



Issue no. 3 – September 2020

Message from our Regional Minister

Praise be to YOU, LORD GOD! St. Francis praised God for all His creation. What Glory! Can you see God all round? Can you see God in the Beauty of the various autumn colors? May you be Blessed by God as you exclaim Praises to Him for His Goodness to us. God made you and me. God delights in all! *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. God created man in His image. God looked at everything He had made and He found it very good (cf. Genesis 1).* Autumn brings your elected regional councillors together for their Fall virtual meeting. We will be reflecting on the past one and half years, ensuring the many priorities, action items and projects are completed satisfactorily in support of fraternities. We will highlight plans and agree to what can be fulfilled in commitment to fraternities for the upcoming year. There is an excitement in the air! We will be taking a peek into the planning for the Regional Council Elections in Spring 2022. Local fraternities are reviewing their election planning schedules. The Regional Council will be in election mode 2022. The National Council will be reviewing their mandate for elections in the Spring of 2021. Lots of Prayer is needed. YOU are needed. Please hold in Prayer all the Secular Franciscans, for God's Call to be heard clearly. Do not forget to keep our nation and our neighbouring nation in prayer as elections prevail. Partner with God in prayer for the Holy Spirit to guide us all as the journey with Jesus continues. *"For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord. They are for Good and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. In those days when you pray, I will listen. You will find me when you seek me" (Jeremiah 29:11-13).* May God continue to Bless us all, and keep us safe in the Palm of HIS HAND.

Linda Adams, ofs

Message from our National Minister - June 1, 2020

Dear Regional Minister,

I am writing as a follow-up to my letter, dated March 14, 2020, regarding the Covid-19 pandemic. At that time, the OFS National Council highly recommended "that all face-to-face local and regional chapters or meetings be cancelled for the time being". However, the situation now seems to be evolving as restrictions around gathering are easing and access to church facilities are being contemplated. That said, be aware that the easing of restrictions varies greatly from one location to another across the country. As always, it is critical that we follow all guidelines established by national and provincial governments in this regard, as well as those established by your local diocesan church.

As churches begin to open, prudence will be key. When the proper protocols are in place, fraternities will begin to gather again. However, no one should feel obliged to enter into any situation in which they do not feel safe. As always, please move cautiously so as to avoid any further spread of the virus, especially to the elderly and vulnerable.

I also wish to take advantage of this opportunity to thank local and regional fraternities for the innovation and creativity that they have demonstrated in remaining connected during this crisis. All of your efforts have been most appreciated.

Please distribute this message to all of your local fraternities. Thank you.

Wishing you peace and all that is good.

[signed] Doug Clorey, ofs - National Minister
864 Highland Park Road
Nine Mile Creek, PE C0A 1H2
jdclorey@gmail.com



Sep 25 – Oct. 3 *Novena of St. Francis*

Please click the following:

<https://info.franciscanmedia.org/st.-francis-novena-pillar>

Oct 2 – 3 *Lecture series “Healing the Church: Diagnosing and Treating the Clergy Sexual Abuse Crisis”* by Sister Nuala Kenny, MD

Registration: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2020-cwl-annual-lecture-in-catholic-studies-by-sister-nuala-kenny-md-tickets-121260769225>

Oct 2 at 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm MST: "Dynamics and Diagnosis: A Call for Personal and Ecclesial Reform" (Cost = FREE)

Oct 3 Virtual Workshop: "Lessons from Being Church in the Pandemic: Prophetic Possibilities for Pastoral Conversion (Cost = \$25.00 for both virtual workshop sessions)

10:30 am - 12:00 noon MST Lessons About Secrecy, Dialogue and Morality

1:00 pm - 2:30 pm MST Lessons About Relationships, Mission and Challenges

Sister Nuala Kenny is Professor Emeritus at Dalhousie University. She is a Sister of Charity of Halifax, a medical doctor specializing in pediatrics, and a medical ethicist. Among her many accolades, she was appointed an Officer of the Order of Canada in 1999 for her contributions to child health and medical education and has received a Queen's Jubilee Medal. She is the author of hundreds of papers and several books, including *What Good is Health Care? Reflections on the Canadian Experience* (2002), *Healing the Church* (2012), and *Rediscovering the Art of Dying* (2017). She is co-author of *Still Unhealed: Treating the Pathology in the Clergy Sexual Abuse Crisis* (2019). Sister Nuala also served as an advisor to the CCCB Ad Hoc Committee on Protection of Minors (2014-2018) which produced "Protecting Minors from Sexual Abuse: A Call to the

Catholic Faithful in Canada for Healing, Reconciliation and Transformation."

Oct 3 *Transitus of St. Francis*

Watch transitus live streamed at 7:30pm BC time on Facebook or YouTube

<https://www.facebook.com/StJosephtheWorkerRichmondBC/>
<https://www.youtube.com/c/StJosephtheWorkerRichmondBC>

Click [here](#) for the handout.

For personal transitus, click [here](#).

Oct 30 *Mutemwa Care Centre Contribution Deadline*

The National JPIC team was informed in late August that **Well4Africa** project in Malawi no longer needs our funding since it has been fully funded by a Franciscan foundation from Germany. However, the National Fraternity agrees to re-direct the raised fund for a water well project to support a leprosy community at Mutemwa Care Centre in Zimbabwe. There is still time to contribute via your fraternity. Then, your fraternity can write a cheque payable to **Our Lady of the Angels** with a memo "**Mutemwa Care Centre**" and send the cheque to the regional director of JPIC:

Lourdes Von Burg
#3 Alyssum Court
Osoyoos, BC V0H 1V1

Stay tuned for the October issue of National JPIC Communiqué for more detailed information.

Franciscan Saints and Feast in October:

- 4: Our Holy Father Francis
- 6: St. Mary Francis of the Five Wounds
- 10: Sts. Daniel and companions
- 12: St. Seraphin of Montegrano
- 20: Bl. James of Strepar and Bl. Contardo Ferrini
- 21: Bl. Josephine Leroux
- 22: St. Peter of Alcantara
- 23: St. John of Capistrano
- 26: Bl. Bonaventure of Potenza
- 30: Anniversary of Dedication of Consecrated Franciscan Churches

Message from our Regional Spiritual Assistant



Franciscan Solidarity during Pandemic

Solidarity with the poor and the marginalized is an integral part of Franciscan Spirituality and one of the priorities of the Order of Friars Minor. St. Francis of Assisi not only loved Christ who was poor but he also loved Christ in the poor and the marginalized. He desired that nothing should get in the way of one's ability to embrace and relate to others, just as Christ allowed nothing to get in the way of His mercy and compassion to sinners. Thus, St. Francis lived a life of brotherhood and solidarity with the poor.

In the months of April-May, migrant workers in India made headlines all over the world. The sudden unplanned nationwide lockdown decimated the livelihood of the poor. The elected government abandoned them, leaving them on the streets and on the roads to die. Many perished while trying to return home to villages on foot, without food and water, under the scorching heat. Their excruciating pain is already unimaginable, but being treated worse than a refugee in one's own country is unfathomable.

We are blessed to live in a beautiful country Canada, where the people have not been forgotten by their elected government; a stark contrast to the reality in India. Initially, the pandemic hit me hard, having to stay indoors; celebrating the Eucharist without people, facing only cameras; not being able to socialize; letting go of a few plans that I had made for the year, etc. However, as days and weeks passed, I became more comfortable with the so called "New Normal" of life and started enjoying the fresh opportunities that have come along with it. Admittedly, it's not a huge challenge for me considering I am in a pretty safe place; but it pierces my heart when I see the misery of the poor, especially in Franciscan missions in India and not being able to help except uniting my prayers with theirs.

Covid-19 Pandemic has brought to the forefront good and bad things about humanity but the question still remains, when will it end? How long will we continue with hand-sanitizing, face-masking, and social distancing? We may defeat this virus eventually by following restrictions and with the help of a vaccine but the earth is not guaranteed to be a better place to live in unless one sanitizes the heart, mind, and soul where the virus of evil lives; unless one masks the poisonous words one breathes out; and unless one distances oneself from social evil. To combat any virus, what we need is the pandemic of love and solidarity on our mother earth - the common home for all.

On October 3rd; the day of Transitus of St. Francis of Assisi, Pope Francis will sign his new Encyclical *Fratelli tutti*. It's a good reminder for us; Franciscans and as well as for the rest of the world that Franciscan identity of Fraternity and Solidarity are not outdated but most needed at this present time. Celebration of Franciscan tradition will come and go but what does it profit us, if it's not lived in our daily life? Let us look to St. Francis of Assisi to unite us as we shower the world with love as seen through our acts of mercy and kindness.

Fr. Manoj Xalxo, OFM

Season of Creation Theme: Jubilee for the Earth

<https://youtu.be/09ojKLEKD68>

JPIC Formation:

Study Guide of *Laudato Si'*

Canticle of the Creatures

*O Most High, all-powerful, good Lord God,
to you belong praise, glory,
honour and all blessing.*

*Be praised, my Lord, for all your creation
and especially for our Brother Sun,
who brings us the day and the light;
he is strong and shines magnificently.*

O Lord, we think of you when we look at him.

*Be praised, my Lord, for Sister Moon,
and for the stars
which you have set shining and lovely
in the heavens.*

*Be praised, my Lord, for our Brothers Wind and Air
and every kind of weather*

*by which you, Lord,
uphold life in all your creatures.*

*Be praised, my Lord, for Sister Water,
who is very useful to us,
and humble and precious and pure.*

*Be praised, my Lord, for Brother Fire,
through whom you give us light in the darkness:
he is bright and lively and strong.*

*Be praised, my Lord,
for Sister Earth, our Mother,
who nourishes us and sustains us,
bringing forth fruits and vegetables of many kinds
and flowers of many colours.*

*Be praised, my Lord,
for those who forgive for love of you;
and for those who bear sickness and weakness
in peace and patience
you will grant them a crown.*

*Be praised, my Lord, for our Sister Death,
whom we must all face.*

*I praise and bless you, Lord, and I give thanks to
you, and I will serve you in all humility.*

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

May the Lord give you peace!

It is with great pleasure that we offer this Study Guide for *Laudato Si'*. As preparations were underway for publication of the encyclical, the Conference of the Franciscan Family (CFF) contacted us, the Interfranciscan Commission for Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation (Romans VI), and requested that we anticipate the arrival of the papal letter. In response, we proposed creation of a Study Guide meant to promote reading and study of the encyclical. The CFF accepted our proposal.

This Study Guide is offered in a special way to the Franciscan Family and to those with whom we work. Pope Francis makes it clear that his inspiration, not only for the encyclical but for his papacy as well, is Saint Francis of Assisi. In the letter he comments early on: "I believe that Saint Francis is the example par excellence of care for the vulnerable and of an integral ecology lived out joyfully and authentically." We are invited to embody this message in the world today, living out the example of our model Saint Francis, and hearing clearly the cry of the poor and vulnerable and the cry of the earth.

The Study Guide is also presented to all those of good will who might find it helpful. Pope Francis calls repeatedly in *Laudato Si'* for dialogue at all levels and between all actors to address the urgent crisis of our day. May we find ways to respond together to his insistent pleas.

Directions for using this Study Guide are very simple:

- It must be used with a copy of the encyclical in hand; the Guide was prepared with the intention of encouraging the individuals and groups who use it to go directly to the words of the Pope. So those who participate need a copy of the encyclical as well as a copy of the Study Guide.
- The Guide is divided into seven sections, one for the introduction and one for each of the six chapters; prepare a schedule of nine meetings: one for a general introduction, one for each of the seven

sections, and a final one for evaluation of the experience.

- Choose a leader for the entire program, and a leader for each of the meetings. The leader should remind participants to read the appropriate section of the encyclical before the session, and then make sure that the session flows well and that everyone gets a chance to participate
- At each session begin with a moment of recollection, prayer, reflection. Why has the group come together? What results are sought? Then go to the Study Guide, to the summary of the section that is under consideration. Read through it slowly. When a comment or a citation catches the attention of participants, go to the encyclical and read the entire section from which the quote is taken. What is the reaction of participants to the section? Then continue with the summary.
- After the summary, continue with the questions for reflection. Wherever possible, find very concrete responses to the questions. How might participants respond individually? How can the group respond together? What proposals might be taken to the larger community? How can the local community become a spark to ignite the larger activities needed to face our global crisis? Constantly look for ways to implement the suggestions made in the encyclical.
- After the first eight sessions, plan a session of evaluation and celebration. What was the group able to accomplish? What steps are necessary to continue the process? How might the group involve others in the struggle? Might it be interesting for those who participated in the study group to form new groups with new participant?

Sisters and brothers, we hope that this Study Guide will encourage you to read and study the encyclical, especially in groups that will then be able to work together to implement its call for the changes needed to confront the current crisis. We are aware that all Guides like this one are culturally limited. So we invite the Franciscan Family in each region to consider preparing a more regionally appropriate study guide. We want to guarantee that the Study Guide will not be an elite document, but

one that helps all people to read, understand and live the words of Pope Francis found in *Laudato Si'*. Please feel free to share it widely.

We pray that this Study Guide will be a useful tool in understanding the message of the encyclical, and in promoting the process of ongoing conversion so essential to living the Gospel life!

The members of Romans VI

Introduction

Summary: The subtitle of the Pope's encyclical *Laudato Si'* makes clear the underlying concern of the letter: On Care for our Common Home. Saint Francis reminds us that "our common home is a like a sister with whom we share our life and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us (#1). Our sister cries out because of the harm done to her due to our lack of responsibility, and because "We have come to see ourselves as her lords and masters, entitled to plunder her at will" (#2). Given the situation of environmental deterioration in which we find ourselves, Pope Francis calls on all who live on this planet to enter into dialogue about our common home (#3). He cites his papal predecessors who have previously warned about these problems, commenting that their concerns are echoed in the reflections of numerous scientists, philosophers, theologians and civic groups, along with other Churches and Christian communities and other religions. (#3-9). Pope Francis comments on the importance of Saint Francis of Assisi for his own life and ministry, and names him "the example par excellence of care for the vulnerable and of an integral ecology lived out joyfully and authentically," thus stating clearly one of the basic themes of the encyclical, the relationship between social justice and care for the environment. The Pope says that: "He (Saint Francis) shows us just how inseparable the bond is between concern for nature, justice for the poor, commitment to society, and interior peace" (#10). We are reminded that unless, like Saint Francis, we approach nature and the environment with an openness to awe and wonder, "our attitude will be that of masters, consumers, ruthless exploiters, unable to set limits

on their immediate needs” (#11). The Pope states clearly the appeal he is making: “The urgent challenge to protect our common home includes a concern to bring the whole human family together to seek a sustainable and integral development...” (#13), which demands “a new dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet” (#14). He recognizes difficulties associated with this appeal, due not only to powerful opposition, but also to lack of interest. “Obstructionist attitudes, even on the part of believers, can range from denial of the problem to indifference, nonchalant resignation or blind confidence in technical solutions. We require a new and universal solidarity” (#14). The introduction ends with a list of certain themes that will appear throughout the encyclical, and which will help to organize and understand the overall message: “...the intimate relationship between the poor and the fragility of the planet, the conviction that everything in the world is connected, the critique of new paradigms and forms of power derived from technology, the call to seek other ways of understanding the economy and progress, the value proper to each creature, the human meaning of ecology, the need for forthright and honest debate, the throwaway culture and the proposal of a new lifestyle” (#16)

Questions for Reflection:

1. The name of the encyclical, *Laudate Si*’, highlights the importance of Saint Francis as an inspiration for the letter. Which of the saint’s attitudes do you find most engaging?
2. Pope Francis makes clear his understanding that environmental degradation and social injustice are grave concerns, and that they are interconnected. How have you experienced this connection? How can we be part of the dialogue to which he is calling everyone?
3. Review the themes that are listed in the last paragraph above. In your opinion, which ones are most important?



Brothers as gift, St Francis of Assisi’s experience

Fraternity for Saint Francis was not an abstract theory, but a concrete gift from God to each and every person. Even today, the “Poverello” of Assisi reminds us that we cannot truly be brothers and sisters if we do not see ourselves as children of one Father.

By Alessandro Gisotti

Francis of Assisi continues to inspire the Pope, the first in history to take his name. Five years ago, it was the *Canticle of the Sun*, with its praise to God for all of Creation, that provided a vision for his Encyclical *Laudato Si*’. This time, fraternity (and social friendship) is at the focus of his new magisterial document that he will sign this coming 3 October, right where the *Poverello* lived.

But what are, or better yet, who are brothers, for Saint Francis? An intimate and revealing response can be found at the beginning of his Testament, where, after having recounted his meeting with the leper – who Christ had led him to because he disgusted them – said:

“And after that the Lord gave me brothers, no one showed me what I had to do, but the same Most High revealed to me that I had to live according to the form of the holy Gospel.”

The *frati*, the brethren, as presented by Francis, are above all a gift from God. They are an unexpected and, to be honest, a painless gift, because they make him face a new situation that “forced” him to ask the Lord for help because nobody knew what to tell him to do.

For us, our brothers are not a “conquest”, even less are they what we desire them to be. They are living works of the Creator, freely offered to each

one of us. They are given and thus we cannot choose them nor possess them, but only welcome and love them as they are with their weakness and diversity, those differences (and at times dissonances) which in the end only the Lord can recompose because, as the Pope would say, we do not create harmony, the Holy Spirit does.

What Francis of Assisi clearly demonstrates and which finds confirmation in this quintessential written text recounting the conclusive parable of his earthly life, is that fraternity for him was not an idea, an abstract theory, but a concrete fact, a life-changing experience.

Alongside this historic fact, even more relevant because it is the source of his teaching on fraternity, we discover that for Saint Francis there is no fraternity without the recognition and acceptance that we are children of a common heavenly Father.

All of us are brothers because all of us are children of the same Father. No one is, therefore, a stranger to another. This change in perspective set in motion a revolution in Francis's life leading him to make surprising choices, such as his celebrated visit to the Sultan of Egypt. This is the nucleus of the Saint of Assisi's conversion, and we could say of the conversion of every man and woman who has authentically encountered Jesus Christ. If we, in fact, do not recognize the common project of love the Father has for us, being brothers is simply not enough. Not even biologically. After all, a blood-brother killed Abel. And Cain killed him because hate had sealed his eyes which could no longer see the Father's love, which did not even recognize his brother.

Fraternity for Francis of Assisi is not a "static" gift, an end in itself. It is nourished and grows through charity. In addition, it always leads to peace. Relationships with one's brothers and sisters trace a path, initiate a process that develops along a dimension leading to communion. It is after an encounter with his *frati*, his brethren, that the Lord reveals to St Francis that he must live the Gospel *sine glossa*, and must even go beyond that: he must conform himself to it, taking the same form as the "holy Gospel". He does this radically, "without tranquilizers" to use another efficacious term from Pope Francis.

For the Patron of Italy, taking care of others as oneself becomes the way and the privileged space for evangelization. A *frate*, a brother who retreats in isolation cannot exist. That would be a contradiction, a counter-witness. For Saint Francis, in fact, the more love toward the Father grows, the more is love reinforced toward one's brother in whom the face of the Creator is discovered. This love expands in Saint Francis until it reaches cosmic proportions because fraternity embraces every creature: even the Sun is called brother, and the Moon, sister.

Eight centuries later, notwithstanding the increase in egoism and the construction of every type of barrier, the world is still thirsty for fraternity and paternity. This is what it is constantly looking for. The witness of the *Poverello* of Assisi, the one who wanted to be a brother to everyone, is as contemporary as ever. He still exhorts us, together with his namesake Pope Francis, to walk the way of fraternity.

Message from our Regional Director of Youth and Minister of St. Maximilian Kolbe Fraternity, Red Deer, AB

Two Bubbles - Our Family & Our Franciscan Family!

You have to meet our very senior St. Maximilian Kolbe Fraternity member – His name is Leon Gendre. He is 89 years old, a grandfather to 19 grandkids and great—grandfather to 17 and an amazing gardener! He calls us up on a sunny Friday morning to say "I am digging up spuds and carrots for a needy family in Sacred Heart parish today" so we fill the camper with 6 visiting grandkids – Franciscan Youth in action - and off we go to meet Leon and David and Cathy Bouchard at the Community Garden.



Leon likes a mug of Nescafe Expresso to “wet his whistle” and some homemade cake and the kids have juice and treats and we all get to work! Before we know it, the job is done, the veggies are in the boxes for delivery and a needy family knows they are cared about in a special way by Leon and his helpers.



That is what being a Secular Franciscan is about – working together with the young and the young-at-heart - sharing a sense of community with our brothers and sisters in the spirit of Francis and Clare!

Profession Celebration



Left to right: Ann, Br. Gerry, Cathy, Debra, Mike, Fr. Dan, Catherine, David.

We had a day of joy, love and peace at Sacred Heart Church with a grace filled Profession Mass celebrated by Fr. Dan Gurnick, OFM and a celebration at McKenzie Trails- a beautiful site in Red Deer afterwards. Our masks

were off for the photo and the eating of the cake made and decorated by David Watson - our St. Max fraternity brother! Fr. Dan and Br. Gerry stood out in the crowd in their cozy Franciscan robes. What joy we had to be able to celebrate as a Franciscan family. Praise be to God!

Catherine McNiff, ofs

Message from Immaculate Conception Fraternity in Winnipeg, MB



Hello from the Immaculate Conception Fraternity, Winnipeg, Manitoba! The fraternity started off 2020 on a very positive note. We were very fortunate to have a wonderful Franciscan Workshop at the end of January, presented by Fr. Joe Glaab, our spiritual assistant, who flew in from Richmond, BC for the event. At the same time the fraternity was blessed to have the profession of one member and the reception of another member. Approximately 25 people attended the workshop, including Secular Franciscans and parishioners. However, after the meeting in February we

have been unable to meet in person because of the Covid-19 pandemic but the members have been in regular contact with each other. We look forward to returning to the normal meetings and our ongoing spiritual pilgrimage, journeying together on the Franciscan path. Our newly professed member Kristi Stubbings has graced us with the attached prayer which she recently composed.

Bernadette McCann, ofs - Fraternity Secretary

Inspired by Psalm 23



God is my Shepherd, I have all I need...
In the stillness, I sit in prayerful fidelity
You walk calmly beside me, when I leave my shelter's safety.
You hold my hand, and teach me with love and patience
You shower me with grace, and in the shadowed hallways of my life You offer radiance
Energy outpours from Your goodness throughout all Creation, revealing itself in the subtle complexities of a rose's fragrance.
And, when this life becomes hard, and we become afraid of living
You offer us strong arms that comfort, and are forgiving
With beautiful souls along the way, we are surrounded, for accompanying.
Surely, the sun, moon and stars illumine Your ever-present mystery, flowing creatively over the earth, devoid of discontent
And, should I lie down and grow still, the energy of my small life, well spent
Humbly I trust that You are with me, and I with You, forever and ever. Amen
...For God is my Shepherd, I have all I need.

By Kristi Stubbings, May 3, 2020

Message from the minister of St. Pio of Pietrelcina Emerging Fraternity in Kamloops, BC

Three New Vocations for Kamloops Diocese

Secular Franciscans of St. Pio of Pietrelcina emerging fraternity rejoice in the Lord to announce the profession of Marie Feely, Therese Goodie, and Lyn Cuikimdit in the Secular Franciscan Order on June 18, 2020. Our Lord blessed us with a beautiful sunny day! The private outdoor Mass was celebrated by Msgr. Jerry Desmond, who questioned the candidates about their commitment before their profession, and prayed for divine grace. Then each candidate read their profession promises separately before the Minister of the fraternity, Mary Fankhauser of, who accepted their profession and received them into the fraternity. Michelle Zwolak of provided lovely music for the hymns we all sang joyfully during the profession Mass.



We are especially grateful to our Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, Sr. Analisa Baracena and Sr. Ernilyn Aquino, who were with us at the profession Mass, who also helped prepare

the candidates for profession and conducted many formation classes during their candidacy. Jean Stenhouse, Director of Formation, conducted most of the formation classes with our candidates, in collaboration with Mary Fankhauser. Maintaining social distance was a special challenge, but we succeeded for the entire celebration, thanks be to God!

Franciscan Sisters and Secular Franciscans



The Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Conception have been in the Diocese of Kamloops for twelve years, serving in many capacities. The Sisters arrived in Kamloops September 14, 2008 and continued serving until September 2020. They were Sr. Ana, Sr. Maria, Sr. Tarcie, Sr. Analisa, Sr. Luisa and Sr. Ernilyn. Sr. Luisa and Sr. Ernilyn arrived October 30, 2015. The last two Sisters in Kamloops were Sr. Analisa and Sr. Ernilyn, who served Sacred Heart Cathedral with hospital ministry, care home visitation, catechism, and day care assistance. Throughout their years in Kamloops, the Sisters also related as family to our Secular Franciscans, and as our Spiritual Assistants, giving retreat reflections and talks at our meetings, helping with formation, preparing candidates for profession and helping with the recent profession Mass celebration. The Sisters are like family to the Secular Franciscans, as all Franciscans, be they religious friars (priests and brothers), or religious sisters, belong to the very large Franciscan family. We all share the same charism from God first given to St Francis of Assisi. Secular Franciscans are independent of the religious orders, but collaborate voluntarily with other Franciscans. The Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Conception have been a great blessing for the Secular Franciscans, and we will miss them immensely, as we miss a close family member going away for a long time. We may only meet again in the heavenly kingdom after our earthly life is over, so we cherish deeply in our hearts the time we have had together here in Kamloops.

Mary Fankhauser, ofs