

# OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS MESSENGER

Issue Number 48

August 2024

## From Our Regional Minister

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In my role as a regional minister, I have had the privilege of meeting some of you in-person or by zoom within BC and Alberta; I would like to visit fraternities in Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

I am continually inspired by inter-fraternity gatherings in the past month:

- 51 members of three Korean fraternities from Calgary, Edmonton, and Vancouver gathered together at Mt. St. Francis (Cochrane, AB) in July.
- Members from BC Interior fraternities travelled to Armstrong for the annual picnic in August.

The fraternal bonds between members are very much alive, for sure! A fraternity decides to move the holidays/break from summer to winter. The members usually do not get together as fraternities during the summer months July and August. Over the years, the fraternity had to cancel the January and February (and possibly March!) gatherings because of the severe winter weather. Many members did not feel safe to drive on snowy and icy roads. As they did not meet during summer and the cancellations during winter, they only meet six or seven times per year. The fraternity council felt a danger of losing fraternal bonds, so they plan to meet during the summer and not to meet when the roads are icy in the winter. Thanks for the idea.

Here are what I have noticed or heard:

- A few weeks ago, I met an 89-year-old who is still serving as a council member in a fraternity. She just had a hip-replacement surgery and is blind in one eye. She does

what she can as a council member. I am truly inspired by her generosity!

- Members who are generously supporting young adult or youth ministries financially and dedicating their time to reach out to them. They invite them to their fraternity activities: Mass, hiking and local pilgrimages.
- Some members call older members who cannot travel to the monthly gatherings.
- Many fraternities (you may be aware of this as well) are active in serving the poor.
- A fraternity decides to have a monthly meeting at a common room of an assisted living/nursing home to include elderly members with mobility challenges.
- Some fraternities are growing in numbers; some are stagnant or decreasing as members passed away or moved to another city.
- Although most members are elderly, a fraternity has attracted members in their thirties
- Members come to a fraternity gathering despite the snowy/icy road conditions; some even come in a wheelchair!

And still, many of you have been very generous with your time, talent, and resources serving their local communities and fraternities: local, regional and national. Thank you!

The encounters have encouraged me to keep following Jesus in the footsteps of St. Francis and Clare; it is the sure way to sainthood. Some saints and blessed were Third Order Secular: St. Alphonsus Liguori, St. Pierre-Julien Eymard, St. Jean-Marie Vianney, Bl. Pope Innocent XI, Bl. Novellon de

Faenza, Bl. Francois de Pesaro, St. Roch de Montpellier, St. Jeanne-Francoise de Chantal, Bl. Juvenal Ancina whose memorials are in August. Some of them were Secular Franciscans before they became founders of other religious communities. You can search online for more saints and blessed who were Third Order Secular Franciscans. St. Francis and St. Clare showed us that as we are faithful to the Gospel and prioritize our relationship with God, God will give us everything else we need. So, together, let us strive to make our fraternities saint-producing settings (and let me know how I can help your fraternity to achieve that goal)!

Your servant,  
Lanny

## **Saint Clare of Assisi**

*(Feast day August 11<sup>th</sup>)*



### **Excerpt from her Fourth Letter to Agnes of Prague**

*...Happy, indeed, is she to whom it is given to share this sacred banquet, to cling with all her heart to Him whose beauty all the heavenly hosts admire unceasingly, whose love inflames our love, whose contemplation is our refreshment, whose graciousness is our joy, whose gentleness fills us to overflowing, whose remembrance brings a gentle light, whose fragrance will revive the dead, whose glorious vision will be the happiness of all the citizens of the heavenly Jerusalem; Inasmuch as this vision is the splendor of eternal glory (Heb 1:3), the brilliance of eternal light and the mirror without blemish (Wis 7:26), look upon that mirror each day, O queen and spouse of Jesus Christ, and continually study your face within it, so that you may adorn yourself within and without with beautiful robes and cover yourself with the flowers and garments of all the virtues, as becomes the daughter and most chaste bride of the Most High King. Indeed, blessed poverty, holy humility, and ineffable charity are reflected in that mirror, as, with the grace of God, you can contemplate them throughout the entire mirror.*

*Look at the parameters of this mirror, that is, the poverty of Him who was placed in a manger and wrapped in swaddling clothes. O marvelous humility, O astonishing poverty! The King of the angels, the Lord of heaven and earth, is laid in a manger! Then, at the surface of the mirror, dwell on the holy humility, the blessed poverty, the untold labors and burdens which He endured for the redemption of all mankind. Then, in the depths of this same mirror, contemplate the ineffable charity which led Him to suffer on the wood of the cross and die thereon the most shameful kind of death. Therefore, that Mirror, suspended on the wood of the cross, urged those who passed by to consider it, saying: "All you who pass by the way, look and see if there is any suffering like My suffering!" (Lam 1:2). Let us answer Him with one voice and spirit, as He said: Remembering this over and over leaves my soul downcast within me (Lam 3:20)! From this moment, then, O queen of our heavenly King, let yourself be inflamed more strongly with the fervour of charity!*

*As you contemplate further His ineffable delights, eternal riches and honors, and sigh for them in the great desire and love of your heart, may you cry out: Draw me after You! We will run in the fragrance of Your perfumes, O heavenly Spouse! I will run and not tire, until You bring me into the wine-cellar, until Your left hand is under my head and Your right hand will embrace me happily and You will kiss me with the happiest kiss of Your mouth. In this contemplation, may you remember your poor little mother, knowing that I have inscribed the happy memory of you indelibly on the tablets of my heart, holding you dearer than all the others...*

<http://www.slr-ofs.org/st-clares-letters-to-st-agnes-of-prague.html>

## **From our Regional Spiritual Assistant**

***Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.*** (Jn 6:68-69)

Christian life is a series of daily choices for God or against God; to accept or reject the truths He has revealed through His prophets and especially through His Son who offers us eternal life. The disciples of Jesus had to make a choice; to stay with Jesus or go away. Was He the one who would fulfill their messianic expectations? And if not to Him, to whom they shall go? They were to make their life

decision; the kind that determines the fundamental direction they will take and consequently, influence every other decision they will make.

Peter as the spokesperson of the group made three bold assertions. First, there is no one else to go. Peter and the other disciples had been with Jesus for some time. They had heard His lips utter words of forgiveness. They had seen His hands touch to heal the sick, the lame, the leper and to raise the dead to life. All that is human, noble and spiritual in a person, they had seen in Jesus. All that is eternal in God, they had seen it in Jesus. That is the reason Peter said to Jesus; *Lord, to whom can we go?* Peter clearly asserts that apart from Jesus there is nothing truly worthwhile. Secondly, Peter asserts that Jesus has the words of eternal life. Jesus is the link between temporality and eternity, between Heaven and earth. He broke His body and shed His blood to give eternal life. Anyone who believes in Him and participates worthily in the Eucharist will have eternal life. Thirdly, Peter asserts that Jesus is the Holy One of God. In the touch of Jesus, Peter saw the touch of God. In the words of Jesus, he saw the life-giving eternal words of God and in the person of Jesus, he saw the glimpse of the glory of God. Therefore, he said to Jesus, *we believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.*

Peter and the other disciples chose to stay with Jesus because of the personal involvement of Jesus in their lives. This decision determined their identity. They paid the price and received the reward of the choice they made. The choices we make really determine the character of our union with God. If we decide to commit ourselves, we will enter into a union with God deeper than anything we have previously known. However, this union will be based on faith. Faith is a gift which God freely gives to those who listen to His word and who put their trust in Him. Faith is a personal response to God's revelation of Himself. Faith is neither blind nor ignorant. It is based on the truth and reliability of God's word. Jesus has the words of eternal life. The world does not have these words and yet we are tempted to listen to the noise of the world. The devil does not have these words and yet we are tempted to listen to him. We can know God personally and grow in recognizing His voice as we listen to His word and do His will. Do we believe, as Peter did, that Jesus has the words of eternal life and the

power to change and transform our life? And can we say like Peter, *Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.* (Jn 6:68-69)

Br Manoj Xalxo

### From our Regional Director of Formation

As I write yet another message to the Fraternity Ministers and Directors of Formation today, I wonder what I can find in the book *Franciscan Virtues Through the Year* by the Confraternity of Penitents about the virtue of vulnerability. Working on the new program *Supporting Initial Formation on OLOTA Zoom Sessions* I realize how many drafts I have already sent out and how many mistakes I have made and how vulnerable I am!

On page 167 of the book the writer mentions "We need to be willing to be hurt if we are going to love and to serve. Many people begin to serve others, but as soon as they are criticized, corrected or directed, they grow angry and give up their work of mercy. Vulnerability means continuing despite the wounds. Why do we continue to minister? We continue to minister because we love the other more than we love our comfort and self-esteem." Then the writer reminds us, "Jesus, the Son of God, was made vulnerable to human beings. Ultimately this led to His Passion and death. St. Francis, in his desire to be like Christ, often made himself vulnerable to criticism when he accused himself of faults that he could have kept hidden and when he accepted into the Order men whom others would consider unsuitable."

Mother Teresa of Calcutta says, "Give the best you have and it will never be enough. Give your best anyway. In the final analysis, it is between you and God."

Catherine Payne, OFS will be leading this year's **National Formator's Course** starting in mid-October, 2024. This course is spread out over six months and is not overwhelming! It is ideal for any Director of Formation in the OLOTA Region. When I took this online course in 2015 and again two years ago there was lots of opportunity for interaction with the other students and introspection on my own faith journey too along with teaching tips for engaging groups and individuals and in-depth coverage of the course material. What is exciting too, is that you will be studying with



students from across the country, coast to coast to coast ... Check it out - you will be glad you did!

Click here for [Overview & Application Form](#).

Catherine McNiff, ofs

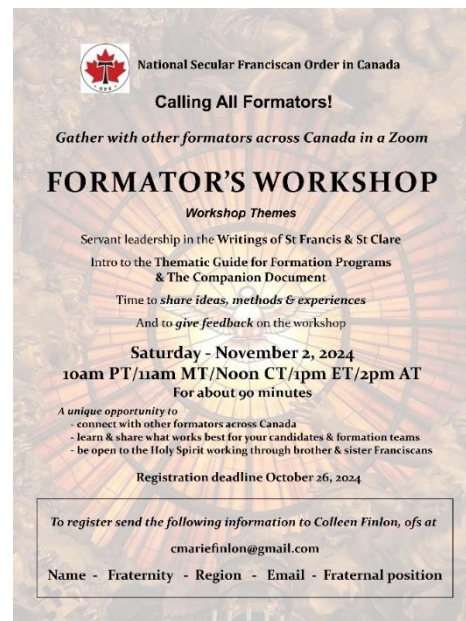
**Supporting Initial Formation on OLOTA Zoom Sessions:** The Regional Director of Formation - Catherine McNiff, ofs - will provide supportive discussion on the chapters of *The Franciscan Journey* for one-hour monthly meetings starting on Wednesday, September 18, 2024 at 6 pm PT/7 pm MT/8 pm CT. We are inviting Ministers/Directors of Formation to submit candidates for the OLOTA Zoom Sessions **IF YOU:**

- Have a participant who would like to take Initial Formation Online with OLOTA for distance, work constraints or other reasons
- Have a participant who will attend fraternity meetings whenever possible and be in contact with the Director of Formation of his/her chosen Fraternity
- Have met the entrance requirements to his/her fraternity - Letter of Reference from Parish Priest, Letter of Admission to fraternity, Council Approval, etc. Friar Manoj Xalxo, OFM - Spiritual Assistant to OLOTA - states that this is a necessary requirement before the participant is enrolled in the course.
- Have fraternal support from his/her fraternity - ie. buddy system

The participant will be required to submit monthly written answers to some of the questions from the Franciscan Journey textbook to the Regional Director of Formation and a copy sent to his/her fraternity's Director of Formation as a record of attendance and involvement in the course. Please register participant with Marlene Welch at [Patmarlocel@gmail.com](mailto:Patmarlocel@gmail.com) Ministers/Formation Directors: Please order *The Franciscan Journey* textbook and *Little Red Rule Book* (\$30 total + postage) from Catherine McNiff, ofs - Director of Formation, OLOTA and send funds to OLOTA Treasurer Clemence (Sang Hoon) Jung, 2008 Springer Avenue, Burnaby, BC V5B 3M

## Formation Support from OFS National Council

National Council's Director of Formation, Catherine Payne, ofs will be offering a *potpourri* of support especially for directors of formation at a 2 hour Zoom session on Wednesday, November 20, 2024 starting at 6 pm PT/ 7 pm MT/ 8 pm CT. The focus will be on the CIOFS *Thematic Guide for Formation Programs* and what the National Commission has done to apply it to the Canadian Secular Franciscan way of life; learning more about *Servant Leadership* from a Franciscan perspective; and an opportunity to share ideas and insights on formation.



**Save the Dates**

**...Zoom BIBLE STUDY...**

**Wild Goose Series on the Holy Spirit**  
with Fr Dave Pivonka, TOR

**Thursdays starting September 5<sup>th</sup>**

**6:30pm PT/7:30pm MT/8:30pm CT**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89424828739?pwd=2q6WV6Yh8Fo8sWSjhHioZKqVBNUaZE.1>

**Meeting ID: 894 2482 8739**

**Passcode: 048961**

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

**Sept 7<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm PT/8pm MT/9pm CT**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86486098310?pwd=R1VQZ3EybWMrG1PTTYxb1p1WllvQT09>

**Meeting ID: 864 8609 8310 Passcode: 741246**

- FRANCISCAN VISION GLOBAL SUMMIT

**Sept 28th 2024** *Ascetical paths to nurture the love of Christ Crucified in the spirit of the La Verna experience – in the Church and in Franciscan tradition.*

Speaker: **Br Carlos Esteban Salto Sola OFM**

**Registration is free.** For Info see **BROCHURE**

- FRANCISCAN FESTIVAL OF TENTS 2024

for Young Adults on **Labor Day Weekend**

**Aug 30<sup>th</sup> to Sept 2<sup>nd</sup> at Our Lady of Victory Camp near Red Deer, Alberta.** For more info see poster below.

- Calling all Formators to a

**Zoom FORMATORS WORKSHOP**

**Saturday, Nov 2<sup>nd</sup>** see poster for info

- **St. Elizabeth of Hungary Fraternity** in Edmonton is holding their annual **WALK IN THE WOODS** in Elk Island Park (Waskegahen staging area) on **Saturday, Sept 7<sup>th</sup>.** We invite other fraternities to join us at **10 am** for a short meeting and then a prayerful walk along the trail, followed by lunch (bring your own). For more info please call

Theresa at 587-987-7915 or email [tmseraphim@hotmail.com](mailto:tmseraphim@hotmail.com)

To view links to resources on the STIGMATA go to [www.olota.org](http://www.olota.org)

**Sept 17, 1224-2024**  
**Celebrate 800 Years**



**!!!NEW!!!**

**Korean section on OLOTA website!!!**

**look** for Franciscan documents translated into **Korean!!!**

[www.OLOTA.org](http://www.OLOTA.org)

**YOUNG ADULT FRANCISCAN FESTIVAL OF TENTS**

**OUR LADY OF VICTORY CAMP**  
**AUG 30<sup>TH</sup> TO SEPT 2<sup>ND</sup>**

**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 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm to Monday, Sept 2<sup>nd</sup> at noon.
- \* **Cost:** \$100

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

Register by QR code. Contact for questions: [maritzachouza@gmail.com](mailto:maritzachouza@gmail.com) or [clarakilala@gmail.com](mailto:clarakilala@gmail.com)



## Social Corner



Fifty-one members of Korean fraternities: St. Francis of Assisi (Vancouver), St. Padre Pio (Calgary), & St. Clare (Edmonton) attended retreat at Mt St Francis in Cochrane, AB from July 12 to 24. The retreat was facilitated by Fr. Park, Sung-Ho Damian ofm with the topic *Sacraments & Rendezvous with God*.

St Padre Pio Fraternity  
in Calgary set up  
tables every Saturday  
to feed the hungry.







San Damiano Fraternity of Salmon Arm host a gathering to celebrate the Feast of St Clare of Assisi with BC Interior Fraternities: Little Flowers of Kelowna & St Pio of Kamloops at Carmel of St Joseph Monastery in Armstrong, BC. Lanny & Danny Hui visit as Candice Anhel made Permanent Profession on August 10<sup>th</sup>.



St Clare of Assisi Fraternity of Coquitlam, BC celebrate their summer potluck on August 14<sup>th</sup>.



St Agnes of Assisi Fraternity of Coquitlam, BC gathers for the permanent profession of Carole Ball. On the right the newly professed embraces with the longest professed, June Harris.



## 75<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF MOUNT SAINT FRANCIS RETREAT CENTRE IN COCHRANE, AB



Photo by Debbie Boccabella



Celebrating with  
Bishop William  
McGrattan  
Diocese of Calgary

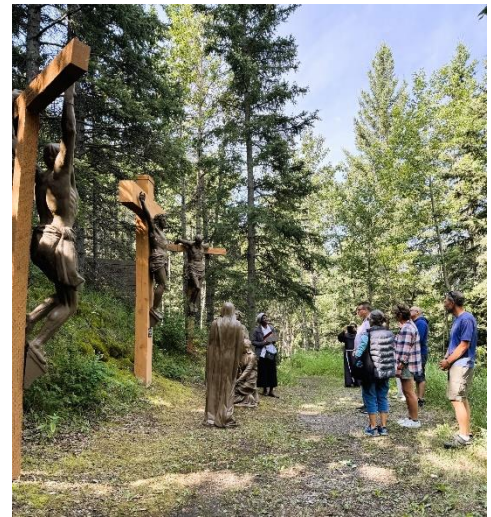


Holy Mass with  
Bishop McGrattan

Group  
discussions



Remembering all  
buried at MSF  
& other places led  
by Br Michael



Stations of the Cross  
led by Sr Ann Adounkpe  
& Friar Ed

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