

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

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

**February 2018**

**VOLUME XXX NO.2**

### **Permanent Commitment to the Gospel Life**

The permanent profession of Maureen Goodick took place during the 4:00 pm mass on Saturday, January 13, 2018 at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Cornwall. During the rite of professions, Maureen 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, Maureen.



During the January meeting of the fraternity, Marion Marshall renewed her temporary profession for an additional year. Meanwhile, in St. John's, NL, Pauline Boulos-Lannon, Bev Kent and Lucia Gray also renewed their temporary profession for an additional year. Praise God for the way in which God's Spirit is moving among the Franciscan community.

### **Formation**

#### **1) Preparing for Ongoing Formation Session of February 11, 2018:**

Please read the reflection in the newsletter (below).

Read Chapter 7 in *The Way of St. Francis*. It is also suggested that you review Chapter 6 because of the importance of prayer for Secular Franciscans. Please come to the monthly meeting on February 11th prepared to discuss the reading and your reflections on that reading.

#### **2) *Laudato Si'* Actions Suggested for February 2018**

The actions below are suggested for the month of February 2018 to further our commitment to the *Laudato Si'* pledge.

*Answering Pope Francis' urgent call in  
Laudato Si, I pledge to:*

- **Pray for and with creation**
- **Live more simply**
- **Advocate to protect our common home.**

**Prayer:** Continue to pray *A Christian Prayer in Union with Creation*, or *A Prayer for Our Earth* (both on the Laudato Si' prayer cards, and at the back of the Laudato Si' book), or another prayer of your choosing.

**Living more simply:** Do you have any warm clothes or winter boots that you could share with someone in need? Please consider donating these. You can bring your donation to our monthly meeting, or you may want to make your donation to the PEI Association for Newcomers to Canada (once a month, clothing that has been donated is made available to people at Trinity United Church).

**Advocacy:** St. Francis of Assisi Fraternity will present a session on Franciscan Spirituality as part of the *Theology on Tap* sessions presented by the Saint Dunstan's University Institute of Christianity and Culture at the University of PEI. This session will take place on February 15, 2018. More details below.

### **Thoughts on Francis and Prayer**

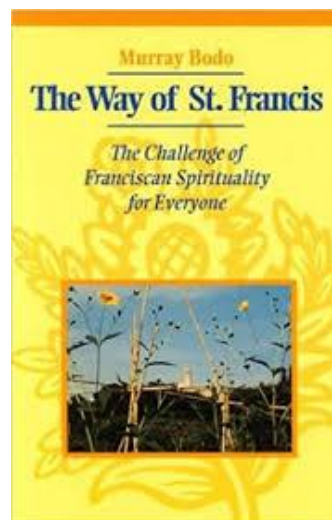
The idea that prayer is essential to Franciscan life... has not always been emphasized... Francis' ministry to the lepers and his preaching the Gospel seem to have overshadowed the centrality of prayer in his way of life. Further, while Francis held up prayer as the basis for following Christ, his writings on prayer are scattered throughout his letters, rules, and dictated writings.... Francis prayed, he prayed unceasingly and he came to resemble Christ through a prayerful loving relationship with Christ. (*Franciscan Prayer*, Ilia Delio, 2004, p.7)

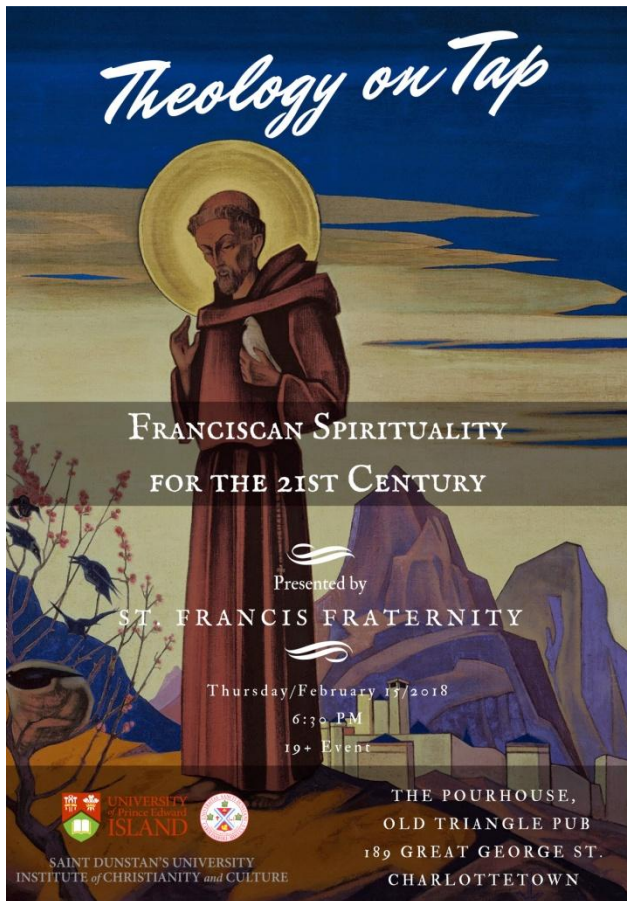
Though his entire life was a prayer, Francis did occasionally compose prayers, and many of these were filled with joy and praise. In Chapter XXIII of the Rule of 1221, Francis shared a prayer of praise to his God:

*All powerful, most holy, most high and supreme God,  
Holy and just Father, Lord, King of heaven and earth,  
we thank you for yourself  
for through your holy will  
and through your only Son  
with the Holy Spirit,  
You have created all things spiritual and corporal  
And, having made us in your own image and likeness,  
You placed us in paradise.  
Then, through our own fault, we fell.*

### **St. Padre Pio Group**

As was mentioned earlier in the newsletter, Pauline, Bev and Lucia from the St. Padre Pio Group in St. John's, NL renewed their temporary profession. Although these three individuals are fervent in their desire to live their Franciscan vocation, their group has diminished in numbers, and they are in need of more support in their local area. As a result, the fraternity council of St. Francis of Assisi fraternity, supported by the council of the Regional Fraternity of Eastern Canada, have decided to send two individuals from our fraternity to St. John's to promote the OFS locally. This will include speaking at the weekend masses at St. John the Baptist Basilica in St. John's, holding information sessions in the parish and meeting with the council of priests of the archdiocese. This visit is expected to take place in March or April. More information will be available as the itinerary is firmed up. Please pray for the members of our fraternity in St. John's and for the success of this visit.





## **Theology on Tap**

On November 15, 2016, the council of St. Francis of Assisi Fraternity met with Bishop Richard Grecco to provide him with an update on the life of the fraternity in his Diocese. During this meeting, Bishop Grecco suggested that the fraternity explore the possibility of presenting Franciscan spirituality at one of the Theology on Tap sessions in Charlottetown. "Theology on Tap" are events organized and hosted by the Saint Dunstan's University Institute of Christianity and Culture at the University of PEI. Subsequent discussion with the organizers took place and a session is now planned for February 15, 2018 on *Franciscan Spirituality for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*. This session will be facilitated by Doug Clorey, and Gerry and Martha Gabriel. The presentation will be held at the Pourhouse (upstairs at the Old Triangle, 189 Great George Street, Charlottetown) at 7:00 PM (doors open at 6:30 PM). Along with a brief background on the life of Francis and Clare, the essentials elements of Franciscan spirituality will be presented together with a number of examples of how this spirituality is being lived in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Members of both St. Francis of Assisi and Brother Leo fraternities are welcome to attend. This is also a good opportunity, in a relaxed setting, to reach out to friends and family who may be interested in knowing who we are. If you are not able to attend in person, please say a prayer for the fraternity on that evening. Thank you.

## **St. Clare School of Adult Faith Formation**

St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Cornwall, PE has initiated a series of evening presentations focused on the adult faith formation of its parishioners. These presentations form part of what is being called the "St. Clare School of Adult Faith Formation". For the first time in our history, the parish has asked the fraternity to present a series of talks on the subject of "Franciscan Spirituality". At its January 25<sup>th</sup> meeting, the fraternity council agreed to present 4 sessions during the Lenten period on each of the following topics: "St. Francis: Understanding Our Patron", "St. Clare: Co-founder of the Poor Clares", "Franciscan Spirituality" and "Care of Creation and Franciscan Spirituality". Members of the fraternity will lead each of these sessions. A further communication will be sent out once the dates and times are finalized.

## **Lent 2018**

In assessing its priorities, the council of St. Francis of Assisi Fraternity has decided to focus on the following three activities during the Lenten period of 2018, ie. presenting at Theology on Tap, presenting at the St. Clare School of Adult Faith Formation, and conducting a visit to St. John's, NL to promote the OFS in the archdiocese. As a result, the fraternity will not be organizing a Seder Meal this year.

## **Justice, Peace and Care of Creation**

### **Women Peacebuilders – Women and Peacebuilding**

In this short video of two and a half minutes, look and listen to three women from Colombia, Afghanistan and Lebanon as they offer their views on how to build peace.

<https://youtu.be/Kw9zuAA-aJ8>

Click on the link above to view the video and enjoy.



## **Finances**

Thank you to all who support the fraternity through their financial contributions. The fraternity's financial statement for 2017 and the proposed budget for 2018 will be presented during the February monthly meeting.

## **February Birthdays**

February 4	Janet McDonald
February 10	Pauline Boulos-Lannon

Happy Birthday, Janet and Pauline! Blessings to each of you.

## **Lunch Schedule**

Pauline Clarkin  
Maureen Goodick

## **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**

Next Fraternity Meeting – February 11, 2018 **at 2:00 pm** in St. Francis of Assisi Church Parish Centre, Cornwall. With the use of Skype technology, it is hoped that members of the St. Padre Pio Group in NL will be able to join the rest of the fraternity on PE for its monthly meeting.

Fraternity Council Meeting – February 21, 2018 at 1:00 pm in St. Francis of Assisi Meeting Room, Cornwall

Theology on Tap – Thursday, February 15, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. at The Pourhouse (above the Old Triangle Irish Alehouse) at 189 Great George Street, Charlottetown, PE

St. Clare School of Adult Faith Formation Lenten Program – Dates and times to be confirmed, St. Francis of Assisi Meeting Room, Cornwall