



Secular Franciscan

National Bulletin of the Secular Franciscan Order in Canada
March 2019

Message from National Minister

During its National Elective Chapter in May 2018, a new National Council was elected to animate and guide the National Fraternity of Canada for the next three years (2018-2021). Your National Council is now up and running and working hard to serve the needs of the Secular Franciscan Order across Canada. Of primary importance is the need to ensure that the life of Secular Franciscans in local fraternities is properly accompanied and supported.

In January 2019, we were pleased to welcome two new members to the National Council.



Sherrill Guimond, OFS assumed the duties of National Treasurer, replacing Harvey Levesque who had to resign because of health concerns. We are very appreciative of Harvey's generous service and

wish him a speedy return to good health.

Br. Ben Ripley, OFM also joined the National Council as OFM National Spiritual Assistant. Br. Ben is bilingual and will provide assistance along with our other cherished National Spiritual Assistants, Fr. Peter Knaapen, OFM Conv and Fr. André Chicoine, OFM Cap This marks the first time that we will have a Conference of National Spiritual Assistants representing all three Franciscan First Order obediences in Canada. What a blessing!

The National Council has reflected on the Future Orientations approved at the 2018 National Chapter and have formulated these into a series of goals for the National Council. These goals include specific actions to be addressed under the following headings: Life in Fraternity, Formation, Communications, Leadership, Outreach and Archives. To assist in implementing these goals, three teams have been established to tackle this work, including Secular Franciscans from across the country and representing both anglophone and francophone sectors of the National Fraternity. Teams are now in place for Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation –JPIC (Michel David), Youth and Young Adults (Jewel Jasmins), and Communications (Debbie Tessier and Marion Clorey). In addition, a National Formation Commission has been estab-

New Member to the National Conference of Spiritual Assistants



The National Council welcomes Br. Ben Ripley, OFM to the National Conference of Spiritual Assistants!

Br. Ben Wade Ripley, OFM, was born in St. Thomas, Ontario, became a friar in 2009, lives in St. Joseph the Worker Church, Richmond, BC, where he serves as Pastoral Assistant, Director of Ministry for Senior Adults and helps the pastor with the Faith Formation team. Among his many acts of ministry and service, Br. Ben is also involved in Hospital, Compassionate and Prison Ministry, and as Spiritual Assistant for OFS fraternities.

Br. Ben is looking forward to serve on the National Council and experiencing that level of fraternity!

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lished and is working under the direction of the National Director of Formation.

Since May, the National Council has met four times, face-to-face in October 2018 and via teleconference in June 2018, August 2018 and January 2019. The council hopes to meet four times a year – once in person and the other three meetings by teleconference.

On October 8-13, 2019, the National Fraternity of Canada will hold its National Spiritual Conference at the Centre de spiritualité des Ursulines in Loretteville, Quebec. As in the past, Regional Fraternities will send a delegation in conformity with Article 2.3 of the National Statutes; however, the National Council will also open up this spiritual conference to all Secular Franciscan in Canada who would be interested in attending, providing that they are able to fund their own expenses. Further details will follow in the near future. Hope to see you all in the fall!

Doug Clorey, ofs

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OFS NATIONAL COUNCIL GOALS 2018-2021

Life in Fraternity

Review the regional structure of the National Fraternity in Canada with a view to developing a strategy for dealing with changes in the composition of the National Fraternity.

Provide support to local fraternities where the regional structure is inactive; in particular, provide ongoing support to seniors, elderly, home-bound and inactive members.

Conduct a national census with demographic information to assist in understanding the composition of the National Fraternity; also conduct a study to determine the best way to proceed in developing a National Directory.

Formation

Establish a National Formation Commission to assess the needs for formation resources and to develop/make available these formation resources based on the identified needs.

Conduct a needs assessment to determine the formation needs of local fraternities across Canada; data from this assessment will be collected, collated and analysed to determine the specific formation resources required and the skill development needed to facilitate the work of formation.

Communications

Establish a National Communications Team to connect local Secular Franciscan in Canada with what is happening at the international, national, regional and local levels of the Order, as well as to inform the larger community regarding the work of the Secular Franciscan Order (OFS) in building a more fraternal and evangelical world.

Review, update and manage the National Fraternity's website (ofsnational.ca) and explore the use of other social media in fostering communications, e.g. Twitter, Facebook and Youtube.

Publish a national newsletter at least twice per year, including articles to promote vocations to the OFS.

Outreach

Establish a Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) Team to promote a fraternal life that includes a specific focus on JPIC and its works. This team will monitor issues of interest to the OFS in Canada and suggest responses to these issues to regional and local fraternities. It will act as a focal point for the National Fraternity regarding JPIC matters, create a network of JPIC contacts within the national Fraternity and connect with relevant groups outside the OFS.

Establish a Youth and Young Adults Team to promote the engagement of Secular Franciscans in sharing their experience of evangelical life with youth and young adults who feel attracted to St. Francis of Assisi. This team will act as a focal point for the National Fraternity regarding matters dealing with youth and young adults, create a network of contacts within the National Fraternity and connect with relevant groups outside the OFS.

Leadership

Develop leadership modules to assist fraternity councils in discerning/identifying gifts within fraternities, to train members in the various council functions and to provide mentoring programs for those engaging in leadership.

Open attendance at the National Spiritual Conference to all Secular Franciscans within the National Fraternity.

Archives

Review guidelines for archiving fraternity records and communicate these guidelines across the National Fraternity.

Newsletter of the
Secular Franciscan Order
National Fraternity
of Canada

March 2019

Editors

Debbie Tessier, ofs
ofsnational@hotmail.com
deacon maurice prindiville, ofs

Communications Team

Communication is a vital component of life in fraternity. We are a family and as in any family, it is important to be informed as to what is happening, to celebrate our joys and to share our challenges. We are a diverse fraternity in Canada with two official languages and many cultural expressions. It is crucial that we use all the communication tools at our disposal to create a sense of unity and belonging among our members.



With this in mind, we have created a communications team of six offs members from across the country to explore how we can enhance our connection with our local OFS members. The team's responsibilities will include managing the National Fraternity website, exploring the use of other social mediums; e.g. Twitter, Facebook and Youtube to foster communication and the publication of various documents including this newsletter.

The co-chairs will lead the team in the development of the communications strategy. Marion Clorey will lead the website and social media component and Debbie Tessier will oversee the publications component.



Currently, the team plans to hold 3-4 teleconferences per year with the first meeting being held February 22, 2019. It is our goal to have this national newsletter published at least twice per year. As well, we hope to have the website updated regularly as new information becomes available.



If you have any suggestions for the communications team, please send them to Marion Clorey, mgclorey@gmail.com, or Debbie Tessier, ofsnational@hotmail.com

News From the International Fraternity's Family Commission

Family Commission : Silvia Diana, ofs; Jenny Harrington, ofs; Fr. Francis Dor, OFM Cap
The Family Commission of the International Presidency has adopted “*The family in the different encyclicals and the Catechism of the Catholic Church*” as its annual theme for 2019.

The General Constitutions Art. 24: 3 Y 44.3. say:

24.3 “*The brothers and sisters should collaborate with the efforts undertaken in the Church and in society to affirm both the value of fidelity and respect for life and to provide answers to the social problems of the family.*”

44.3 “*Ongoing formation – accomplished by means of courses, gatherings, and the sharing of experience – aims to assist the brothers and sisters: ... to reflect ...in the light of the faith and with the help of the documents of the teaching Church and of society, consequently taking consistent positions...*”



WORK PROPOSAL:

Our work is centered around the following words:
SEE, JUDGE and ACT.

1. SEE

The family finds itself in a dramatic situation of change. We have seen enormous social, political, technical and religious mutations within our society. At the same time, we have observed how our families have been forced to

accept challenges that their parents would never have thought of. It is as if, in our world, the family and its project had been converted into an impossible dream.

The Church throughout history has accompanied the family with documents that help us discern a way to care for, protect and accompany our families. In this material we will propose some articles to reflect on fraternity and continue to share our life as a family. Since we have already reflected on the last exhortation *AmorisLaetitia*, we will concentrate on previous documents.

2: JUDGE

Let's read the following documents carefully:

Lumen Gentium, 1964; nn.35

Gaudium et Spes, 1965; nn.47

Fostering the Nobility of Marriage and the Family

Apostolicam Actuositatem, 1966; n.11

Gravissimum Educationis, 1965; n.3

Evangelium Vitae, 1995 nn.100

Apostolic Exhortation: *Familiaris Consortio*; nn.11, 14, 15

Apostolic Exhortation: *Evangelii Gaudium*, nn. 66, 67

Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1992, nn. 1601-1666, 1691-1698, 2331-2359, 2360-2400, 2514-2533 (http://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG0015/_INDEX.HTM)



3: ACT

QUESTIONS TO DISCUSS IN FRATERNITY

1. Did you recognize the richness of these Church documents about the family?
2. What are the family values that we learned about in them?
3. What themes on the family are included in our formation plans?
4. What could be our contribution as a fraternity to help face the new challenges that the family has today?

A timely project:

100 acres of farmland and woodlot near Tweed, Ontario.



Tom Pawlick is a retired university professor of science journalism, still active as a writer with more than 50 years experience in journalism, including as an editor at the Montreal Gazette, Detroit News, Harrowsmith Magazine and other publications, plus 10 years as a full-time professor. His work has won numerous national and international awards, and he has published 10 books. One, *The End of Food*, was a bestseller.

Tom bought this property, an abandoned farm, in 2005 and at first farmed it himself (part of his childhood was spent on a dairy farm, and in his student years worked part time for a veterinarian) and began to do some work to restore it. For two years, he ran a market garden, selling to a local restaurant and bed and breakfast. But once his son got a job in the U.S. and left, he found that, working alone, he couldn't keep up with the farm and garden work and still find time to write. So now he rents the cleared farmland to a neighbour, who grows hay on it for his sheep, and makes the orchard area available to a local beekeeper, who keeps hives there.

The property was originally owned by a wealthy pioneer-era farmer, who donated a plot to the local church congregation. They built a small cedar frame church there and also set up the community cemetery just adjacent. Eventually, the original church became too small for the growing population and in 1906 they built a new, two-storey red brick church, where Tom currently lives. The original frame church was given to the old Orange Order (of ill fame in Ireland) which until he bought it was used as a meeting hall. It still stands and is in reasonable



condition. Also on the property is a former dairy barn, in need of some repair, an equipment shed and a small cabin. The cabin is in poor shape and should probably just be torn down, and a better structure put in its place. About half of the property is cleared land, suitable for farming, and the rest is forested (currently in the Ontario Managed Forest Plan), with enough maples in it to supply a sugar making operation. There are two drilled wells, one 95 feet deep and the other 75 feet, both with potable water. The deeper one currently supplies Tom's home.

Tom feels that the property is now being wasted. He is 78, living on a small pension, and with limited means, working alone, can do little with it. The thought of simply selling it to someone from Toronto who wants a hobby farm, or maybe just a country residence, seems almost as wasteful as doing nothing. A better idea came to mind, partly due to his religious background and partly to his professional experience.

Roots of the plan

Tom's mother was a member of the Third Order of lay Franciscans. His middle name is Francis, and as a youngster, used to spend time near a Franciscan monastery, where the friars practiced singing the Mass in Latin. Those memories are a large part of who Tom is. More recently, a friend loaned him a book by John Michael Talbot, about his lay Franciscan group in Arkansas. Those threads, together with the subject of his book, formed the roots of the plan, which he thinks was not accidental.

Tom's own book focuses on a looming series of environmental and social disasters that we—and particularly young people—face in the coming decades as a result of climate change, poor agricultural practice and a variety of other products of human greed and short-sightedness. The next generation will have to deal with the physical and economic horrors an older generation has bequeathed them, and with very little in the line of tools to defend themselves. They will need physical unity, in-depth practical/technical knowledge, and most of all a moral and spiritual grounding to sustain them through emotional hard times.

What better use for 100 acres of farmland and forest, with a former church, church hall and barn standing on it, than to make use of it with a group of people who respect the environment and share Tom's own love of animals, who have a strong spiritual grounding and likely the sort of educational orientation to use the land and buildings as a positive counter to the coming troubles.

It could become a place of training and hands-on practice in organic farming and gardening, a retreat centre for those in need of spiritual renewal, and a library of books and materials dealing with farming, the environment and—not least—religion and spirituality. The personal library of several thousand books is a unique collection, which the local public library once offered to buy. It could be part of a prospective retreat centre/educational facility, especially for young people: a facility operated by those who understand the message of Francis of Assisi.

Fr. Pierre Charland, Provincial Minister of the Franciscans of Eastern Canada, suggested this as a project the Secular Franciscans may find of interest.

The project, in Fr. Charland's words, would be to develop the farm into "*an eco-spiritual fraternity - inspired by Franciscan values - which could become a formation centre for sustainable living in a period of environmental change and quest for meaning.*" The idea for the project has had a long gestation, which came to a head as a result of a book Tom is currently writing.

They say, if you're going to dream, dream big. Fr. Charland has already visited the property, and says that "*there is no doubt that such a project is necessary in today's world, and that it is akin to the Franciscan charism.*" If there are any Secular Franciscans, or groups of Secular Franciscans, who would like to pursue this project with Tom, please contact Him at mzungumzee1@hotmail.com



Regional Fraternity Page

Happy One Hundredth Birthday!



Mrs. Gilberte Gilbert Maltais celebrated her 100th birthday on December 24, 2018. She was admitted to the Fraternity of St. Georges de Jonquière on May 27, 1958, 60 years ago.

She is the mother of a large family, and is extremely alert, pious and committed. She regularly participates in monthly fraternity meetings. Her insights and her words enrich us continually. She helps us to continue in our commitment as followers of St. Francis.

In the photo: (from left to right) Mrs. Simone Deschênes Legault, Mrs. Marthe Girard, (seated) Gilberte Gilbert Maltais, Louissete Simard, and Fernande Deschênes Voyer.

Héritage Franciscain 2019

« S'initier à la gestion du stress » (*Learn about stress management*)

Animator: Yannick Fouda (all presentations are in French)

Baie-Saint-Paul

May 11, 9:30 am to 3 pm
201-115 Alfred Morin St.,
Baie-Saint-Paul, QC

Sherbrooke

April 13, 9:30 am to 3 pm
313 Queen St.,
Sherbrooke, QC

Québec

April 27, 9:30 am to 3 pm
2281, Chemin de la Canardière
Beauport, QC

For information contact : the SIAF office-514-722-5700 or info@lesiaf.org

Regional Fraternity of Eastern Canada

Spiritual Conference

Presenter: Fr. Guylain Prince

Theme: Rebuild my House

Aug 9-11, 2019

Le Cenacle

383, rue du Patrimoine (Route 132)

Cacouna (Rivière-du-Loup), Québec, G0L 1G0

contact: Luba Legault (514) 935-8446 luba.duczak@gmail.com

Fraternité 2019

(FRATERNITY 2019 is an annual gathering of Francophone fraternities in Québec. Each year a particular theme is presented.

*Deepening our understanding of our
common greeting, 'Peace and Joy.'*

Contact: Richard Chamberland ofs Committee organiser
Richard Chamberland 819-346-8206 richard.c.ofs@gmail.com

May 17-18-19, 2019

La Maison de Spiritualité des Trinitaires, 200 Robert Blvd, **Granby**, QC. J2H 0R2 -
Telephone: 450 372-5125 ; Fax : 450 372-0672 ; e-mail : reception@trinitaires.com

Our Lady of the Angels Regional Fraternity

As of March 1, Our Lady of the Angels Regional Fraternity will have a new Regional Spiritual Assistant! His name is Fr. Manoj Xalxo OFM. He is from Samtoli, India and is one of our younger Friars in the new OFM Province of the Holy Spirit – born in 1982. Fr. Manoj is a friendly and very approachable person with a heart for serving God's people. He is also a beautiful singer! This is very good news for Our Lady of the Angels OFS Regional Fraternity!



Trillium Regional Fraternity

Formation Workshop

Available to all Formation Directors and their teams: a Formation Workshop on **Saturday, April 27** from 9-3 at St. Philip Neri Church, 2100 Jane St. Toronto.

Minister's Conference

The Ministers' Conference is being offered on **Saturday, May 25** at Queen of Apostles renewal Centre in Mississauga. The theme for the day is: "*Whoever wishes to be great among you, will be your servant.*" Matthew 20:26

For information contact Cathy Payne, ofs: bpayne@wightman.ca

Memorial

Richard Juneau, ofs, passed away peacefully at Hillcrest Village on Wednesday December 12th, 2018 in his 82nd year. Beloved husband of 58 years to Pauline Juneau (nee Desroches). Loving father of Michael (Karen). Brother of Dennis, Pauline and predeceased by Gerard. There will be a Memorial Mass for Richard, the first Trillium Regional Minister, being offered on April 5 at St. Margaret's Church, Midland, Ontario, requested by Richard's fraternity, St. Clare of Assisi.

Formation Commission

In the spring of 2018 at the Chapter of Elections in Quebec City, the collective assembly addressed the need of formation in the OFS, and supported a Resolution that a National Formation Commission be formed, representing both Francophone and Anglophone Fraternities for the duration of the three year term of the National Council.

The work of the National Formation Commission would be in both official languages:

- to address the needs of the various cultural groups
- to provide for the formation of youth
- to develop resources for initial formation, ongoing formation, leadership development and the formation of Councils
- to further develop and expand online resources

A National Formation Commission Team was subsequently put together with volunteers from both Francophone and Anglophone fraternities, including representation of cultural and linguistic diversities, including the Korean community, Youth and Young Adult, Spiritual Assistant and Information Technology, from the Atlantic Region to the Pacific Coast.

For the National Formation Commission Team to better understand the formation and leadership needs of local fraternities, a needs assessment survey was conducted in the form of a National Formation Questionnaire, which invited each fraternity to contribute their input and suggestions in identifying areas of potential development and needs for their fraternity. To allow wider participation of each fraternity across Canada, the Formation Questionnaire was translated into French, English and Korean languages.

In total, there were 52 local fraternities who participated in completing the National Formation Questionnaire, with representation from all Regions. Currently the information obtained is being collated, to identify specific needs of local Fraternities, which will then be categorized and prioritized for the National Formation Commission Team to work on.

In closing, the enthusiasm shared by local fraternities, accompanied by the support of the Regional Formation Directors and Regional Ministers in this Formation project, has been heartwarming. The dedication of the National Formation Commission Team is just as enthusiastic to get to work on making inroads in enhancing and supporting the vital work of Initial and Ongoing Formation within the OFS across Canada.
Thank you for your support.

Fraternaly yours,
Jewel Jasmins, ofs
National Formation Director



OFS Youth and Young Adult

Excerpts from the Final Document of the Synod of Bishops on Young People, Faith and Vocational Discernment



The Synod of Bishops on Young People, Faith and Vocational in October 2018, provided some great insights into the opinions of young people in the Catholic Church, that is of importance to the Church at large, and the Secular Franciscan Order. A few key points taken from this Synod:

The young want to be heard and be active in the Church: The young are constantly called to make decisions that give direction to their lives; they want to be heard, acknowledged and accompanied.

The call for Activities in youth ministry: As the Synod progressed, it became clear that youth ministry needs a vocational slant, and that the pastoral care of vocations should be offered to all young people. It was emphasized that pastoral programmes should range from infancy to adulthood, to help the young find their place in the Christian community.

World Youth Day – the fruit of a prophetic insight of Saint John Paul II, who continues to inspire young people in the third millennium – and national and diocesan meetings, play an important part in the lives of many young people, since they offer a living experience of faith and communion that can help them meet life's great challenges and responsibly take their place in society and in the Church.

How can Secular Franciscans respond to the needs of the young people?

At the close of 2018, the OFS National Council recognized the need to expand efforts in reaching out to the youth and young adults in a concerted effort, through a national team approach. To have members across Canada coming together as a team to share, stimulate and collaborate on opportunities to involve youth and young adults who are interested in discovering the way of St. Francis in the living out of their baptismal call.

In the initiative to create a Youth and Young Adult Team, it was discovered that there were Secular Franciscans involved in informal activities with youth in a variety of ways in different areas of Canada: such as promoting knowledge of St. Francis with elementary school children through a Franciscan Poster Contest; working with disadvantaged youth & young adults; and a few emerging Franciscan Young Adult Groups.

In January 2019, the National Council supported sending two young adults to the International Franciscan Youth (YouFra) Gathering in Panama City and the World Youth Day; one from Ontario and one from BC. We look forward to the seeds planted in these young men from this experience, to germinate and bear fruit.

Having been involved with youth and young adult ministry within the Catholic Church, I have found that young people greatly value the accompaniment of an older Christian who tries to understand their world, care enough to listen to them, accompany them in their faith journey, and mentor them in living authentically the Gospel in their everyday life. Let us be mindful to share the richness of the Franciscan way of life to our youth and young adults.

Fraternally yours,
Jewel Jasmins, ofs

Youth and Young Adults Team Liaison to the National Council