



Secular Franciscan

National Bulletin of the Secular Franciscan Order in Canada
July 2021

Building a More Fraternal and Evangelical World

National Minister, Doug Clorey, ofs

The recent discovery of the unmarked graves of children attending residential schools for Indigenous people in Canada has cast a dark shadow on our country's history and on the role played by the Roman Catholic Church. The atrocities committed at these institutions has left us with a deep sense of sadness and shame. It is also important to note that the impact of this tragedy continues to be felt today by survivors, their families and their communities.

Many of us are descendants of settlers who colonized the land of the First Peoples of Canada. This fact alone should prompt us to work towards bringing about reconciliation with them. While significant steps have been and continue to be made by the leaders of government, church and the Indigenous people (refer to letter to CCCB included in this bulletin), there are many ways each of us can bring about further reconciliation and healing. While the expression of individual sentiments and prayer are important, reconciliation always requires the presence of a relationship with another; to move forward, we must find ways to be present to our First Nations, Métis and Inuit sisters and brothers.

The following are some of the ways in which we can reach out:

Attend events lead by Indigenous communities in your local area; for example, vigils for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) and children who died in residential schools, Pow Wows and days of celebration such as those held on June 21, National Indigenous Peoples Day.

Participate in events taking place for the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on September 30 (recently declared a Canadian statutory holiday). Talk to your children and grandchildren about what they are doing to commemorate this day.

Invite someone from your local Indigenous community to your fraternity to share about their culture.

Support local Indigenous artists (musicians and artisans).

Read books by Indigenous authors; watch films with an Indigenous theme.

Lobby government for just resolution to Indigenous issues (94 "Calls to Action" from the Truth and Reconciliation (TRC) Report, 231 calls for Justice in the Red Booklet on MMIWG).

Together with our Indigenous sisters and brothers, let us build a more fraternal and evangelical world!

Secular Franciscans, together with all people of good will, are called to build a more fraternal and evangelical world so that the kingdom of God may be brought about more effectively. (OFS Rule, Article 14)

Letter From The National Fraternity

Most Rev. Richard Gagnon, President

The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCCB)

2500 Don Reid Drive, Ottawa, ON K1H 2J2

Dear Archbishop Gagnon,

On behalf of the National Fraternity of Secular Franciscans in Canada (ofs), I am writing regarding the Roman Catholic Church's involvement with the operation of Indian Residential Schools in Canada, and the atrocities that were committed while these institutions were under the care of Catholic organizations within our Canadian church.

As you know, this situation has cast a dark shadow on the country's history with our Indigenous peoples. However, we are pleased to note, in a recent news story (*Winnipeg Free Press*, 8 June 2021, John Longhurst) that a working group of Catholic bishops and Indigenous leaders have been meeting for the past four years to discuss ways the church can fulfill its commitment to reconciliation with Indigenous people, and the role of the Pope in that process.

We are also pleased to hear that a delegation of Indigenous people expects to meet with Pope Francis at the Vatican this fall to discuss the role of the Roman Catholic Church in Canada's residential school system, and the possibility of the Pope visiting Canada, and that you expect to be part of this delegation.

As members of the Secular Franciscan Order, who pledge to live in full communion with the Roman Catholic Church, we wish to recognize the ongoing work that has already been done in support of healing and reconciliation by members of the CCCC. We also wish to encourage you, and the working group of Catholic bishops and Indigenous leaders, to continue working towards reconciliation with our Indigenous brothers and sisters. Please know that we too are committed to working with our First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities in whatever way we can, to address the enormous suffering that they have endured over the years – survivors, their families and their communities.

In the meantime, we are grateful to the individual Bishops who have publicly offered their apologies on behalf of their dioceses. We are also encouraged by your statement that, if an apology from Pope Francis were forthcoming, it would be “very significant and important” and “would mean a lot to Indigenous people”.

You and your brother bishops are in our thoughts and prayers.

Wishing you peace and every good,

Doug Clorey, ofs, National Minister

Secular Franciscan Order of Canada

The Necessities of Life

The film uses the 1950s-era tuberculosis epidemic in the Far North as its starting point. The spread of the disease forced many Inuit to go to various Canadian cities for treatment. Tivii (NatarUngalaaq, ATANARJUAT: THE FAST RUNNER) is taken to a sanatorium in Quebec City. Uprooted, far from his loved ones and faced with a completely alien world, he finds himself unable to communicate with anyone. When his nurse, Carole (ÉvelineGélinas) realizes that Tivii’s illness is not the most serious threat to his well-being, she arranges to have a young orphan, Kaki, transferred to the institution. The boy is also sick, but has experience of both worlds and speaks both languages. By sharing his culture with Kaki and opening it up to others, Tivii rediscovers his pride and energy. Ultimately he also rediscovers hope through a plan to adopt Kaki, bring him home and make him part of his family.

© Corporation de développement



Ce Qu' Il Faut Pour Vivre
 Trailer with English subtitles
<https://youtu.be/QZ-x7D47Oao>
 Film
<https://youtu.be/Mv-5rs5PC8k>

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Newsletter of the
 Secular Franciscan Order
 National Fraternity
 of Canada
 July 2021

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assisted by
 deacon maurice
 Prindville ofs



**Poem For The Children
Buried at The Residential
School**

When they buried the children
 What they didn't know
 They were lovingly embraced
 By the land
 Held and cradled in a mother's heart
 The trees wept for them, and the wind
 They sang mourning songs
 Their mothers did not know how to sing
 Bending branches to touch the earth around
 them.
 The Creator cried for them, the tears falling
 like rain.

Mother earth held them
 Until they could be found.
 Now our voices sing the mourning songs.
 With the trees. The wind. Light sacred fire
 Ensure they are never forgotten as we sing
 JUSTICE.

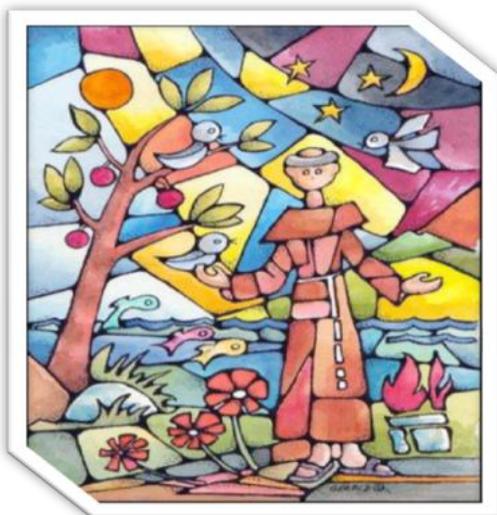
abigail echo-hawk.

**A Scandal of the
Catholic Church
towards the
Aboriginal peoples
in Canada
in the 20th century?**

At the moment, Canada is
 shaken by a media scandal:
 Were the Catholic Church and
 the State cruel to the children of
 the Indian people at the begin-
 ning of the 20th century?



<https://youtu.be/2T1hikRIEwQ>



Invitation is open to all youth and young adults

**Franciscan Youth and Young Adult Focus
 SERVANT LEADERSHIP IN GOSPEL LIVING
 YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT RETREAT**

Retreat Master – Br. Michael Perras, OFM

For 18-30 years of age

Mt. St. Francis Retreat Centre

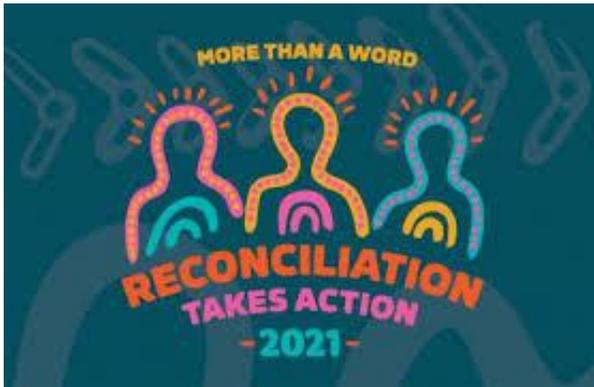
Cochrane, Alberta

Aug 27-29, 2021

*Contact our registrar at canddbouch@shaw.ca for
 more information and to register*

The cost for the retreat is \$200. You can send a de-
 posit of \$25 to secure your space and pay the rest at
 the Retreat .

Sponsorship is available



CIOFS Family Commission Project

By Marion Clorey, Vice-Minister Anglophone and Co-chair Communications Team

This year's theme of the CIOFS Family Commission <https://ciofs.info/offices/family/> encourages us to reflect on how we as fraternities are supporting our older members. This includes asking our older members, especially those who are less able to participate in fraternity life, what they need from us by way of support. The April issue of Living Fraternity recommended that we engage in this project and we are thankful to Françoise and her team for highlighting this.

To this end, we've encouraged regional fraternity councils - both Anglophone and Francophone, to promote this with local fraternities. We suggest local fraternity councils ask a member to **interview one or more of their older members, encouraging them to share their story, and ask how the fraternity is a support to them and what else they might need by way of support.** This will give important information to local councils. We hope to publish some of the results of these interviews in future bulletins.

Thanks to the efforts of Regional Minister Linda Adams, we have received a number of biographies from members of OLOTA local fraternities. Three are published in this current issue – more to come in the next issue!

Documents and Links

NATIONAL:

JPIC Communiqué for June

[JPIC Communiqué June 2021.pdf](#)
(ofsnational.ca)

<https://>

www.franciscanvoicecanada.com

Living Fraternity

[LivingFraternity_June2021.pdf](#)
(ofsnational.ca)

Instrumentum laboris survey regional responses are due June 30th! Please contact Michel David: micheldavidofs@gmail.com

INTERNATIONAL-CIOFS:

Pentecost Letter from the General Minister

[General Minister's Pentecost Message: the Spirit of Power, of Self-Control, of Love – Ordo Franciscanus Saecularis](#) (ciofs.info)

Circular no.53/14-20-The XVI General Chapter is tentatively scheduled in Rome for November 13-21, 2021. Pandemic protocols will apply.

ONGOING FORMATION

Memoriale Propositi

[Theme 2: Simplicity – Commemorating the 800th Anniversary of 'Memoriale Propositi' – Ordo Franciscanus Saecularis](#) (ciofs.info)

[Theme 3: Family – Commemorating the 800th Anniversary of 'Memoriale Propositi' – Ordo Franciscanus Saecularis](#) (ciofs.info)

National Formation Corner

Thirty-three Secular Franciscans from across Canada successfully completed the National Formators Course in April. Thanks to the dedicated team of Course Facilitators, there were four streams of classes that ran simultaneously. This included a French hybrid version, English versions by Correspondence and two Online ones; through the National, and one through the OLOTA Region.

A special acknowledgement of gratitude to the late Donna Dooling, ofs, who facilitated the Correspondence Formators Course. Earlier this month, Donna went home to be with the Lord. May her soul rest in peace. In view of the increasing interest by members to take the Formators Course, we will again be offering the same Course from September 2021 - March 2022, with a month's break in December in the same four streams. There will be a French version of the Course facilitated by Francoise Malbouef, ofs; English versions: Correspondence, facilitated by Catherine Payne, ofs; Online versions by Jewel Jasmins, ofs; and for OLOTA Region, Lynda Black, ofs.

Applications can be obtained through your Regional Formation Director, or Jewel Jasmins. Registration will open from **July 12 – August 31**. **All Formator Courses will start September 7**. For additional information about the Course or to register, please contact Jewel Jasmins at jajasmins@gmail.com or by phone 1.604.594.0984. *For the Formators Course through the OLOTA Region, please contact Lynda Black at ms.999@shaw.ca*



Congratulations to all our Graduates of the OFS National Formators Course 2021
Left to right top row: Jewel Jasmins (Course Facilitator) Helen Lupena -RFEC Martha Gabriel - RFEC Hermy Villasenor – Trillium; **2nd row** John Kalley – OLOTA Joyce Reilander – OLOTA Aurora Osdon - RFEC Irene Manning – OLOTA Silvana Loughheed – Trillium
3rd row Esperanza Martinez (Donovan) -RFEC Ed Yee – OLOTA David Mitchell – Trillium Helena (Mee Suk) Hwang – OLOTA

OFS National Formators' Course by email in 2020-2021.

The project objectives were to make accessible and attainable, the OFS National Formators Course for our Francophone members.

This first course in French was presented from September 2020 to March 2021. Three persons took the course. They all had experience in OFS formation but they agreed to work the course together. They completed the tasks by Modules. As they completed each task, we discovered their talents. Their work showed us that they were truly apt at forming other persons to the OFS. Their remarks during our meetings via Zoom helped us revise the method for working the Modules, by making them easier to understand, as well as the completion of each session more interesting. One recommendation from this first course would be that any one professed member in the Order, at any level regional or local, take this formation. This course by email would help any professed member rediscover the extent of their own knowledge of Franciscan spirituality.

As a facilitator, I appreciated the contact with the participants. I would hope that there would be in each regional or local fraternity 1 or 2 members interested in doing this course. The Regional Councils could possibly send out the word to their fraternities, both at regional and local levels.

Françoise Malboeuf, ofs



Left to right top row:

Byron Samson – RFEC Liz Sullivan - OLOTA Claudia Batchilder - RFEC **2nd row** Carol David - RFEC Donna Dooling – Course Facilitator Grace Aboshuogwe Masagbor – RFEC **3rd row** Audrey Gross – OLOTA Debbie Tessier – Trillium (photo missing)

Online Formators Course conducted through OLOTA Region

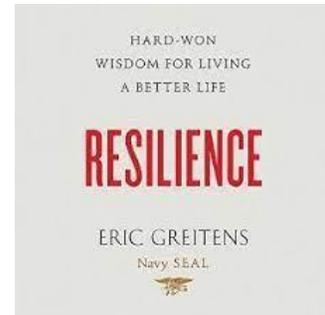
Course Facilitator – Lynda Black - Eleven members from OLOTA Region completed the Formators Online Course.

Group photo not available. *Further details posted on OLOTA Messenger.*

The Virtue of Resiliency

by Br. Benjamin Ripley, OFM National Spiritual Assistant

If there is one thing that this pandemic experience has shown us, it is how our personal battles were magnified; whether it be sickness, grief, fear, loss, loneliness, etc. Many of you fought personal physical or spiritual battles. To borrow a military term, you had your personal “frontline” where you fought the enemy head-on.” I reflected on this when I had the opportunity to read this spring a book by Eric Greitens: *Resilience: Hard-Won Wisdom for Living a Better Life*. Eric was a former Navy SEAL and war veteran who started exchanging letters with a comrade who was suffering difficulties as a result of PTSD. This book is the collection of those letters in which Eric talks about the value of resiliency.



Let me share with you some of his insights which spoke to me personally. The front-line is where battles are fought and fates decided. The front-line was a place of fear, struggle, and suffering. It was also a place where victories were won, where friendships of a lifetime were forged in hardship. It was a place where people lived with a sense of purpose. But the “front-line” isn’t just a military term. We all have front-lines in our personal lives. Everyone has a place where they encounter fear, where they struggle, suffer, and face hardship. We *all* have battles to fight. It’s often in those battles that we are most alive: it’s on the front-lines of our lives where we receive wisdom, create joy, forge friendships, discover happiness, find love, appreciate meaningful work.

Above all, it is in these battles that we often more connection with our Lord Jesus Christ. This truth has been discovered by the saints throughout Christian history. They often went through enormous amounts of suffering and struggle in their cause for Christ. Yet when those people reflected on their suffering, they often discover a similar truth: that struggle helped them to increase their trust and love for God and helped them to build deep reservoirs of strength. This is what we call *resilience*. Resilience is the virtue that enables people to move through hardship and become *better*.

No one escapes pain, fear, and suffering. Yet from pain can come wisdom, from fear can come courage, from suffering can come strength—if we seek the virtue of resilience. Of course, fear does not automatically lead to courage. Injury does not necessarily lead to insight. Hardship does not automatically make us better. Pain can break us or make us wiser. Suffering can destroy us or make us stronger. Fear can cripple us, or it can make us more courageous. It is the God-given virtue of resilience which makes the difference. When the word “resilience” is used by people, they usually mean “bouncing back.” How many times have we heard that phrase? This might come from the concept of physics when referring to a body’s ability to revert to its original shape or form after undergoing stress. But the problem is that human beings aren’t as black and white as a physics equation. Most people think that resiliency means “recovery” or “bouncing back” after a stressful event. They think that people are same before and after the difficult time.

Life’s reality is that we cannot “bounce back.” We cannot bounce back because we cannot go back in time to the people we used to be. People who lose loved ones never bounce back. The veteran who goes to war is gone forever, even if they return home safely. “What’s done cannot be undone,” and some of what life does to us is harsh. We will not be the same people before the hardship. There is no bouncing back—there is only *moving through*. What happens to

(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8)

us becomes part of us. Resilient people do not bounce back from hard experiences, they find healthy ways to integrate them back into their lives. In time, people find that a great hardship met with great spirit can create great strength. I haven't even scratched the surface regarding the topic of resiliency. Perhaps I can reflect more about it in future articles in this newsletter. What I can conclude now is that resiliency is a virtue which can be learned, practiced, and developed like any other virtue. The process would be different for each person, but within our Christian faith we have recourse to our Lord who can help us to practice resiliency. Also, many resilient people choose to model themselves after the example of resilient people in their own lives or figures in history who have displayed resilient character. In the end, resiliency is a choice which is accompanied by a lot of hard work. But the end result is the building up of strength, courage so that we might be able to meet obstacles head-on, and not be destroyed by pain. This will open up the doors to a more full and flourishing life.

May the Almighty, Ever-loving God be with you all this summer and beyond. Be safe, Be Resilient!

Bro. Ben Ripley, OFMAs *Br. Benjamin Ripley, OFM*

The Languishing Heart

Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus was first introduced in Paray Le Monial France by a Visitation nun, Sister Margaret Mary by name.

The devotion was not readily accepted despite the visitations due to fear of heresy. France had just recently freed itself of the sixteenth century Jansenist heresy. Finally it was approved locally and in time grew. Later in the 1930's as World War II clouds threatened Europe another nun in Poland, Faustina by name received visitations which we know today as Divine Mercy. Once again through difficulty was eventually approved. It was first banned in 1959.

It is striking that the Lord seems to reveal Himself at the most difficult times of our history. The present pandemic is no exception. Perhaps this is the reason this heart of mercy and love languishes in sadness as He waits for us. This very heart that promises great mercy even to the worst sinner is forgotten in the tabernacle and forgotten in the presence of others that we so easily dismiss as unworthy. The message is missed and misunderstood by most of us. We forget that this heart gave



itself up to a cruel painful death while we were still sinners.

As holders of a fallen nature it is difficult for us to believe that the Lord could love even the worst of us. This is the mystery of His love. If we live long enough we eventually realize that love comes with a cost.

Our willingness to pay the price makes all the difference. As we do this remember the love that loved us first.

Deus Meus et Omnia

Yvonne Armstrong, ofs

Yvonne Armstrong (OLOTA) began her OFS journey 35 years ago – she was standing at the back of the church when someone came up to her and asked if she had ever thought of becoming a Secular Franciscan. That one question changed her life. She came to realize that being a Secular Franciscan is not just living the Ten Commandments but living out the Sermon on the Mount by being a peace maker and by being a witness to the Gospel

following in the footsteps of St. Francis. She notes that she walks in the path of so many notable Secular Franciscans such as Pope John XXIII, John Vianney, Thomas More, Angela Merici and Elizabeth of Hungary.

Her fraternity is like a big family to her and she appreciates and respects each member for what they give. Members support her to through prayer and letting her be herself.

Yvonne would like to see a vocation person working alongside Formation directors at all levels of fraternity. She says that you cannot have growth without vocations and you cannot have vocations without growth.

Alice McCrea, ofs,

(OLOTA) Little Flowers of St. Francis Fraternity, Kelowna, BC

Alice McCrea was born in Saskatchewan in 1927, the tenth child of a family of fourteen children. After completing her schooling, she entered the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary (FMM) in 1945 where she served her order through missionary work. Responding to the call of God, she returned to secular life in 1985 and worked in the child care field for a number of years. The spirit of St. Francis continued to live in her heart - she was one of the five founding members of her fraternity in Kelowna in 2005 and made her profession in the Secular Franciscan Order that same year. Over the years, Alice has served her Secular Franciscan brothers and sisters as director of formation, librarian, infirmarian and in hospitality ministry. She currently leads a fraternity apostolate which prays for cancer patients and has seen many miracles of prayers answered. At 93, Alice lives in a retirement home in Kelowna witnessing the love of Jesus to the other residents. Alice still has a huge heart and a big purse. When people ask her what she is wearing around her neck, she opens her purse and hands them pamphlets on Secular Franciscans as well as the Tau Cross, opening the door for more dialogue – possibly over a cup of tea. Alice radiates the joy of St. Francis and like Clare, has a deep heart for prayer. She is wisdom personified. Alice continues to participate in the life of her fraternity, which is currently meeting by Zoom.



Alice with her grand-niece



Irene Manning, ofs (OLOTA)

Irene was professed with St. Maximilian Kolbe Fraternity Red Deer, AB and is celebrating her 25th year in the ofs. She reflects on her amazing journey and the plans God had for her. She was asked to be part of the local fraternity formation team shortly after being professed and shared what she had learnt from her formation experiences. She sees the four years she spent on the team as a truly blessed time. Between

2001 and 2019, Irene responded to the call of the Holy Spirit and was elected to various positions on the OLOTA Regional Council - Regional Secretary (2001- 2007), Vice Minister for Alberta (2007-13), and Regional Minister (2013-19). She conducted many fraternal visits and chapters during this time and felt blessed by the relationships she made with her Franciscan sisters and brothers. Irene is grateful for the councils she worked with over the years as well as the numerous spiritual assistants and Provincials who were part of the journey. Sixteen years ago, she was prompted to begin a discerning group for a new Fraternity in Red Deer. On May 6th 2017, St Padre Pio Fraternity was canonically established.

Walking in the footsteps of St Francis for the past 25 years has allowed her to relinquish her control over her faith and to give herself fully to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Irene believes her journey has just begun for as St Francis says “Up to now we have done nothing”.



Two Bubbles - Our Family & Our Franciscan Family!

You have to meet our very senior St. Maximilian Kolbe Fraternity member – His name is Leon Gendre. He is 89 years old, a grandfather to 19 grandkids and great—grandfather to 17 and an amazing gardener! He calls us up on a sunny Friday morning to say “I am digging up spuds and carrots for a needy family in Sacred Heart parish today” so we fill the camper with 6 visiting grandkids – Franciscan Youth in action - and off we go to meet Leon and David and Cathy Bouchard at the Community Garden.



Leon likes a mug of Nescafe Expresso to “wet his whistle” and some homemade cake and the kids have juice and treats and we all get to work! Before we know it, the job is done, the veggies are in the boxes for delivery and a needy family knows they are cared about in a special way by Leon and his helpers. That is what being a Secular Franciscan is about – working together with the young and the young-at-heart - sharing a sense of community with our brothers and sisters in the spirit of Francis and Clare!

Catherine McNiff – Director of Youth – Our Lady of the Angels Regional Council



Regional Fraternity Page



Fraternal Activity - St. François-de-Laval

The regional fraternity of St. François-de-Laval organized a videoconference meeting on Tuesday, April 2021 from 7:00 to 8:00 pm. Brother France Salesse, ofm cap, shared a reflection on the theme "God, in Christ, is passionate about being human". He made the connection between Christ's humility, the gift of himself in extremely lowering himself and the prayer of total offering attributed to Francis. The event was a great fraternal activity during these circumstances of the pandemic.

OLOTA News:

Summer days are unfolding in Western Canada. OLOTA members are keen to transition into more familiar avenues of getting together socially, fraternally. The acclaim "let us join together for a picnic?" and so Summer planning begins: the selection of the Park, the packing up of the picnic basket, the excitement of finally coming together. How pleasant will be Summer Days! Throughout these upcoming blessed days, OLOTA continues to plan for workshops: Young Adults will gather for a late August Retreat in Alberta, JPIC plans a workshop on *Laudato Si* in early October, the Resolution Committee will host an Information Session in early September for fraternities on how to prepare Resolutions and OLOTA continues to unfold plans to prepare for the OLOTA Regional Council Elections in early May, 2022. Throughout all the continuing activities, OFS members will take time for relaxation this Summer. God Blesses with Seasons, continually meeting all our needs. Rejoice in God's Goodness!

Fraternally submitted, Linda Adams, Minister, OLOTA

Franciscan Fine Arts & Poster Contest, 2021

Our Lady of the Angels Regional Fraternity

The Franciscan Fine Arts & Poster Contest originated in 2017 from Our Lady of the Angels Regional Fraternity as a way to introduce children and youth to Franciscan Spirituality in western Canada. In the five years since it was initiated more than 500 youth have participated in the contest. The Franciscan Fine Arts & Poster Contest is divided into three categories from five to sixteen years of age with cash prizes for first and second place winners provided by Our Lady of The Angels Regional Fraternity and a Tau Cross or wooden heart on a cord from Mount Saint Francis Retreat Centre donated to the honourable mention participants.

In 2021 we chose “Fratelli Tutti” as the theme for the students to explore. This year we received 61 entries in thanks to the Secular Franciscans, parents and teachers who "Got the word out" and they responded to the theme with joy and enthusiasm! We received artwork from students from six to fourteen years of age from Vancouver Island to the BC Interior and from Lethbridge to Grimshaw, Northern Alberta. The winning entries will soon be on the OLOTA website (olota.org)!

Our youngsters and our youth are an inspiration as they speak from their hearts and show us by their artwork what Pope Francis tells us in his latest Apostolic Exhortation is most important to all of us - being kind to animals, people and our fragile world, seeing everyone as our brothers and sisters and respecting all people as part of our human family.



DOOLING, Mary 'Donna' Grace

Passed away peacefully at Hamilton General Hospital on June 2, 2021 at the age of 74 following a stroke that occurred just a few short days previous. She is survived by her sons, Randy Gulyas and Stephen Gulyas (Denise). She was passionately proud of her four grandchildren: Savannah, Jasmyn, Chloe, and Max. She was predeceased by her parents Desmond and Ursula "Skip" Dooling.



Donna led a full life, following her passions. She rose to the ranks as a bank manager and later worked as a Personal Support Worker at a long term care facility. Her direction and calling was always her faith and she served the Roman Catholic Church in a variety of ways. She worked for St. John Brebeuf Catholic Church in Erin alongside her best friend, Reverend Edward Grace (deceased) for several years, worked for the Basilica of Our Lady Immaculate in Guelph, and volunteered at St. Patrick's in Cambridge. She became a Secular Franciscan and served as the Formation Director for the Franciscan Order for the Trillium Region. Donna was a vibrant woman, always quick with a joke and a laugh. A mischievous prankster, a loving mother and grandmother, a compassionate caregiver to those in need, and a loyal Montreal Canadiens fan who waited until the Habs knocked out the Leafs before she passed (sorry, Leafs fans), she was loved by the many souls she touched.

Many thanks to the doctors and nurses at Grand River Hospital and Hamilton General Hospital, as well as the caring and supportive members of the EMS team who took Donna into their care.

A private funeral mass was held at the Basilica of Our Lady Church, 28 Norfolk Street, Guelph on Saturday, June 5, 2021. Cremation followed. Interment at Marymount Cemetery, Guelph. Memorial donations to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, an organization that she supported and shared in their belief of "*...seeing Christ in anyone who suffers, coming together as family, having personal contact with the poor, and helping in all possible ways.*"

We miss you dearly, but we know that you are at peace in company with Christ. We know that you were fiercely independent and passed in the way you would have preferred, humbly and swiftly. We know that your love for your family will continue for eternity. We know that you were called to the Lord all of your life, and you are now with Him. We know that you will be with us, always.