



OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS MESSENGER

Issue Number 46

June 2024

From Our Regional Minister

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
What a joy that I met more than 74 of you, my brothers and sisters from fraternities in Alberta at the Chapter of Mats on Saturday. I was fed with sumptuous spiritual food and lunch! I had a privilege to witness your love to God, to the order, and to one another. Your generosity with your resources, time, and talent are truly inspiring. I had a mountain-top experience.

I would like to congratulate St. Berard fraternity in Sherwood Park for the recent election and express my gratitude to the previous and current council members for your generosity and faithfulness.

Yesterday, as I boarded the plane from Edmonton back to Vancouver, I found myself desiring to pray the liturgy of the hours. This time, I was compelled to re-read the psalmody, reading, responsory and the intercessory prayers. I took my time to savour the words and receive graces hidden in them. Perhaps many of you have done this already; if you have not, I encourage you to do so. Feel free to sing/chant the psalmody as you pray the liturgy of the hours (but not on the plane!). You don't have to be a good singer!

Your servant,
Lanny Hui

From Our Regional Spiritual Assistant

'Discouragement' is an ever-present danger in our Christian and Franciscan life. At times or another, we feel like giving up the struggles and start living up without worrying too much about the demands of our Christian and Franciscan vocation. There could be many reasons for it. One main reason could be

our personal weakness; no matter how much we try, we keep on relapsing into sin time and again. So, why try again! The other reason could be coming from our Christian and Franciscan community; disunity, selfness, lack of faith, lack of vocation to religious or consecrated life and hard rules, etc. So, then we are left to ask questions; what's the future of the Church and Franciscan Order? Will the Church and the Order survive?



Jesus, through the parable of the *Mustard Seed* boosts our courage and teaches us that the success of the Kingdom of God is more God's work and doing than ours. We need to trust less ourselves and place in God our total confidence. What God needs from us is to continue to carry out His will all through our life in spite of the weakness we have. Unless we ourselves prevent it, the Kingdom of God continues to grow without our knowing how. The farmer after sowing the seeds waits patiently for the seed to sprout and grow. He furthers weeds and protects the field from the wild animals. The rest of the work is done by God who alone can provide the rain and sunshine for the seeds to grow. A farmer works for a while whereas God is at work all the time. None of us can explain the mystery behind the growth of a seed. It is God's work and wisdom that make the seed grow and produce abundantly.

Compare the imagery of the *Mustard Seed* to our Christian and Franciscan vocation; the seed of faith—the kingdom and reign of God has sprouted on the day of our baptism. On the day we first learned and encountered St. Francis of Assisi, something within us inspired us to follow his spirituality. This seed, though tiny given by parents or others, silently keeps on growing unless we destroy it by our serious sin. Through prayer, Eucharist, sacraments and spiritual practices as the rain and sunshine, we can make the seed grow and bear abundant fruits. So, let us not be discouraged when we see slow growth or no growth at all for a time. But find every occasion to nurture our faith and vocation and continue to do the will of God in our life in spite of our weakness and occasional failures we face.

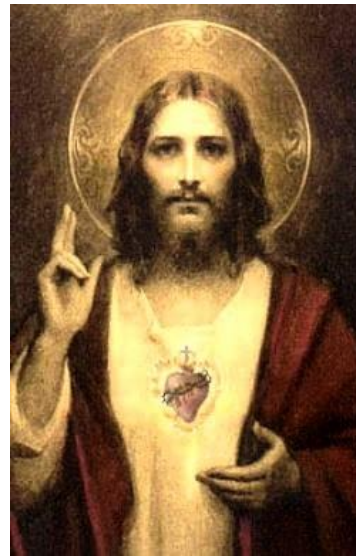
Br Manoj Xalxo



SAINT ANTHONY AND THE FISH

St Anthony of Padua was one day frustrated by the people who did not show interest in what he was preaching. Disappointed, Anthony turned to the seashore and started preaching. The people were surprised to see the fish gathered near Anthony with their heads above the water, seemingly listening to the saint.

(Feast day June 13)



*Heart of Jesus,
burning with love
for me, inflame my
heart with burning
love for thee. Jesus,
meek and humble
of heart, make my
heart like your
heart. Sacred Heart
of Jesus, I place all
my trust in you.
Amen*

Save the Dates

- Coming Soon! **Zoom BIBLE STUDY**

Wild Goose Series on the Holy Spirit

with Fr Dave Pivonka, TOR

Starting in September. Watch for more info!

- **FRANCISCAN CROWN ROSARY** On first
Saturday of each month. Next session:

July 5th @ 7pm PT/8pm MT/9pm CT

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86486098310?pwd=R1VQZ3EybWMraG1PTTYxb1p1WllvQT09>

[OZ3EybWMraG1PTTYxb1p1WllvQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86486098310?pwd=R1VQZ3EybWMraG1PTTYxb1p1WllvQT09)

Meeting ID: 864 8609 8310 Passcode: 741246

- **Next FRANCISCAN VISION GLOBAL SUMMIT**

July 27th 2024 *Carrying about the Dying of Jesus:*

The Stigmata and Christian ministry in the Letters

of Paul. Speaker: Br Georges Massinelli OFM

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

- **FRANCISCAN FESTIVAL OF TENTS 2024**

for Young Adults on **Labor Day Weekend**

Aug 30th to Sept 2nd at Our Lady of Victory

Camp near Red Deer, Alberta. For more info
see poster below.

- **Calling all Formators to a Zoom**

FORMATORS WORKSHOP on **Nov 2nd**

For more info see poster below.


OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS REGIONAL WEBSITE

WWW.OLOTA.ORG



To view links to
resources on the
STIGMATA go to
www.olota.org

Sept 17, 1224-2024
Celebrate 800 Years


National Secular Franciscan Order in Canada

Calling All Formators!

Gather with other formators across Canada in a Zoom

FORMATOR'S WORKSHOP

Workshop Themes

Servant leadership in the Writings of St Francis & St Clare
Intro to the Thematic Guide for Formation Programs
& The Companion Document
Time to *share ideas, methods & experiences*
And to *give feedback* on the workshop

Saturday - November 2, 2024
10am PT/11am MT/Noon CT/1pm ET/2pm AT
For about 90 minutes

A unique opportunity to

- connect with other formators across Canada
- learn & share what works best for your candidates & formation teams
- be open to the Holy Spirit working through brother & sister Franciscans

Registration deadline October 26, 2024

To register send the following information to Colleen Finlon, ofs at
cmariefinlon@gmail.com

Name - Fraternity - Region - Email - Fraternal position



ENCOURAGING WORDS FROM HOLY FATHER POPE FRANCIS

*Yesterday like today, the Kingdom of God grows in the world in a mysterious way, in a surprising way, revealing the hidden power of the little seed, its victorious vitality. Within the folds of personal and social events which at times seem to signal the failure of hope, it is important to remain confident in God's subdued but powerful way of acting. For this reason, in moments of darkness and of difficulty we must not lose heart, but remain anchored in faithfulness to God, to his ever-saving presence. Remember this: **God always saves. He is the Saviour.*** (submitted by Linda Adams)

SAINT ANTHONY'S BREAD

St Anthony continues to be a faithful friend of all in trouble, especially the poor and the needy. Back in the year of 1888, a woman named Louise Bouffier managed a small bakery store in the seaside village of Toulon, France. One morning she couldn't open the shop's door with her key. Neither could a locksmith, who advised her that he'd have to break the door open. While he went to get his tools, Louise prayed to St Anthony that she would give some of her bakery's bread to the poor if the door could be opened without force. When the locksmith returned, he tried the lock again and was easily able to open the door so Louise could get in. True to her word, Louise made sure that the poor of Toulon received their bread. Soon Louise's friends began to follow her example of promising a gift of bread or alms to the poor in return for prayers answered by St. Anthony. In the 1890's they formed the Franciscan charity called **St Anthony's Bread** which spread all over the world. In the spirit of this charity some parishes bless and distribute small loaves of bread on June 13, St Anthony's feast day.

Prayer of Thanksgiving: *Glorious St Anthony, friend of the poor and comforter of the troubled, you have come with loving care to my assistance. To express my heartfelt thanks, I ask you to accept this offering with my sincere promise to live always in the love of Jesus and my neighbor. Continue to shield me with your protection. Obtain for me the final grace of entering one day into the kingdom of heaven, to sing with you the everlasting praises of God. Amen.*



**YOUNG ADULT
FRANCISCAN
FESTIVAL OF TENTS**

**OUR LADY OF VICTORY CAMP
AUG 30TH to SEPT 2ND**

FELLOWSHIP, FRATERNITY AND FRANCISCAN SPIRIT

- Fellowship, Prayer, Mass, Reconciliation/Confession, Prayer, Talks and Small Group Faith Discussions.
- Icebreaker Games, Improv, Karaoke, Relay races, & more.

Registration Link:




DETAILS

- **Address:** Our Lady of Victory Camp, 41203 Range Road 11, AB T0C 0J0
- **When:** Labour Day Weekend
Friday, Aug 30th at 6:00pm to Monday, Sept 2nd at noon.
- **Cost:** \$100

Food, water, showers, bunk bed or camping sites provided

Register by QR code. Contact for questions: maritzachouza@gmail.com or clarakilale@gmail.com

Social Corner



Alberta Chapter of Mats was held on June 15, 2024 in Red Deer. The theme was *Radical Interior Conversion*. Seventy Franciscans attended from eleven fraternities. Br Michael Perras joined and provided excellent formation. Regional Minister Lanny Hui attended. Inquirer Denise created a beautiful prayer table.



Some parishioners of *Immaculate Conception Parish* in Kelowna celebrated the Feast Day of Saint Anthony of Padua on June 13th by baking homemade bread. Fr Paul John Irumba blessed the bread after Holy Mass. The parishioners visited a homeless tent site to greet the people and distribute the bread.

Jo-Anne & Audrey from Holy Spirit Fraternity in Red Deer cheerfully planted sister crab apple tree this month of June to celebrate Arbor Day (Apr 26). The tree now lives snugly in the ground and taking roots at Holy Trinity School in Olds, Alberta.



Our Lady of the Angels Messenger, Secular Franciscan Order of Western Canada Region, **June 2024**
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