



Issue no. 19 – February 2022

Message from our Regional Minister

“My prayer for you is that you will overflow more and more with love for others and at the same time keep on growing in spiritual knowledge and insight” (Phil 1:9)
February flooded our days with the breaking of winter and signs of a new Spring is spring up. March brings Ash Wednesday and the beginning of forty days of our Lenten Journey; a Blessed Season for spiritual reflection and for deepening one’s intimate and personal relationship with Jesus. Recalling how Jesus suffered and was crucified on the Cross to bring Salvation for all. Recalling Jesus, at His final breath, He prayed *“Father, forgive them for they know not what they do”* (Lk 23:34).

Forgiveness, mercy and grace were released that terrible day for our hearts to be renewed. Our OFS Rule calls for every Franciscan to witness Jesus and his love to those that God brings into our lives. This Lent season maybe a blessed opportunity for fraternities to review and reflect on the Rule of our order, for we are brothers and sisters of penance, motivated by the dynamic power of the Gospel conforming our thoughts and deeds to those of Christ, by a radical interior change called conversion (Rule 7).

The next meeting of your OLOTA Regional Council is scheduled for Saturday, May 14th.... if you have any concerns to be discussed, please send them to me. Am always available to you at email yukon106@shaw.ca or telephone 1-250-493-6246. I would be delighted to join with you at your fraternity gatherings.... link me in and I will be there to answer questions or to pray with you. It would my Blessed privilege to join you. May God’s Grace flood your hearts as we commence our Lenten Journey together.

Fraternally yours...
Linda Adams, ofs

Upcoming Events

**Mar 5, 2022 at 3pm BC/4pm AB/5pm 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.

Sat., Mar 19, 2022 at 11pm BC / 12pm AB / 1pm MB: BC Coastal Chapter of Mats.

See attached poster for details. Join us at ZOOM:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89055088382?pwd=N2VLMjFLdTNGMTVmT29xUHRtV3ZFUT09>

Meeting ID: 890 5508 8382

Passcode: 379229

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.

Sat., Apr 2, 2022 at 12:30pm BC / 1:30pm AB / 2:30pm MB: BC Interior Chapter of Mats

Join us at ZOOM:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89638916492?pwd=b3Z4cjhlYU9xNW9NTDQwd25xekptQT09>

Meeting ID: 896 3891 6492

Passcode: 864526

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.

6th FINE ARTS & POSTER CONTEST 2022

Theme: DIALOGUE & THE CULTURE OF ENCOUNTER

More than 800 years ago Saint Francis of Assisi followed Jesus and lived His Gospel. He saw God in the dignity of all persons, especially the leper, the poor and those who were suffering. He respected people of other religions and dialogued with the Muslim Sultan in 13th Century Egypt. By his humility and kindness, Saint Francis showed people how to reach out to one another.

Today Pope Francis echoes the words of Saint Francis in his Encyclical “Fratelli Tutti” or “Brothers and Sisters All.” He reminds us that society will only have a future if we too, learn to dialogue and develop a Culture of Encounter as Saint Francis did in the 13th Century.

Pope Francis teaches us the way to dialogue by approaching, speaking to, listening to and looking at the other person. In this way we come to know and understand one another, finding common ground and accepting our differences. When we dialogue, we recognize the other person’s right to be himself or herself. This Culture of Encounter will lead to a genuine and lasting peace in society.

Contest Information & Entry Forms Available at Your Fraternity Minister.

You can also find entry forms on Our Lady of The Angels Regional Council Website at www.olota.org

Deadline for entries: April 8, 2022

– Catherine McNiff, ofs

Message from our Director of JPIC

Please respond to the urgent appeal from Pope Francis
My heart aches greatly at the worsening situation in Ukraine. Despite the diplomatic efforts of the last few weeks, increasingly alarming scenarios are opening up. Like me, many people all over the world are feeling anguish and concern. Once again, the peace of all is threatened by partisan interests. —

I would like to appeal to those with political responsibility to examine their consciences seriously before God, who is the God of peace and not of war; who is the Father of all, not just of some, who wants us to be brothers and not enemies. I pray that all the parties involved refrain from any action that would cause even more suffering to the people, destabilising coexistence between nations and bringing international law into disrepute.

And now I would like to appeal to everyone, believers and non-believers alike. Jesus taught us that the diabolical senselessness of violence is answered with God’s weapons, with prayer and fasting. I invite everyone to make next 2 March, Ash Wednesday, a Day of Fasting for Peace. I encourage believers in a special way to dedicate themselves intensely to prayer and fasting on that day.

Message from our Spiritual Assistant

Be-attitudes vs. Me-attitudes

The word “beatitude” means “blessedness” in a double sense: both enjoying God’s favor and enjoying true or supreme happiness. Beatitudes reveal God’s plan for our eternal happiness in the life to come. A person learns to live the beatitudes by practicing, with the aid of God’s grace and by being empowered by the Holy Spirit bears worthy fruits. Matthew’s Gospel has the first beatitude as “Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven” (5:3). It’s the poverty of spirit that leads us to the right relationship with God. The one who is poor in spirit knows that God exists. That person desires, thirsts, depends on God and absolutely knows that one cannot exist and do anything without God.

Where does true happiness come from? Wealth, health, power, and influence are not the sources of true happiness. Prophet Jeremiah says, “Cursed is the one who trusts in mere mortals” (17:5). It would mean, one trusts in self, money, possession and powerful people. Simply said, one says, there is No Need of God in my life. I call it **Me-attitudes** that says I, Me and

May the Queen of Peace preserve the world from the madness of war.

Please listen and read to the following links:

- [Decolonization is for Everyone](#)

- [Pope Francis: Peace as a Journey of Hope: Dialogue, Reconciliation and Ecological Conversion](#)

Well4Africa

Regional Voluntary Fundraising Campaign

Peace and greetings to all of you Brothers and Sisters of St. Francis and St. Clare! I received a 2021 report about fundraising campaign Well4Africa for the National JPIC Team in which the OLOTA joined in the fundraising campaign.

Our local fraternities contributed a total of \$ 3,230 for Mutemwa Water Project at the Leprosy Care Center in Zimbabwe. All fraternities in Canada have raised in total of \$ 20,740.

Virginija Mickute, OFS National Minister, International Councilor of the OFS Lithuania, and main coordinator of the social initiative Well4Africa wrote a message: “May the Lord bless our brothers and sisters in Canada for their incredible generosity.”

This year, the National JPIC team is organizing a fundraising campaign for the same project.

The Regional Council approved voluntary contribution from any local fraternities in our region. Deadline is May 10, 2022. Please contribute via your local fraternity treasurer; the treasurer then issues a cheque payable to OLOTA then mail the cheque to

Lourdes von Burg
3 Alyssum Court
Osoyoos, B.C.
VOH 1V1

For more information, please contact me at 250 495-2477 or letecia78@telus.net

Thank you in advance for your generosity. May we continue to be able to support our brothers and sisters during these difficult times. God bless you all.

Peace and Joy,
Lourdes von Burg, ofs

Mine (other examples as seven deadly sins; pride, greed, lust, envy, gluttony, wrath, and sloth). Me-attitudes trust in self than in God and live in false self-knowledge that acquired possession can make one happy. It's an attitude that absolutely denies the need of God and the other.

True happiness comes from the right relationship with God. It lies in the awareness that we are all children of a loving Heavenly Father and that we will be happy only when we share our blessings with our brothers and sisters in need. Prophet Jeremiah says, "Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, the Lord is what a river is for a tree planted on its bank, source of their life and fruitfulness" (17:7). Jeremiah tells us that true happiness consists in placing our trust in God and in His promises. It is far safer to trust God than to trust ourselves. Jesus trusted His Father at all times.

To lack the necessities of life, to be poor, to be hungry, to be afflicted, to be persecuted and so on, are not good things. God never meant these things for us; sin brought them into the world. Yet, these evils can be turned into stepping stones to enter the kingdom of God. What makes one blessed is not simply poverty or hunger or sadness or suffering for the Faith, but living these in the context of one's commitment to Jesus and spirit of sharing. Beatitudes consist in humble selflessness and compassionate, generous sharing of our blessings with the needy.

It is not easy to keep a right relationship with God and keep trusting Him in times of pain, misery, crises, and Covid-19 pandemic. During these times instead of trusting God and living the **Be-attitudes**, very easily we can give into **Me-attitudes**. Me-attitudes not only weaken but destroy our relationship with God and neighbour. As we are at the threshold of the holy season of Lent, let us examine our life, be aware of Me-attitudes if we have any and then through the help of Lenten observance of prayer, fasting almsgiving uproot them from our life.

Fr. Manoj Xalxo, OFM

Social Corner

From Little Flowers of St. Francis, Kelowna, BC



Hybrid Zoom fraternity meeting



Alice and Linda – celebrating Linda's wedding anniversary



Celebrating Karen as a "friend of St. Francis"

From St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Saskatoon, SK

Let us be thankful to all who serve us

For the past few months, I have thought a lot about the people in my life who serve me such as my doctor, the medical staff at my clinic, the nurse that took care of me when I had my surgery and many others. Despite my anxiety and physical pain, I have been trying very hard to remember to say thanks and I hope this six-letter word bright their day.

As Franciscans, let us make sure those people that God put in our lives receive the roses of gratitude. Thanks to all who read this newsletter.

