

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

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI FRATERNITY NEWSLETTER

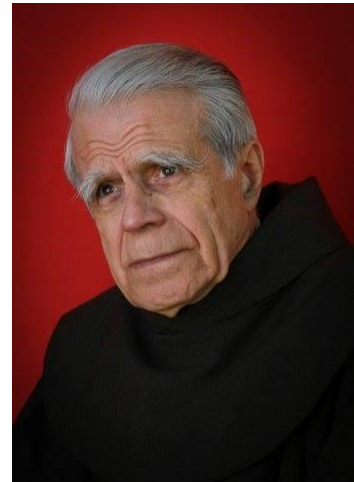
April 2018

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In Memory of Fr. Laurent Gallant, OFM

On March 5, 2018, Fr. Laurent Gallant died at the Carrefour Providence in Montreal at the age of 86 years. Sixty-six (66) of these years had been spent in religious life with fifty-eight (58) as a priest.

Over the years, St. Francis of Assisi Fraternity had many connections with Fr. Laurent. During his regular visits to the Island, he always took time to make contact with our fraternity. He facilitated one of the fraternity's annual retreats as well as a retreat for members in Newfoundland. He also conducted the most recent pastoral visit to our fraternity.



Fr. Laurent was born on December 24, 1931 in Piusville, PEI, son of Antoine Gallant and Marie-Ida Arsenault. He began his early education in Piusville and, in 1944, he went on to l'Université Saint-Joseph de Moncton in New Brunswick (note that he would have only been 13 when he left home to begin his studies off-Island). He entered the novitiate of the Franciscans in 1951 and was solemnly professed in 1955. He went on to study philosophy and theology in Quebec, and to obtain a higher education in France where he studied in Strasbourg, Lyon and Paris; in 1978, he obtained his Doctorate in Religious Sciences and Sacramental Theology from the Catholic Institute of Paris; his theses was on "*The Little Office of the Passion of St. Francis of Assisi*".

Over the years, Fr. Laurent worked as both a professor and director of liturgy in various institutions within Canada and abroad. He also participated in numerous committees supporting the formation and study of friars, including being director of novices within his Province. For over 10 years, he was responsible for developing and leading the organization tasked with animating the life of the Franciscan Family in Quebec (SIAF). He also led and participated in the organization of pilgrimages associated with *Expérience d'Assise*, and was a regular participant in international congresses on medieval studies.

In 2014, he was elected on the Definitory Council of the Province of St. Joseph and, since 2015, had been the Director of the Province's Library.

Fr. Laurent was a remarkable Franciscan, both a scholar and humble brother, who made an outstanding contribution to his community, to the Church and to society at large. He will be greatly missed within the Franciscan Family. May his soul rest in peace.

Condolences

The fraternity extends its most sincere condolences to Ruth and Mike Cassidy, and their family, on the death of Ruth's mother, Betty Sadowski. Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this time.

Rite of Admission

The fraternity council has approved the request of Nancy Murphy to begin her time of formation with the St. Francis of Assisi Fraternity. The Rite of Admission will be celebrated during the fraternity's April meeting. At that time, Nancy will be received into the Secular Franciscan Order so that she may begin her time of formation and experience the Franciscan way of life more fully. The fraternity promises to help Nancy on her journey with friendship, prayer and the witness of its life; she, on the other hand, strengthens our fraternity by virtue of her presence and participation, and through the sharing of her special gifts.



left to right: Pauline (companion), Sr. Gemma, Nancy, Doug, Martha

Formation



Preparing for the Ongoing Formation Session on April 8, 2018:

Please read the reflection in the newsletter (below).

Read Chapters 8 and 9 in *The Way of St. Francis*. Please come to the meeting on April 8 prepared to discuss your thoughts and reflections on St. Clare.

Please pray and reflect on Matthew 5:13, 14

Our Lord Jesus Christ says: "You are salt for the earth. But if salt loses its taste, what can make it salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. You are light for the world. A city built on a hilltop cannot be hidden."

Reflection on St. Clare of Assisi

St. Clare was born in Assisi in 1194. Her mother was inspired to call her Clare (meaning light) as she received these words while in prayer before her birth “you will give birth to a light which will give light more clearly than light itself”. Clare’s faith was very important to her even as a young child. However, her decision to leave her home forever to follow Francis was no less dramatic than his conversion experience. For a woman to completely embrace a life of poverty was unheard of in the history of the Church and was a source of great consternation for the hierarchy of the Church.

The houses of the nobility in Assisi at the time of Francis and Clare had a door known as the “Door of the dead”. It was only used when the dead body of a family member was removed from the house, never to return. Clare escaped from her father’s house through the “Door of the dead” on the Palm Sunday night she left to join Francis and his brothers. In that moment, she let her old life of nobility die to join Francis in this new way of life.

Questions for reflection:

- Jon Sweeney says in the St. Clare Prayer Book (p.20) that Clare was the well to Francis’ river. Although her way of living was true to the spirit of Francis, her way deepened it in various new directions. What does this mean for me as a Secular Franciscan?
- How has following in the footsteps of St. Clare inspired and influenced me?

Justice, Peace and Care of Creation

Women at the Heart of Peace (Part 3) - Prayer of the Mothers
Please refer to the attached article from the Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Team (Attachment 1)



Information Session

The Secular Franciscan Fraternity in Cornwall, PEI, is offering an information session on:

Date: April 15, 2018

Location: St. Francis of Assisi Church hall, Cornwall, PEI

Time: 7:00PM

This information session will highlight Franciscan Spirituality and life in fraternity. It is open to the public, with an informal presentation of about 30 minutes in length, followed by questions/answers and food and fellowship. All are welcome! Please consider inviting any of your friends and acquaintances who might be interested in this session!

For further information, contact Martha Gabriel at [902.628.3896](tel:902.628.3896).

Area and Regional Gatherings

The Atlantic Area Spring Conference will be held on Saturday, May 26, 2018 at Holy Family Parish Church Hall, 63 Church St, Amherst, NS. The theme of the day is “Prayer and Action”.

The 2018 Regional Spiritual Conference will be held on August 3-5, 2018 in Cacouna, QC.

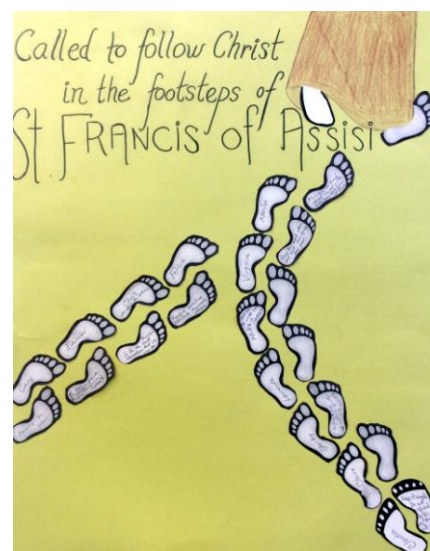
If anyone is interested in representing the fraternity at either of these events, please let a member of the fraternity council know that you are interested. Car pooling will likely be available to facilitate travelling

to both of these events and to minimize costs.

News from Brother Leo Fraternity

Brother Leo Fraternity will be celebrating Felicia Donahoe's 54th Anniversary of profession in the Secular Franciscan Order on Saturday, April 21, 2018 from 2 to 4 p.m. at the home of her daughter Rita who lives at 12 A Bailey Drive off Queen's Rd. in Montague (turn right at Sobeys.) Both fraternities are invited to join Felicia in the renewal of her commitment.

A Twilight Retreat will be held at the home of Brother Leo Fraternity at St. Mary's Church, Montague (take a right at the Esso Station) on Thursday, May 31st - the Feast of the Visitation – from 7 to 9 p.m. The theme of the retreat is “Mary, Our Mother”. Three reflections will be given: 1. Mary, Mother of the Church in the Gospels; 2. Francis' Mary, Protectress and Advocate of the Order; and 3. Mary, Your Mother and Mine. You are encouraged to invite anyone who may be interested in such an event.



The Brother Leo Fraternity is looking forward to its Annual Visit with the Mother Fraternity at the June fraternity meeting. We will always be connected since you gave us ‘birth’!

Thank You

Special thanks are extended to Martha and Gerry Gabriel, Ruth and Mike Cassidy as well as Marion Clorey for their involvement in presenting Franciscan spirituality as part of the St. Clare School of Adult Faith Formation. The four sessions were well attended and the contribution of our fraternity to this parish formation event was much appreciated.

St. Padre Pio Group

Please continue to pray for the members of our fraternity in St. John's, Newfoundland. Lucia, Pauline and Bev are meeting monthly, together with Fr. Cecil, their spiritual assistant, and are fervent in their desire to live their Franciscan vocation.

Praying and Living the Eucharist

A diocesan liturgical workshop on the theme of "**From the Table of Christ Jesus to the Table of the World: Praying and Living the Eucharist**" will be held on May 12, 2018 from 10 am to 3 pm at St. Francis of Assisi Church, Cornwall. The presenter is Simone Brosig, Director of Liturgy for the Diocese of Calgary. This workshop is sponsored by the Diocesan Liturgical Commission and may be of interest to Secular Franciscans given our focus on going from Gospel to life and life to Gospel.

March Birthdays

April 1	Leonard MacGuigan
April 24	Joan McDonald

Happy Birthday, Leonard and Joan! Blessings to both of you.

Lunch Schedule

Gerry & Martha Gabriel
Tom Wilkinson

Newsletter

Newsletter items are always welcome. You may send them before the last Wednesday of the month to Doug Clorey at jdclcorey@bellaliant.net.

Upcoming Events

Next Fraternity Meeting – April 8, 2018 at 7:00 pm in St. Francis of Assisi Parish Centre, Cornwall, PE

Fraternity Council Meeting – April 18, 2018 at 1:00 pm in St. Francis of Assisi Meeting Room, Cornwall, PE

Information Session on the Secular Franciscan Order – April 15, 2018 at 7:00 pm in St. Francis of Assisi Parish Centre, Cornwall, PE. Come and see.

Celebration to mark Felicia Donahue's 54th Anniversary of permanent profession - Saturday, April 21, 2018 from 2:00 – 4:00 pm at the home of her daughter Rita (12 A Bailey Drive, Montague, PE).

Atlantic Area Spring Conference - Saturday, May 26, 2018, 9:30 am – 4:00 pm, Holy Family Parish Church Hall, 63 Church St, Amherst, NS (theme: "Prayer and Action")

Twilight Retreat - St. Mary's Church, Montague on Thursday, May 31, 2018 from 7:00 – 9:00 pm.

2018 Regional Spiritual Conference – August 3-5, 2018 at Le Cénacle, Cacouna, Quebec.

Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation

From the St. Francis of Assisi JPIC Committee
(Mike, Marion, Maureen & Charlie) March, 2018

Women at the Heart of Peace (Part 3)

Prayer of the Mothers

In the fall of 2017, thousands of Israeli and Palestinian women of the Women Wage Peace movement organized a 2-week march for peace through parts of Israel and the West Bank. It ended with a rally in Jerusalem.

Sunday's arrival in Jerusalem coincided with the week-long Jewish holiday of Sukkot, which commemorates the Jewish journey through the Sinai after their exodus from Egypt.

In 2015, Women Wage Peace members fasted in relays over 50 days, the length of the 2014 war between Israel and the Hamas terror group in the Gaza Strip.

Use the link below to view a 5-minute video featuring the 2017 march. Throughout the video, a beautiful song, "*Prayer of the Mothers*", is sung in Hebrew with accompanying English sub-titles.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YyFM-pWdqrY>

Here are several stanzas from that song:

*Between the sky and the land
there are people who want to live in peace;
don't give up, keep dreaming
of peace and prosperity.*

*The walls of fear will some day melt
and I will return from exile;
my gates shall open
to what is truly good.*

*from the north to the south,
from the west to the east,
hear the prayer of the mothers:
bring them peace,
bring them peace.*

Women from the 'Women Wage Peace' movement and Palestinians take part in a march near the Jordan River, in the West Bank on October 8, 2017. (Flash90)

Israeli and Palestinian activists were ending a two-week march Sunday through parts of Israel and the West Bank with a Jerusalem rally to demand a peace deal.

The Women Wage Peace movement organized the march, which began on September 24 and includes participants who have themselves been affected by violence in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

(Excerpts from Development & Peace Fall 2017 Campaign material)