Lady of the Angels of the Portiuncula, Plenary Indulgence possible by visiting a church or chapel of the Franciscan 1st Order](#)
3. St. Pierre-Julien Eymard, had been a tertiary before founding the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament
4. [St. Dominic, Cordbearer](#)
5. Bl. Marie-Francoise de Jesus, TOR
6. Transfiguration of Our Lord Jesus Christ
7. [Bl. Agathange de Vendôme and Cassian de Nantes, OFM Cap](#)
8. [St. Jean-Marie Vianney, ofs](#)
9. Bl. Marie-Marguerite of the Sacred Heart, TOR
10. [St. Beatrice de Silva, OSC](#)
11. [Bl. Innocent XI, ofs](#)
12. [St. Clare of Assisi, OSC, Foundress of the Poor Clares, Plenary Indulgence for Tertiaries \(Renewal of Engagements\)](#)
13. [Bl. Novellon de Faenza, ofs](#)
14. [St. Maximilien-Marie Kolbe, OFMConv](#)
15. Feast of the Assumption of Our Lady
16. [Bl. Francis Cichi of Pesaro, ofs](#)
17. [St. Roch of Montpellier, ofs](#)
18. [Bl. Louis Loir OFM Cap and Companions](#)
19. [St. Jean Eudes, had been a tertiary before founding the Congregation of Jesus and Mary](#)
20. [St. Louis of Anjou, OFM](#)
21. [St. Jeanne-Francoise de Chantal, ofs](#)
22. Feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary
23. [Bl. Bernard of Offida, OFM Cap](#)
24. [St. Emilie de Vialar, TOR](#)
25. [St. Louis IX, King of France, Patron of Franciscan Third Order Seculars, Plenary Indulgence for tertiaries and cordbearers](#)
26. [Bl. Pedro de Benisa, OFM Cap](#)
27. [St. Joseph Calasanz, Priest, Cordbearer](#)
28. [St. Junipero Serra, OFM](#)
29. Bl. Jean de Perouse, OFM
30. [Bl. Juvenal Ancina, ofs](#)
31. [Bl. Aurelio de Vinalesa, OFM Cap](#)

Message from our Regional Spiritual Assistant



On one occasion, St. Teresa of Calcutta visited a well-run nursing home where good food, medical care and other facilities were offered to the elderly. As she moved among the elderly, she noticed that none of them smiled unless she touched them and smiled at them first. She also noticed that many of them kept glancing expectantly towards the door while listening to her. When she asked one of the nurses why this was so, she was told: "They are looking

for a visit from someone related to them. But, except for an occasional visit, birthday gift or a get-well card, this never happens.”

The scripture readings on the first World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly, invite us to show concern, mercy and compassion for each other, invite us to become humble instruments in God’s hands by sharing our blessings with our needy brothers and sisters. St. Paul reminds the people of Ephesus, having been baptized in Christ, they have the same Father, and therefore they all are brothers and sisters, forming one family of God. He lays great stress on Christian unity which is the essence of the faith. If the people preserve this unity, they will prove themselves worthy of their Christian vocation, and fraternal love and peace will reign among them. So, he begs the people of Ephesus to live according to the Christian faith, live with the virtues of humility, patience and bearing with one another’s shortcomings.

We live in a world together with others before God. Relationships are an important part of being human. The pandemic has isolated the grandparents and the elderly from their families, from their loved ones. But for sure they are not isolated from Jesus, as His promise is “I am with you always” (Mt 28:20). A man brought to Elisha twenty loaves of barley and fresh ears of grain in his sack (2 Kings 4:42-44). And a boy gave to Jesus five loaves of bread and two fish (Jn 6:1-15). They shared their food with others. They did not worry about their own needs but were willing to give up whatever little they had for the good of others, knowing that was the best thing to do. Like the man and the little boy, grandparents and the elderly offer everything they can for the good of their families and they do it out of love. Divine intervention and human cooperation resulted in a miracle; a crowd of people were fed to the full. They also teach us how to satisfy the deeper hunger of our life. More than the hunger for food, humanity today is also challenged to satisfy the deeper hunger in life, for love, mercy, forgiveness, companionship, peace, and fulfillment. Truly, it is in giving that we receive no doubt that they enjoy heavenly bliss. Hence, both incidents show us the great love and interest of God in His children. Miracles can happen in our life too. For Jesus to work miracles in our lives, we need to provide our share of bread and fish. It may be meager, but it does not matter. Only when we do what we can, Jesus will do what we can’t. Pope Francis says, even the most impoverished and frail of us possesses those two fishes of love and prayer. To pray is a vocation accessible to all. The Pope quotes Benedict XVI when speaking of prayer as a specific mission of the elderly: “the prayer of the elderly can protect the world and help it perhaps more incisively than the toil of so many. Your prayer is a most precious resource: it is a lung of which the Church and the world cannot be deprived, especially at this time, your intercession for the world and for the Church is not in vain, but shows everyone the serene confidence of having a firm foothold”. Pope Francis also emphasized that the vocation of the Third Age is to "guard the roots, transmit the faith to young people and take care of the little ones".

The grandparents of Jesus, Saints Joachim and Anne were prayerful, generous and grateful people. They were righteous in the eyes of God. Being childless they were insulted and laughed at by their neighbors. Their life was considered useless. They persevered in prayer and only after twenty years of marriage were blessed with a child. They were generous parents; they dedicated some portion of their wealth and resources to help the poor and the needy. They were grateful to God, and dedicated their child to His service. The Blessed Virgin Mary was a blessing not only to them but to the whole world. Grandparents and the elderly have these virtues which young ones need to appreciate. The young generation has the unique opportunity to learn from the lived experience of the grandparents and the elderly. It’s said, it’s good to give a bouquet of flowers when a person is alive, rather than when the person is dead and gone. Let us remember, *“Alone I can say but together we can talk. Alone I can enjoy but together we can celebrate. Alone I can smile but together we can laugh. That’s the beauty of human Relations. We are nothing without each other.”*

Fr. Manoj Xalxo, OFM

Social Corner

It is summer and gardening time.

Time for gardeners to plant, fertilize, cultivated and seed.

Is that not like our Franciscan Vocation?

The seed of our vocation is planted.

Our vocation is fertilized by ongoing formation.

Then, we are cultivated by our brothers and sisters of our fraternities and the people we meet along the garden path. At the end of the planting season, we become daisies of the garden of life.

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