



Issue Number 49

September 2024

From Our Regional Minister

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
Upon receiving gracious invitations from the Immaculate Conception and St. Anthony's fraternities in Winnipeg, Fr. Manoj, Paulette Matovich (our Vice Minister of Saskatchewan and Manitoba), and I made arrangements to visit brothers and sisters there. Unfortunately, the visit was cancelled due to an impending strike by Air Canada pilots (fortunately, the strike did not happen -- we could have gone ahead!). We will reschedule the get-together sometime soon in 2025. Interactions of members from different fraternities continue to take place:

- Facilitated by Catherine McNiff, director of formations from some fraternities began to get together to reach out to those who are interested in the Franciscan spirituality but significantly distant from the closest fraternities.
- The first Festival of Tents for the young adults in our region.
- The celebration of 75 years of Mt. St. Francis in Cochrane.
- Marlene Welch (St. Mary's, Calgary) and Colleen Finlon (Little Flowers of St. Francis, Kelowna) have facilitated the Wild Goose Series which have been attended by members across the region.
- At the regional level, Maria Ferrera from Trillium Regional Fraternity, will facilitate Formator's Course using our very own website www.olota.org The course is open to professed members across Canada.



800 Year Feast of the STIGMATA

September 17, 1224-2024

I would encourage members of different fraternities to interact with each other; some ideas are:

- Invite the nearby fraternities to celebrate with you, if your fraternity is celebrating the transitus of St. Francis.
- Invite members from other fraternities to work together in an apostolate serving the poor.
- Organize joint-initial formation sessions with nearby fraternities.
- Plan outreach initiatives together since many fraternities do not have ministry to youth and/or young adults.

All it takes is just a simple email to the nearby fraternity minister(s) with a sentence starting with "We would like to invite your fraternity members to..." The investment of simple email invitations can bear fruits of unity and fraternal spirit, foster/inspire leadership within your fraternity, and rejuvenate your fraternity. When we do this, we allow the Holy

Spirit to work within us and through us to touch others. I applaud those who have worked together with members beyond their own fraternities.

I ask you to pray for the following:

- those who have been recently professed from the following fraternities: Little Flowers of St. Francis (Kelowna), St. Anthony of Padua (Richmond), San Damiano (Salmon Arm), St. Agnes (Coquitlam), and St. Francis Korean (Vancouver). Note: fraternity ministers, please let me know if there is a profession in your fraternity.
- struggling fraternities in the region
- the sick and elderly
- those of us who are going to make the Franciscan pilgrimage to Italy in October.

Thank you! Your servant,
Lanny

From our Regional Spiritual Assistant

Whose glory do we seek? There can be no share in God's glory without the Cross. When Jesus prophesied about his betrayal and crucifixion, it did not make any sense to his disciples because it simply did not fit in their understanding of what the Messiah came to do. Do we resemble the disciples at times? We reject what we do not wish to see. Perhaps Jesus and the disciples were in two different wave-lengths. He was speaking about servanthood, suffering, betrayal, rejection and death. They were completely pre-occupied with who would be the greatest among them, and looking for the best position in his kingdom. When Jesus spoke about his painful death, he was repetitive and very clear about it. Whereas the disciples understood it as much as to shun it. They knew that the topic was ominous and painful; they deliberately failed to remove the veil, which covered the dreadful mystery. It is a natural, but disastrous, human impulse not to know the worst. When we confront a problem or a crisis in life, we must not run away from thinking and evaluating it objectively. Evasion is never a solution to a problem. We must learn to have courage to analyze any problem from every angle and be willing to face it. Jesus tells his disciples to embrace the attitude of a little child. In the ancient world, little children had no rights, position or privileges of their own. They were

socially at the bottom and at the service of their parents, much like the household staff or servants. The disciples must be humble and lowly of heart-who instead of asserting their rights, willingly empty themselves of pride and self-seeking glory by taking the lowly position of a servant or a child. Jesus washed the feet of his disciples, the greatest example for his followers to follow with all the heart, soul, mind and strength. True greatness and glory are in our humility and selfless service to our brothers and sisters.

Br Manoj Xalxo

Upcoming NATIONAL FORMATOR'S COURSE

This course begins in mid-October 2024 and runs over six months. It is ideal for any Director of Formation in the OLOTA Region. There will be opportunity for interaction with the other participants across the country along with introspection of personal faith journey, methods for engaging groups and individuals and an in-depth coverage of the course material. The course is available to take 1) Online or by 2) Correspondence. Click here for [ONLINE Overview & Application Form](#), or [CORRESPONDENCE Overview & Application Form](#).

Supporting INITIAL FORMATION on Zoom Sessions

Regional Director of Formation, Catherine McNiff of, is providing 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. Ministers and Directors of Formation are invited to submit candidates for the OLOTA zoom sessions.

NOTICE OF ERROR

Last month a notice was posted for a zoom formator's gathering on November 20, 2024 in the evening. This was an error. **This will not take place.**

The Secular Franciscan Rule

...from life to Gospel and Gospel to life is part of the Rule of Secular Franciscans. What does this mean? The desire of St Francis was to observe the Gospel of Jesus by inviting Jesus to be the centre of his life. With Jesus in the heart of St. Francis, he was able to live the scriptures ...going from Gospel to life and life to Gospel as the Holy Spirit led. Who is Jesus to you? Have you made Jesus the centre of your life as did St Francis. Franciscans realize that Jesus is the

heart of our faith. Through Jesus we are given the way to live our lives ...going from life to Gospel and Gospel to life.

Linda Adams ofs

Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation (JPIC)

MISSION STATEMENT: The mission of **Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation** is to assist the professed Secular Franciscans as they reflect on their relationship with God as manifested in the fruits of conversion in their lives. This with special regard to the daily choices made in the areas of justice, peace making and respect for all created things and people; as brothers and sisters of penance, *bringing life to the Gospel and the Gospel to life.*

Season of Creation, 2024 *The Season of Creation begins on September 1st with the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation and ends on October 4th with the Feast of St. Francis. It is an ecumenical, world-wide event, with many opportunities to participate. Pope Francis has issued his message, and a prayer (links below.) Perhaps it is time to initiate a new fraternity apostolate, or get more involved at the parish level. It's never too late to start. This year's theme is "Hope and Act with Creation." Thankfully we have Franciscans to show the way.* From [JPIC Bulletin 8.23.2024](#) (See link for Season of Creation Resources)

Weekly Zoom Bible Study

In the first week of September, Our Lady of the Angels Regional Fraternity embarked on the video faith series *The Wild Goose* by Fr. Dave Pivonka (TOR). Episode 3 of this remarkable series deals with Baptism of the Holy Spirit and Fire. Father Pivonka in his down to earth, engaging manner explores this awakening of the graces we received at Baptism and Confirmation which often lie dormant within us. Father speaks of the many reported changes that one experiences after this "second coming" of the Spirit upon us. Among them, a keen sense of mission; of wanting to share with others, may be just what we need for rejuvenation of our Fraternities. He draws our attention to a quote from Pope Benedict XVI at St Peter's Square on the Solemnity of Pentecost, May 11, 2008:

Let us rediscover, dear brothers and sisters, the beauty of being baptized in the Holy Spirit; let us recover awareness of our Baptism and

Confirmation, ever timely sources of grace. Let us ask the Virgin Mary to obtain also today a renewed Pentecost for the Church that will imbue in all, and especially in the young, the joy of living and witnessing to the Gospel. Pope Benedict XVI

Perhaps we can pray for a renewed Pentecost for our fraternities. PRAYER: *O Holy Spirit of God, take me as your disciple, guide me, illuminate me, sanctify me. Bind my hands that I may do no evil; cover my eyes that I may not see it; sanctify my heart so that evil may not rest within me. Be my guide! Wherever you lead, I will go; whatever you command, I will do. AMEN*

The Wild Goose Series continues weekly to December 12, 2024. Please join us if you are able. Peace to all.

Marlene Welch (ofs)

Save the Dates

...Zoom BIBLE STUDY...

Wild Goose Series on the Holy Spirit

with Fr Dave Pivonka, TOR

Thursdays

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....

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

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

Meeting ID: 864 8609 8310 Passcode: 741246

- FRANCISCAN VISION GLOBAL SUMMIT

Oct 26th 2024 *The Aesthetics of pain and the beauty of Alter Christus: A phenomenological analysis of Saint Francis' Stigmata through Art*

Speaker: Elizabeth Tavarez Moreno

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

- Calling all Formators to a

Zoom FORMATOR'S WORKSHOP

Saturday, Nov 2nd see poster below



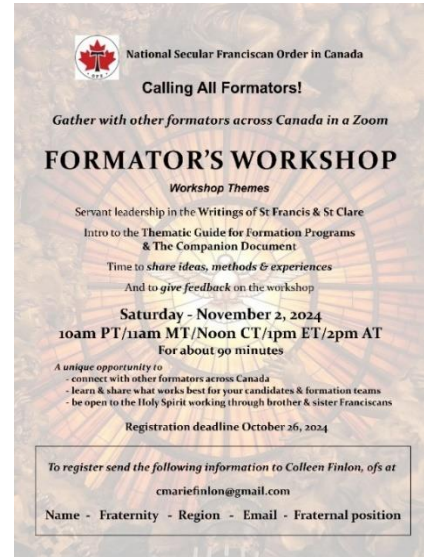
Saint Padre Pio Feast Day Sept 23

"Following the example of Padre Pio, please, never tire of entrusting yourselves to Christ and of announcing His goodness and his mercy with the witness of your life."

Pope Francis

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

Look for Franciscan documents translated into Korean on the OLOTA website.
www.OLOTA.org

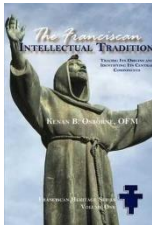


FRANCISCAN BOOK CLUB

Would you like to know more about the Franciscan Intellectual Traditions?

Secular Franciscans typically lead lives of prayer and ministry in our parishes. Intellectual concepts can appear far away and unrelated to our everyday life. In the Franciscan book club, we hope to read, study and talk to each other to connect the dots between everyday life and Franciscan spirituality and theology.

We will start with **Volume 1: The Franciscan Intellectual Tradition** by Kenan B. Osborne, OFM



from *The Franciscan Heritage Series* recommended by Br. Gerry Clyne OFM.

The zoom book club sessions will be on Sunday evenings at

6:00 pm BC

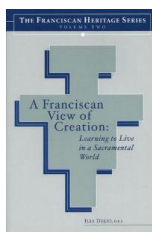
7:00 pm AB

8:00 pm MT

Sunday Nov 3, 2024 Chapters 1 & 2

Sunday Dec 1, 2024 Chapters 3 & 4

Sunday Jan 12, 2025 Chapter 5 & conclusion



Volume 2: A Franciscan View of Creation by Ilia Delio, OSF

Sunday March 2, 2025 Chapters 1 & 2

Sunday Apr 6, 2025 Chapters 3 & 4

Sunday May 4, 2025 Chapter 5 & conclusion

Online version of the books is available for free to borrow through the website www.archive.org The entire series also can be purchased from www.amazon.ca (mix of physical and kindle versions).

Please contact Marlene Welch mwelch4@telus.net or Miriam Liem ofsmiriam@gmail.com for more information on our upcoming Franciscan Book Club.

Social Corner

The first **FRANCISCAN FESTIVAL OF TENTS** for young adults in Western Canada region took place on the Labour Day long weekend 2024 (August 30 - September 2, 2024) at Our Lady of Victory Camp located in Lacombe County, Alberta. Fr Dan Gurnick OFM, David Bouchard OFS, myself and three young adults: Clara, Arlene and Adam were on the organizing team. We were inspired by Fr. Guylain Prince OFM who shared with the Franciscan Youth and Young Adults National Team about the annual Festival of Tents in Montreal. We got excited to try to have this event happening in Western Canada. The event was filled with joy since we gathered to journey together in faith with daily mass, Eucharistic Adoration, Sacrament of Reconciliation, fellowship, and free time at the lake. We laughed, reflected, and had fun during impromptu night gatherings, bonfire, karaoke, games, and eight talks followed by small group discussions. The topics were "Francis and the Chapter of Mats", "Freedom of Conscience and Speech", "The Spirit of Francis and the Courage to be a Great Saint", "The Canticle of Creatures", "Gospel to Life, Life to Gospel", "Living my Catholic Faith as a Secular Franciscan", "Adam's Testimony", and "A Final Reflection: If I were Francis...". We were so blessed by the presence of 45 young adults attending, Fr. Rajesh Jesuraj SAC, Fr. Leon Kler, Fr. Joachim Yoon OFM, Fr. Dan Gurnick OFM, and Br. Aldin Francis Canobas OFM, OFS members from Calgary and Red Deer (David and Cathy Bouchard, Catherine and Liam McNiff, Blaise MacSween, Erika Bancila, Sister Ann) and Teresa, a mother of one of the young adults. They kindly helped us out with the cooking and housekeeping. We are so grateful for the prayers and financial support of OLOTA Regional Council and the generous fraternities in BC and Alberta that sponsored young adults to this event. We thank the four priests that came to help with the sacraments and the Knights of Columbus Council 3408, for partnering with us in this project. The young adults expressed their gratitude and are looking forward to the next one in 2025!

*Blessings of peace and joy, Maritza Chouza, OFS
OLOTA Director of Youth & National Youth Team*



The First Annual Young Adult Franciscan **FESTIVAL OF TENTS** at Our Lady of Victory Camp in Lacombe County, AB where 45 young adults gathered together on Labor Day 2024 weekend for fellowship, fraternity and Franciscan spirit.



The *Little Flowers of St. Francis Fraternity* hosted a **DAY OF REFLECTION** at Seton House of Prayer in Kelowna on Sept 14, 2024, the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross. *Fr Obi Ibekwe* celebrated Holy Mass and led three

talks on the theme, *Love in Challenging Times*. The talks covered how brother Francis connected with the world, with God and with creation through the six c's of creation: Creation, Crib, Cross, Chalice, Compassion, Contemplation. The Franciscan message is to not give up on others and to take time to see the beauty of creation, to be childlike. Taking time to play gives way to laughter and lightens the journey. Washing each others feet was an opportunity to express love and servanthood concluding the day by bringing that love out into the community.



Young adults gathered at Mount St Francis guest house to watch the movie *Brother Sun Sister Moon* and continue in the Spirit of St Francis of Assisi after attending the Franciscan Festival of Tents.

Our Lady of the Angels Messenger, Secular Franciscan Order of Western Canada Region, **September 2024**
Minister Lanny Hui, ofs lanny.hui@gmail.com Editor Colleen Finlon, ofs cmariiefinlon@gmail.com

