

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

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

**April 2020**

**VOLUME XXXII NO. 4**

### **Urbi et Orbi Blessing**

On March 27, 2020, Pope Francis delivered an extraordinary blessing “To the City and to the World” and prayed for an end to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. In his meditation, the Pope reflected on the Gospel of Mark 4:35-41 in which Jesus calms the storm. The analogy to the COVID-19 storm is clear. Pope Francis reflects on the words of Jesus: “Why are you afraid? Have you no faith?” The following is an excerpt from his reflection.

*“Why are you afraid? Have you no faith?”*

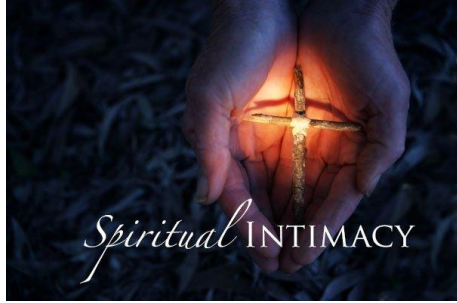
Lord, your word strikes us and affects us, all of us. In this world, that you love more than we do, we have gone ahead at breakneck speed, feeling powerful and able to do anything. Greedy for profit, we let ourselves get caught up in things, and lured away by haste. We did not stop at your reproach to us, we were not shaken awake by wars or injustice across the world, nor did we listen to the cry of the poor or of our ailing planet. We carried on regardless, thinking we would stay healthy in a world that was sick. Now that we are in a stormy sea, we implore you: “Wake up, Lord!”

*“Why are you afraid? Have you no faith?”*

Lord, you are calling to us, calling us to faith. Which is not so much believing that you exist, but coming to you and trusting in you. This Lent your call reverberates urgently: “Be converted!”, “Return to me with all your heart” (*Joel 2:12*). You are calling on us to seize this time of trial as a *time of choosing*. It is not the time of your judgement, but of our judgement: a time to choose what matters and what passes away, a time to separate what is necessary from what is not. It is a time to get our lives back on track with regard to you, Lord, and to others.



## Formation



Our next gathering (whenever it will be) will be focused on the theme of Intimacy. While we realize that there are many faces of intimacy, like physical, emotional and mental, there is also spiritual intimacy that is for us all, whether we are single, married or religious.

Murray Bodo explores intimacy as a relationship with God and all our brothers and sisters, and invites us to pursue the challenge as well as the joy of finding God in our human love for, as he says, God and humanity are one in the mystery of Incarnation.

## **Invitation to Reflect**

Members of the fraternity are invited to read Chapter 15 on Intimacy in *“The Way of St. Francis”* by Murray Bodo, OFM. Also reflect on Articles 4 and 5 of the OFS Rule as well as Article 9.1 and 20.1 of the OFS General Constitutions.

## Ongoing Formation



Doug Hagen led the Ongoing Formation session during the March 2020 fraternity meeting. The theme was **Mary, the Mother of God** and Doug related the theme to Article 9 of our Rule and Article 16.1 of the OFS General Constitution. He noted that Mary was the first disciple. During her life she “responded, treasured and pondered.” Doug reflected on the meaning of “pondered” and how it requires solitude. Doug was inspiring and humorous and he concluded the session by asking the fraternity to ponder the following:

- First, reflect in gratitude upon the people in your life who act as a source of strength and support in times of need. No one but Jesus and our Blessed Mother will be a perfect support but, if we are open, we will come to realize that there are many whom God uses to offer us strength and support in various ways.
- Second, reflect upon those who need your spiritual friendship. Who has God placed on your heart to reach out to and to console? Stand with them, at the foot of their daily crosses, and together you will be gazing at our Lord Himself.

## Just A Thought

Mother Teresa said, “I will never attend an anti-war rally. If you have a peace rally, invite me.” What message does she have for us? Place your attention and effort on the positive...love, caring, health, justice, friendship, joy...and the greatest of these is LOVE. And God is LOVE.

(Submitted by Ruth Cassidy)

## JPIC Moment

Two members of the JPIC team (Marion Marshall and Maureen Goodick) presented the theme of **Recognize Fraternal Life: Relationship** taken from an article by Fr. Christopher Panagoplos, TOR. They related it to Article 14 of our Rule. They emphasized the following points:



- The heart of our Franciscan living is the reality of relationship. It is this bond of mutual love that forms the center of Franciscan evangelical life.
- When ruptures inevitably occur despite the best of intentions, the remedy of reconciliation becomes essential in fraternity life - to ask for forgiveness and to receive forgiveness.
- Living the Gospel means accepting to live with our sisters and brothers -- all of them -- bearing witness of God's infinite patience.
- For St Francis, fraternity is his radical living in solidarity with all of humanity and creation.



## News From Bro Leo Fraternity

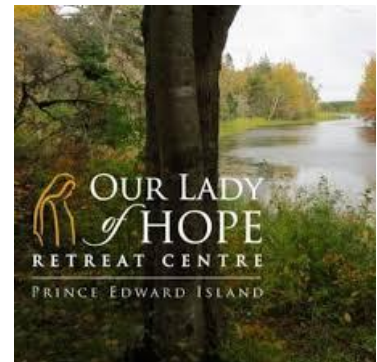
Reserve Sunday, May 31st, 2-4 p.m. for the Spring Retreat hosted by Brother Leo Fraternity. Please pray for its spiritual success.

## Annual Fraternity Retreat 2020

The St. Francis of Assisi Fraternity annual retreat will be held on

**September 25-27, 2020 at Our Lady of Hope Retreat Centre in Bayview, PEI.**

The retreat begins at 6 pm on Friday evening and concludes at 1 pm on Sunday (after lunch). This September date was chosen so as not to conflict with observances of the Feast of St. Francis that many fraternities organize in early October.



Our retreat leader is **Sr. Marianna Jung, FMM** who works in St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Park Extension (Montreal). Sister Marianna is a member of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary (FMM), an international order in the church that is active in Quebec as well as other parts of Canada.

The theme of the retreat is **The Life and Spirituality of St. Clare**. This theme was recommended by many of the participants of our 2019 retreat. When Sr. Marianna gives retreats and workshops, she always tries to examine and emphasize practical applications to our individual lives. As the Blessed Sacrament is a pillar of the spirituality of St. Clare, Sr. Marianna is preparing a liturgy for one hour of Adoration, which we will share together during our retreat weekend.

The registration fees for the retreat:

- \$180 for a single person: This includes the cost of \$170 for a single person charged by the retreat centre (for 2 overnight stays, an ensuite room, 5 meals and snacks during the breaks) and \$10 per single person to help cover the expenses for travel, accommodation and honorarium for the retreat leader
- \$280 for a married couple sharing a room: This includes the cost of \$255 for a married couple charged by the retreat centre (for 2 overnight stays, an ensuite room, 5 meals and snacks during the breaks) and \$25 per couple to help cover the expenses for travel, accommodation and honorarium for the retreat leader. For a married couple, this is a **reduction of \$80** from the fees for the 2019 retreat.

Note: St. Francis of Assisi Fraternity is absorbing the deficit that will be incurred from this retreat.

Registration forms for the retreat will be available in June.

### **April Birthdays**

April 1	Leonard MacGuigan
April 24	Joan McDonald



Happy Birthday Leonard and Joan!  
Blessings to 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@bellaliant.net](mailto:jdclorey@bellaliant.net).

### **Upcoming Events**

Fraternity Meeting - Sunday, April 5 at 7:00 pm in St. Francis of Assisi parish centre, Cornwall.  
**CANCELLED**

**Fraternity Meeting Dates for 2020 in St. Francis of Assisi parish centre, Cornwall**

Sunday, May 3	7-9 p.m. (Note: the <b>first</b> Sunday of the month)
Sunday, June 14	7-9 p.m.
Sunday, July 12	7-9 p.m.
August: no fraternity meeting (annual picnic)	
Sunday, September 13	7-9 p.m.
October: no fraternity meeting (annual retreat)	
Sunday, November 8	2-4 p.m.
Sunday, December 13	2-4 p.m.