

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

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI FRATERNITY NEWSLETTER

July 2019

VOLUME XXXI NO. 7

Remembering Fr. Marc Le Goanvec, OFM

“All praise be yours, my Lord, through Sister Death,
from whose embrace no mortal can escape.”
(St. Francis of Assisi)

On June 20, 2019, Sister Death embraced our brother Marc Le Goanvec, OFM. He died peacefully in Montreal at the age of 66, having lived 38 years as a Franciscan religious and 27 as a priest.

A holy man who lived the Gospel life to the end, he was always a dear friend of the Secular Franciscan Order in Canada. He was particularly supportive during his time as Provincial Minister (2008-2017) in ensuring that the First Order was present in the lives of Secular Franciscans, especially by providing Spiritual Assistants to our fraternities.



Fr. Marc's funeral was celebrated at the Franciscan Church of the Resurrection on Friday, June 28th. Doug Hagen, who had been appointed by Fr. Marc as Regional Spiritual Assistant for our region, attended his funeral and represented all of us who were not able to be there. Doug shares some of his reflections ...

“It was a great honour to be able to attend the funeral of Marc Le Goanvec, OFM. The church was filled with people whose lives Fr. Marc had touched over the years. Three people came from France, including his mother, sister and brother, to give their final farewells. Heartfelt tributes were given by Fr. Marc's mother, sister, brother and a member of the congregation, as well as by Fr. Pierre Charland, current Provincial Minister. His mother's anecdotes brought the congregation to both laughter and tears. The love and respect that this humble man generated among his Franciscan brothers and people in general showed him as the personification of what it is to be a servant-leader. I recall conversations with him, regarding different situations; his response always began with the phrase: “First, there is mercy”.

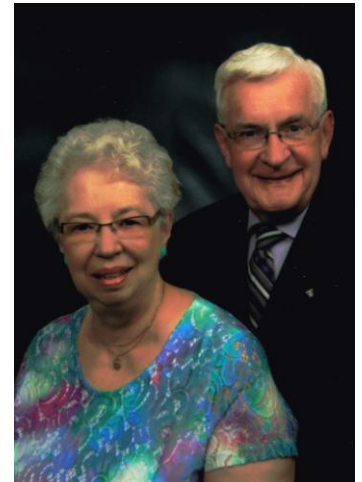
May he rest in peace.

Living the Grace of Matrimony

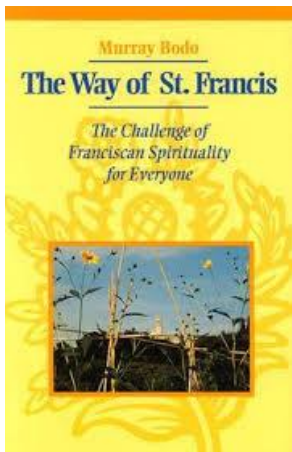
Congratulations are extended to Leonard and Della MacGuigan who are celebrating their Golden Wedding Anniversary.

Article 17 of the Rule states that “By living the grace of matrimony, husbands and wives in particular should bear witness in the world to the love of Christ for his Church.”

St. Francis of Assisi Fraternity is blessed with couples who celebrate decades of life lived within the state of marriage. We thank God for Leonard and Della’s fidelity and commitment during their 50 years married life. The fraternity wishes them good health and many blessings in the years to come.



Formation



What is Franciscan Living Today? Each of us received a call to live the Franciscan charism in the world today. For some of us, this was a long time ago, and for others, just this year. What was compelling to you about this unique charism?

Teresa Baker says that a “charism (gift of the Holy Spirit) is an intensely personal reading of the Gospel resulting in an inner enlightenment that changes the way you relate to God, to self and others. This is so powerful that it has the potential to attract others who sense the same desire in themselves.”

For Francis, our Seraphic Father, it was the self-giving presence of Christ. Francis chose to live his life as close to the example of Christ as was humanely possible. It is this charism that we are called to make present in the life and mission of the Church, a mission to be lived out in the world.

The following are powerful questions for us all to reflect on in preparation for our meeting ...
“If you were arrested for being a Franciscan, would there be enough evidence to convict you?
What would this evidence be? What hinders you from following the Gospel to the full?”
(To Set Themselves Free)

Please read Chapter 27 in *The Way of St Francis* and contemplate Article 1 of our Rule.

Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation

Four members of the fraternity’s JPIC team presented the Formation session at the June 9th fraternity meeting with the theme: “Why JPIC? – Examining the Reasons Why Secular Franciscans are Called to Action.’ The text of their session is included in this newsletter (Attachment 1). Nancy, Marion, Maureen and Joan are pictured here preparing their presentation.



Br. Leo Fraternity Livens Up Our Meeting



I to r. Garry Scully, Shirley Scully, Gerry Gabriel, Edwina Arbuckle, Marion Clorey (Spiritual Assistant), Claudia Bachilder, Mike Mooney

Members of the Br. Leo Fraternity, the only other fraternity on PEI, were welcomed at the June 9th fraternity meeting.

Not only did they bring plenty of food, they also engaged everyone in an impromptu dance during the closing hymn of the evening.

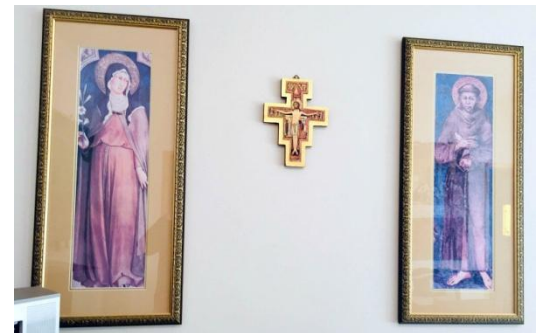
They are pictured with Vice Minister Gerry Gabriel who chaired the meeting.

News from Brother Leo Fraternity

Ann and Ray Gill, both Secular Franciscans, purchased prints of St Francis (Cimabue) and St. Clare (Martini) while on our fraternity's pilgrimage to Assisi in 1997. They donated them to Brother Leo Fraternity and they were mounted in the room where the fraternity met at St. Mary's in Montague.

Unfortunately, over the past while, Brother Leo members were not able to enjoy the presence of the images as the fraternity has been given a new location in the church where it was not possible to display them. The council decided to ask Bishop Grecco if they could have a new home in our Lady of Hope Retreat Centre and he agreed - he actually personally delivered them to the centre! Bishop Grecco stated that "the prints of St. Francis and St. Clare are most suitable for the retreat centre. I am most grateful that you thought of Our Lady of Hope. Please extend my thanks to whoever has made this gracious donation."

We will all be able to enjoy them at our retreat this October. It's exciting to have another Franciscan presence at the centre in addition to our Peace Garden!



Regional Spiritual Conference 2019



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 MY HOUSE" and will be facilitated by Fr. Guylain Prince, OFM.

The registration form and information on Fr. Guylain are included in this newsletter as Attachment 2 and 3, respectively.

National Spiritual Conference 2019

Invitation to all Secular Franciscans

“The 800th Anniversary of the Encounter between Saint Francis and the Sultan”

October 10-11-12-13, 2019

Le Centre de Spiritualité des Ursulines
20 rue des Ursulines, Loretteville, QC

Key Note Speaker : Michael Cusato, OFM

- Medieval Context of Francis' Encounter with the Sultan
- Franciscan Attempts to Encounter the Muslim World
- Francis and the Encounter under the Tent
- From Damietta to La Verna and Assisi
- Radical Vision among Franciscans
- Current Efforts of Pope Francis to Recapture the Vision

Registration, Accommodations and Meals - \$250.00

To register, contact Sherrill Guimond at sherrill.rfec@gmail.com



Annual Fraternity Retreat– Save the Date



The St. Francis of Assisi Fraternity annual retreat will be held on **October 4-6, 2019 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 theme of the retreat will be “Exploring & Practicing Franciscan Prayer”, and will be facilitated by Fr. Benny Vincent, ofm cap. Fr. Benny is the recently appointed Regional Spiritual Assistant for our region, the Regional Fraternity of Eastern Canada. The format of the retreat will be a series of 5 presentations on Franciscan prayer, each followed by 30 minutes of practicing Franciscan prayer. The theme and format of the retreat follow the suggestions and recommendations of the participants of last year's retreat. The retreat will also include the popular “Saturday Night Live”, so bring your playful side and join in the songs, skits and storytelling.

- The cost for the retreat is \$180 per person. This includes the cost of \$148.50 per person charged by the retreat centre (for 2 overnight stays, an ensuite room, 5 meals and snacks during the breaks) and \$31.50 per person to cover the expenses for travel, accommodation and honorarium for the facilitator.
- The registration form is attached to this newsletter (Attachment 4).
- **The registration deadline is Friday, Sept. 20, 2019.**

July Birthday

July 16 Mary Hagen

Happy Birthday, Mary! Blessings to you and your family.

Lunch Schedule

Minerva McCourt
Gillian Garson

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, July 14, 2019 at 7:00 pm in St. Francis of Assisi parish centre, Cornwall

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

National Spiritual Conference – October 10-13, 2019 at Le Centre de Spiritualité des Ursulines, Loretteville, QC

Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation

From the St. Francis of Assisi JPIC Team – July, 2019

Why JPIC?

Examining the Reasons Why Secular Franciscans are Called to Action

1. **The Scriptures – Faith & Action:** There are numerous passages in the Old and New Testaments that exhort us to act justly and declare that faith without actions is insufficient. **JPIC is evidence of our faith.**

- “What does the Lord require of us?
... to do justice
... to love tenderly and
... to walk humbly with your God.” (Micah 6:8)
- “Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.” Mt 5:9
- “The Lord God took man and settled him in the garden of Eden to cultivate and take care of it.” Gen 2:15
- “So it is with faith: if it is alone and includes no actions, then it is dead.” (James 2:17)

2. **Franciscan Spirituality – Prayer & Action:** Spirituality often has the connotation of being solely concerned with the human spirit or soul as opposed to material or physical things. If we remain in a meditative prayerful state without some accompanying actions, it is difficult to achieve personal growth or transformation in our efforts to become more spiritual.

The lives of Jesus and Francis are examples of prayerful figures who shared a solidarity with the marginalized of society and who confronted the civil and religious authorities by denouncing injustice. Francis is often described as the saint who is most like Jesus. To follow in their footsteps is the essence of Franciscan Spirituality.

The duality of Franciscan Spirituality is comprised of Prayer and Action. To focus exclusively on Prayer is like trying to stand on one leg. You can do it for a little while but then you realize that you need the other leg (Action) to attain a stable Spirituality. **JPIC is the Action part of Franciscan Spirituality.**

3. **The Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order – From Gospel to Life:** We are mindful of the vow we made on the occasion of our profession: *“I promise to live all the days of my life the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Secular Franciscan Order according to its rule of life.”*

Articles 14, 15, 17, 18 and 19 of our Rule specifically prescribe us to act on Justice, Peace and Creation.

14: “exercise their responsibilities competently in the Christian spirit of service.”

15: “promote justice by the testimony of their human lives and their courageous initiatives.”

17: “cultivate the Franciscan spirit of peace, fidelity and respect for life.”

18: “respect all creatures ... and move from the temptation of exploiting creation to the Franciscan concept of universal kinship.”

19: “bearers of peace ... messengers of perfect joy.”

Excerpts from A Resource Book for JPIC Committees (Michael Cassidy, 2018)

REGISTRATION FORM

**Secular Franciscan Order – Regional Fraternity
of Eastern Canada Regional
Spiritual Conference**

**August 9,10,11, 2019
Le Cenacle, Cacouna, Quebec**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____ **E-mail:** _____

Fraternity name and location: _____

Dietary restrictions: _____

The registration deposit for this conference is \$40.00. Those who prefer to forward full registration fee may do so. Otherwise, balance is due upon arrival.

The registration fee includes your room for 2 nights plus all meals (including Friday supper), all nutrition breaks and conference expenses.

Private Room (1 person) = \$140.00

Shared Room (2 persons) = \$125.00 each

Private Room with Ensuite (1 person) = \$170.00

Shared Room with Ensuite (2 persons) = \$155.00 each

I wish the following accommodation – Please check room type required:

Private Room _____

**Shared Room _____ person with whom you are sharing _____ Private Room with
Ensuite _____**

**Shared Room with Ensuite _____ Handicap
Room _____**

Please see Page 2

**There is a block of rooms reserved for women only (on a first come, first served basis)
Indicate if you want a room within this block of rooms _____**

Everyone is required to bring their own sheets, pillow cases, towels etc.

The registration deadline is July 1st.

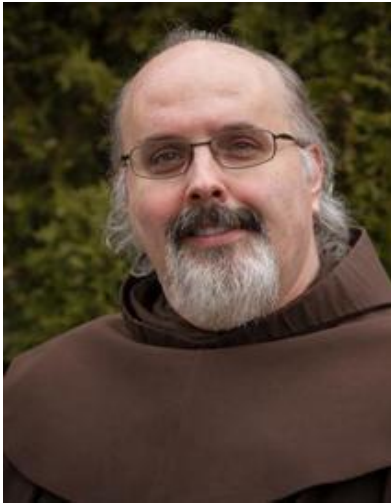
Any cancellation before July 1st will have their deposit or registration fee returned.

Cancellation after July 1st will forfeit the \$40.00 deposit.

Make cheque payable to: The Regional Fraternity of Eastern Canada

**Forward the completed Registration Form and deposit or full payment to:
Luba Legault, ofs, 211-1975 Rene Levesque O., Montreal, QC,
H3H 2R3**

Contact Information: luba.duczak@gmail.com Tel: (514) 935-8446



Regional Spiritual Conference 2019

Theme: *Rebuild my house*

Retreat leader: *Fr. Guylain Prince, OFM*

Fr. Guylain Prince, OFM, is from the Franciscan Friary in Trois Rivières, Quebec where the remains of Blessed Father Frederic Janssoone, OFM are contained in the chapel. He is a gifted facilitator whose specialties include biblical studies and evangelization through music. He has extensive knowledge of Blessed Father Frederic Janssoone, the Patron of our Regional Fraternity of Eastern Canada.

Fr. Guylain Prince, OFM, was appointed a Definitor (Councillor) for our new Canadian OFM Province of the Franciscan Order, Holy Spirit Province Saint-Esprit. The Province describe Fr. Guylain on their web site as a Biblical scholar, a speaker, a priest and yes, also a choir director. Obviously, Father Guylain is a Franciscan with many talents.

Fr. Guylain is the author of the book, *L'humble prier, 2016 (Prayer of the Heart)*, a reflection of approximately 100 pages on hesychastic prayer. The term "hesychastic" comes from the Greek word *hesychia*, meaning "peace." "...the *Jesus Prayer* has been for Fr. Guylain the most intimate and the deepest expression of his life in God, just after the Sacred Scriptures. But it was during a sabbatical in Nazareth in August 2015 that he discovered a way to incorporate "Abba," the Our Father, into hesychastic prayer. This peace comes from the ability to maintain a Kingdom of God perspective in all things. It's about seeking a life of quality, and not just quality of life. Here is a key passage from his book, highlighting the presence and infinite love of God: "I never get tired of bringing together different viewpoints and bringing them before God's grace. I have prayed in front of prisons, amid demonstrations, on mountaintops and in poor neighbourhoods. Also, I prayed to God with a mother who had just lost her child. Always, everywhere, with the same little prayer. So far, I haven't found a place where God did not want to be found."

Fr. Guylain also "blogs" on the Holy Spirit Province web site. Here are a couple of examples of his blogs:

"Recently, I wrote a short reflection on Facebook. At the end of a busy day, I was tired. It wasn't the kind of fatigue that comes from tension or an injury, but the kind you feel after a day when you've given the best of yourself. A phrase from the Gospel bubbled up in my heart: 'Today's trouble is enough for today' (Mt 6:34). Sometimes I worry about tomorrow ... but not that time. I had worked really hard. Despite all the things that happen in life, my heart remains devoted to the Gospel and to my sisters and brothers. ... I hope that at the end of my life, I can say that I did my best. Quite frankly, I desire nothing more. Everything starts with 'Today's trouble is enough for today'."

"The need for landmarks: As I strolled through a small art gallery recently, I saw on a shelf some wonderful little inukshuks. In an instant, I found myself back in the early 1990s, when I was a lay missionary in the Canadian Arctic. An "Inuk – shuk" resembles a human figure. I couldn't help but think that our world needs landmarks; the inukshuk is one. Inuit put inukshuks in strategic places, especially to mark the path of the caribou herds and direct them to a cul-de-sac, where hunting would be

easier. At other times, these rock sculptures help people find their way. Winter and summer, they are there, within sight along the way. We need points of reference to know how to move forward in this vast and at times confusing world, but also to discover what is essential and what endures.”

**St Francis of Assisi Fraternity
ANNUAL RETREAT 2019**

Registration Form

The St. Francis of Assisi Fraternity annual retreat will be held on **October 4-6, 2019** at **Our Lady of Hope Retreat Centre in Bayview, PEI** (directions attached). 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. Benny Vincent, ofm cap. The theme will be Exploring & Practicing Franciscan Prayer.

Fr. Benny is the recently appointed Regional Spiritual Assistant for our region, the Regional Fraternity of Eastern Canada. We cordially invite you to join us for this prayerful week-end.

- The cost for the retreat is **\$180.00 per person**. This includes the cost of \$148.50 per person charged by the retreat centre (for 2 overnight stays, 5 meals and snacks during the breaks) and \$31.50 per person to cover 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.**

Please complete the registration form below and return it, along with the full payment of \$180.00, 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, September 20, 2019**.
- Cancellation date for refund: on or before **Sunday, September 29, 2019**.

Note: To cancel or obtain more information, contact Michael Cassidy at 902-368-9309 or at mcassidypei@hotmail.com)

**St Francis of Assisi Fraternity
ANNUAL RETREAT 2019**

Registration Form

Name _____

Address _____

Phone # _____ E-mail _____

Local Fraternity _____

Room requirements (please check): Single _____ Double _____

Will share a room with _____

Emergency contact _____ Phone # _____

Dietary Requirements/ Concerns (Please specify)

OUR LADY OF HOPE RETREAT CENTRE

Civic Address:

67 Reid Road, Bayview, PE

Website: hopepei.com

Email: ourladyofhope.pei@gmail.com

Tel. 1-902-621-2385 **Fax.** 1-902-621-2387

Location:

<https://www.google.ca/maps/place/67+Reid+Rd,+Breadalbane,+PE+C0A+1E0/@46.4698947,-63.4464268,15.18z/data=!4m5!3m4!1s0x4b5fbe30d856d79d:0x79812ce0ab70f8a9!8m2!3d46.4688193!4d-63.4383999>

