



Issue no. 4 – October 2020

### Message from our Regional Minister

With all the abundance of produce, gardens, harvesting, canning, closing down summer decks, putting away garden hoses and many more tasks that keep one busy, has the *Lord of the vineyard* been forgotten? As we, who labour in *His* vineyard, find moments to *be still and know that he is the Lord of the vineyard*.

*Thank you, Lord* for every minute of every day, for every task that *You* enable one to accomplish and in this beautiful month of October (which *You* created), *You* draw all Secular Franciscans, together in heart, for a Day of *thanksgiving*. With our world appearing to be in turmoil, stress, conflict, challenges and each with hectic schedule, we do remember: *You* are *the Lord of the vineyard!* Secular Franciscans will gather around *Your table* to give *You* thanks for your many mercies, graces and provisions. What an awesome God we serve and called by *You* to share *You* with our fraternity brothers and sisters.

Help us, Lord, to keep our eyes on your Son, *Jesus*. May our focus be on what *You* are doing, O Lord. Refresh us in the Power, Strength, Zeal of your *Holy Spirit*. *What is impossible with man, is possible with God*. Lord, show us the way, lead us on for Your Great Glory, we continue to *pray*.

*Building fraternity and building family* is the theme for OLOTA during its elected mandate. At this juncture of time, Regional Council will reflect on the year and half completed, make decisions for the year ahead and plan for its Elections in the Spring of 2022. The Fall virtual meeting of OLOTA is Oct. 17th.

Highlights of the October virtual meeting will be sent to keep you on board with OLOTA...watch for it!

Overall, covering everything, *the Spirit of the Lord* embraces! This is reason to *rejoice*. St. Francis, in his passing, which we all celebrated this month reminds us of the temporary on earth and passing over into a life eternal. St. Francis was a *joy filled instrument* of God's Hand during his temporary journey. Let us all choose to *be!* In our journey... *be* full of *joy!* *Be* in dance before the Lord! *Be* in *praise* for all *He* is doing! *Be* in Faith moving forward. *Be* witness, not by what we see, but by our *trust* in *God*

*almighty!* These are the Days of the Harvest! Yes, let us spend time with the Lord of the Vineyard! Let us all radiate an Attitude of Gratitude!

*A blessed, joy-filled, and happy thanksgiving to my Secular Franciscan brothers and sisters.*

Linda Adams, ofs



**Oct 31 at 1pm Pacific Time / 2pm Mountain Time: ZOOM Workshop - How to start a Franciscan Youth Group in your Parish or Community.** Come and join us for an interactive session which will include "the nuts and bolts of starting a group" and time for Q&A. Register by Oct. 26: [catherineofs@gmail.com](mailto:catherineofs@gmail.com)

**Dec. 5 at 9am Pacific Time / 10am Mountain Time 10am: ZOOM Morning Retreat by Sr. John Mary Sullivan FSE.** Give yourself a treat and come and join us in reflection in the quiet stillness of Advent! Register by Nov. 30: Sharon Sutherland at [tobysmom@telusplanet.net](mailto:tobysmom@telusplanet.net)

### Franciscan Saints and Feast in November:

- 4: St. Charles Borromeo
- 7: St. Didacus of Alcala
- 13: St. Frances Xavier Cabrini
- 14: Sts. Nicholas Tavelic and companions
- 17: St. Elizabeth of Hungary
- 18: Bl. Salome
- 19: St. Agnes of Assisi
- 24: Commemoration of all the Deceased of the Franciscan Orders
- 26: St. Leonard of Port Maurice
- 27: St. Francis of Anthony Fasan
- 28: St. James of the March
- 29: All Saints of the Franciscan Orders

### A Message from our Director of Youth

We have updated the Franciscan Youth & Young Adults Page on the [olota.org](http://olota.org) web site. Find the Franciscan Youth and Young Adults link to our page and have a read! If you have any suggestions or additions, I would love to hear from you. Just email me at [catherineofs@gmail.com](mailto:catherineofs@gmail.com)

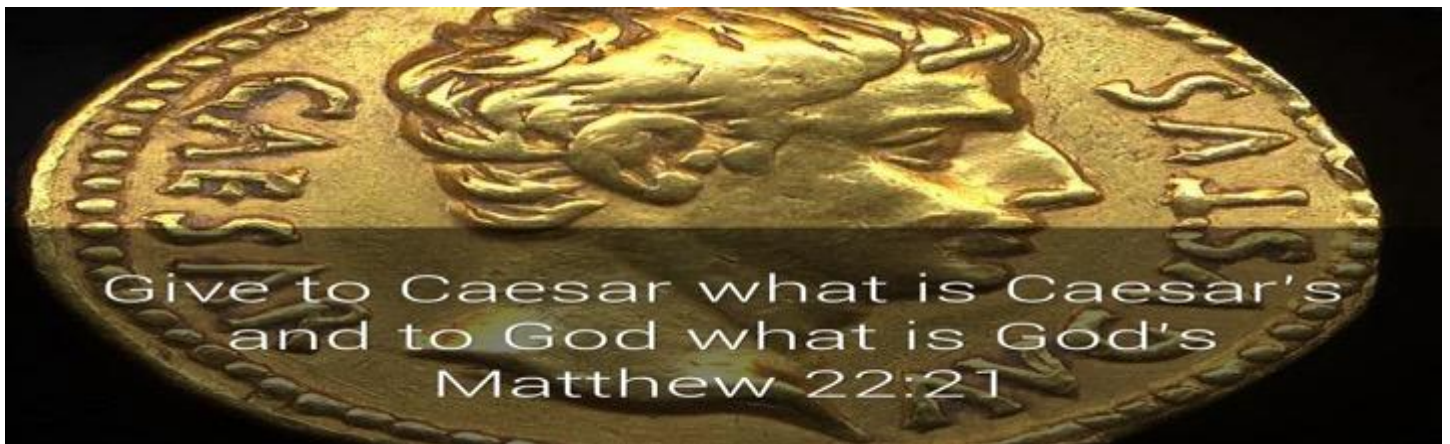
Two ZOOM Events coming up:

1) **"How to Start a Franciscan Youth Group in Your Parish or Community"** - I will be presenting a One Hour Workshop on the "nuts and bolts" of starting a Franciscan Youth Group - a half hour presentation and a half hour "question and answer" session on Saturday, October 31, 2020 at 1:00 pm Pacific Time or 2:00 pm Mountain Time. Please register with me at [catherineofs@gmail.com](mailto:catherineofs@gmail.com) by October 26, 2020 and I will send you the Zoom meeting info.

2) **"Preparing Our Franciscan Hearts to Welcome Jesus this COVID Christmas"** is a Morning Advent Retreat hosted by St. Maximilian Kolbe Fraternity, Red Deer, AB on Saturday, December 5, 2020 from 09:00 - 10:30 am Pacific Time or 10:00 am - 11:30 am Mountain Time. Our Presenter will be Sister John Mary Sullivan, a Franciscan Sister of the Eucharist. We will start with Morning Liturgy of the Hours, a greeting from Brother Gerry Clyne, OFM and a one-hour presentation by Sister John Mary - a dynamic, engaging speaker from the Archdiocese of Vancouver, BC. Please register with Sharon Sutherland by email: [tobysmom@telusplanet.net](mailto:tobysmom@telusplanet.net) by November 30, 2020 and she will send you the Zoom meeting info.

Catherine McNiff, ofs

### Reflection from Our Regional Spiritual Assistant



This pronouncement of Jesus has been interpreted differently down through the course of Christian history. The answer should not be understood cynically and in line with those who thought that no allegiance at all belongs to the ruling power, or, on the other hand, that a civil power has the right to demand total submission of its subjects. No state can claim to itself divine powers of absolute authority. All are subject to the higher demands of truth and justice and the inviolable dignity of the person centered in God. The reasonable interpretation would be that Caesar has his own legitimate but limited sphere, and even that he holds it under God and is responsible to God for its proper governance. So, it does not mean that the state itself has to profess Christianity. It means that the state must be what it is and perform the proper functions of a state in maintaining law and order, and promoting the welfare of its citizens.

Now the question is, what is Caesar's and what is not God's? Is there anything in the world that is not of God? Even Caesar and his kingdom, his rights, power and possessions belong only to God. If a coin engraved with the image and inscription of the emperor, belongs to him. Then let us not forget, we have been "stamped" with God's image and likeness, "God created man in his own image...male and female he created them" (Genesis 1:26-27). Every human person created in the image and likeness of God belongs to him and him only. We rightfully belong not to ourselves, but to God who created us and redeemed us in the precious blood of his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. God's image is not on a coin, but in us, and it means that we owe all that we are to him. We should become what we are; if we are made after the image of God, who is Christ, we ought to bring the image of Christ to fullness within ourselves.



As long as we live in this world, we belong not only to God’s kingdom but to a human kingdom as well. God placed us in a family, and our family in a society. By birth we are citizens of the country and by baptism we are citizens of God’s kingdom. It’s God’s will that we be faithful citizens of God’s kingdom and the country where we live. Therefore, Jesus makes a clear distinction between civil authority and religious authority. He underlines the importance of fulfilling one’s duties and responsibilities to God and the country. We fulfill our duties to the country by obeying the lawful authorities, paying all lawful taxes and contributing our share for the welfare of all. We are called also to pray for the lawful authorities that they may discharge their duty according to God’s will, and fulfill all the laws which have the common good in view. We are equally and more responsible to fulfill our duties to God our creator, by being faithful to his sacrificial love and sacraments of the Church, and proclaiming the Gospel and living it in action. We are called to be the faithful stewards of our time, talent and treasure and share them with the Church for the mission of God on this earth. Where both civil authority and religious authority are in harmony there will be no conflict but peace. Wherever there is immoral or unjust behavior against people’s dignity and rights, then there has to be conflict. And when the state oversteps the mark and puts itself in the place of God, Christians are in the last resort absolved from obedience. In such a conflict we have to remember what St. Thomas More said, “I die the king’s faithful servant, but God’s first.”

Fr. Manoj Xalxo, OFM

**From our Director of JPIC**

**Laudato Si Study Guide**

For your next fraternity meeting, please discuss Chapter 1 from the guide which can be found [here](#) or at [www.olota.org](http://www.olota.org) under JPIC. Please include the additional resources: the diagram below and an article from OFM website (including a Youtube short video) which can be found [here](#).

What is happening to our common home ?  
 Mark 10: 51  
 “The blind man replied to him , Master I want to see”

- Chapter 1 of the encyclical is dedicated to reading the signs of the times, Pope Francis notes “we need only to take a frank look at the facts to see that our common home is falling into serious disrepair “ (# 61 )
- Six areas that require careful analysis:

Lou Von Burg, ofs

**SOCIAL CORNER**



**Little Flowers of St. Francis  
Fraternity, Kelowna, BC**



**Oct. 3, 2020:  
Transitus of St. Francis  
of Assisi**

**St. Anthony of Padua Fraternity, Richmond, BC**





**Message from Yvonne Armstrong, St. Elizabeth of Hungary Fraternity, Saskatoon, SK**

God made every human being with a mission.

So, what is your mission during this time?

It that of listening and being in touch.

It is being grateful for the positives we have in our lives.

It is waking up each morning and try to find beauty in this world.

I feel this time is a wake-up call for all of us.

A time to reflect, to pray, and to think  
what Francis would want us to do as Secular Franciscans.

And to remember our Spiritual Father Francis will walk  
beside as he always does.

Take care my Brothers and Sisters!

And many Blessings, Yvonne