

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

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI FRATERNITY NEWSLETTER

November 2019

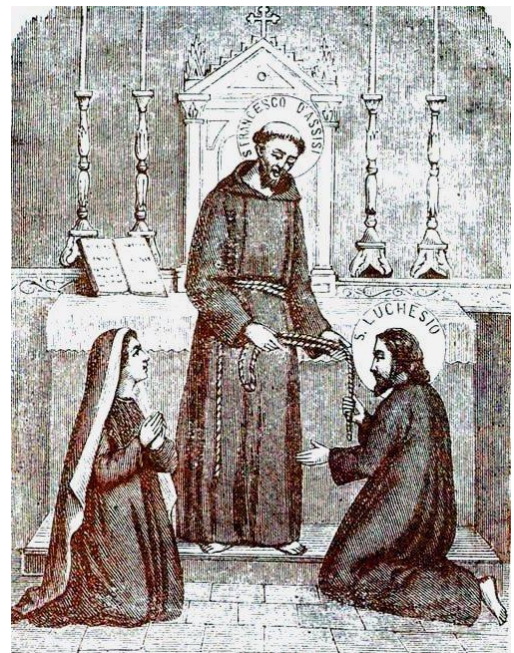
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THE ROLE OF HISTORY IN FORMATION

Knowledge of our history and, in particular the history of our Rule, brings us back to our roots, to the plentiful sources of grace at work in St. Francis, which enabled him to fulfill God's plan, which through him, is extended to all those who are called by God to follow in his footsteps. There is a "line of continuity" connecting us to those who have gone before us in the same Family, in the way this family has developed and lived out its vocation down through the centuries.

Knowing our history puts us in contact with our genuine sources of grace and enables us to recognize down the years the true path of our vocation, charism and mission ... knowing our history enables us to continue along the path God has ordained for us.

(excerpt from *The History of the Secular Franciscan Order and Its Rule*, Benedetto Lino, ofs)



St. Francis receives Bl. Luchesio and
Buonadonna into the Third Order

During the November fraternity meeting, and to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the OFS Pauline Rule, the history of the OFS Rule will be explored, including how it has evolved from the time of Francis to our own time, and its implications on our lives as Secular Franciscans.

Justice, Peace and Care of Creation

Please refer to the prayer "*Lord, Make Us Instruments of Your Peace*" by Pope Francis given on World Communications Day, January 24, 2018. (Attachment 1)

Annual Fraternity Retreat 2019

The annual retreat of St. Francis of Assisi Fraternity was held on October 4-6, 2019 at Our Lady of Hope Retreat Centre in Bayview, PEI. Br. Benny Vincent, OFM Cap was the retreat animator and the theme was “Exploring & Practicing Franciscan Prayer.” For each of the 27 participants, Br. Benny provided a booklet which contained some resource material and spaces for taking notes. During each of his 5 sessions, Br. Benny guided the group in developing personal action plans. Also participating in the retreat were members of the Br. Leo Fraternity (Montague, PE) and Blessed Fr. Frederic Fraternity (Moncton, NB). The retreat was an opportunity to have our spiritual lives nourished as well as to experience fraternity in learning and praying together in liturgy, and in food and fellowship.



During the retreat weekend, Br. Benny blessed the new outdoor Secular Franciscan site at the Retreat Centre and conducted Pastoral Visits to St. Francis of Assisi and Br. Leo Fraternities.



At the conclusion of the retreat, the participants were asked to provide feedback by means of a written evaluation and a discussion. There was overwhelming praise and appreciation of Br. Benny and the facilities and Council has received many helpful suggestions for themes and speakers for future retreats. (*Retreat Evaluation Summary* follows as Attachment 2)

P.S. For those who attended the retreat, you may recall Br. Benny referring to the humorous video clip on “rejection therapy”. The link is: <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=7Ax2CsVbrX0>



Participants in St. Francis of Assisi Annual Retreat 2019

Pastoral Visit - 2019

Br. Benny Vincent, OFM Cap (Regional Spiritual Assistant) conducted a very positive visit with 20 members of St. Francis of Assisi Fraternity at Our Lady of Hope Retreat Centre on Sunday, Oct. 6 from 1-2 p.m. Br. Benny stressed that the visit was not an evaluation. He asked the members to express what they thought characterized the fraternity. Comments that were offered included:

- Balance of prayer and action; focus on JPIC.
- Strong formation program, including outreach to NL.
- Diversity
- Acceptance of other people's differences
- Fraternity is a microcosm of society.
- Music
- The newsletter
- Our members hold/have held positions of responsibility at the international, national and regional levels.
- Several of our members are Spiritual Assistants with other fraternities in PEI and NB.
- Our fraternity needs the presence of the First Order on PEI. Br. Benny was encouraged to start a First Order community on PEI.

There was a discussion on the values and gifts of our fraternity. During his concluding remarks, Br. Benny indicated that our fraternity has a 'blessedness.'



The Joy of St. Francis



Br. Benny Vincent being installed into the Order of the PEI Potatoes!



Upper Room Ministry

St. Francis of Assisi fraternity will be preparing and serving the noon-time meal at the Upper Room on **Saturday, November 23, 2019**. Lorraine will provide more information at the November fraternity meeting and circulate a sign-up sheet at that time.

Remembering Our Deceased Fraternity Members

On Friday, November 29th, there will be a celebration of our fraternal brothers and sisters who have been welcomed to eternal life by Sister Death. This will involve a celebration of deceased members of both St. Francis of Assisi and Brother Leo fraternities. This will take place upstairs in the worship area of St. Francis of Assisi Church. Please make a special effort to attend. Thank you.

News from Brother Leo Fraternity

On Sunday, November 24, 2019 at 2 p.m. at St. Mary's Church (Montague), Brother Leo Fraternity will celebrate the 15th Anniversary of their establishment, with a celebration of Franciscan Saints. Did you know St. Anthony of Padua, St. Joan of Arc, and St. Padre Pio were Franciscans? These saints will be among those shared by the fraternity as our models for Christian living. What a great way to close November, the month of the saints! Everyone is invited to attend and to share a bite to eat afterwards.



Welcoming Refugees...Do We? - An Opportuntiy for Dialogue and Formation

Mary Jo Leddy, author, activist, founder of Romero House, member of the Order of Canada and recipient of numerous honorary doctorates will be the key-note speaker at an informational afternoon at the Murchison Centre on Saturday, November 16, from 12:30 - 4:00 p.m. Her presentation will be followed by a panel discussion and an opportunity to participate in small group discussions exploring the blessings and the challenges of welcoming refugees into our Island communities. This a free event that is open to all people of all faiths. It is anticipated to be well-attended and people are encouraged to pre-register by contacting the Diocesan Centre rc@dioceseofcharlottetowncom or 1-902-368-8005.

November Birthdays

November 1	Charlie McDonald
November 3	Nasser Saad
November 18	Doug Clorey
November 21	Lucia Gray

Happy Birthday Charlie, Nasser, Doug and Lucia! Blessings to you and your families.

Lunch Schedule

Charlie & Janet McDonald

Louise Larkin-Arsenault

Newsletter

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

Upcoming Events

Fraternity Meeting - Sunday, November 10, 2019 at 2:00 pm in St. Francis of Assisi parish centre, Cornwall. **NOTE THE CHANGE IN TIME**

Upper Room Ministry - Saturday, November 23, 2019

Celebration of Lives of Deceased Franciscans - Friday, November 29 at 7:00 pm in St. Francis of Assisi Church, Cornwall.

Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation

From the St. Francis of Assisi JPIC Team,
November, 2019

Lord, Make Us Instruments of Your Peace

by Pope Francis (World Communications Day - January 24, 2018)

Lord, Make Us Instruments of Your Peace

*Help us to recognize the evil
concealed in a communication
that does not build communion.*

*Help us to remove the venom
from our judgements.*

*Help us to speak about others
as our brothers and sisters.*

*You are faithful and
trustworthy;
May our words be seeds of
goodness for the world:*

*Where there is shouting,
let us practice listening;*

*Where there is confusion,
let us inspire harmony;*

*Where there is ambiguity,
let us bring clarity;*

*Where there is exclusion,
let us offer solidarity;*

*Where there is sensationalism,
let us bring sobriety;*

*Where there is superficiality,
let us raise real questions;*

*Where there is prejudice,
let us awaken trust;*

*Where there is hostility,
let us bring respect;*

*Where there is falsehood,
let us bring truth.*

Amen

St. Francis of Assisi Fraternity Annual Retreat 2019
Retreat Evaluation Summary (compiled by Ruth Cassidy)

Responses received from 22 of 27 participants

Theme: Exploring & Practicing Franciscan Prayer

Facilitator: Fr. Benny Vincent ofm cap

APPRECIATED <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (11) Facility & staff • (11) Fr. Benny • (9) Content of retreat • (8) Retreat team organization • (6) Music • (4) Handout booklet • (4) Blessing of the shrine • (3) Saturday Night Live • (2) PowerPoint for prayers & music • (2) Timetable & organization • Modern approach • Being together • Freedom to participate or not • Welcoming feeling • Opportunity to refill our spirit 	CHALLENGES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (3) Cost increases • To be faithful to action we chose • To live what we heard • To become more action-oriented • Lack of enough free time • Age & health of participants • Some physical challenges • Wanting both quiet & communal time • Getting up early • Chapel setup for Music ministry • Process of the presentations • Rest • Seeing screen during prayer
SUGGESTIONS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (2) More free time • More reflective time • Remind people of need to be quiet in chapel • Remind people that financial help is available if needed • Pre-study a book on the theme • Keep the format • Meeting room setup facing windows • Br. Leo fraternity help plan/facilitate 2020 retreat 	OTHER COMMENTS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One of our best retreats • Liked 5 sessions & less free time • Appreciated quiet in designated areas • Fewer participants in SNL this year (replace with games?) • Saturday soup: lack of protein (seemed to have preservatives as in packaged soup) • Retreat team needs to be ministered to • Participants ready to act • Thanks to all • Let's do it again

SUGGESTED RETREAT ANIMATORS FOR FUTURE RETREATS

- (5) Fr. Benny Vincent
- Beverly Mungrave (Halifax Spirituality Centre)
- Sr. Joan Campbell (Scripture scholar)
- Fr. Pierre Charland (includes effective PowerPoint in presentations)

- Sister of the Second Order
- Canadian friar
- Someone who works with different cultural groups
- This year's National Conference facilitator on Francis & the Sultan
- "Local" animator

SUGGESTED THEMES FOR FUTURE FRATERNITY RETREATS

- (7) Retreat based on St. Clare led by a Poor Clare
- (2) Our Franciscan Charism
- Explore Francis and Clare's stories and how they might "speak to" our life-stories
- Penance & Obedience
- The Gospel of St John (Francis' favourite Gospel)
- Sister Death - Our Greatest Joy
- Francis & the Sultan: Diversity, Inclusion, Communion with others
- Is it time for a retreat that would utilize a (more) local resource person? (Note: It was commented that such an approach would depend on the topic chosen.)
- The Franciscan Tree of Life
- "Brothers and Sisters of Penance" An exploration of our origins (Note; Francis was aware of such groups at the time of his developing his First Rule).
- Penance in all its Dimensions
- Freedom, Peace, Non-Violence in the Franciscan tradition
- Evangelization
- Fraternity
- Diversity – Inclusion – Communion
- Francis' Rule: explain different articles
- Practical applications of the Rule
- Gospel to Life, life to Gospel
- Franciscan symbols, including the San Damiano Cross

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