

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

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI FRATERNITY NEWSLETTER

June 2020

VOLUME XXXII NO. 6

Celebrating 25 Years of Profession

On May 29, 2020, St. Francis of Assisi Fraternity marked the 25th anniversary of permanent profession of Edwina Arbuckle (Brother Leo Fraternity), Gerry and Martha Gabriel, George and Sherrill Guimond (Blessed Father Frederic Fraternity), all of whom had made their permanent commitment while members of this fraternity. To mark their silver jubilee, all five of these Secular Franciscans renewed their profession in the Secular Franciscan Order as part of a special Zoom meeting.



(l to r: George, Edwina, Martha, Gerry, Sherrill)



(Jubilarians with formators Marion and Claudia)

Celebrating profession is always an occasion for all Secular Franciscans to reflect on the meaning of profession in their lives. It is important to recall that profession is an act of consecration by which we place ourselves completely in God's hands. In fact, it is God who gives us the grace to consecrate ourselves in the first place, so that we can dedicate ourselves to servicing others in our own secular state and gives us the gift of the Holy Spirit to pursue our Gospel project. In this act, we also entrust ourselves to the fraternity, thereby entering into a covenant relationship which incorporates us into the Secular Franciscan Order.

Gerry and Martha, George and Sherrill as well as Edwina have been faithful to their commitment and continue to provide dedicated example and leadership in serving the Franciscan family at the local, regional and national levels of our Order. Congratulations and thank you!

June Fraternity Meeting - IMPORTANT

St. Francis of Assisi fraternity will hold its June monthly fraternity meeting on **Sunday, June 14th, via ZOOM, beginning at 2:00 p.m.**

We look forward to you joining us on Sunday. You will be notified of the Zoom meeting link immediately prior to the meeting.

Birthday Girl



Very special congratulations are extended to our dear fraternity matriarch, Lorraine Gillan, who will celebrate her 90th Birthday on June 15th. Lorraine is one of the fraternity's founding members and has been such an inspiring, generous and faithful contributor to the Franciscan spirit and prayer-life of the fraternity for some 34 years.

A person of quiet character, Lorraine has always made herself available in service to our members and the activities that the fraternity has undertaken over the years. She has been a true leader, especially in the fraternity's ministry to provide meals at the Upper Room and has been an outstanding example to all in our greater Franciscan family, parish and community.

Lorraine, we all have such admiration and a deep sense of love and joy for you, everyday, but especially on the occasion of your 90th birthday. May you continue to enjoy good health, strong faith and much peace and joy.

Formation

Sr. Gemmas' presentation last month focused on the meaning of intimacy. She said that intimacy was the "foremost priority of Francis" and that intimacy is the embrace of God. Her presentation set the stage for us to move into a deeper and more complex understanding of intimacy.

In the remaining sections of Chapter 15, you will read about Francis's way of life, his battle between the flesh and spirit and his radical love of Christ and how these enabled him to have real intimacy with God, all people and creation. In each section there are hidden lessons for each of us on our journey towards greater intimacy with God, those we love and share our lives.



This chapter has not been easy to understand. What I noticed with repeated reading was that particular words, phrases or sections began to find a place in me. I let go of my need to fully

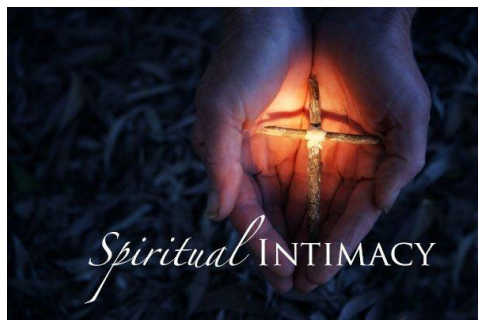
understand everything and accept what had meaning for me. I offer this to you as a way of approaching your reading of the rest of the chapter.

Invitation to Reflect:

You are invited to reflect on Chapter 15, sections 3, 4 &5 on Intimacy in “*The Way of ST. Francis*” by Fr. Murray Bodo. Also reflect on the *Prologue to the Rule: Exhortation of Saint Francis to the Brothers and Sisters in Penance in the Name of the Lord! Concerning those Who Do Penance* and Article 5 of the Rule.

(Submitted by Joan McDonald)

Ongoing Formation



Following the May fraternity meeting, small groups met, via Zoom, to further reflect on the topic of spiritual intimacy. The reports of the discussions are truly a testament of the breadth and depth of spirituality demonstrated by members of our fraternities. The discussions reflected the Beatitudes as well as the challenges and rewards of seeing God in our neighbor. The themes of faith, hope and love shone throughout and demonstrated the mutual trust shared by all the groups.

There were recurring references to the Rule and Constitutions. Individuals and groups are comfortable in the use and application of both. This speaks in a very positive way of the future health of the fraternities. Excerpts from small group discussions:

- “It’s about the depth of our relationship with God. We are challenged to have a love affair even for the long haul. We need more and more ‘down time’ to carry out our ministry; Jesus would rest after his public appearances.”
- “Sister Gemma points it out well! I must carry out the aspects of trusting, forgiving, surprises, disappointments, pain, be non-judgmental which is the messiness of life. It’s the every day ‘grind’ where I encounter the living and active person of Christ.”
- “The Beatitudes are a reflection of a love story, calling one’s heart to grow in love for others...my spiritual journey has entailed by growing more and more in love with God... (Article #5 evokes this call to love).”
- “Jesus, the gift of his Father’s love, chose to become human to better relate to us, thereby showing us the way, through him, to have an intimate connection with God.”
- “Daily conversion...how is God working in me?... calling me to be more Christ-like...to be one with God...to let God work in us...we are an extension of God.”
- ...importance of trust in community and fraternity. Trust, so that we can be challenged, by each other and as a group, to become the person God wants us to become...challenged in a positive, holistic, brother and sister style.”
- “Appreciation of reference to the connection with the Trinity and the ‘flow’ from the interior life and the fraternal life, and out into the larger society.”

Profession of Nancy Murphy



As was announced during our recent Zoom fraternity meeting, the Council is pleased to announce that we have approved a request for profession from Nancy Murphy who has recently completed her period of Initial Formation. We had hoped that, by mid-June, provincial COVID-19 restrictions on church gatherings would be lifted for a group of the size of our fraternity, and that we could have a face-to-face gathering for Nancy's profession. Unfortunately that is not the case and, as a result, we are unable to hold her temporary profession in June. Because we would like to avoid holding an event as important as profession "virtually", in consultation with Nancy, Council will re-schedule this event when we are able to gather together in a prayerful and meaningful celebration. We extend our sincere congratulations to Nancy and our appreciation for her patience as we live through these exceptional times. (Submitted by Tom Wilkinson)

Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation

50 Things We Have Learned Since The First Earth Day

It is hard to believe, but it was 50 years since the first official Earth Day. On April 22nd, 1970, Wisconsin Senator, Gaylord Nelson declared that it was the time for environmental action that didn't begin and end at collecting litter.



The article below lists some of the things we have learned about our global home during the past 50 years. It is great reading. The following are two examples to consider, as we look forward to collective environmental action the next half-century:

Pollinators ; Over the past 50 years, habitat damage has had an enormous impact on pollinators and the native plants that support them. The Canadian Wildlife Federation website has great information on how we can plant native species and educate others. Honibe, an Island honey company, has fostered special bee garden projects across the province. And the PEI Beekeeping Association is also very active in promoting healthy pollinator environments.

Air Quality; We have had marked improvement in air quality in the past 50 years, and ozone levels in the stratosphere are beginning to mend. This is due to many factors, including less smoking, removal of lead from gasoline, and lessening of sulfur dioxide thereby reducing acid deposition. However, carbon dioxide has increased by 25%. Lessons learned from the global pandemic lockdown, which decreased the levels of carbon dioxide, can help us to change our habits, post-pandemic

Read in Smithsonian Magazine: https://apple.news/AsqaF5U-2Q2KH_Qeob1bFQw

Annual Fraternity Retreat 2020

The St. Francis of Assisi Fraternity annual retreat is scheduled for

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

The retreat will begin at 6 pm on Friday evening and conclude at 1 pm on Sunday (after lunch). Our retreat leader is **Sr. Marianna Jung, FMM** who works in St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Park Extension (Montreal). The theme of the retreat is **The Life and Spirituality of St. Clare.**



Note: We are still hopeful that we will be able to gather for our annual retreat on September 25-27, 2020. Please pray that we will be able to come together for this important time of prayer and reflection.

Regional Fraternity of Eastern Canada

The elective chapter of the Regional Fraternity of Eastern Canada, which was to be held in August 2020, has been postponed. Due to the COVID restrictions, the venue at which the chapter was to be held (Le Cénacle) is closed for the season and is unable to host the chapter this year. Members of the outgoing Regional Council have agreed to continue serving the region until the elective chapter can be held. During this time, the existing Regional Council will continue to meet on a regular basis and look after the business of the Region as per its ability to do so. Local visits, fraternity elections, etc. will be scheduled as soon as restrictions around travel and gathering are lifted. To ensure continuity in the life of the region, the National Council has confirmed all of the individuals on this council in their exiting positions. Barring more uncertainties, the elective regional chapter will be held on July 30-August 1, 2021 at Le Cénacle in Quebec. Please mark this date on your calendars.

Message from the OFS Minister General, Tibor Kauser



Dear sisters and brothers! Peace and good!

The hours, days and months that we have lived so far have been very difficult, due to the uncertainty of the Pandemic and the rigors of its prevention. Many have lived closely the loss of family and friends; many others have been frustrated by the economic problems that this whole situation has caused. In some way or another, we have suffered, for one another, though always placing everything under the tutelage of the divine mercy.

Let us continue opening channels of hope and charity to those around us, without losing our commitment to being witnesses and instruments of the mission of Christ (R. 6), bearers of peace, messengers of perfect joy (R. 19), and builders of a more fraternal and evangelical world (R. 14).

At this time, we must reinforce the strength and joy represented by the sense of fraternity.

The Holy Spirit has no limits to helping us discover our own creativity, especially in strengthening fraternal ties. For those who can do it personally, they should meet with others, pray together, and help those in need. For those who have yet to maintain social distances, do try to discover the possibilities that contemporary forms of communication and social media can offer. Also in this electronic form, it is possible to pray together, exercise together, listen to each other, and encourage each other. We are at a time when we must open the frontiers of our fraternal ties as Secular Franciscans, so that the sense of fraternity, without losing its essence, becomes real and present in this globalized world.

(Excerpt from Circular Letter n. 46/14-20)

June Birthday

June 11	Marion Clorey
June 13	Kathleen May
June 15	Lorraine Gillan
June 16	Tom Wilkinson
June 22	Doug Hagen



Happy Birthday to Marion, Kathleen, Lorraine, Tom and Doug H. Blessings to all of you!

Congratulations are also extended to Brad Goodick who celebrated his 80th Birthday on May 26th. Congratulations, Brad!

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

Fraternity Meeting - **Sunday, June 14th, via ZOOM, beginning at 2:00 p.m.**