

# OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS MESSENGER

Issue Number 56

EASTER / April 2025

## From Our Regional Minister

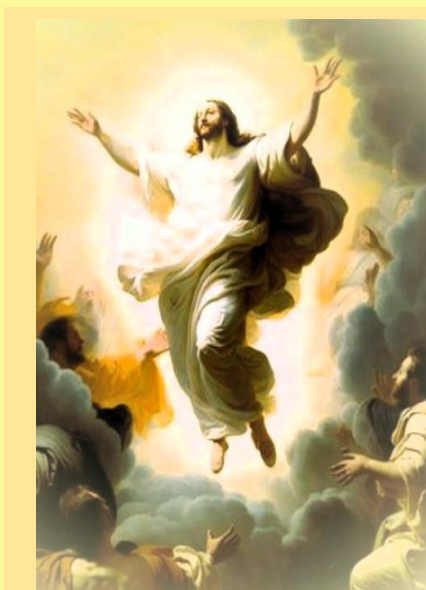
*Happy Easter everyone,*

May the Risen Lord strengthen your faith, renew your hope, and fill your heart with love at Easter and always (attributed to an anonymous source).

At this time of mourning for our beloved Pope Francis, we thank the Lord for the grace we have received through Pope Francis. It is truly an honour to our order that the late Jesuit Pope chose our seraphic father, St. Francis, to be his model in humility and poverty and always sought opportunities to practice the virtues. During his life here on earth, as you are probably aware, he reached out to the peripheries, sought opportunities for dialogue, and made efforts to become instruments of peace. To me, personally, the late Pope has inspired me to be a better Franciscan.

I would like to thank every local fraternity for the contributions made to the regional fraternity. For each professed member in the region, \$21 has been sent to the National Fraternity Council. We now have enough funds to organize a chapter election and to start the next regional council. There have been changes in the regional council:

-The JPIC director has resigned and



HE IS RISEN, ALLELUIA!



## POPE FRANCIS 1936-2025

*Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, & let perpetual light shine upon him. May all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. AMEN*

has been temporarily changed to a JPIC Committee containing five representatives from Manitoba/Saskatchewan, Alberta North, Alberta South, BC Interior and BC Coastal. At the upcoming in-person council meeting, the committee, hopefully, would remain and a new JPIC director would be elected.

-The Vice Minister of BC Coastal has resigned; currently, the duties of the position have been executed by the BC Interior vice minister and the regional minister with the help of BC Coastal local fraternity ministers.

Tonight, the regional council met with the national restructuring committee on zoom. The regional council has heard and acknowledged that there is a hunger to be together as a family across the region on top of the hunger of spiritual Franciscan formation workshops/mini retreats as a region. In the remaining time as a council, we would like to address those needs. We would like to reach out to all of you and in turn, please do not hesitate to reach out to your servants in the regional council - let us know what we can do to help you grow your Franciscan profession and calling. Please pray for the repose of the soul of Germaine McPhee, a member of St. Clare Chilliwack fraternity, who just recently passed away.

*Your servant,  
Lanny*

## From Our Regional Spiritual Assistant

### ***Christ is Risen, Alleluia!***

Easter, we celebrate the newness of life in Christ. It bursts forth first in the resurrection of Christ, and then through the preaching and living of the first Christians. Passionately, the first Christian lived and proclaimed the resurrection story. Christ is Risen, have we risen with him? If we die with Christ, we will appear with him in glory. If we cast out the old self, we will be a new creation. When this wonderful transformation takes place within us, then everything is new and everything is fresh in and around us. So, to what newness are we called? To what must we die in order to rise transformed? Easter proclaims that Christ has died and risen; with him we die to all the wickedness in our lives and in our world, and we set our hearts on higher things, on sincerity and on truth.

We are called to be Easter people and to proclaim Christ's resurrection. Mary Magdalen's message to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord," is the very essence of Christianity. It is not enough that a Christian knows about the Lord, but that we know him personally. It is not enough to argue about him, but to meet him. In the resurrection, we encounter the living Lord Jesus who loves us personally and shares his glory with us. Thus, having encountered him personally, we too passionately like the early Christians live and proclaim the resurrection story and bring hope alive in our troubled world.

Beginning of this month friars of the Holy Spirit Province, Canada, gathered for the Provincial Chapter: "Together for the Mission." Friars with the collaborators (people of God) opened up new ways of being and serving together as one family in Franciscan mission. Love for the mission, spirit of familial dialogue, importance of Franciscan discernment, and great fervor to be a synodal province, highlighted the chapter. Believed to be a pertinent way of going forward as a province in Canada. And, I am self-assured; to move forward as a province, the need of the hour is to go back to our Franciscan roots; identity, traditions and charism, which would spark love for Franciscan vocation and make an imprint on present time.

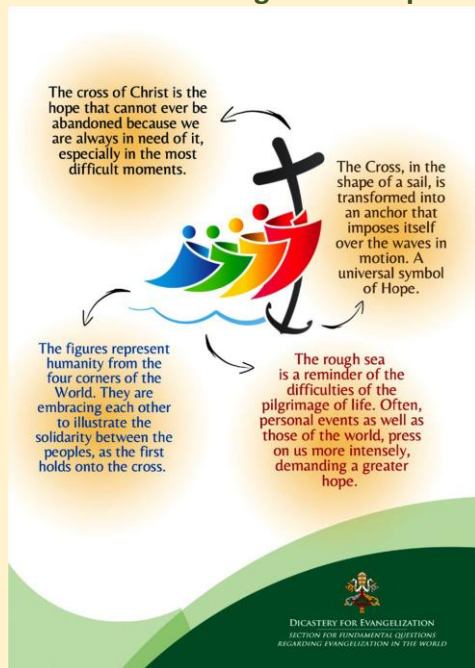
As we mourn the death of our Holy Father, Pope Francis, let us also celebrate the astounding service he has offered for the Church. St. Francis of Assisi and his spirituality, inspired and guided Pope Francis. He did his best to live and uphold Franciscan spirituality till the end. His life is a powerful witness for our faith. He is an incredible example for us to be a poor church for the poor which he said and lived all through his papacy. He has done his part; may we continue in his spirit to do our part to live our Franciscan spirituality. May we rise with Christ in every aspect of life and truly live as the Easter people. Christ is Risen, Alleluia!

*Br Manoj Xalxo, ofm*

Celebrate the  
CENTENARY with CIOFS  
[800 Years of](#)  
[CANTICLE of the](#)  
[CREATURES](#)  
By *St Francis of Assisi*  
Celebration [Text only](#)

Monthly **PRAYER INTENTIONS** for vocational promotion  
of the Secular Franciscan Order (2025) From CIOFS  
**APRIL:** *For the light of the Holy Spirit to guide the members of  
OFS local fraternities and councils, responsible for helping  
discern true vocation.*  
**MAY:** *For the development of the culture of vocations in our  
fraternities.*

## Jubilee 2025 Pilgrims of Hope



### From Our Regional Formation Director

Spring is already in the air and soon it will be Pentecost and the time when our thoughts turn to the Holy Spirit in a special way. Let us share this prayer from the Synod of 2021 - 2023 with our fraternity brothers and sisters as we remind them to see Christ in the poor and lonely, the destitute and those who are afraid.

#### HOLY SPIRIT PRAYER

*Come Holy spirit, fill my heart with your wisdom and kindle in my heart the fire that inspired your apostles. Teach me how to listen. We are all called by God to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. Guide me in the words you wish me to speak and the deeds you wish me to do in serving our God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one in love.*

AMEN.

*Catherine McNiff, ofs*

One way to remind our Fraternity brothers and sisters to see Christ in the poor, the lonely, the destitute and those who are afraid is a **Renewal of Profession or Commitment to the Gospel Life in the Secular Franciscan Order**. Why not make it a special occasion this Spring to have a picnic outside so we can also enjoy the beauty of God's creation? It will be a tangible reminder of that day when we promised God, the Priest, our families and friends and our fraternity brothers and sisters to follow Christ and live the Gospel for the rest of our lives in the spirit of Saint Francis. Fr. Felice Cangelosi reminds us that we can make either a Fraternity Renewal of Profession or Commitment to the Gospel Life or a Personal Renewal of Profession or Commitment. The important point to remember is that we are called by the Holy Spirit to live our Profession Promises throughout our Secular Franciscan life journey. So, for all those who are professed members of our fraternities, take the time this Spring to renew your Profession Commitment and reflect on that memorable day when we felt the Holy Spirit calling us to live as Secular Franciscans. Click below for Renewal/Commitment Prayers.

[RENEWAL OF PROFESSION or COMMITMENT TO THE GOSPEL LIFE IN THE SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER](#)

*Catherine McNiff, ofs*

### Save the Date

#### - Franciscan CROWN ROSARY

On the first Saturday of each month.

Next.. 2025 May 3<sup>rd</sup> @ 7pm PT/8pm MT/9pm CT

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86486098310?pwd=R1VOZ3EvbWMraG1PTTYxb1p1WllvQT09>

Meeting ID: 864 8609 8310 Passcode: 741246



## -Franciscan Book Club

In the Fall of 2025, the Franciscan Book Club will begin discussing **Volume Two of the Franciscan Heritage Series** entitled *A Franciscan View of Creation* by Ilia Delio, OSF. Members are asked to read 1) the General Editor's Introduction and 2) the Author's Introduction for the first discussion on **September 7, 2025**. The zoom meeting link will be sent out on September 3, 2025. Anyone wishing to join the book club or obtain more information is asked to contact Miriam Liem [ofsmiriam@gmail.com](mailto:ofsmiriam@gmail.com) or Marlene Welch [Patmarloce1@gmail.com](mailto:Patmarloce1@gmail.com)

## -Canada wide Franciscan Workshop

***FOLLOWING the BEATITUDES: a blueprint for Franciscan life***


**May 31, 2025 on zoom** (see poster below)

## -Centenary Reflection on St Francis' *Canticle of the Creatures*

**April 28 & 29, 2025 in Richmond, BC** (see poster below)

## -Chapter of Mats 2025: *Hope Does Not Disappoint*

**June 14<sup>th</sup> in Red Deer, AB** (see poster below)



Graphic courtesy of the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration | fspa.org

The Order of Secular Franciscans (SFO) invites you to:

**A Centenary Reflection on St. Francis' Canticle of the Creatures**  
(A message on the environment speaking to our times)

Guest Speaker: Fr. Joe Glaab, OFM

Dates: Part 1 – Monday, April 28, 2025 7:00 p.m.  
Part 2 – Tuesday, April 29, 2025 7:00 p.m.

Both sessions held in the Church with reception to follow on both evenings.

Contact: Ray Lim 604-275-1246  
Stephanie Chua 604-271-1416

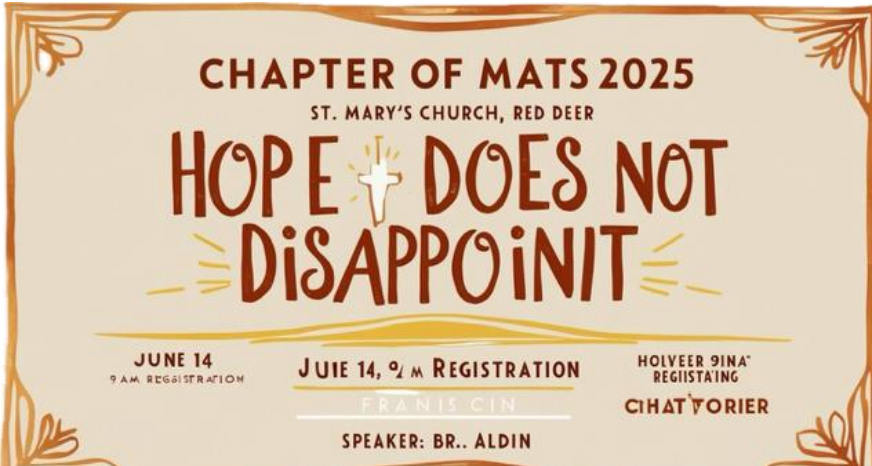
St. Joseph the Worker Parish  
4451 Williams Road, Richmond, B.C. V7E 1J7



**Following the Beatitudes:  
A blueprint for Franciscan life**

**Franciscan Workshop**  
**Saturday – May 31, 2025**  
2 hrs Canada wide in English & French on zoom  
9am PT/ 10am MT/ 11am CT/ 12pm ET/ 1pm AT

Registration: name, email, fraternity, city,  
French or English to [cmariefinlon@gmail.com](mailto:cmariefinlon@gmail.com)



**CHAPTER OF MATS 2025**  
ST. MARY'S CHURCH, RED DEER

**HOPE DOES NOT  
DISAPPOINT**

**JUNE 14**  
9 AM REGISTRATION

**JUNE 14, 9 AM REGISTRATION**  
FRANCISCAN  
SPEAKER: BR. ALDIN

**HOLYER 91NA' REGISTARING**  
CHARTORIER

## **WHAT DO WE DO IN THE FRANCISCAN BOOK CLUB?**

The idea for the Franciscan Book Club “morphed” from the recommendation of Brother Gerry Clyne, OFM that study of the Franciscan Heritage Series is a natural “next step” after taking the Spiritual Assistant Course and so the seed was planted! Marlene put a notice in the OLOTA Messenger and seven Seculars along with Sister Ann from our Franciscan Family came to join us.

When we looked at the Franciscan Heritage Series in November of 2024, we had no idea what delights of learning were in store for us as we started on book one of eight books on Franciscan spirituality. The author, Fr. Keenan Osborne, OFM explains that the Franciscan Intellectual Tradition is a way of thinking and understanding Christianity that develops among the followers of Saint Francis and Saint Clare of Assisi in the 12th and 13th centuries.

We discovered that Oxford and Paris were catalysts in the formation of Franciscan scholars during this period in history. We were introduced to Aristotle and Franciscan philosophers, Alexander of Hales, Bonaventure and Don Scotus. Father Keenan mentions that the deep ideas of this tradition are present in Christian thought and spirituality from the beginning of Christianity but the Franciscans take these ideas and organize them into a distinct system. Their inspiration is the life and teaching of St. Francis and St. Clare, who emphasize poverty, humility and love for all of creation. We learned from Bonaventure “In the process of creation, all things flow out from God, manifest God, return to God.”

Fr. Keenan reminds us that the Franciscan tradition is both theological - how I understand my faith intellectually - and spiritual - how I live my faith. He stresses that these two aspects are inseparable; they inform and deepen each other. We learn that the Church with all its limitations, is truly Church when it reflects the “Humility of the Incarnation” with Francis seeing beyond the scandals of the medieval church. Beggars, marginalized people and even those “shunned” by ecclesiastical powers are for St. Francis, examples of the humility of the Incarnation.

The Franciscans see faith as a whole - interconnected. Therefore, my relationship with God, my understanding of scripture and how I treat others are all part of the same. We learn that the sinner is still my brother, my sister and therefore both deserve my respect because they have been “gifted” by one and the same Holy - Father - God.

Fr. Keenan mentions that prayer is not just contemplation but a deep engagement with God that involves awe, humility and a desire for deeper connection with, and love of God and an acknowledgment of God’s presence. He tells us that prayer involves the human will, drawing it closer to God’s loving presence so that we actively choose to embrace Him. Fr. Keenan draws our attention to the fact that God’s presence is revealed in Creation - the natural world - and in Scripture as we experience the Word of God deeply within. We learn that the entire earth, just as it is, is a Gospel of Divine Presence. The created universe exists because of God’s absolute freedom and God’s unlimited love.

Fr. Keenan reminds us that Franciscans experience Christ through the “humility of the Incarnation” and the “love of the passion of Christ.” This experience results in a deep personal connection. We learn that in the pagan Sultan, St. Francis experiences the humble presence of God, the mystery of the Incarnation and a respect for the presence of holiness in the other.

Father Keenan mentions that Franciscan vernacular theology - the theology of the people - and Franciscan academic theology - scholarly theology - together form the core theological themes of the Franciscan Intellectual Tradition.

As we learn that that everything is a gift from a loving and free God and as we understand creation and the reverence due to creation, we see a need for ecological theology and reverence for all people, especially for the poor and for nature as God’s gift to us.

God’s blessings to Marlene and Miriam for all your help on our first year of study in the Franciscan Heritage Series.

Peace and joy,  
*Catherine McNiff, ofs*

## Social Corner



St Anthony of Padua Fraternity in Richmond, BC celebrate the April birthdays of Dulce & their Minister Gerry.



*Then they said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while He spoke to us on the way and opened the scriptures to us?"*

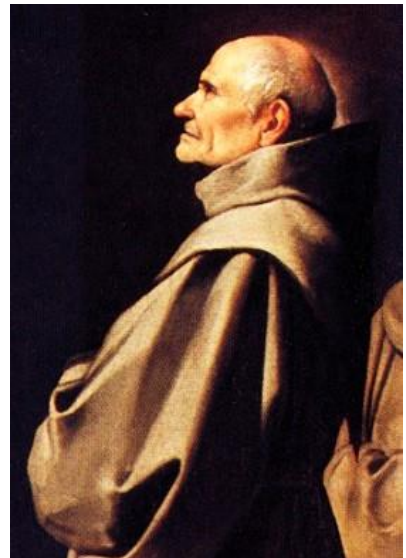
**Luke 24:32**

### **Blessed Giles of Assisi**

(c. 1190-1262)  
one of the first  
companions  
of St. Francis.

Contemporary  
scholars describe  
him as a  
"mystic &  
a rebel."

Feast day  
April 23



[More on his life.](#)

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

EASTER/April 2025 Minister Lanny Hui, ofs [lanny.hui@gmail.com](mailto:lanny.hui@gmail.com)

Editor Colleen Finlon, ofs [cmariiefinlon@gmail.com](mailto:cmariiefinlon@gmail.com)

