

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

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI FRATERNITY NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2018

VOLUME XXIX NO. 10

Celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the OFS Rule (1978)

As part of the celebration of the 40th anniversary of the OFS Rule (1978), the fraternity continues to recognize those Secular Franciscans who have lived their Franciscan way of life as seculars in the state of marriage. St. Francis of Assisi Fraternity is blessed with couples who have marked 50 years or more of married life. During this month, we recognize two couples who have marked 52 years of married life:

Maureen (ofs) and Brad Goodick – married on July 9, 1966 – 52 years

Tom (ofs) and Audrey Wilkinson – married on July 16, 1966 – 52 years

We give thanks for the fidelity and commitment demonstrated by these outstanding couples.



Tom and Audrey Wilkinson



Brad and Maureen Goodick

Ceremony of Introduction and Welcoming

During the September 9th fraternity meeting, Minister Ruth Cassidy introduced and welcomed Kathleen May, Brad Goodick and Nasser Saad to the Inquiry phase of initial formation. Acting on behalf of formation director Martha Gabriel, Gerry Gabriel presented each of the three with a copy of *Francis: the Journey and the Dream*. Our spiritual assistant, Sr. Gemma Dunn, concluded the ceremony with a prayer.



Left to right: Nasser Saad, Kathleen May, Ruth Cassidy, Brad Goodick, Sr. Gemma Dunn, CSM

Evangeline Duffney Welcomes Sister Death

On August 30, 2018, Evangeline Duffney of Marystown, NL died peacefully with her family by her side. Evangeline and Mary Lou Brake, both from Marystown, had travelled to St. John's to participate in the formation program of the St. Padre Pio Group and had journeyed with this group for several years. Lucia Gray, Bev Kent and Pauline Boulos-Lannon of the St. Padre Pio Group in NL attended Evangeline's wake and funeral; together with Mary Lou, they also prayed the Divine Office for the Dead, a tribute to honour Evangeline's memory and dedication to the Franciscan Order. Lucia shared the following reflection:

"I will be forever grateful for having Evangeline in my life and for the many lessons that I can and have learnt from her. Evangeline has touched many lives and that was very present in the number of people who came to visit the funeral home and to share in how Evangeline had changed and impacted their lives. Many shared how she was a mother to them; it didn't matter who you were, she treated everyone equally. It was special to be there to be a part of Evangeline's family, to give them our support and bring best wishes from all. Evangeline's funeral is one that I will never forget. It was the highest honor anyone could be paid. Evangeline had five (5) priests celebrating her funeral; each priests shared the gift of Evangeline and how she had impacted their lives. Words cannot begin to express how much Evangeline did for all - a woman of simplicity, caring and sharing and wanting nothing in return but the good she extended to others. Evangeline lived the true life of a Secular Franciscan and did not have to do anything other than be Evangeline. She opened her heart and her home to everyone. I love you and will miss you Evangeline."

Condolences

Condolences are also extended to Louise Larkin of our fraternity on the death of her son, James Larkin. Louise, you continue to be in our thoughts and prayers.

Annual Fraternity Retreat

We are pleased to announce that Fr. Francesco of the Franciscans of Halifax (FOH) will be our retreat animator. The theme will be Franciscan Charism and Contemplative Prayer, and Liturgy. The sub-themes of his 4 presentations are:

1. The experience of contemplative prayer of St Francis.
2. The value of the Fraternity for the spiritual life,
as a theological place where we encounter Christ.
3. The private contemplative prayer.
4. The contemplative interior attitude during the liturgical prayer.



The program for the retreat weekend is attached to this newsletter as Attachment 1.

Directions to Our Lady of Hope Retreat Centre are also attached to this newsletter as Attachment 2.

For more information on the retreat, please contact Mike Cassidy at mcassidypei@hotmail.com or by phone at 902-368-9309.

Setting Priorities for the Fraternity (2018-2021)



In an activity that was masterfully animated by Joan McDonald, our fraternity meeting of September 9 focused on establishing some priorities for the next 3 years. At the conclusion of the activity, each person was given a card and asked to list some goals that our fraternity should be achieving by 2021. Joan has grouped these goals into common categories as given below. At this time, there is no priority ranking of these categories but they provide us with a good indication of where our efforts will be channeled for the next 3 years.

Our elective chapter will be held on November 11 and the new council for 2018-2021 may wish to reorganize these categories and would probably want to prioritize them. Accordingly, members of our fraternity are urged to support those candidates for election whom they feel can best lead the fraternity in the direction suggested by these goals.

GOALS - By 2021 we will have:

Outreach within and outside the Fraternity

- The new Council needs to think about changing needs of aging members, e.g. Reaching out to sick members no longer able to attend meetings
- Look to see if there is an interest in forming a fraternity in Summerside
- A conference within the Diocese or in various clusters – Could be the Charism of “St. Francis of Assisi – Navigating the Spiritual challenges and Opportunities as we Move into the next Decade!”

Continue to be visible in the society around us

- Develop more visibility in the community- by our services, by partnerships with other groups, by speaking to other groups on Franciscans.
- Share the life of St. Francis with youth thru Catechetical program, start in Cornwall
- Plan a celebration for October 4th – gaining visibility in the parish.
- Give a talk at the Public library on A Tuesday night at the confederation center
- At community events, we state we are there as Secular Franciscans
- Get the word out – maybe a new brochure to share who we are and what our way of life is

Continue to participate in social justice, peace and care of creation

- Enrich JPIC
- Donate money when there is need from our common fund
- Continue to attend community events re the environmental concerns and justice issues
- Support the establishment of St. Vincent De Paul in St. Francis Parish
- Sharing information on individual apostolates

Strong Ongoing Formation

- Keep our rule in Focus
- Focus on the study of our Rule
- Formation be more spiritually based to enhance our call to discipleship

Enhance our prayer life personally and in community

- A different type of prayer – liturgy of the hours, centering prayer Jesus prayer, meditation
- Take one of the prayers given my Martha or Sister Gemma and use it at our meetings.
- We will be all using the *Franciscan Morning and Evening Prayer* book by 2021.
- More information and practice of contemplation

Fraternity Chapter of Elections

“We should never desire to be above others, but ought rather to be servants and subject to every human creature for God’s sake.” (Brother Francis’s Letter to All the Faithful)

As noted in our Newsletter and addressed at our Sept. regular Fraternity meeting, our Elective Chapter will be held on Sunday afternoon, Nov. 11 with Regional Minister Michel David presiding. Our discerning process, so capably led by Joan MacDonald at our September fraternity meeting, “fleshes out” our hopes, dreams and realities that we hope to achieve during the next three years. This, of course, is not possible without a Council composed of like-minded fraternal sisters and brothers to lead us in our objectives, as they are inspired by the Holy Spirit. We believe that the timing of the discernment process followed by the Retreat will enable us to nominate and encourage fraternity members to act by accepting a nomination to serve us in a position on Council. Please remember – a healthy sign of an organization is when there is more than one offering for an office – voting and elections are prayerful, signs of growth and exciting!

Thank you for all your prayerful discernments.

Mary Hagen & Lorraine Gillan

Atlantic Area Assembly

The Atlantic Area Fall Assembly of the Regional Fraternity of Eastern Canada was held on Saturday, **September 15, 2018 from 9:30 am to 4:00 pm** at Holy Family Parish Church/Hall, 63 Church St, Amherst, NS. Special thanks are extended to George Guimond, Regional Vice-Minister responsible for the Atlantic Area, and to Mike Cassidy who facilitated the sessions during the assembly.



Franciscans International (FI)

Next week, an important treaty will be debated at the United Nations to better protect the lives of people against violations of their rights by multinational corporations and other business enterprises. On this occasion, FI is organizing a panel discussion at the United Nations with bishops from various parts of the world to attract the attention of policymakers on the voice of the people. As Franciscans, we are asked to support FI’s efforts by our prayer; the following prayer, inspired by the Prayer of St. Francis and composed by Markus Heinze, Executive Director of FI, could be used for this purpose.

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.

Lord, make me an advocate of all those who are discriminated and excluded.

Where people are discriminated because of their race,

Let me advocate for fraternity;

Where people are disadvantaged or persecuted because of their religion,

Let me advocate for religious freedom;

Where people are discriminated because of their sexual orientation or gender identity,

Let me advocate for equality and their dignity;

Where people are treated as slaves,

Let me advocate for their freedom;

Where people are migrating and seeking refuge,

Let me advocate for their protection and security;

Where people are evicted from their land and home,

Let me advocate for compensation;

Where people exploit the resources of the earth for their private interest,

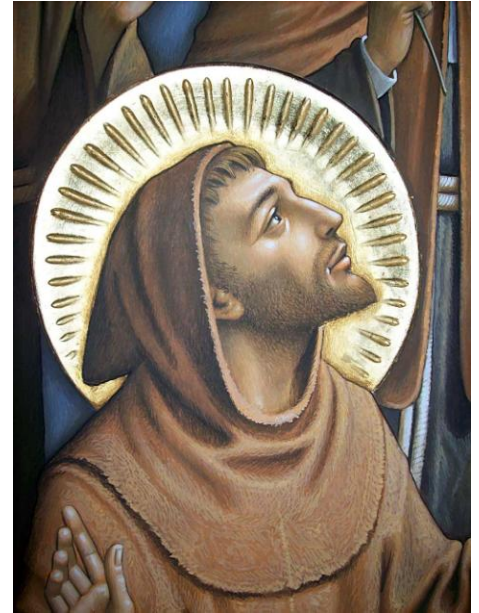
Let me advocate for justice and solidarity;

Where our mother Earth is damaged and polluted,

Let me advocate for the protection and respect of Creation,

Where peoples and nations fight against each other,

Let me advocate for Peace and Reconciliation.



Because it is You, who is present in our Sisters and Brothers.

It is You, who gave us an inalienable dignity as your creatures.

Together with Jesus our Lord and Brother we pray to You:

Your Kingdom come, your will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven.

October Birthdays

October 18

Pauline Clarkin

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

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

St. Francis of Assisi Fraternity Annual Retreat - October 12-14, 2018 at Our Lady of Hope Retreat Centre in Bayview, PEI (please note that the annual fraternity retreat replaces the regular fraternity meeting in October)

St. Francis of Assisi Fraternity Chapter of Elections - November 11, 2018 at 2:00 pm in St. Francis of Assisi Parish Centre, Cornwall, PE

**St. Francis of Assisi Fraternity Annual Retreat
October 12-14, 2018**

Theme: Franciscan charism, contemplative prayer, and liturgy

Leader: Fr. Francesco (Franciscans of Halifax)

Friday, October 12

6:00 Registration
7:00 Introductions and Housekeeping
7:30 Presentation: **The experience of contemplative prayer of St Francis**
9:00 Night Prayer

Saturday, October 13

7:30 Morning Prayer
8:00 Breakfast
9:00 Presentation: **The value of the Fraternity for the spiritual life
as a theological place where we encounter Christ**
10:00 Quiet Time
11:00 Eucharist
12:00 Lunch
1:15 Presentation: **The private contemplative prayer**
2:15 Quiet Time
4:00 Small Group Sharing - Optional (location TBD)
5:00 Supper
6:00 Free Time
6:45 Evening Prayer
7:15 Saturday Night Live

Sunday, October 14

7:30 Morning Prayer
8:00 Breakfast
9:00 Presentation: **The contemplative interior attitude during the liturgical prayer**
10:00 Wrap-up / Conclusions / Evaluation
11:00 Closing Eucharist
12:00 Lunch
1:00 Departure

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

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Location:

<https://www.google.ca/maps/place/67+Reid+Rd,+Breadalbane,+PE+C0A+1E0/@46.4698947,-63.4464268,15.18z/data=!4m5!3m4!1s0x4b5f8e30d856d79d:0x79812ce0ab70f8a9!8m2!3d46.4688193!4d-63.4383999>

