



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

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI FRATERNITY NEWSLETTER

May 2018

VOLUME XXX NO.5

Fraternity Meeting Time

Please take note that the May fraternity meeting will be held on **May 6, 2018**, the first Sunday of the month. The second Sunday of the month is Mother's Day and this change of meeting day allows fraternity members to focus with gratitude on those who are mothers within our fraternity, keeping in mind that motherhood includes all those women among us who are mother-like in their hearts.

Happy Mother's Day!

Blessed Luchesio and Buonadonna



On **April 28**, the Church celebrates the memorial of Blessed Luchesio, who has been traditionally considered as the first member of the Third Order of Saint Francis (now, Secular Franciscan Order), along with his wife Buonadonna. Luchesio was born in Gaggiano, Chianti, around the years 1180-1200, in a family of peasants. He married Buonadonna from a well-to-do family, and they had several children. He got involved in politics and became the leader of one of the political parties in Tuscany. Because the political environment became very agitated, the family decided to move to Poggibonsi, where Luchesio skillfully devoted himself to commercial activities and became rich and greedy. However, after they suffered the loss of their children, around the year 1220, Luchesio's life took a dramatic change. Fascinated by the well-known example and the Gospel values of St. Francis of Assisi, whom he probably met in 1221, he embraced the penitential state of life, devoting

himself to intense prayer, fasting, and to share his possessions with the poor. Buonadonna saw clear signs of God's Providence and joined him wholeheartedly on this path. As they advanced in their conversion, they gave up all of their possessions except for a small portion of land that Luchesio cultivated for their own sustenance and to assist the poor. Luchesio's generosity was also shown in his caring for the sick at the hospital in Poggibonsi. After conducting a fruitful penitential life for many years, both spouses became ill and died within a few hours of each other, according to some sources, on April 28, 1241. Through the centuries, many miracles have been attributed to the intercession of this married couple.

(Excerpts from an article by Fr. Amando Trujillo Cano, TOR)

Rite of Admission

The Rite of Admission for Nancy Murphy took place during the monthly fraternity meeting on April 8, 2018. At that time, Nancy was received into the Secular Franciscan Order so that she could begin her time of formation and experience the Franciscan way of life more fully. The fraternity has promised to help Nancy on her journey with friendship, prayer and the witness of its life; she, on the other hand, is strengthening our fraternity by virtue of her presence and participation, and through the sharing of her special gifts. Congratulations, Nancy!



(left to right: Sr. Gemma, Doug, Nancy, Martha)

Formation

Preparing for the Ongoing Formation Session on May 6, 2018:

Please read the reflection in the newsletter (below).

Read Chapters 25 in *The Way of St. Francis*. Please come to the meeting on May 6th prepared to discuss your thoughts and reflections on conversion.

Please pray and reflect on Luke 15:11-32 (The Parable of the Prodigal Son / Lost Son)

Reflection on Conversion

Just as all sin has social consequences, so does conversion affect all those with whom we come in contact. So for us to strive as Francis did for daily conversion, it would be of great good not only for ourselves but for our brothers and sisters in fraternity, in family, in the world. And of course as we journey together as fraternity, we support one another so we don't give up in finding peace for ourselves so we can be a source of peace for others. Sometimes it feels like we are taking one step forward and two steps back, but by sharing with each other in fraternity, we will stay the course and not become discouraged. We have been made to be peace-filled temples of the Holy Spirit, so let us be open to Holy Spirit's action in our lives. Sometimes our conversion can feel like Jesus on the cross, but in His reconciling all of us with the Father, there came the joys and peace of the resurrection. Let us work together through our "Daily Lents", so as to have our "Daily Easters"!! During the formation part of the meeting we will reflect on Francis conversion experiences and how they can become our own.

(submitted by Claudia Batchilder, Formator for Brother Leo Fraternity)

Justice, Peace and Care of Creation

Franciscan Poverty means Living Simply - Please refer to the attached article from the Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Team (Attachment 1).

*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.**

St. Padre Pio Group

Please continue to pray for the members of our fraternity in St. John's, Newfoundland. Lucia, Pauline and Bev are meeting monthly, together with Fr. Cecil, their spiritual assistant, and are fervent in their desire to live their Franciscan vocation.

News from Brother Leo Fraternity

Congratulations, Felicia! On Saturday, April 21, 2018, Brother Leo Fraternity celebrated Felicia Donahoe's 54th Anniversary of profession in the Secular Franciscan Order. The celebration was held at her daughter Rita's home.

Thank you to all who were able to attend Felicia's celebration and those who held her in their prayers. She is a wonderful witness to following Christ in the footsteps of St. Francis!

Edwena and Claudia are looking forward but with a little anxiety to share with Mother Fraternity about Conversion. Please keep us in your prayers.



(Felicia surrounded by her Franciscan brothers and sisters)

A Twilight Retreat will be held at St. Mary's Church, Montague on Thursday, May 31st - the Feast of the Visitation – from 7 to 9 p.m. The theme of the retreat is "Mary, Our Mother". There will be three reflections: 1) Mary - Mother of the Church in the Gospel by Edwena Arbuckle, 2) Francis' Mary - Protectress and Advocate of the Order by Claudia Batchilder, and 3) Mary - Your Mother and Mine by Leonard MacGuigan. There will be time for meditation following each talk as well as sharing at the end. And, of course, food and fellowship before returning home. Please feel free to invite anyone you think may be interested.

Heartfelt Congratulations to Gerry and Martha on their 50th Wedding Anniversary. Gerry will always have a close tie with us as he was one of those who journeyed with us in the establishment of Brother Leo Fraternity.

Area and Regional Gatherings

The Atlantic Area Spring Conference will be held on Saturday, May 26, 2018 at Holy Family Parish Church Hall, 63 Church St, Amherst, NS. The theme of the day is "Prayer and Action".

The 2018 Regional Spiritual Conference will be held on August 3-5, 2018 in Cacouna, QC.

If anyone is interested in representing the fraternity at either of these events, please let a member of the fraternity council know that you are interested. Car pooling will likely be available to facilitate travelling to both of these events and to minimize costs.

OFM Chapter of Mats – April 2018



In Canada, there are currently two Provinces of OFM Franciscan friars, the Province of St. Joseph (eastern Canada) and the Province of Christ the King (western Canada). Since its establishment in 1987, St. Francis of Assisi Fraternity (Cornwall, PE) has been supported by the friars of the Province of St. Joseph, to whom we owe an immense debt of gratitude. At this point in their history, the friars of both Provinces are now forging a new bilingual pan-Canadian OFM Province that will include all of the OFM friars in eastern and western Canada. Two of the major events leading to this unification are a Chapter of Mats which was held recently in Loretteville, Quebec (April 23-26, 2018) and a Chapter of Union which will be held in St. Albert, Alberta in the fall (October 21-25, 2018). The erection of the new Province will take place during the Chapter of Union. We extend our best wishes to our OFM brothers as they journey towards the creation of their new province.

Praying and Living the Eucharist

A diocesan liturgical workshop on the theme of "**From the Table of Christ Jesus to the Table of the World: Praying and Living the Eucharist**" will be held on May 12, 2018 from 10 am to 3 pm at St. Francis of Assisi Church, Cornwall. The presenter is Simone Brosig, Director of Liturgy for the Diocese of Calgary. This workshop is sponsored by the Diocesan Liturgical Commission and may be of interest to Secular Franciscans given our focus on going from Gospel to life and life to Gospel.

March Birthdays

May 26 Bev Kent

Happy Birthday, Bev! Blessings to you.

Lunch Schedule

Michael & Ruth Cassidy

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

Next Fraternity Meeting – May 6, 2018 at 7:00 pm in St. Francis of Assisi Parish Centre, Cornwall, PE

Fraternity Council Meeting – May 16, 2018 at 1:00 pm in St. Francis of Assisi Meeting Room, Cornwall, PE

Atlantic Area Spring Conference - Saturday, May 26, 2018, 9:30 am – 4:00 pm, Holy Family Parish Church Hall, 63 Church St, Amherst, NS (theme: “Prayer and Action”)

Twilight Retreat - St. Mary’s Church, Montague on Thursday, May 31, 2018 from 7:00 – 9:00 pm.

2018 Regional Spiritual Conference – August 3-5, 2018 at Le Cénacle, Cacouna, Quebec.

Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation

From the St. Francis of Assisi JPIC Committee
(Mike, Marion, Maureen & Charlie) May, 2018

Franciscan Poverty means Living Simply

Our JPIC action for April, May and beyond is a continuing action – an attempt to practice Franciscan poverty by making our lives simpler.

ACTION

- Think of something you have at home that you *don't need* but that someone else might *want to use*. It could be something you purchased or received as a gift.
- Bring that 'something' to our next fraternity meeting and place it on our sharing table.

RATIONALE

For Franciscans, poverty means detaching from that which holds you bound, especially those things that keep you from living Gospel values.

St. Francis tells us:

“Remember that when you leave this earth you can take nothing of what you have received, but only what you have given.”

(excerpts from *12 months of Franciscan Peace* by Carolyn Townes and Sherrill Guimond)

