

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

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI FRATERNITY NEWSLETTER

April 2019

VOLUME XXXI NO. 4

Permanent Commitment to the Gospel Life



The permanent profession of Marion Marshall took place during the 11:00 am mass on Sunday, March 10, 2019 at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Cornwall. Fr. Doug MacDonald presided the Eucharist and Secular Franciscans served in the various liturgical ministries of greeters, lectors, altar servers and gift bearers.

Doug Hagen opened the Rite of Profession with a brief admonition on the meaning of the event. Tom Wilkinson, Minister of the fraternity, received Marion's Permanent Profession after the Gospel and was assisted by Formation Director Martha Gabriel and witnesses Charlie and Janet McDonald. After Mass, the fraternity hosted a public reception in the parish centre that was very well attended. The reception was ably organized by the Hospitality team and the sandwiches and desserts were supplied by all members of the fraternity. Many of Marion's friends, including some members of the Br. Leo Fraternity, attended the Mass and reception and extended best wishes on this joyous occasion.

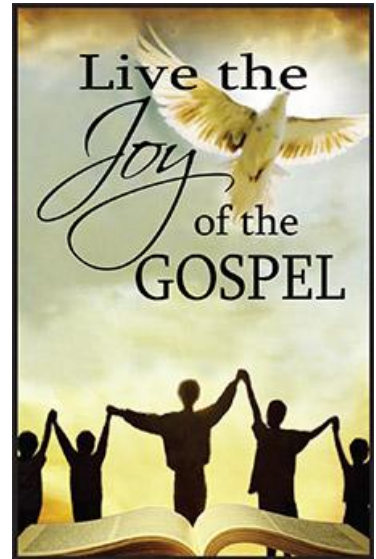
During the rite of profession, Marion renewed the promises made at her Baptism, and made a further promise to live, all the days of her life, the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ within the Secular Franciscan Order by observing its Rule of life. This event was indeed a cause of great joy and hope for the members of St. Francis of Assisi Fraternity. Congratulations, Marion.

Formation

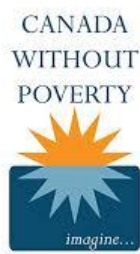
A principal theme of the pontificate of Pope Francis has been “joy”. In fact, the Pope's first apostolic exhortation was “The Joy of the Gospel.” And, his first papal homily, on Palm Sunday 2013, began with, “Here is the first word I wish to say to you: joy!”.

At its April meeting, the fraternity welcomes Bishop Richard Grecco who will speak on “The Joy of the Gospel” and how St. Francis lived this Gospel joy.

Bishop Richard writes that “to better understand Francis’ “Joy of the Gospel”, we will look at the Universal Salvific Will of God, the Components of Evangelization and the Mystery that is Revelation.”



Justice, Peace and Care of Creation



The JPIC team draws the fraternity’s attention to Canada’s 2019 Federal Budget and its implications on social justice. Please refer to Attachment 1 of this newsletter where you will find an excerpt from Canada Without Poverty, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to eradicating poverty in Canada and educating Canadians about the link between poverty and human rights.

Upper Room

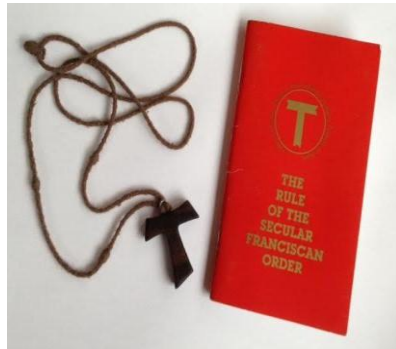
Members of the St. Francis of Assisi Fraternity prepared a delicious noon meal of beef stew, dinner rolls, dessert and coffee at the Upper Room soup kitchen on Saturday, March 23, 2019.

A total of 11fraternity members worked in 2 shifts to serve over 60 hungry people. The 8:30 a.m. shift peeled and cut up potatoes, carrots and onions and got everything cooking. The 10:30 a.m. shift continued the cooking and served the meal.



The Upper Room supervisor, Robert, was very impressed with the organization and efficiency of our fraternity. For their dedication, thanks are extended to Tom, Janet, Lorraine, Kathleen, Nasser, Maureen & Brad, Minerva, Gillian, and Ruth & Mike.

News from Brother Leo Fraternity



Following the joint meeting of the Brother Leo and St. Francis of Assisi local fraternity councils, where it was expressed that the fraternity's annual twilight retreat could be held in the afternoon, it was decided to host the retreat on Sunday, May 26th from 2 to 4 pm at St. Mary's Church in Montague. The theme, "Gospel-to-Life --Following Christ in the Footsteps of St. Francis of Assisi in Today's World", will focus on the OFS Rule. Everyone is most welcome to attend. Feel free to invite people who are not Franciscan so they will have the opportunity to gain an understanding of our Rule of Life.

Seder Meal

St. Francis of Assisi Fraternity will host a Seder meal during Holy Week on Tuesday, April 16 in the parish centre of St. Francis of Assisi Church, Cornwall. Fraternity members will be asked to volunteer their time and talents to help with the organization of this event.

Annual Fraternity Retreat

The annual fraternity retreat will be held on October 4-6, 2019. Fr. Benny Vincent, OFS Cap has accepted the invitation to lead our annual retreat at Our Lady of Hope Retreat Centre. Fr. Benny is the recently appointed Regional Spiritual Assistant for our region, the Regional Fraternity of Eastern Canada. The fraternity council is working with Fr. Benny to finalize the theme for the retreat. More information will follow. For now, please reserve these dates in your calendars.

Regional Spiritual Conference – Save the Date

The 2019 Spiritual Conference of the Regional Fraternity of Eastern Canada will be held on the weekend of August 9-11, 2019 in Cacouna, QC. The theme of the conference is "REBUILD THIS HOUSE" and will be presented by Fr. Guylain Prince. More information and the registration forms for the conference will be sent out shortly.

Fr. Louis Cinq-Mars, Provincial Minister of the OFM Capuchins, will attend as special guest.



Canadian OFM Franciscans



Salt and Light TV have created an excellent documentary on the history and restructuring of the OFM Franciscan friars in Canada. It is entitled “Called to Unity: The Story of the Canadian Franciscans Union” and can be viewed at:

https://saltandlighttv.org/calledtounity/?utm_campaign=calledtounity&utm_source=website&utm_medium=littleguy

April Birthdays

April 1	Leonard MacGuigan
April 24	Joan McDonald

Happy Birthday, Leonard and Joan! Blessings to you and your family.

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

Fraternity Meeting - Sunday, April 14, 2019 at 7:00 pm in St. Francis of Assisi parish centre, Cornwall

Seder Meal - Tuesday, April 16 at 7:00 pm in St. Francis of Assisi parish centre, Cornwall

Council Meeting – Wednesday, April 24

Next Fraternity Meeting – Sunday, May 5, 2019 at 7:00 pm in St. Francis of Assisi parish centre, Cornwall (note date – first Sunday of May)

Brother Leo Afternoon Retreat – Sunday, May 26, 2019, 2:00-4:00 pm, at St. Mary’s Church, Montague

Regional Spiritual Conference – August 9-11, 2019 in Cacouna, QC

Annual Retreat - October 4-6, 2019 at Our Lady of Hope Retreat Centre in Bayview, PEI

Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation

From the St. Francis of Assisi JPIC Team,

April, 2019

Social Justice & the 2019 Federal Budget

The government's new budget commits to a bold vision in some critical areas for people living in poverty in Canada – but misses the mark by extending housing dollars to promote homeownership for the middle class, when so many people in Canada are homeless and living in unaffordable, inadequate housing.

A central focus of the government's budget is a commitment to a National Pharmacare Plan. The government's budget relies on the release of the report of the Advisory Council on National Pharmacare coming later this year but promises a Canadian Drug Agency, and a national strategy for high-cost drugs for rare diseases.

Although Canada has the tenth largest Gross Domestic Product in the world, we are one of the only countries with national Medicare but lacking Pharmacare.

The focus on the middle class and homeownership is out of step with where the most urgent needs lie – addressing homelessness for the more than 235,000 in Canada and lack of affordable, adequate housing for millions.

In November 2017, the government launched the National Housing Strategy, recognizing the right to housing of all people in Canada for the first time – and committed a significant budget to the strategy. However, programs within the strategy like the Canada Housing Benefit, will not roll out until 2020.

(excerpt from the website of Canada Without Poverty, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to eradicating poverty in Canada and educating Canadians about the link between poverty and human rights.)

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