



Issue no. 25 – September 30, 2022

Message from our Regional Minister

Hello Brothers and Sisters in Christ, I just came back from the Chapter of Elections a few hours ago. It was precious to see my extended Franciscan family these past few days. I truly feel the fraternal spirit and spiritual nourishments received from different angelic hands as I was offering my service at the beginning of my term. These angelic hands help me serve my brothers and sisters. These angelic hands celebrate Mass and gave me the gift of Eucharist so that I can be one with Jesus. These angelic hands appear as I need guidance. These angelic hands pray quietly for our council members. Many more angelic hands offer love for me in ways I will never know. These angelic hands make me realize that God is truly close at hand. I am not alone. In turn, I am spiritually fed as I am offering my service. My service becomes my prayers offered to you all. I am looking forward to days ahead of surrendering to God and witnessing God's graces and gifts offered to and from my neighbours: all Franciscan brothers and sisters. Progress report to date: we had a transitional ~~meeting~~ gathering* this morning on September 18, 2022 with the previous regional council members. WhatsApp group of council member was created to, hopefully, make the communication among the regional council members effective. We will have a small Zoom gathering once a month for the next three months as a part of transitioning of the new council members. Please pray for all of us, as we would like to focus our ministry to serve you and to feed you spiritually.

Peace and all good, Lanny Hui

**At the 2022 Regional Chapter of Election, Br. Michael suggested at one of his talks that we change the word "meeting" to "gathering" or "hang-out" as the word "meeting" sounds business-like (i.e., boring!).*

Message from your BC Coastal Vice Minister

Hello my name is Lynda Black and at the recent chapter of election in Calgary I had the honour to be elected as Vice Minister for British Columbia Coastal. I am a widow who was professed as a secular Franciscan April 2012. I am a teacher and happy grandmother to three wonderful grandsons (11, 7 and 4). I enjoy walking the dog and playing duplicate bridge. I look forward to serving the fraternities of BC Coastal and working with the sisters and brothers of Our Lady of the Angels

Regional Council to support all the fraternities of Western Canada as we walk together our Franciscan journey.

Save the Dates

**St. Francis Novena Sep 25 – Oct 3, daily
7pm BC / 8pm AB / 9pm MB**

Join us at ZOOM:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86486098310?pwd=R1VOZ3EybWMrG1PTTYxb1p1WllvQT09>

ID: 864 8609 8310

Passcode: 741246

**Vespers and Crown Rosary on Sat. Oct 1, 7pm
BC / 8pm AB / 9pm MB**

Join us at ZOOM:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86486098310?pwd=R1VOZ3EybWMrG1PTTYxb1p1WllvQT09>

ID: 864 8609 8310

Passcode: 741246

Resources For your Fraternity Meetings

[14-minute video: Bless Earth-Life](#)

[From OFS USA: 3 videos from Quinquennial Event in August](#) (transcripts are also available)

[Prayers from Br. Michael Perras' talks during the Chapter of Election September 2022](#)

[Sharing resources: additional prayers during Liturgy of the Hours from St. Maximilian Kolbe and St. Pio Red Deer, AB *new*](#)

PRAYER CORNER

Please pray for:

- our newly elected regional council members
- fraternities having council election in October: St. Padre Pio (Korean) in Calgary, St. Louis and Zellie Martin in Edmonton, St. Clare of Assisi in Coquitlam
- our candidates and inquirers

SPIRITUAL ASSISTANT COURSE

The on-line Spiritual Assistant course is called [A Course for Spiritual Assistants](#). It was created by a committee from the OFS region of Trillium - including one of our National Spiritual Assistants Fr. Peter Knaapen OFM Conv. - and supplemented by the instructor, Br. Gerry Clyne OFM. It is primarily designed for those Secular Franciscans aspiring to become Spiritual Assistants for an OFS fraternity (other than their own). But as the course contains much general material on Franciscan spirituality, it is offered to those who may be interested in taking it for their own spiritual advancement.

The course consists of twelve chapters. At the end of each chapter are questions to reflect on and share with the instructor and the other students. Two chapters are scheduled per month. This course is not academic. Those

who want to take the course should not feel intimidated. It is offered free of charge. The only thing that is required of the students is to put in a good effort.

The course provides the opportunity for Seculars from across Canada to meet online with each other. The sharing of reflections on their mutual love of serving Christ through the Franciscan charism creates friendships and strengthens the sense of belonging to a national Franciscan community. There will be occasional Zoom meetings as well where students get to see those they have been sharing with.

The course will start on Oct. 29 with responses to the first chapter questions due Nov. 12. Please register with Br. Gerry at gerryclyne@outlook.com

Message from our Regional Spiritual Assistant

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time is celebrated as the **World Day of Migrants and Refugees**. The scripture readings on this day stress the **Covenant responsibility** of the rich for the poor, reminding us of the truth that wealth without active mercy for the poor is sin.

Prophet of Social Justice, Amos, time and again, warned the wealthy people of Samaria, that they had riches at the expense of the poor and their wealth had led them to vice, but to no avail. They went on making a show of their wealth, adorning their homes with all sorts of luxuries. They felt secure in their wealth and never thought either of God or for the poor in their midst. Their happiness was short lived, destruction struck their so-called 'Ivory House' and life ended in slavery.

Jesus presents the parable of the rich man. Wealth had made this man utterly selfish and filled him with pride. This man, like the people of Samaria had made his belly his God and feasted sumptuously every day. He too had no thought either of God or for his neighbor. He thought his wealth was enough to take care of him and make him happy. The sin of the rich man is not that he did not do any harm, but that he did not do any good.

Lazarus was utterly destitute, hungry and covered with sores. But one can feel that he kept his dignity and piety intact in spite of it all. He had little to expect from the abundance of food from the rich man's table, yet he kept his trust that God could come to his rescue. Dogs were more merciful to him than rich man. The dogs which licked his sores probably also stole the little bread he got for himself. Dogs in the ancient world symbolized contempt. Enduring the torment of these savage dogs only added to the poor man's miseries and sufferings.

What does the story tell us? It does not teach that rich people are sinners and poor people are saints. Nor is it teaching the existence of heaven and hell. Lesson conveyed by Jesus is that the Pharisees were wrong in thinking that their wealth was a sign of God's reward for their following of the law and rituals. Neither is poverty a sign that the poor people come second in God's love. Their trust in God will not fail them, while those who put their trust in wealth, are in for a rude shock when their end comes.

Augustine of Hippo says, "God made both the rich and the poor. So, the rich and the poor are born alike. You meet one another as you walk on the way together. Do not oppress or defraud anyone. One may be needy and another may have plenty. But the Lord is the maker of them both. Through the person who has, He helps the one who needs - and through the person who does not have, He tests the one who has."

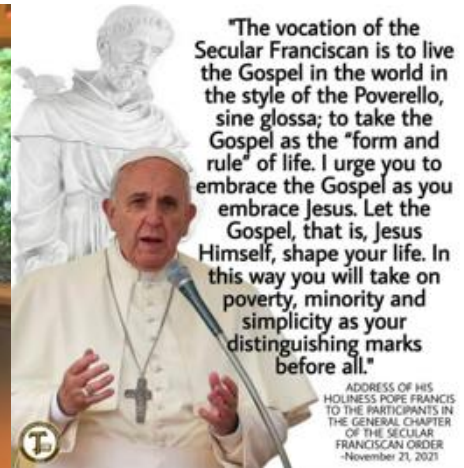
Often wealth causes havoc in the hearts of humans. Jesus knew the heart of humans too well. The rich man treated Lazarus with contempt and indifference, until he found his fortunes reversed at the end of his life! In **God's economy**, those who hold on possessively to what they have, lose it all in the end, while those who share generously receive back many times more than they gave away.

We are not all equal financially, but we do **share a natural and basic obligation to each other**. We have been reminded of that in the Encyclical letters of Pope Francis, 'Laudato Si' (on care for our Common Home) and 'Fratelli Tutti' (on Fraternity and Social Friendship). Recently, representing over 120 countries the young people gathered in Assisi for the **Economy of Francesco**. These young people came to share their ideas and expertise to better the world, through economic systems that reflect the **principles and values of St. Francis of Assisi**. Pope Francis calls on the young people of the Economy of Francesco to work for social, relational and spiritual sustainability, and to recognize the cry of the poor and the cry of the planet.

We all have something to share with our world. God has blessed each one of us with various blessings in forms of time, talents and treasures. For us Franciscans, it is our vocation to embrace the poor, the migrants and refugees who are waiting for a better life. Whatever little we do for the least of these people, we do it for God who is the Creator of us all.

Recently, during the Chapter of Election of Our Lady of the Angels Regional Fraternity of Secular Franciscans, I witnessed lots of blessings in the group present to elect the Council. Lots of good ideas and new enthusiasm among the delegates to serve the least of the society. If we truly live the **principles and values of St. Francis of Assisi** in our world, injustice and inequality will be eradicated. Thus, we can all make our world a better place for all to live.

Social Corner



The feast of St Clare was celebrated by members of San Damiano, Little Flowers of St Francis, and St Pio of Pietrelcina fraternities with a picnic on the closest Saturday, August 13, 2022. It was so good to gather together in person again, especially in the beautiful, spiritual setting of the Carmel of St Joseph near Armstrong BC. We joined the Carmelite Sisters for Mass, said by Fr. Tony Ackerman. Pot luck lunch, music and a reflection on Our Vocation and the Holy Spirit filled the afternoon with joy and laughter.



On Sunday August 28, 2022, St. Francis of Assisi Korean fraternity provided meals and some goods for seasonal workers at St. Luke parish in Maple Ridge.

