



Issue no. 21 – April 30, 2022

## Message from our Regional Minister

April is wonderful! The season of Easter brought forth the awesome celebration of finding the tomb of Jesus to be “empty” ...the disciples confirming by eye witness that Jesus lives! Jesus is risen! Jesus lives today! May we give witness to the world around us that Jesus is lives.

Our hearts continue to burn within us as we joined around the world in the Novena of Divine Mercy. The Mercy and Grace of Jesus flowing freely from His Divine Heart refreshes, strengthens, revives, restores, springs forth new life, spiritually and through all of God’s created. Trees are budding, flowers are bursting into bloom, days are releasing more light, and our hearts are singing with the Joy of knowing Jesus. Is there more? God always has more...God is never limited in pouring forth His constant Blessings.

Secular Franciscans go forth, living out the Joy of Jesus, by sharing His Joy and Peace with whomever comes our way. Secular Franciscans are God’s instruments of Peace, Joy, Love, Hope, Light. Let us continue to share God’s Goodness with our brothers and sisters in the Franciscan Family.

The OLOTA Regional Council will be rounding out its term of elected office in May. The positions will continue in an appointed capacity until the Regional Elections in September. Pray for Holy Spirit to make known to you persons to be nominated for election to form a new Council.... your vote counts. Prayers are important and are heard by our loving God.

Enjoy the new life of the Spring Season. Do you hear the birds singing, do you see the snow leaving, do you see spring birthing new life? Let hearts rise up with Jesus to sing new songs of Joy and Peace.

Rejoice!  
Linda Adams, ofs

## Upcoming Events

**Wednesday, May 11, 2022**

**Lectio: Mary: The Bible and the Mother of God  
6pm BC / 7pm AB / 8pm MB**

Why is Mary so important to Catholics, and why have so many people been devoted to her over the centuries? In this 8-part series, Dr. Brant Pitre examines what the Old and New Testaments, the life of Christ, and the early Church fathers reveal about the life and identity of Mary.

Join Zoom Meeting

Join us at ZOOM:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82444348222?pwd=MjMwdmFIZnFGbmVHeG1FR3pIcWRKUT09>

Meeting ID: 824 4434 8222

Passcode: 352375

**Saturday, May 14, 2022** (note the time!)

**Vespers and Crown Rosary**

**7pm BC / 8pm AB / 9pm MB**

*Due to the regional meeting on the first Saturday in May, the event is moved to the second Saturday.*

Join us at ZOOM:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86486098310?pwd=R1VOZ3EybWVWraG1PTTYxb1p1WllvQT09>

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.

**Saturday, June 18, 2022**

**In-Person Chapter of Mats 9:30am**

**St. Mary’s Catholic Church, Red Deer, AB**

Theme: "Where do we go from here?" lead by Fr. Dan Gurnick, OFM. Please bring your own lunch.

The Chapter of Mats will start at 9.30 am. with Mass at St. Mary's Church celebrated by Friar Dan followed by a continental breakfast and short social time. We will have one half hour talk followed by reflection time and small and large group discussion.

We will have lunch from 12 to 1pm and an opportunity to enjoy a short walk with Fr. Dan. He will then lead us in a "Song Circle" so we are not too sleepy for his second talk, reflection time, small and large group discussion!

Please register by June 15 by contacting

- Sharon Sutherland at [tobysmom@telusplanet.net](mailto:tobysmom@telusplanet.net) or by telephone 403-341-3032 OR
- Catherine McNiff at [catherineofs@gmail.com](mailto:catherineofs@gmail.com) or by telephone/text 403 358 4530

## Message from Our Director of JPIC

*Have you ever thought about how our Father St. Francis feels looking down from heaven on Pope Francis?*

*Don't you think he is feeling overwhelming joy? Do you share that joy? I hope you do!*

*We are in a truly Franciscan moment in the church. Fr. Michael Perry OFM, the minister general of the Friars Minor, describes Pope Francis' encyclical "The Joy of the Gospel" as a Franciscan vision of the Church. I would certainly agree, and point to "Laudato Si" as a Franciscan vision of Catholic engagement with society and the environment.*

*We are fifty years out from Vatican II, and this is the most Franciscan moment in that period. I would argue that we have to go back to before the Protestant Reformation to find a more Franciscan moment in the church! Now this is exciting!*

*Now here's the question: are we as a Franciscan family alert to the present moment? Are we able to follow*

*the Holy Spirit's lead? I am convinced that the future of Franciscan life – religious or lay – looks less like the Little Flowers of St Francis and a lot more like the spirituality of Laudato Si. (Excerpts from Br. Keith Warner's [Laudato Si': the Most Franciscan Papal Encyclical Ever!](#))*

I would like to encourage you to read Br. Keith's entire article by clicking the link above. Also, if you have not, please take your time (either personally or as a fraternity) to read the entire [Laudato Si' Encyclical Letter](#) with [Laudato Si' Study Guide](#) to help you reflect on the conversion we are called to do.

Peace and Joy,  
Lourdes von Burg, ofs

## **St. Francis of Assisi at Easter**

### **An Example of the Table Set on Easter Day at Greccio, How He Presented Himself as a Pilgrim After the Example of Christ.**

On a certain Easter Day the brothers in the hermitage of Greccio set the table more carefully than usual, with white cloths and glassware. The Father came down from his cell and went to the table. He saw that it was elevated and elaborately decorated, but he did not smile at all at that smiling table. He secretly tiptoed away, put on his head the hat of a poor man who was there at the time, and with a staff in hand, went outside. He waited outside at the door, until the brothers had started eating. They were accustomed not to wait for him when he did not come at the usual signal.

As they began to eat, that true poor man cried out at the door: "For the love of the Lord God, give alms to this poor, sick pilgrim!" And the brothers replied: "Come in, man, for the love of Him you invoked." He quickly came in, and showed himself to those dining. You can imagine the surprise the pilgrim provoked in those home-bodies! The beggar was given a bowl and, sitting on the ground by himself, placed his dish on the ashes. "Now," he said, "I am sitting like a Lesser Brother!" And he said to the brothers: "The examples of the Son of God's poverty should move us more than other religious. I saw here a table all prepared and decorated, and recognized it as not the table of poor men who go door to door."

The chain of events proves  
that he was like that other pilgrim who was alone in Jerusalem on that same day.  
And he certainly made the hearts of his disciples burn as he spoke.

(The Francis Trilogy by Thomas of Celano p. 205-206)

## **Social Corner**

### **BC Interior Chapter of Mats**

On April 2, 2022, 25 people from joined the Chapter of Mats via Zoom. We began with sharing updates from each fraternity in BC Interior. After, Br. Michael Perras from Mt. St. Francis gave a reflection on Lent as a shift between winter and spring while looking forward to the glory of summer. He led us in a guided meditation on letting go the burden and last fire of winter and welcoming the seed of spiritual growth. The chapter was recorded and a temporary YouTube link was made available.