

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

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI FRATERNITY NEWSLETTER
July 2022

VOLUME XXXIV NO. 7

Always Moving Forward

Let us begin, brothers, to serve our Lord God, for until now we have made but little progress.
(or we have done little or nothing)
(The Life of Saint Francis of Assisi, Saint Bonaventure, Chapter XIV)

These words of St. Francis speak of change – we have done something and made some progress, but we now need to do more ... or perhaps even something else ... in order to progress further. We must build on the foundations that have already been laid but we cannot rest on our laurels and keep doing the same things the same way. We must be open to change.



And, of course, this is the reality of our lives and everything that surrounds us. Everything changes - the universe, the earth, the world and its people. Nothing remains the same. And, the Secular Franciscan Order has not been exempt from these changes over the past 800 years, as it continues to change and evolve.

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (1431) calls us to a “radical reorientation of our whole life, a return, a conversion to God with all our heart ... which entails the desire and resolution to change one's life, with hope in God's mercy and trust in the help of his grace.” These are important words of change with which we can identify as Brothers and Sisters of Penance. This has been our call from the very beginning as articulated in *Memoriale Propositi* of 1221, our first Rule whose 800th anniversary we celebrated last year.

And, the grace of our Franciscan spirituality is that we do not do it alone. We recall the words of St. Francis ... “And the Lord gave me brothers”.

During this summer period, let us be grateful for all that we have and take a few moments to reflect on our OFS Rule which guides us through the many changes that impact our lives.

Pax et bonum.

Annual Fraternity Picnic

The annual al fraternity picnic will again be enjoyed on Sunday, August 14th, Joan McDonald's cottage. Joan's cottage is at 149 Brendon's Blvd, Brudenell, PE.

The picnic will begin with prayer together, beginning at 3:00PM, but you are welcome to arrive earlier if you so wish and stay along as you wish.

Although the pandemic restrictions have been lifted, we are asking people to bring their own lunch (and beverage if you need something special). There will be some soft-drinks available and tea. Also, if possible, please bring a chair or enjoy the lawn!!

If you need a drive, please call Minerva 902 566 3791 and she will arrange for you to be picked up. Should you need directions or get lost, please call Joan and she will get you back on track. She can be reached at 902 394 0189.

So, please join us for a time of prayer, relaxation, fun and always a time of great joy!!

IN CASE OF RAIN: we will cancel by sending all members an e-mail by 11AM or earlier that morning.

Young Octogenarians

At its June and July meetings, our Fraternity celebrated the 80th birthdays of Doug Hagen and Ruth Cassidy with cakes and best wishes.

Doug and Ruth join the many members of our Fraternity who have surpassed this milestone: Lorraine, Louise, Pauline, Gillian, Ron, Tom, Leonard, Brad, and Janet. The 80+ club now makes up almost half of our membership.

Congratulations and thank you to everyone for continuing to enrich our Fraternal life.!!

(Submitted by Michael Cassidy)



Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC)

Human Trafficking

According to the U.S. State Department, 600,000 to 800,000 people are trafficked across international borders every year. Human trafficking is the third largest international crime industry after illegal drugs and arms trafficking. It generates a profit of approximately 32 billion every year.

The most common form of human trafficking is sexual exploitation, accounting for 79% of human trafficking victims. These victims of sexual exploitation are predominantly women and girls and one third of them are children. All countries are affected by human trafficking through participating as a country of origin, transit, or destination

The theme for the July 30 2022 World Day Against Trafficking in Persons is

“Use and Abuse of Technology”

With the global expansion in the use of technology, the crime of human trafficking has conquered cyber space.



The internet and digital platforms offer traffickers numerous tools to:

- recruit, exploit, and control victims;
- organize their transport and accommodation;
- advertise victims and reach out to potential clients;
- communicate among perpetrators;
- hide criminal proceeds.

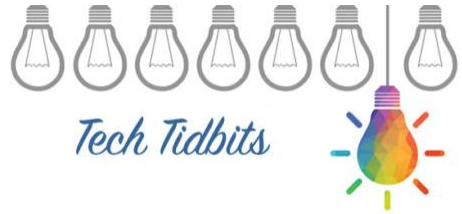
What can we do?

1. Inform ourselves. Look up websites about human trafficking.
2. Get involved with the UN Blue Heart Campaign against Human Trafficking (<https://www.unodc.org/blueheart/?ref=menu>)
3. Promote prevention and awareness-raising activities on the safe use of the internet. and social media to help mitigate the risk of people falling victim of trafficking online.
4. Join in praying about this issue, for example, Psalm 121 or other prayers related to this issue or from your own heart.

(Submitted by the JPIC team: Mike, Carol, Brad, Lucia & Doug H.)

Tech Tidbits

Connecting members of the fraternity using videoconferencing technology is dependent on many factors including the strength of the internet signal at either end of the connection as well as the devices being used (ie. phone, laptop, iPad, etc.). When a connection is lost, it can be disappointing for everyone concerned, including those who are physically present. This is particularly problematic when a virtual participant is presenting to the fraternity either as part of ongoing formation or JPIC. The Technical Support Team is recommending that, when a virtual participant is presenting, a back-up person be available to step in if the connection with the virtual participant is lost.



(Submitted by Technical Support Team)

Indigenous Lens



Pope Francis has completed his historic and unprecedented pilgrimage to Canada to apologize to the Indigenous peoples for the suffering they endured as a result of their time in residential schools. Asking for pardon, he says, is a first step towards healing. Former Assembly of First Nations Chief Phil Fontaine, himself a survivor, echoed these thoughts when he said that forgiveness is necessary for healing but some have not been able to take that first step as yet. As the Canadian Bishops have pointed out, reconciliation is a journey that involves all of us. Let us recommit ourselves to the journey of truth and reconciliation with our Indigenous brothers and sisters.

(Submitted by Marion Clorey)

News from Brother Leo Fraternity

On August 8th, we will celebrate the Feast of the Transfiguration. Perhaps we can consider how open we have been to being transformed by Christ. Clare, whose Feast Day we celebrate shortly thereafter on Aug 11th/12th, took time to contemplate the change happening within her while, at the same time, reaching out to the poor.

The last words of St. Clare's blessing are special. We, in Brother Leo Fraternity, ask her to bestow this blessing upon all of you, our sisters and brothers...

May the Lord be with you always and may you always be with Him. St. Clare, pray for us.

(Submitted by Claudia Batchilder, Minister of Brother Leo Fraternity)

2022 Annual Fraternity Retreat - UPDATE

Our annual fraternity retreat will be held on September 9-11, 2022 at Our Lady of Hope Retreat Centre. Fr. John Molina will be our retreat leader.

Fr. Molina is pastor at St. Simon & St. Jude Parish in Tignish and is a former pastor of the Good Shepherd Pastoral Unit. He was instrumental in establishing the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in St. Francis of Assisi Church and, several years ago, he presented the ongoing formation session at one of our Fraternity meetings.



- Invitations to attend the retreat are extended to the following Maritime Fraternities: St. Francis of Assisi, Br. Leo, Bl. Fr. Frederic, Queenship of Mary, and St. Bonaventure.
- The retreat will begin at 6 pm on Friday evening and conclude at 1 pm on Sunday (after lunch).
- **A registration form is attached to this newsletter (Attachment 1).**

(Submitted by Michael Cassidy)

Regional Elective Chapter

The Regional Fraternity of Eastern Canada held its regional elective chapter on July 29-31, 2022 at Le Cenacle in Cacouna, Quebec. During the chapter, the following individuals were elected to the Regional Council and will serve the national fraternity for the next three years (2022-2025):

Regional Minister	Gerald Gabriel
Vice-Minister (Eastern Ontario)	Les McFarlane
Vice-Minister (Quebec)	Linda Caldito
Vice-Minister (Atlantic)	Martha Gabriel
Secretary	Moira Matthews
Treasurer	Ghanim Gianni
Formator	Claudia Batchilder

The Regional Council will be assisted by Spiritual Assistant Gerry Clyne, OFM.

Congratulations to all for their generosity in accepting to serve our region on the Regional Council. Blessings to all of you.

National Elective Chapter

The National Fraternity of Canada held its national elective chapter on July 14-17, 2022 at the Centre de spiritualité des Ursulines in Loretteville, Quebec. During the chapter, the following individuals were elected to the National Council and will serve the national fraternity for the next three years (2022-2025):

National Minister/International Councillor
Vice-Minister (Francophone)
Vice-Minister (Anglophone)
Secretary
Treasurer
Formator

Jewel Jasmins (Vancouver, BC)
Micheline Bergeron (Quebec, QC)
George Guimond (Forest City, NB)
Debbie Tessier (Welland, ON)
Sherrill Guimond (Forest City, NB)
Lynda Black (Vancouver, BC)

The Conference of National Spiritual Assistants includes Benjamin Ripley, OFM, Alix Poulin, OFM Cap and Peter Knaapen, OFM Conv.

Vice-Minister General, Mary Stronach, presided over the elective session on behalf of OFS Minister General, Tibor Kauser. Henri Éthier, OFM witnessed the elections as a delegate of the Conference of General Spiritual Assistants.

A photo of the newly elected National Council follows.



l to r: Benjamin Ripley, OFM, Lynda Black, Debbie Tessier, George Guimond, Sherrill Guimond, Micheline Bergeron, Henri Éthier, Jewel Jasmins, Mary Stronach, Alix Poulin, OFM Cap (Missing: Peter Knaapen, OFM Conv)

August Birthdays

August 1	Ron Bolger
August 6	Gerry Gabriel
August 12	Ruth Cassidy
August 21	Ginny MacDonald

Happy Birthday Ron, Gerry, Ruth and Ginny.
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.

Upcoming Events

Annual Fraternity Picnic - **Sunday, August 14th, beginning at 3:00 PM** at Joan McDonald's cottage at 149 Brendon's Blvd, Brudenell, PE.

Annual Fraternity Retreat - **September 9-11, 2022 at Our Lady of Hope Retreat Centre.**

**St Francis of Assisi Fraternity
ANNUAL RETREAT 2022 - Registration Form**

The St. Francis of Assisi Fraternity annual retreat will be held on **September 9-11, 2022** 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). **The retreat will be facilitated by Fr. John Molina**, pastor at St. Simon & St. Jude Parish in Tignish and a former pastor of the Good Shepherd Pastoral Unit.

- The fees for the retreat are **\$180 for individuals** and **\$280 for a married couple sharing a room**. These fees include the costs charged by the retreat centre (for 2 overnight stays, 5 meals and snacks during the breaks) and a small amount to offset the expenses for travel, accommodation, and honorarium for the facilitator.
- Each room at the retreat centre contains a bathroom ensuite, and towels and bed linens are provided.
- To take full advantage of the retreat, everyone attending is expected to stay at the retreat centre from Friday evening until Sunday afternoon.
- There will not be a reduced rate for those attending only part of the retreat. **All registrants, whether they stay overnight or not, will have individual rooms for privacy, meditations, etc.**
- **At the present time, reasonable masking and safe distancing will be maintained.**
- Please complete the registration information below and return it, along with the full payment of \$180 for an individual **OR** \$280 for a married couple sharing a room, to **Michael Cassidy, 5 Arbour Lane, Cornwall, PE C0A 1H4.**
- Make cheques payable to “St. Francis of Assisi Fraternity”.
- Registration with payment must be received by **Friday, August 26, 2022.**
- Cancellation date for refund: on or before **Sunday, September 4, 2022.**
- To cancel or obtain more information, contact Michael Cassidy at 902-368-9309 or at mcassidypei@hotmail.com

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone # _____ E-mail _____

Local Fraternity _____

Room requirements (please check): Single _____ Double _____

Emergency contact _____ Phone # _____

Dietary Requirements/Concerns (Please specify)