

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

## **ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI FRATERNITY NEWSLETTER**

**September 2020**

**VOLUME XXXII NO. 9**

**NOTE: The September Fraternity Meeting will be held on Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00PM at St. Francis of Assisi Church hall (basement). The meeting setup will respect social distancing as at the July fraternity meeting. Everyone is expected to wear a mask. There will be no food or singing at this meeting.**



## **SEASON OF CREATION**

The Season of Creation is celebrated annually by tens of thousands of Christians around the world. The season begins on September 1, the Day of Prayer for Creation, and runs through October 4, the Feast of St. Francis, the patron saint of ecology.

The following article, entitled “God’s Dream for Creation” provides food for thought during the 2020 Season of Creation. Jim Antal, a climate justice leader with the United Church of Christ, reminds us of our responsibility to participate with God in renewal of the earth.

“How can you know all the facts about climate change and still have hope?” For me, faith and hope are rooted in the conviction that, regardless of how bad things may be, a new story is waiting to take hold - something we have not yet seen or felt or experienced. God is calling us - as individuals and communities - to work with God and others to champion that new story.

We can’t accept God’s invitation to help create a new story unless we are willing to take action. We become partners with God when we act in unfamiliar, untested ways. Those new actions will be guided by a preferred future that embraces collaboration in place of consumption, wisdom in place of progress, moderation in place of excess, vision in place of convenience, and self-giving love in place of self-centered fear.

As broken-hearted as God must be over what we have done to the gift of creation, God still has a dream. . . . God dreams that human beings seek spiritual rather than material progress. God dreams of a time when love and mutual respect will bind humanity together, and the profound beauty of creation will be treasured. Let us embrace God’s dream as our own. As we live into God’s dream, we will rediscover who we truly are and all of creation will be singing.”

## **Formation**

### **Bridging the Gap**

At the last Atlantic gathering of OFS members in the fall 2019, the theme of the day's deliberations was "Bridging the Gap". The intent was to explore how fraternities might reach out to youth and young adults. Subsequent to these discussions, the Vice Minister Atlantic requested that each fraternity further examine in what ways their respective fraternity might fulfill this objective.



At our meeting on September 13, as an aspect of ongoing formation, we are going to devote some time to this objective. Council has invited the Diocesan Youth Ministry Coordinator/ Assistant UPEI Campus Minister to be our guest presenter. Ms. Lauren van Vliet will share ministries to young people and young adults currently available in the Diocese. She will also identify potential needs and interests of youth and young adults towards which our fraternity might consider making a contribution. In referencing our OFS Rule, Article 24 calls us to "meet with ...youth groups". And, the OFS General Constitutions, Article 96.1 states that: "The SFO, by virtue of its very vocation, ought to be ready to share its experience of evangelical life with the youth who feel attracted to Saint Francis of Assisi and to seek the means of adequately presenting it to them."

Following Sunday's fraternity meeting, small sharing groups will meet to discuss potential approaches or initiatives that might be undertaken to support youth and young adults on their journey of faith. The results of these discussions will be shared with the fraternity and with the Council. In turn, Council will use this information to reply to the Vice-Minister Atlantic of the Regional Fraternity of Eastern Canada.

It is acknowledged that this topic is indeed challenging, but we are invited to enter into this dialogue in a spirit of openness and willingness, to "let God surprise us". Through this process, we elder faith seekers may be able to accompany the younger seekers on their journey of faith.

### **Invitation to Reflect**

Please pray with Acts 2: 17 before our meeting. In this Scripture, the Apostle Peter quotes from the Book of Joel (3: 1) as part of his address to the crowd at Pentecost.

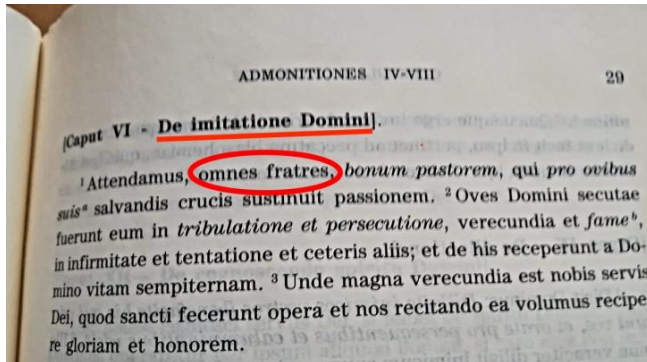
"... the Lord declares, I shall pour out my Spirit on all humanity. Your sons and daughters shall prophesy, your young people shall see visions, your old people dream dreams." (Acts 2: 17)

### **Small Sharing Groups**

The fraternity will continue meeting, between monthly fraternity meetings, in small sharing groups. If you have not been in a small group up until now, but are ready to participate, we plan to set up a new face-to-face group. If you are not yet in any group, please contact Martha at 902.388.1101 or [marthgabriel@gmail.com](mailto:marthgabriel@gmail.com)

## **"All Brothers: On Fraternity and Social Friendship"**

The Vatican has confirmed that Pope Francis' new encyclical on "Human Fraternity" will be signed on Oct. 3 in Assisi. It is a sequel to the Document on Human Fraternity signed in Abu Dhabi with Grand Imam Ahmad al-Tayyeb last year. Mattei Bruni, director of the Holy See Press Office, states that the Holy Father will sign his third encyclical "All Brothers: On Fraternity and Social Friendship" (*Fratelli tutti: sulla fraternità e l'amicizia sociale*) "privately, without any participation of the faithful," (because of the current restrictions related to the COVID pandemic). The signing will take place after celebrating Mass in the lower basilica.



Francis' encyclical title has been inspired by the Admonitions of St. Francis. The Vatican explained that the pope's new encyclical recalled his focus on fraternity which has become a central theme of his pontificate. Even on the evening of his election, his first greeting to the world was with the word "brothers" (echoed in the Admonitions' words "omnes fratres"). The theme of fraternity is also present in his constant embrace of migrants and the poor.

## **Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation**

### **The Gift by Kathleen Collins, OFS**

Francis, did you worry as I do  
About the journey, the meaning of it all  
As you wandered through the woods  
Enthralled by beauty, overwhelmed with awe  
At the hand of the Creator in the smallest flower?  
Was your heart brought to tears?  
At the sight of the nursing fawn  
Or the devotion of the nesting birds?  
What did you do with all this wonder  
All this beauty that the Lord sent you  
Each moment of your life?  
Why, of course! You sent it out into the world  
A kiss to the leper, a song to the tired, a sign to the world  
And down through the ages to me  
A poor pilgrim like yourself  
Separated by time but not by love.





## **Annual Fraternity Picnic and Temporary Profession of Nancy Murphy**

The annual fraternity picnic was held on **Sunday, August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020, 3:00PM – 5:00PM** at Joan McDonald's cottage, at which time, the fraternity celebrated the Rite of Temporary Profession of Nancy Murphy.

In conformity with Public Health directives, the event was held outside and participants wore face masks and observed social distancing as much as possible. Although this fraternity event had a different feel to it, everyone enjoyed the opportunity of being together again and of celebrating Nancy's temporary profession as a fraternity.

Special thanks to Martha Gabriel and the Formation Team for organizing the Rite of Temporary Profession, and to Joan McDonald for hosting the event at her cottage on the Montague River.



## **Annual Fraternity Retreat 2020 - CANCELLED**

It is with regret that the Council has made the decision to cancel the fraternity's 2020 annual Retreat. In consideration of the demographics of our retreat participants and the need to ensure that we are able to provide assurance for people's safety in these times of COVID-19 pandemic, Council believes that we cannot risk the health and well-being of our members and guests. Therefore, Council has made the difficult decision to cancel the retreat for this year.



## **Birthday Wishes**

Belated birthday greetings are extended to Leonard MacGuigan who celebrated his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday on April 1, 2020. May God continue to bless you and your family with good health and peace .

Birthday greetings are also extended to Fr. André Comtois, OFM who will be celebrating his 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday on September 14th. Fr. André, a former Regional Spiritual Assistant with Eastern Canada, visited with our fraternity on a number of occasions. He has been living in a residence for the past two years where, during the COVID lockdown, he was confined to his room (meals included) from March until June. It has been requested that each of the members of our fraternity take the time to send him a birthday card; the goal is 92 birthday cards. Fr. André's address is

Father Andre Comtois OFM  
c/o Carrefour Providence  
441-5655 Rue de Salaberry  
Montreal, Quebec  
H4J 1J5



## **September Birthday**

September 6	Minerva McCourt
September 11	Michael Cassidy

Happy Birthday Minerva and Mike. Blessings on you and your families!

## **Newsletter**

Newsletter items are always welcome. You may send them before the last Wednesday of the month to Doug Clorey at [jdclcorey@gmail.com](mailto:jdclcorey@gmail.com).

### **Upcoming Events**

Fraternity Meeting - **Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00PM at St. Francis of Assisi Church hall (basement).**

**NOTE: Meeting setup will respect social distancing as at the July fraternity meeting. Everyone is expected to wear a mask. There will be no food or singing at this meeting.**

Special Fraternity Meeting - **Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm at St. Francis of Assisi Church hall (basement).** This special fraternity meeting is being held in view of the fact that the fraternity had to cancel its annual fraternity retreat for September 25-27. This meeting will replace a meeting that might have been held the second Sunday of October.