



Issue no. 20 – March 2022

## Message from our Regional Minister

*“Breathe in me, O Holy Spirit, that my thoughts may all be holy. Act in me, O Holy Spirit that my work too, may be holy. Draw my heart, O Holy Spirit that I love but what is holy. Strengthen me, O Holy Spirit, to defend all this is holy. Guard me, then O Holy Spirit, that I always may be holy. Amen.”* (Prayer of St. Augustine)

March brings us Spring: new life, new growth, and new light. As we have passed the midpoint of the season of Lent, we are getting ready to meet the Risen Jesus at Easter. Praise the Lord for all His many blessings.

A couple of highlights:

- Regional Council continues to plan its elective chapter on September 16-18, 2022 at the FCJ Retreat and Conference Centre in Calgary. A letter has been sent out to all fraternities, inviting voting delegates to mark their calendars and informing you of two important committees: Nomination Committee and Resolution Committee. In the near days ahead, a further letter will be sent with the registration form that will inform you of the fee for overnighters and the fee for commuters. The guest speaker will be Brother Michael Perras from Mount St. Francis. You will enjoy his joyful personality.
- The National will be hosting their elective chapter middle of July in Quebec City. Details are yet to be received by OLOTA.
- Completed for the National Fraternity Council was the 2021-22 Regional census. Interesting to note our regional has 27 fraternities, celebrating 25 Candidates and 412 Permanently Professed members representing an increase of one over the previous report. Thank you for your diligence to complete the Contribution form that enabled the Census Report to be submitted on schedule.

On Friday, May 25, many of you have joined our Pope Francis as he consecrated the war-torn nations of Russia and Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Let us continue to pray the Rosary faithfully each day for the peace between the two countries. Let us also pray for our Secular Franciscans who are from those nations. Also, I would like to invite you to pray for our

fraternities, some of which are unable to form elected councils at this time.

Appears that God is calling us deeper into Intercessory Prayer as one of our key ministries during this Season of great challenges. Thank you for responding to the call of the Holy Spirit to pray with all your hearts.

Peace and Joy,  
Linda Adams, ofs

## Upcoming Events

**Sat., Apr 2, 2022 at 12:30pm BC / 1:30pm AB / 2:30pm MB: BC Interior Chapter of Mats Speaker: Br. Michael Perras, OFM**

Join us at ZOOM:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89638916492?pwd=b3Z4cjh1YU9xNW9NTDQwd25xekptQT09>

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.

**April 2, 2022 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.

**April 8, 2022 – deadline of 6<sup>th</sup> Fine Arts and Poster Contest 2022**

**CALLING ALL YOUNG ARTISTS, POETS AND WRITERS TO PARTICIPATE IN OUR FABULOUS ANNUAL FRANCISCAN FINE ARTS & POSTER CONTEST!**

## **May 10, 2022 – Well4Africa Fundraising Campaign**

If you would like to participate in the fundraising campaign, 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. V0H 1V1

For more information, please contact Lourdes at 250 495-2477 or [letecia78@telus.net](mailto:letecia78@telus.net)

***IN THIS YEAR'S THEME, POPE FRANCIS ASKS US TO "SPEAK TO, LISTEN TO AND LOOK AT THE OTHER PERSON" SO THAT WE WILL COME TO KNOW AND UNDERSTAND ONE ANOTHER AND LIVE WITH PEACE IN OUR WORLD.***

***CONTEST INFO IS AVAILABLE ON THE OLOTA WEBSITE: [www.olota.org](http://www.olota.org)***

***GOOD LUCK TO ALL CONTESTANTS!***

***CATHERINE MCNIFF***

***OLOTA DIRECTOR OF YOUTH***

## **Lent Reflection**

### **St. Francis and Lent**

St. Francis of Assisi observed Lent with the utmost seriousness. We see his ardent devotion to true repentance in chapter seven of *The Little Flowers of St. Francis of Assisi*.

“Saint Francis, true servant of Christ, was in many ways like Christ himself, given to the world for the salvation of all people. Thus, God willed that Saint Francis conform to the example of his only son Jesus Christ in his choice of twelve companions, as we have seen, in the wondrous mystery of the Sacred Stigmata, and in his Lenten fasting, which he observed in the following manner.

Having been lodged at the house of a faithful follower near the Lake of Perugia during the time of Carnival, Saint Francis was inspired by God to observe Lent that year on one of the islands in the lake. So Saint Francis asked his devoted son, for the love of God, to take him on Ash Wednesday in his boat to the uninhabited island by night, so that no one might see them, which the man did readily out of the great love and devotion he held toward Saint Francis. Bringing with him only two small loaves of bread, Saint Francis enjoined his friend to tell no one that he was there and to come back for him no sooner than Holy Thursday, at which his friend took leave of the island, leaving Saint Francis there by himself.

As there were no houses on the island to be used as shelter, Saint Francis was content to use a large, thick bush overgrown with vines and plants as a kind of den or hut for himself. There he prayed and contemplated heavenly matters, staying there throughout all of Lent without food or drink, eating no more than half of one of the small loaves he had brought with him, and his faithful friend found him on Holy Thursday upon his return to the island. Upon seeing a loaf and a half of bread still untouched, he believed that the saint ate the half loaf he did eat out of sheer reverence for the fasting of the blessed Christ, who ate nothing for forty days and forty nights, wishing to follow the example of Christ's fast but setting aside any temptation to vainglory by eating this half loaf of bread as an act of intentional humility.

Afterward, God began to perform miracles in this place where Saint Francis had observed his Lenten abstinence in such a wondrous fashion. People came to this island, building houses and living there, until finally a town grew up, along with a community house for the friars, and all in this place where Saint Francis observed Lent felt great devotion for him and reverence.

Praise be to Jesus Christ and to his poor servant Francis. Amen.”

## **Social Corner**

Congratulations to the following OFS members who have successfully completed the OLOTA Formators Course:

Theresa Seraphim, ofs	St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Edmonton, AB
Nick Kovacs, ofs	St. Francis of Assisi Vancouver, BC
Sharon Sutherland, ofs	St. Maximillian Kolbe, Red Deer, AB
Carmen Moorhouse, ofs	St. Clare of Assisi, Coquitlam, BC
Lucia Lee, ofs	St. Francis of Assisi, Surrey, BC
Mark Kosacz, ofs	St. Francis of Assisi, Vancouver, BC
Lynne McLoughlin, ofs	St. Padre Pio, Red Deer, AB
Marlene Welch, ofs	St. Mary Calgary Alberta, AB

Congratulations to the following OFS members who have successfully completed the National Formators Course:

Anna May Rabanes	St. Pio, Delta, BC
Carol Bryson	St. Padre Pio, Red Deer, AB
Cathy Ho	St. Francis of Assisi, Vancouver, BC

Cheryl Deagle

St. Padre Pio, Red Deer, AB

Ruth Morrison

St. Padre Pio, Red Deer, AB

**Lindael's Profession - Little Flowers of St. Francis Fraternity, Kelowna**

