



OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS MESSENGER

Issue Number 45

May 2024

From Our Regional Minister

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

If you are asked pointed questions such as these:

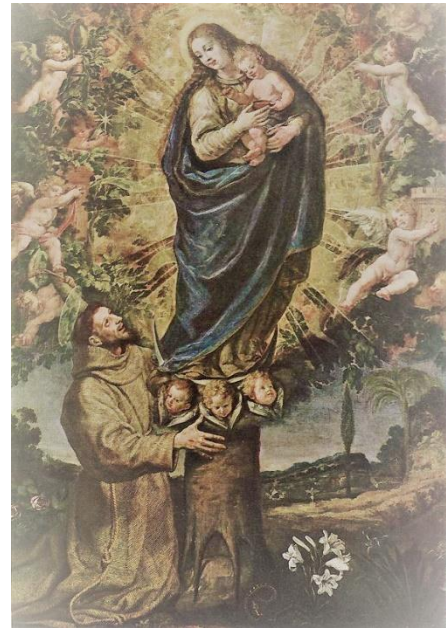
- Do you trust God?
- Do you trust God's infinite love for you?
- Do you trust God's infinite love for you enough that you are willing to serve your fraternity in a council?

what would your answers be?

Yes, those are the questions that appeared in my head/mind when I take the council role in my local and regional fraternities. These questions, though I know the correct answers, makes me think of asking myself, "Do I really mean it when I say I trust God?" (Often, I don't like my own honest answers to all the above questions!)

Have you ever stopped to think at this moment that God is busy with making sure that every molecule in your body is working as it is supposed to, and that the sun is shining on you today, and that you have an opportunity to love and be loved each and every day, and that God is busy preparing a place for you in his house?

Once you begin to fully realize how you are infinitely loved by God, you'll have the desire to do His will and to love God back by loving his people in the way He wants. He will give you the grace you need in order to carry out the task, including sending you the right people as companions for your journey. That is what I have noticed in Jesus. He prayed so often to be connected to the Father. I have noticed this in Moses, the apostles, St Francis, St Clare, and many saints. And now, despite my sinfulness and many shortcomings, I am just at the



SALUTATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN
by St Francis of Assisi

*Hail, holy Lady, Most holy Queen,
Mary, Mother of God, Ever Virgin;
Chosen by the most holy Father in heaven,
Consecrated by him,
With his most holy beloved Son
And the Holy Spirit, the Comforter,
On you descended and in you still remains
All the fulness of grace and ever good.
Hail, his Palace. Hail, his Tabernacle.
Hail, his Robe. Hail, his Handmaid.
Hail, his Mother. And Hail, all holy Virtues.
Who, by the grace and inspiration of the Holy Spirit,
Are poured into the hearts of the faithful so that,
Faithless no longer, they may be made
faithful servants of God through you.*

start of the beautiful journey. It is all grace from the Lord. I pray that each and every one of you realizes the infinite love of the Trinity poured out for you personally and that you will see your life in the context of God's love for you.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Edward "Ed" Gurnick who passed away on April 25, 2024. He is the father of Fr. Daniel Gurnick, OFM. Please offer prayers for Fr. Dan and his family. A funeral Mass will be celebrated at St. Matthew's Catholic Church, Rocky Mountain House, in August 2024.

The regional council will have an in-person meeting July 9-11, 2024. Please let your vice minister know if there is anything you would like us to address during the meeting.

Your servant,
Lanny Hui



*Lord, send forth your Spirit and
renew the face of the earth!*

From Our Regional Director of Formation

Peeping ahead to June 16 in my little brown *Franciscan Daily Companion* I find a word of wisdom from Blessed Giles of Assisi which says "Consider it greater to preserve the good things given by the Lord than to acquire them."

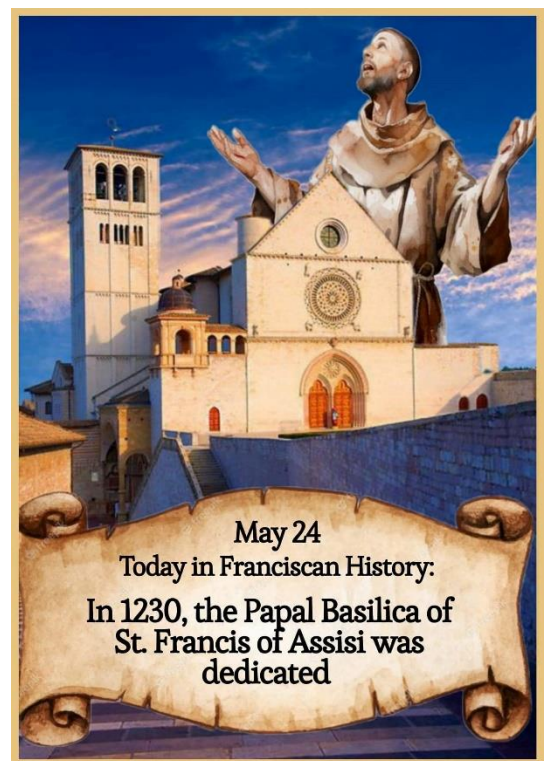
Reflection: When God gave Adam and Eve dominion over creation, He was not permitting them to exploit what He had created - either for their own selfish purposes or so that they would try to possess those things. Rather, God wanted them to treat creation

with sacred respect, celebrating His goodness as seen through all the things that He had created.

Prayer: Teach me true poverty, O Lord, through which I possess nothing but celebrate everything. We are treating creation with sacred respect Mrs. Robin comes to live in our front entry two weeks ago where she builds a sturdy nest on a beam under the overhang of the roof. At first, she takes off when we go in and out but now, she sits there placidly, sheltered from the rain and the sun and the wind - a typical Alberta day. Mr. Robin is nearby in the spruce tree, sending "trilling" messages when the magpie swoops nearby, words of encouragement to his mate. Today the little ones have pecked their way out of their eggs and Mrs. Robin is busy finding juicy worms in the grass to feed her hungry family. She perches on the edge of the nest and drops the regurgitated juicy worms into three hungry mouths, open wide. Simple and awesome at the same time, God's creation.

Dear God, please help me to possess nothing but celebrate everything.

Catherine McNiff, ofs



Save the Dates

- **FRANCISCAN CROWN ROSARY** On first Saturday of each month. **Next session:**
June 1st @ 7pm PT/8pm MT/9pm CT
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86486098310?pwd=R1VQZ3EybWMraG1PTTYxb1p1WllvQT09>
Meeting ID: 864 8609 8310 Passcode: 741246

- Next FRANCISCAN VISION GLOBAL SUMMIT

June 7th 2024 *The debates on the Stigmata of Saint Francis in the 19th & 20th centuries, & the theological, anthropological, ecclesiological & sociological responses today.*

Speaker: Br William J. Short OFM

Registration is free. For Info see [BROCHURE](#)

OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS REGIONAL WEBSITE

WWW.OLOTA.ORG

To View Links to
Resources on the STIGMATA
Go to www.olota.org

September 17, 1224 to 2024

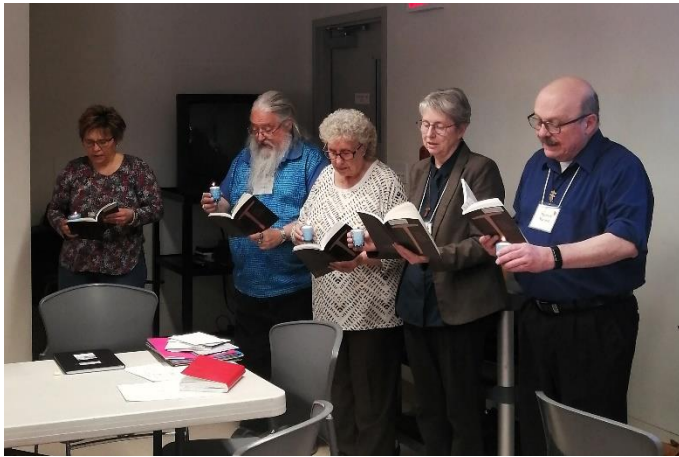


Origin of The Franciscan Crown Rosary

The Franciscan rosary, or as it is properly called, *The Franciscan Crown*, dates to the early part of the 15th century. At that time a young man who found spiritual joy in weaving a crown of wild flowers for a beautiful statue of Mary decided to enter the Franciscan Order. After entering the community, however, he was saddened when he no longer found the time to gather flowers for his personal devotion. One evening, while feeling tempted to abandon his vocation, he received a vision of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Virgin Mother encouraged the young novice to persevere by reminding him of the joyfulness of the Franciscan spirit. She also instructed him to meditate daily on seven joyful events from her own life as a new form of the rosary. Instead of a crown of flowers, the novice would now weave a crown of prayers. Before long, many other Franciscans began to pray the Crown and soon it spread to the entire Order, becoming officially established in 1422. In addition to developing this Marian devotion, the Franciscans are credited with adding the final words to the Hail Mary, Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. In 1263, Saint Bonaventure, Minister General of the Order, encouraged liturgical devotion honoring the mystery of the Visitation. Saint Bonaventure also popularized the daily triple recitation of the Angelus, which it is believed Saint Francis initiated after visiting the Holy Land. Francis was deeply impressed by the Muslim practice of stopping to pray several times a day, and desired to Christianize this pious custom. A Franciscan pope, Sixtus IV (1471-1485), introduced the feast of the Immaculate Conception and the feast of Saint Joseph as husband of Mary. He also issued the first papal pronouncement encouraging the rosary as an invaluable instrument of personal and societal conversion.

Robert Melnick, O.F.M. Conv. & Joseph Wood, O.F.M. Conv.

Social Corner



St Mary's Fraternity of Calgary held Council Elections on April 21st.

New council (l to r):

Erika Bancila – Minister,

Robert Lowther – Secretary,

Louise Gagne – Treasurer,

Heather Shilling - Formation Director,

Murdoch Macleod – Vice Minister



Members of St Anthony of Padua Fraternity of Richmond, BC participated in the annual **MARCH FOR LIFE** in Victoria on May 9, 2024. Franciscans affirming the sanctity of human life.

What is the root of human dignity?

The dignity of the human person is rooted in his or her creation in the image and likeness of God. Endowed with a spiritual and immortal soul, intelligence and free will, the human person is ordered to God and called in soul and in body to eternal beatitude.

Compendium of Catholic Catechism, 358

The Church Guarantor of True Human Values

Too numerous are those voices – amplified by the modern means of propaganda – which are contrary to the voice of the church. To tell the truth, the church is not surprised to be made like her divine founder, a “sign of contradiction”, yet she does not because of this cease to proclaim with humble firmness the entire moral law, both natural and evangelical. Of such laws the church was not the author, nor consequently can she be their arbiter; she is only their depositary and their interpreter without ever being able to declare to be licit that which is not so by reason of its intimate and unchangeable opposition to the true good of man.

Pope Paul VI, *Humanae Vitae*, 18

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