



# OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS MESSENGER

Issue Number 50

October 2024

## From Our Regional Minister

Dear Brothers and Sisters,  
I began writing this as I was on the bus trip between San Giovanni Rotondo and Rome. I was accompanied with members from

- Holy Spirit (Olds)
- Little Flowers of St Francis (Kelowna)
- St Anthony of Padua (Richmond)
- St Clare (Chilliwack)
- St Clare of Assisi (Coquitlam)
- St Mary's (Calgary)
- St Maximilian Kolbe (Red Deer)
- St Pio (Red Deer)

Thanks to David and Cathy Bouchard for organizing many details and leading the trip! We were so blessed to have Fr Manoj with us to celebrate the Eucharist. You are all in our hearts and we were praying for your intentions in the Masses and Liturgy of the Hours. I was pleased to see the fraternal spirits so alive: making sure that everyone was on the bus, being present to one another, sharing resources, encouraging one another spiritually, singing and praying together.

Back in Canada, it is encouraging to see that Fr Joachim Yoon's work with young adults are beginning to yield fruits. He tirelessly engages young adults in celebrating mass at SFU, sharing Franciscan spirituality, hiking, board games, local pilgrimages, retreat at Mt St Francis, and Festival of Tents. There have been 16 young adults who are interested in the Franciscan spirituality. Currently, there are 3 young adults who have booked their spots and flights for the winter retreat at Mt St Francis. If you would like to provide financial support for his ministry with the young adults, please contact me.

## SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI (1181-1226)



The Transitus Oct 2<sup>nd</sup>



The Feast of Holy Sainthood Oct 3<sup>rd</sup>

Also, the National Restructuring Committee has organized meetings with local fraternity ministers in BC and AB/MB/SK to ensure that every fraternity has been heard. One thing worth repeating is that this is purely restructuring work and that there is no

“mother fraternity” and “emerging fraternity” because there is no “canonical establishment” involved.

In the meantime, we are planning for Spiritual Conference for the local Fraternity Ministers on March 1, 2024 at 10am BC / 11am AB / 12pm SK-MB. Please pray for those who need our prayers: Ann Harmon (St Maximilian Kolbe Red Deer), Deacon Terry McLaughlin (St Clare Coquitlam), and Nicole Poudrier (St Clare Chilliwack) as they are facing health challenges.

Your servant,  
Lanny

### From our Regional Director of Formation

On page 93 of Ilia Delio’s book *Franciscan Prayer* the writer tells us “The Franciscan path to friendship with God is simple yet profound because it requires a wholehearted relationship with God. The key to friendship is in relationship, not as a point of meditation, but as a way of life. Turning one’s heart towards God and entering it in God is the basis of friendship with God, that is, the God who comes to share life with us in the person of Jesus Christ.” Saint Bonaventure shares his thoughts in the following soliloquy.

*FRIENDSHIP WITH CHRIST  
Christ on the cross bows his head,  
Waiting for you,  
That he may kiss you,  
His arms are outstretched,  
That he may embrace you,  
His hands are open,  
That he may enrich you,  
His body spread out,  
That he may give himself totally,  
His feet are nailed,  
That he may stay there,  
His side is open for you,  
That he may let you enter there.*

Bonaventure

Catherine McNiff, ofc

### The Secular Franciscan Rule

#### ARTICLE 2

*The Secular Franciscan Order holds a special place in this family circle. It is an organic union of all Catholic fraternities scattered throughout the world and*

*open to every group of the faithful. In these fraternities the brothers and sisters, led by the Spirit, strive for perfect charity in their own secular state. By their profession they pledge themselves to live the gospel in the manner of St. Francis by means of this rule approved by the Church.*

The Secular Franciscan Order is composed of Catholic fraternities throughout the world. While every fraternity, wherein the individual member is formed and nourished in the Franciscan vocation, is autonomous, the fraternities on all levels are organically united to one another. They have the same charism, the same goal, and are governed by elected council members. Special emphasis in this article is placed upon the fact that the fraternities are Catholic, namely, that the faithful who join must be practicing members of the Catholic Church and are obedient to the magisterium. Members of the fraternity councils must therefore examine thoroughly all inquirers regarding their Catholicism before giving approval of acceptance.

Jesus heralded charity, love of God and neighbour, as the basic commandment which all people should strive to fulfil. How many of his teachings and parables emphasize the importance of love! St. Paul speaks of love as the greatest of all virtues. St. Francis remarked that the mutual love of Franciscan brothers and sisters should exceed the love of a mother for her own children. Secular Franciscans should therefore strive to reflect as perfectly as possible in their fraternities. Where charity abides and thrives, fraternities experience an inner spiritual growth among members and fruitful results in their apostolates.

Profession is a special moment in the lives of Secular Franciscans. It is a public promise, blessed by the Church, to live the gospel of Jesus "in the manner of Saint Francis." To achieve this end, they have the continuing inspiration and example of Francis' total commitment to the gospel as well as the present "rule approved by the Church." By approving the rule, the Church considers the rule a powerful means to the acquiring of personal sanctification, and a secure path to the fulfillment of a Christian's baptismal commitment while living in the world.

Quoted from "*Way of Life*" by Richard A. Portasik, OFM

## Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation (JPIC)

### The Role of Secular Franciscans in Society

(From *The Handbook for Animators of JPIC*)

As Secular Franciscans, we commit ourselves to live the Gospel according to Franciscan spirituality in our secular state. We are called to make our own contribution, inspired by the person and message of our Seraphic Father Francis, towards a world in which the dignity of the human person, shared responsibility, peace and love may be living realities. Let us give thanks to our God and Father, our brother and Redeemer, Jesus and the Spirit of Love for the holy charism that was poured forth by our Seraphic Father Francis. "Franciscans are social in nature. Franciscans live the Gospel in public, in the public sphere, not in individual privacy. The Incarnation was and is a social event. I repeat: a social event. It's a big party! Let's make it good! Our "evangelical life" orients us toward engaging society and its members. We care for everyone in society, and thus the common good has a prominent role in the Franciscan tradition. There is universality to our social vision, and we should be able to contribute something to the globalization of human culture today. *"Franciscans are action-oriented. For us, learning, study, and philosophy are, at least in part, derivative of a human social experience, of action, of serving, of loving. This too is rooted in the Incarnation: Christ's embodied action. "We practice a spirituality of social engagement, in dialogue with society, the needs of its members, especially the suffering and vulnerable. At our best, we Franciscans are creative, manifesting the creativity of God through our social innovation. This may be pastoral, practical, prophetic, or some combination of the above. "Franciscans are not content with understanding alone. We want to express our understandings through love, through practical action."* Keith Douglass Warner, OFM

## Save the Dates

### 8<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL YOUTH ART CONTEST

December 8, 2024

Links to [INFO](#) & [ENTRY FORM](#)

### ...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=2g6WV6Yh8Fo8swwsjhHioZKqVBNuaZE.1>

Meeting ID: 894 2482 8739

Passcode: 048961

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

Nov 2nd @ 7pm PT/8pm MT/9pm CT

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86486098310?pwd=R1V0Z3EvbWMraG1PTTYxb1p1WllvQT09>

Meeting ID: 864 8609 8310 Passcode: 741246

- **FRANCISCAN VISION GLOBAL SUMMIT**

Nov 30th 2024 *The Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the mystery of the Holy Trinity in Thomas of Celano's narratives of the Stigmata of Francis and their relevance for today.*

Speaker: *Br Arokiam John OFM*

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

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

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

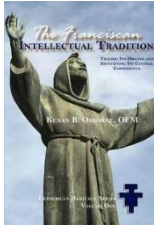
[www.OLOTA.org](http://www.OLOTA.org)

## 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.

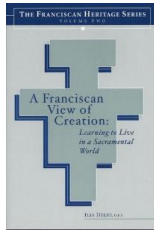
The zoom book club sessions will be on Sunday evenings at

**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](http://www.archive.org) The entire series also can be purchased

from [www.amazon.ca](http://www.amazon.ca) (mix of physical and kindle versions).

Please contact Marlene Welch [Patmarlocel@gmail.com](mailto:Patmarlocel@gmail.com) or Miriam Liem [ofsmiriam@gmail.com](mailto:ofsmiriam@gmail.com) for more information on our upcoming Franciscan Book Club.

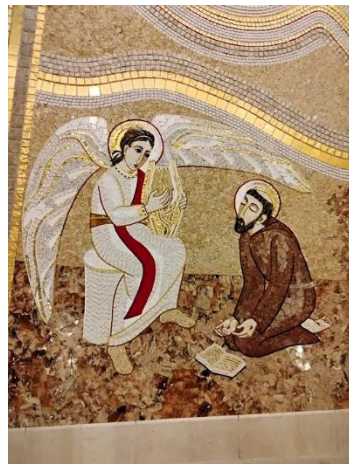
## Social Corner

From October 13<sup>th</sup> until the 22<sup>nd</sup> twenty-nine Franciscans and friends from OLOTA Western Region Fraternity made a pilgrimage to Assisi, Italy in the footsteps of our seraphic father, Saint Francis of Assisi. The journey was at times challenging and difficult yet always brimming full with manifold blessings for all. We grew closer as a family and came to cherish one another more and more. We each have our testimonies and images to share over the next few months in the Messenger. A special thanks to David and Cathy Bouchard, Fr Manoj Xalxo, Lanny Hui and dear Lina for their dutiful and dedicated ways of guiding us through the days. Thank you, Saint Francis, for welcoming us into your beautiful homeland where God continues to bless all who comes to visit. You brought me closer to Jesus & Mary.

Colleen Finlon ofs



The pilgrims gathered together at the Basilica of St Paul Outside the Walls, Rome.



Mosaic of Francis & Seraphim Angel at San Giovanni Rotondo.



Moonrise at Laverna.



Heading to San Damiano Church just outside of Assisi.





Alice McCrea of Little Flowers Fraternity in Kelowna, BC celebrated her 97<sup>th</sup> birthday on Oct 25, 2024 surrounded by family and friends enjoying her favorite - Capuchino Cheesecake.

Our Lady of the Angels Messenger, Secular Franciscan Order of Western Canada Region  
October 2024 Minister Lanny Hui, ofs [lanny.hui@gmail.com](mailto:lanny.hui@gmail.com)  
Editor Colleen Finlon, ofs [cmarielifinlon@gmail.com](mailto:cmarielifinlon@gmail.com)