



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

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI FRATERNITY NEWSLETTER

January 2019

VOLUME XXXI NO. 1

Community Discernment

As we begin a new chapter in the life of our local fraternity, we enter into a period of discernment around our individual and collective gifts as a fraternity, recognizing that our gifts are given to be of service to others. So, we now take time to discern the gifts that we have and the gifts that the fraternity needs. This period of discernment helps us connect our vocation of service to the needs of the fraternity. In this regard, we may wish to reflect on the words of Henri Nouwen ...



Christian discernment is not the same as decision making. Reaching a decision can be straightforward: we consider our goals and options; maybe we list the pros and cons of each possible choice; and then we choose the action that meets our goal most effectively. Discernment, on the other hand, is about listening and responding to that place within us where our deepest desires align with God's desire. As discerning people, we sift through our impulses, motives, and options to discover which ones lead us closer to divine love and compassion for ourselves and other people and which ones lead us further away. Discernment reveals new priorities, directions, and gifts from God. We come to realize that what previously seemed so important for our lives loses its power over us. Our desire to be successful, well liked and influential becomes increasingly less important as we move closer to God's heart. To our surprise, we even may experience a strange inner freedom to follow a new call or direction as previous concerns move into the background of our consciousness. We begin to see the beauty of the small and hidden life that Jesus lived in Nazareth. Most rewarding of all is the discovery that, as we pray more each day, God's will—that is, God's concrete ways of loving us and our world—gradually is made known to us.

(Henri Nouwen, *Discernment: Reading the Signs of Daily Life* (HarperOne: 2013), 17)

January's Fraternity Meeting



As the new Council sets out on its three year journey, it is essential for Council to have the support of various fraternity teams. The focus of our January meeting will be an opportunity for each of us to share with what team we feel that "our gifts" most effectively are aligned. As well, we will also be invited to identify where we see "the gifts of our brothers and sisters" could be best applied for the benefit of the various teams. With this information in hand, Council could then make better informed decisions regarding the membership of each team. Accordingly, in anticipation of this meeting and endeavor we ask you to come with a spirit of genuine service to each other and our broader community. Thank you!

(Submitted by Gerry Gabriel, Vice-Minister)

Justice, Peace and Care of Creation

In Solidarity with the Forced Migrants

Every minute, 31 people are forced to flee their homes. **Forced migrants** are those compelled to flee their homes because they are in a situation of insecurity and fear for their lives. There are **69 million** people in the world today who are forced migrants. That is double the population of Canada.

- **40 million** are internally displaced.
- **26 million** are refugees.
- **3 million** are asylum seekers.

The complete article from the Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Team is attached to this newsletter (Attachment 1).

Martha Spirituality Centre



The program for the Martha Spirituality Centre is attached to this newsletter.

The Spirituality Centre is located at SDU Place, Great George St. (Box 1147), Charlottetown, PE C1A 7M8. For more information or to register, please call 1-902-367-3103 or email srgemma@eastlink.ca

January Birthdays

January 12	Nancy Murphy
January 15	Louise Larkin-Arsenault
January 30	Gillian Garson

Happy Birthday, Nancy, Louise and Gillian! Blessings to each of you.

Lunch Schedule

Doug & Marion Clorey

Newsletter

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

Upcoming Events

Fraternity Meeting – Sunday, January 13, 2019 at 2:00 pm in St. Francis of Assisi Church (downstairs)



Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation

From the St. Francis of Assisi JPIC Committee
(Mike, Marion, Maureen & Charlie) January, 2019

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What are the forced migrants fleeing?

- **Armed conflict**
- **Persecution** (ethnicity, religion, political opinion, nationality, etc.)
- **Development megaprojects** (mining, oil & gas exploration, hydroelectric dam, urban 'improvement' projects, etc.)
- **Environmental causes** (drought, famine, natural disasters, climate change, etc.)
- **Economic & political causes** (denial of basic rights, mass unemployment, political instability, etc.)

**Let us act in solidarity with the forced migrants of the world by
knowing and telling their stories.**

Note: On You Tube, check out the song "**Christmas Day on Planet Earth**" recorded by Lennie Gallant when the Black Umfolosi visited PEI last summer. In this beautiful song, Lennie makes a connection between the Holy Family and the migrants of the world.

Use the link below or do a Google search.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R5c7UOBhAKs&feature=youtu.be>