



*St. Francis of Assisi Fraternity  
Cornwall, P.E.I.*

## **ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI FRATERNITY NEWSLETTER**

**September 2021**

**VOLUME XXXIII NO. 9**

### **To Observe the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ**

In his writings and early biographies, St. Francis emerges as a person formed and informed by the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

“His greatest care, his most vivid desire, his supreme resolution was to observe the holy Gospel always and in everything and with all vigilance and care, with all of his mind’s desire and his heart’s fervor, he wanted to follow the teachings and imitate the examples of our Lord Jesus Christ to perfection. He continuously recalled and meditated over His words and with very keen contemplation, he kept His works before his eyes. The humility of the Incarnation and the charity of the Passion were foremost in his mind, so that he rarely wanted to think of anything else.” – (Thomas of Celano, First Life of St. Francis)



And so we ask ourselves, what is to be done, what can we do to bring the Christ of the Gospel into our daily lives so that we actually live out the teachings of the Gospel?

St. John the Evangelist tells us that the truth will set us free. St. Francis found the truth that leads to freedom in the truths of the Gospel, and the freedom he found was the freedom to love. God’s truth imparts to us the freedom not only to grasp the

truth that is being imparted but also the freedom from what previously had been preventing us from acting on that truth. The Gospel itself will show us not only how we are to discern the truth, but how the truth leads to the action we call love. – (Excerpts from “Live the Gospel: A Message from Saint Francis”, Murray Bodo, OFM)

## **Professions**

The fraternity council is pleased to confirm that Kathleen Swift will be professed at the Saturday evening Mass during the fraternity’s annual retreat. Fr. Brian MacDougall, Diocesan Administrator for the Diocese of Charlottetown, will preside.



Having received the request from Lucia Gray of St. John’s NL to be permanently professed, and having completed the required interview and deliberation, the fraternity council is pleased to announce, with much joy, the decision to accept Lucia’s request to be permanently professed as a member of the Secular Franciscan Order. Lucia has made temporary profession twice and has fulfilled all the formation and necessary requirements. The exact date of Lucia’s profession will be confirmed at a later date.

Congratulations Lucia!

Please join in giving thanks for this special moment of grace and love as we celebrate the decision of these two women to commit themselves permanently to living the Gospel life in the spirit of St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi. – (Submitted by Tom Wilkinson)

## **Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC)**

### **A Promise to the Park**

Visitors to P.E.I. National Park will now be able to show their support in stewardship of the Parks Canada sites by taking the Park Promise. It’s a new initiative that kicked off on June 21, 2021 — National Indigenous Peoples Day. The idea started in January of 2020 with collaboration between Parks Canada and Mi’kmaw artist, actor and the poet laureate of P.E.I., Julie Pellissier-Lush.

“We were talking about creating something beautiful and long lasting that would be dedicated to the heart and soul of Parks [Canada] here on P.E.I.,” said Pellissier-Lush, who is also a knowledge keeper for the P.E.I. Mi’kmaq rights organization L’nuey.



After working on multiple versions to see what would work best, Pellissier-Lush discovered an underlying theme that was coming out. “I was embracing my teachings that I grew up with — my seven sacred teachings and the seven directions — and how all of those things could be used to create something beautiful,” she said.

Canada launched a website to help visitors to the P.E.I. National Park learn more about the promise and actions people can take. The website includes best practices for visitors with things like properly sharing the space with wildlife, reporting invasive species and bringing out all the things they bring in.

### **A Promise to the Park – by Julie Pellissier-Lush**

It is time to sing the promise it isn't very long  
The seven directions we learn today will help to make us strong  
I promise to the East to love flora and fauna  
I promise to the South to leave the park the way I found it  
I promise to the West I will respect the land I walk on  
I promise to the North I will have the courage to be strong... to be strong  
I promise to the Sky that I will keep her clean  
I promise to myself that I will follow all my dreams

I promise to the Earth, to be a human being  
And a promise is a promise and I am promising

My teachings from the directions are love, humility,  
respect, courage, truth, wisdom and honesty.  
My heart will always be here with breathtaking sunsets  
The water and sand, the dunes and trails with benches for me to rest

I promise from my heart in each direction that I know  
That I will always look after you each day that I grow  
It's time to sing the promise it isn't very long  
There are seven directions that will help to keep us strong

### Prayer of Discernment

Yahweh, God of the journey,  
you went with the Israelites in the form of a pillar of cloud  
by day to show them the way,  
and by night in the form of a pillar of fire  
to give them light for their journey. (Ex.13:21-22).



We long for that kind of assuredness of Your Presence  
as we discern the future direction for our fraternity.  
We fear the unknown and wonder what the future may hold for us.  
A part of us wants to hold on to the blessings we have known  
and to rest in the security of letting others take the lead.  
Remind us often that we each, in our own way, have gifts to offer our fraternity.

May we be open to your Word and your Way.  
Encourage us with a deepened awareness  
of the needs of our brothers and sisters in fraternity.  
May we have the wisdom to follow the lead of the Spirit  
in planning for the future of our fraternity.

We ask this through Christ Your Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen – (Submitted by  
Doug and Mary Hagen)

### Annual Fraternity Picnic

The annual fraternity picnic was held on **Sunday, August 8, 2021, 3:00PM – 5:00PM** at Joan McDonald's cottage. A total of 19 people attended, 14 from St. Francis of Assisi Fraternity and 5 from Br. Leo Fraternity. Lucia Gray joined us for part of the picnic via Zoom.



In conformity with Public Health directives, the event was held outside and participants brought their own individual snacks. Council provided some soft drinks and cupcakes to celebrate the August birthdays of Gerry Gabriel and Ruth Cassidy. Everyone enjoyed the opportunity of being together again in a peaceful environment.

Special thanks to Martha Gabriel for preparing the Liturgy, to Martha and Claudia Batchilder for leading the singing, and to Joan McDonald for hosting the event at her cottage on the Montague River. – (Submitted by Michael Cassidy)

**A collage of photos from the annual fraternity picnic follows.**



## Annual Fraternity Retreat September 10-12, 2021

The **complete program for the weekend is attached to this newsletter** (Attachment 1).

The final plans for the retreat include the following details:

- **Location:** Our Lady of Hope Retreat Centre  
67 Reid Road, Bayview, PE  
**Tel.** 1-902-621-2385  
**Email:** ourladyofhope.pei@gmail.com
- There will be about **23 participants** at the retreat, including the retreat facilitator, Sr. Joan Campbell CSM. Participants are asked to **bring their copies of the New Testament** to the retreat.
- The theme of the retreat is “**Community and the Gospel of John**” and Sr. Joan will conduct 4 interactive sessions during the weekend.
- There will be a **handout for each participant** at the retreat with spaces to take notes.
- Only fully vaccinated members of St. Francis of Assisi and Br. Leo Fraternities will be participating in the retreat.
- For meals and Small Group Sharing, participants are asked to form groups of 3, 4 or 5 people of their choosing.
- Our **Music team** will again provide its uplifting support to the sessions and the various liturgies.
- Fr. Brian MacDougall will celebrate **Eucharist** on Saturday evening at 7 p.m.
- There will be no Saturday Night Live.



(Submitted by Michael Cassidy)

### **September Birthdays**

September 6 Minerva McCourt

September 11 Michael Cassidy

Happy Birthday Minerva and Mike. Blessings on you and your families!



## **Newsletter**

Newsletter items are always welcome. You may send them before the last Wednesday of the month to Doug Clorey at [jdclorey@gmail.com](mailto:jdclorey@gmail.com).

## **Upcoming Events**

Annual Fraternity Retreat – **September 10-12, 2021, Our Lady of Hope Retreat Centre, Bayview, PEI.** (Begins at 6 pm on Friday evening and concludes at 1 pm on Sunday (after lunch).

## **2021 Fraternity Meetings**

Sunday, October 3	7-9 p.m.	(Note: the <b>first</b> Sunday of the month)
Sunday, November 14	2-4 p.m.	
Sunday, December 12	2-4 p.m.	