



Issue no. 26 – November 1, 2022

## Message from our Regional Minister

As we are transitioning from the old to the new council members at the regional level, the council members are learning their roles and support each other in prayers. We are reminded of our roles to feed our brothers and sisters in the local fraternities and to be present for them when we are needed. When we discern our decisions, we invoke the power of the Holy Spirit so that whatever decisions we make would be for the good of all of our brothers and sisters. Please do not hesitate to let us know how we can serve you better.

Congratulations to those newly elected council members from Little Flowers of St. Francis in Kelowna, St. Padre Pio Korean Fraternity in Calgary, St. Louis and Zellie Martin in Edmonton, and St. Clare of Assisi in Coquitlam. I thank you for your generosity to serve your brothers and sisters in your fraternities. Please remember that you are not alone - you can communicate with previous council members from your fraternity, council members from other fraternities (ask your Vice Ministers for contact info), and of course, your regional council members. Take your time to pray with the rules regularly, familiarize yourself with the general constitutions and have a copy of the brown Ritual of the Secular Franciscan Order and be compassionate with your brothers and sisters in the family. Always seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit: use or create opportunities to foster dialogue and servant leadership within your fraternities. Don't be afraid to ask for help, including from your own fraternities. As best as you can, please include the youth ministry and JPIC in your formation and apostolate. Our regional council members Catherine McNiff (Director of Formation), Dr. Francis Lee (Director of JPIC), and Maritza Chouza (Director of Youth) are here to support you, as needed. Finally, if you have not, please send your newly elected council contact info (name, email address, mailing address, phone number) to Michele Butt at [michele.butt1961@gmail.com](mailto:michele.butt1961@gmail.com) - thank you!

I would like to encourage everyone to communicate not just within your local fraternity, but between fraternities - please say hello to a member from another fraternity as we are all brothers and sisters in the Franciscan family. You can contact your Vice Ministers

to get a phone number or an email or you can also get the contact info (password protected) from [www.olota.org](http://www.olota.org).

Here are some updates:

- In our first meeting, we discussed the budget and the request made by the National fraternity to contribute \$9/member for 387 professed members for the year of 2022. We are grateful for your continued support. Your fraternity can mail a cheque, hopefully by Nov. 15, 2022, payable to *Our Lady of the Angels* to our regional treasurer:

Clemence (Sang Hoon) Jung  
2008 Springer Ave  
Burnaby BC V5B 3M5

- Census and contribution forms are soon to be sent by the end of November or beginning of December.  
- Communication Teams are well in training mode and a Director of Communications will soon be formally appointed by the regional council.  
- Fraternities in Northern Alberta had their pastoral and fraternal visits in mid-October.  
- Please save the dates for the Spiritual Talk on Jan. 7, 2023 and Fraternity Zoom Drop in on Jan. 14, 2023. Details are to follow.

Prayer requests (thank you!):

- For St. Clare Fraternity (Chilliwack, BC) as they are having their chapter of elections soon  
- For the smooth process of canonical establishment of St. Clare Korean Fraternity (Edmonton, AB). Documents were sent to OFM Provincial Minister then to Archbishop of Edmonton.  
- For some fraternities that are due for elections, but may not be able to form a council. Please pray for the graces they need in this challenging time.  
- For our Franciscan brothers and sisters with health challenges.  
- For candidates and inquirers in our local fraternities that they continue to be guided by the Holy Spirit.  
- For the repose of souls of Friar Andre Comtois, OFM and Renato Bernardino, a member of St. Francis of Assisi, Vancouver, BC.  
- For local and regional council members.

Peace and all good,  
Lanny Hui

## Message from our Regional Director of Formation

Hello, my name is Catherine McNiff. I am your new OLOTA Regional Director of Formation. I believe that formation is the basis of our Franciscan Charism as Secular Franciscans and will do my best to serve you well in this position. I live in Sylvan Lake, Alberta - half way between Calgary and Edmonton - glorious in the summer and freezing in the winter! Liam and I have been married for fifty-two years and have three grown children and seven grandchildren. I am now a non-practicing registered nurse/midwife. I had the joy of working mostly with young families during my nursing career.

I was professed as a Secular Franciscan in 2009 at Sacred Heart Church, Red Deer and belong to St. Maximilian Kolbe Fraternity. I was OLOTA Director of Youth for two terms until the Chapter of Elections in September 2022. I have some experience in formation as I took the Formator's Course with Jewel Jasmins, ofs in 2015 and the Spiritual Assistant Course with Doug Hagen, ofs in 2016 while Brother Gerry Clyne was on Sabbatical. I co-taught initial formation for two years after profession and led ongoing formation as minister of my fraternity for two terms until 2021.

Lynda Black, ofs - National Director of Formation and previous OLOTA Director of Formation is orientating me to my new tasks and reminded me to remind you of the following:

- I order the Franciscan Journey books from Smoky Valley, USA and need THREE MONTHS NOTICE to ensure that you will have the supplies you need mailed to you for your Inquirers and Candidates in 2023.

- The same applies to Profession Crosses. OLOTA will provide the Profession Crosses for free (cost \$10) and I will order them in Canada. I will need notice of upcoming professions so I can have them ready for you and mailed to your door a month or so before the profession date.

In closing, I want to share an idea from the Franciscan Friars in Victoria! Their friary chapel holds only about forty people so they decided to move the *Transitus* to their local parish church, St. Patrick's, and extend an invitation to parishioners in surrounding communities. More than seventy people, including members of Little Portion Fraternity, attended the ceremony presented by the friars and enjoyed lunch and fellowship in the church hall afterwards. It was a great way to share our love of Francis and Clare, the spirituality of our charism and the *Transitus of St. Francis* with all our brothers and sisters.

Peace and joy to all of you!

Catherine McNiff, ofs  
[catherineregionalofs@gmail.com](mailto:catherineregionalofs@gmail.com)  
phone/text 403-358-4530

## Save the Dates

**Vespers and Crown Rosary** on Sat. Nov 5, 7pm  
BC/8pm AB/9pm MB

ZOOM link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86486098310?pwd=R1VOZ3EvdWMrG1PTTYxb1p1WllvQT09>

ID: 864 8609 8310 Passcode: 741246

**Zoom DROP IN** on Sat. Jan 14, 1pm BC/2pm  
AB/3pm MB (for one hour)

ZOOM link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82134049106?pwd=d2lXWVtB5d3Z0M2U3Q3F5enhM3YxQT09>

ID: 821 3404 9106 Passcode: 13417

**The Role of the Blessed Virgin in the Secular Franciscan Life** on Sat. Jan 7, at 9am BC/10am  
AB/11am MB by Br Arokiam John, OFM.

Br Arokiam has a PhD in Franciscan Spirituality and is currently a professor of the Pontifical University of Antonianum, Rome. Zoom info will be provided closer to the date.

## Pastoral Letter to Youth from CCCB

[https://www.cccb.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/CCCB\\_Pastoral-Letter-to-Young-People\\_EN\\_WEB-125ppi.pdf](https://www.cccb.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/CCCB_Pastoral-Letter-to-Young-People_EN_WEB-125ppi.pdf)

[https://youtu.be/fRmOqT\\_W2ZY](https://youtu.be/fRmOqT_W2ZY)

## Message from our Regional Spiritual Assistant

Celebrations of All Saints and All Souls are a great reminder for all of us that our life does not end on Earth but in Heaven, to Eternal life.

All Saints from the Triumphant Church (Heavenly Church). But they just did not reach there, as born humans, they had to pass through this world. They were not born as super humans but they had their share of joys and sorrows, achievements and struggles, and virtues and vices. Saints of the triumphant church had set their goal to be with God in His Kingdom. They pursued their goal with determination, dedication and discipline. Saints have lived the Gospel of our Lord, followed the spirituality of the Master. So, no Christian needs to despair in life, as long as there is life there is HOPE. When we look at the gallery of the saints, we see all sorts of people who have conquered themselves by the grace of God. Some have honored God from the beginning of their lives, others turned toward God in their midlife, and still others before their death. Some have been great and wretched sinners, while others were moderately sinful. So, saints are not just for admiration but imitation.

All Souls from the Penitent Church (Suffering Church). We remember to pray to all the departed souls

gone before us, and especially those souls in purgatory still in need of purification. Death is not the end but rather the beginning of eternal life. Our prayer is a great support for the souls to attain purification and complete their journey to God. Of-course we pray for the departed souls related to our family and friends but it's also our duty to pray for those souls who have been forgotten and no one to pray for.

All of us form the Militant Church (Pilgrim Church). We are all pilgrims and strangers making our journey to Heaven. As soldiers of the militant church, we have to fight the spiritual battle, battle against sin all through the journey. We all have blessings and struggles. The Church has given us sacraments as the help for our journey. We as Franciscans have fraternity, help from our brothers and sisters on this journey. Being humble to receive the help and support from the church and each other, we will be able to fight a good fight all along the journey.

There are many living saints among us. We have to just look around and we may be surprised to see a saint sitting or walking beside us. Recently, I had the opportunity for an in person pastoral visit to five fraternities of the Secular Franciscans in Northern Alberta. For sure, I was among the saints who live the Gospel of our Lord as best as they can and follow the spirituality of St. Francis of Assisi. Whether living in the farmland or in the city, whether young or old, I witnessed a great love for the Franciscan charism and mission among them. Of-course we are also saints in making, which requires us to work more consciously to improve our Human, Christian and Franciscan vocation. And we all can do it with the help of each other. Let us not just dream to get to heaven alone. A Christian is called to take the other along to Heaven. Let us be encouraged to live like the Saints who intercede for us that we will be with them one day enjoying the heavenly bliss as they do.

Br. Manoj Xalxo, OFM

## Social Corner

### New Council of St. Padre Pio Fraternity, Calgary



### Immaculate Conception Fraternity in Winnipeg Celebrates 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



Our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration started off with St Francis' Canticle of the Sun Prayer. Through an online meeting, Father Joe did a brief talk on what it means to be Franciscan. Later that afternoon, we celebrated the Rite of Admission for two beautiful women, Keri and Danielle. Mass followed the Rite of Admission. After Mass we had a wonderful potluck dinner. Members of our fraternity from left to right: Keri, Rose, Kate, Sheila, John, Paul, Madeline, Danielle. Missing fraternity members are Ed, Bernadette, Kristi and Regina.

Kate Klassen