



Issue no. 27 – December 1, 2022

## Message from our Regional Minister

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

What a month - it's been a whirlwind for me. I had my schedule full almost everyday: performing duties as your regional minister, supporting RCIA class, being in charge with a church choir, rosary-making workshop, and helping with parish retreat. I had to say 'no' when I was asked to take on a CWL executive position. It is very tempting to say yes, but I must keep in mind that by profession, my Franciscan vocation and responsibilities come right after my obligations to God and my family. My parish and other activities come after my Franciscan duties.

The following motions were moved, seconded and approved by the council members:

- Colleen Finlon of Little Flowers of St. Francis fraternity in Kelowna was appointed as the regional Director of Communications.
- In the next census, the contribution is calculated based on professed members; candidates and inquirers are optional.
- The regional council will sponsor two young adults to attend the Youth Retreat at Mount St. Francis (Cochrane, AB) in January 2023.

Our next council meeting will be on December 3, 2022. We will be mainly discussing the logistics of the Zoom Drop In which will be held on January 14, 2023.

Congratulations to the newly elected council members of St. Pio (Delta, BC), St. Clare (Chilliwack, BC), and St. Anthony of Padua (Richmond, BC). We pray that the Holy Spirit will guide you as you serve your fraternity.

Finally, Census 2022 and Contribution Form are coming soon.

Wishing you all a Blessed Advent!

Your servant,  
Lanny Hui

## Message from our Regional Spiritual Assistant Advent, a Time of Spiritual Preparation and Vigilant Waiting

The New year of the Church starts with Advent, a time to get ready to receive Christ who is about to come. We get ready to receive Him when He comes at Christmas (first coming) and when He will come again at the end of the world (second or the final coming). Yet these two, the first and the last coming of Christ are by no means only visits Christ pays to us. Just as a farmer does not limit his going to the field to the time when he plants the seed and to the time of reaping harvest. He visits his field daily, his field being precious to him and takes every precaution to ensure a good harvest. Christ too visits us regularly. He does it whenever we have recourse to Him in prayers, in sacraments and in every happening of our life; be it sad or joyful. Thus, we can say that the life of a Christian is a continual advent, a time to receive Christ who comes to us. Each visit of His should prepare us for the next, till our salvation is accomplished in His final coming.

The message contained in the readings in the season of Advent is that God wants to save everyone. There is a message of hope, love, joy and peace; all centering on Jesus who came down from heaven to share with us on earth. Indeed, we all have a great hope in our God who loves us and will save us. A new day dawned on us when we received baptism, it's always day time with the life of a Christian and never night time again. We are called therefore to live out our baptism daily, keep on doing good at the thought that soon Christ will complete the work of salvation which has already begun at our baptism.

Advent is a time of spiritual preparation and vigilant waiting for the coming of Jesus on our part that we may meet Him as our Judge both at the end of our lives and on the day of the Last Judgment. Jesus invites us to live life in watchfulness because He wants to offer us salvation. He reminds us that the

unrepentant, ill-prepared evil people were destroyed by the flood in the time of Noah. He invites us to introspect our lives daily. He urges us to remove all the unwanted baggage we carry that are unbecoming of God's children. Just as we take so much care to clean and decorate our houses and churches for Christmas, we are called to do that with our inner life. We should not become so engrossed in the material and external affairs of life so as to forget what really makes us children of our heavenly Father who sent us His only Son who is Emmanuel, God with us. Spiritual preparation of the heart counts more than external preparation.

Jesus wants us to go through life watchful, active and joyful in doing our Christian duties, waiting for the moment when we will celebrate His coming joyfully and shall gather the harvest of salvation. As Franciscans, it's our vocation to take Emmanuel to everywhere we go. Take Him and His love to the peripheries of the society. Share our joys of Christmas and gifts with the less fortunate among us. Recreate the first nativity scene in our own life that St. Francis of Assisi first created years ago in Greccio. Fall in love and awe with this mystery of God's love for us humans.

Br. Manoj Xalxo, OFM

### Message from our Director of Formation

In the Apostolic letter by Pope Francis, *Admirabile Signum*, the Pontiff speaks of the birth of Jesus - a simple and joyful depiction of the incarnation of the Son of God. Pope Francis states "The nativity scene is like a living Gospel rising up from the pages of sacred scripture." He also encourages all people of goodwill to contemplate the Christmas story where "we are invited out on a spiritual journey, drawn by the humility of the God who became man in order to encounter every man and woman. We come to realize that so great is his love for us that he became one of us, so that we in turn might become one with him."

Saint Francis was so deeply moved by the incarnation of Christ that he established the first Nativity scene of 1223 in Greccio, a small town in Italy. As he was preparing for Mass on that cold, clear Christmas Eve, he thought of a way to remind

people that Jesus came not as a wealthy king, but as a poor child among animals. In a cave near the town, Francis brought in a manger filled with hay and a live ox and donkey. He invited the townsfolk to come and he preached about the humble beginnings of the Christ Child. When we look at the Christmas creches in our homes, we are reminded of the tradition started by St. Francis and of God's tender love for each one of us.

Catherine McNiff, ofs

### Save the Dates

**Vespers and CROWN ROSARY** on Sat. Dec 3,  
7pm PT/8pm MT/9pm CT

ZOOM link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86486098310?pwd=R1VOZ3EvdWMraG1PTTYxb1p1WllvQT09>

ID: 864 8609 8310 Passcode: 741246

**ADVENT RETREAT: Pregnant with the Divine**  
with Br Michael Perras on Dec. 10, 9-10am  
PT/10-11am MT/11-12 noon CT

ZOOM link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88321016362?pwd=VEp1RTlTODA1bUgrSjFweEFxT2dkUT09>

ID: 883 2101 6362 Passcode: 564966

**Zoom DROP IN** on Sat. Jan 14, 2pm PT/  
3pm MT/4pm CT (for one hour)

ZOOM link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82134049106?pwd=d2lXWVB5d3Z0M2U3Q3F5enhM3YxQT09>

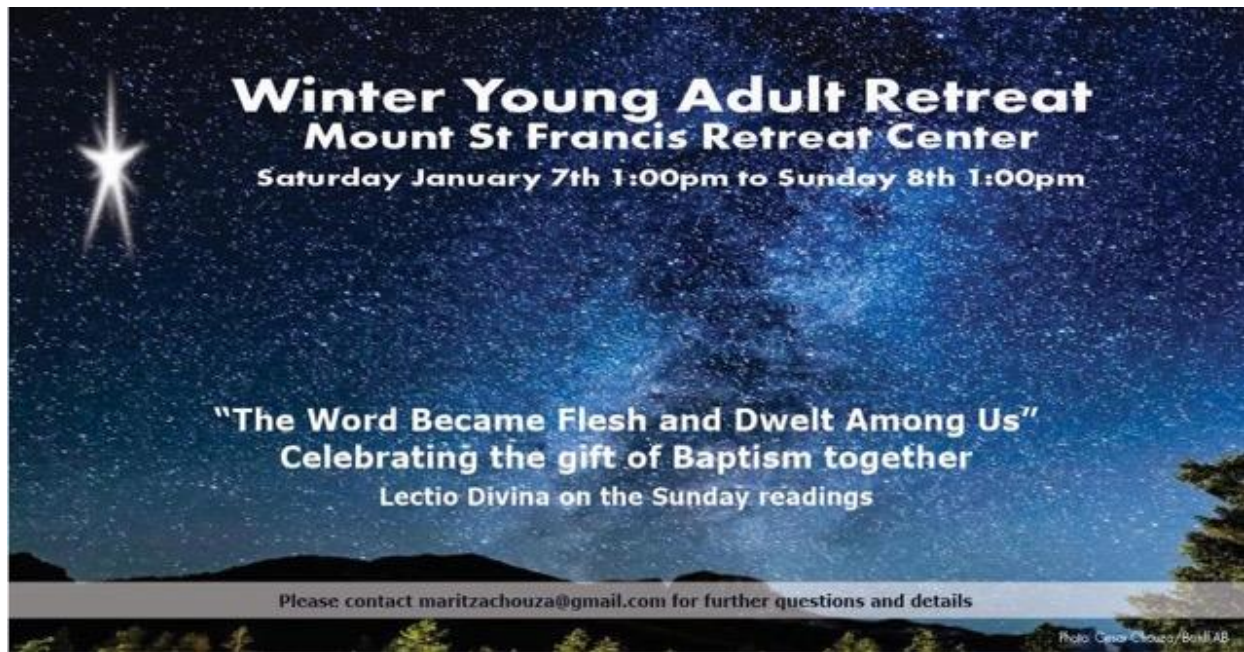
ID: 821 3404 9106 Passcode: 13417

**>>>CLICK HERE TO SEE [ZOOM DROP-IN POSTER](#)**

**The Role of the BLESSED VIRGIN in the**  
**Secular Franciscan Life** on Sat. Jan 7, at 9am  
PT/10am MT/11am CT 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.





## Social Corner

St. Berard Fraternity Profession at OLOPH Church in Sherwood Park, Alberta on June 13, 2022



**Left Photo:** (l to r) Newly professed Tommias Ksiazek, Josie James, Yasmine Lemmerick with Fr. Joseph Truong Nguyen, OFM **Right Photo:** St. Berard Fraternity members attending profession.

St. Stephen's Parish Youth Formation in Olds, Alberta Receives A Franciscan Visit



Audrey Goss of Holy Spirit Fraternity in Olds, Alberta spoke to the Youth Faith Formation at St. Stephen's Parish in Olds on November 20. Maritza Chouza, OLOTA Director of Youth, was invited to attend and took the photos.

## Journey to Canonical Establishment

Members of St. Clare Emerging Fraternity began their journey in 2016 when Younggyu Juliana Gwak, Jin Young Maria You, Kaok Elizabeth Lee, Kyungsim Baby Anne Lee, Dongkun Thomas More Lee, Boyeon Maris Stella, and Jaeduk Felicitas Tak were called to follow the footsteps of St. Francis by joining St. Elizabeth of Hungary Fraternity in Edmonton. They began their monthly formation in Korean language by travelling to Calgary and alternately, the formators travelled to Edmonton. They were professed on January 19, 2019 and formed a Newly Forming Group with St. Elizabeth of Hungary Fraternity as the mother fraternity and Br. Jean-Louis Brusset, OFM as the Spiritual Assistant. In 2020, with God's grace, Fr. Joachim Yoon, OFM was appointed to become their Spiritual Assistant and in August 2020, they became St. Clare Emerging Fraternity. Due to the COVID pandemic, the process for the fraternity to be canonically established was delayed.

Currently, the fraternity consists of seven permanently professed members, three temporarily professed members, five candidates, and three inquirers. They meet with other Korean fraternities on the third Friday of the month for ongoing formation on Zoom with Fr. Joachim. Their in-person fraternity meeting is on the second Saturday of the month at St. Jung Ha Sang Parish, Edmonton. In addition, the candidates and professed members meet once a month in small groups of four to six people of in-depth sharing and discussion on Franciscan teachings facilitated by Fr. Joachim via Zoom. Because of the frequent encounters in a month, the fraternity members have become closely knit.

They are almost at the end of the journey towards canonical establishment - please keep them in your prayers.

## St. Clare of Assisi Fraternity Advent Retreat in Coquitlam, BC



St. Clare Fraternity Advent Retreat with Br. Michael Perras, OFM via Zoom from Cochrane, Alberta on Saturday, November 26<sup>th</sup>.

## Alice McCrae Celebrates 95<sup>th</sup> Birthday



Alice McCrae of Little Flowers Fraternity in Kelowna, BC celebrated her 95<sup>th</sup> birthday on October 25, 2022.