



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

## ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI FRATERNITY NEWSLETTER

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### TAKING EVERYTHING TO HEART

The Bible tells us ... “But Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart” (v. 19). She kept all these things: joy at the birth of Jesus and sadness for the lack of hospitality shown in Bethlehem; the love of Joseph and the amazement of the shepherds; the promise and the uncertainty of the future. She took everything to heart, and in her heart, she put everything in its right place, even hardships and troubles. In her heart, she lovingly set all things in order and entrusted everything to God.



In the Gospel, Mary does this a second time: at the end of the hidden life of Jesus, we are told that “his mother kept all these things in her heart” (v. 51). This repetition makes us realize that “keeping in her heart” was not something nice that Our Lady did from time to time, but something habitual. Women typically take life to heart. Women show us that the meaning of life is not found in making things but in taking things to heart. Only those who see with the heart see things properly, because they know how to “look into” each person: to see a brother apart from his mistakes, a sister apart from her failings, hope amid difficulty. They see God in all persons and things.

As we begin this new year, let us ask ourselves: Do I know how to see with the heart? Do I know how to look at people with the heart? Do I take to heart the people with whom I live? Or do I tear them down by gossip? And above all, do I put the Lord at the centre of my heart, or other values, other interests, like advancement, riches, power? Only if we take life to *heart* will we know how to take *care* and overcome the indifference all around. So let us ask for the grace to live this year with the desire to take others to heart and to care for them.

(Excerpt from the Homily of His Holiness Pope Francis on the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God and 53<sup>rd</sup> World Day of Peace, Vatican, January 1, 2020)

Full text of Pope Francis' homily can be found at the following link:  
[http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/homilies/2020/documents/papa-francesco\\_20200101\\_omelia-madredidio-pace.html](http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/homilies/2020/documents/papa-francesco_20200101_omelia-madredidio-pace.html)

## **Formation**

### **Mary, Mother of God**



Mary gives birth in a barn or stable and the shepherds come to see her Child. They leave singing praises. Mary ponders and reflects and treasures all these things that happen to her. She is our model in so many ways. Here, Mary is the first follower of Jesus, the first disciple. And the example she sets, the model she gives through her actions is that a follower of Jesus takes time to reflect on life's events. A true disciple believes that there is meaning and mystery in daily life. A Christian takes time to pray quietly and sit at the feet of his or her Master to be still and hear God's lessons that present themselves.

### **Invitation to Reflect**

Mary pondered these things in her heart. Compare this response to that of Francis: "Yes, this is what I want."

Please meditate on this and try to discern the deep meaning of the word "ponder".

Where do both of these responses fit into our spiritual lives and our response to God's call to discipleship?

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

At the November fraternity meeting, the JPIC team introduced the first five of the 10 Ecological Commandments. During the December meeting, the remaining five commandments were presented (below). The JPIC team invites the fraternity to look at our responsibility toward God's sacred creation in the light of these ten ecological commandments, and ethical principles based on our Franciscan understanding of the Gospel way of life.



## **Last Five Ecological Commandments**

6. Ecological adultery is when I fail to be good stewards of the land. You shall not abandon the land by thinking only of your personal needs.
7. You shall let other things be themselves. You shall let others be without manipulating them. You shall embrace all beings as they are without making them into something they are not. You shall look at all God's creation as a revelation of God.
8. You shall have an awareness of your mutual belonging. You shall have a kind of conversion, a turning to the unfolding beauty of God's love of creation.
9. You shall have access to information and environmental damage and you shall have a greater awareness of our interdependence.
10. You shall be grateful for all God has given us. The spirit of conversion is to live in gratitude. You shall be dependent on others and on the earth. You shall be cognizant of the lure of technology which leads us away from attentiveness, perseverance and loving others.

## **Prayer and Action**

Please take time to pray and reflect on the last five ecological commandments, and be prepared to share how you have adapted the 10 ecological commandments in your life (3 or 4 ideas each would be great). Our JPIC committee can compile the ideas to share with all members of our fraternity.

## **Remembering Our Deceased Fraternity Members**



## **Celebration of the Lives of Our Deceased Franciscans**

Originally scheduled for Nov. 29, celebrating the lives of our deceased Franciscans had been postponed because of bad weather. The Special Events team did a superb job in reorganizing this to be included in the Dec. 8 Fraternity meeting.

During this very moving service, it was noted that, “with the support of one another in fraternity, we embrace the same faith that Francis had: a profound belief that death is a gateway ... a gateway to union with God.’

Each of the deceased brothers and sisters of St. Francis and Br. Leo Fraternities was represented by name, photo and a candle at a central table.

Minister Tom Wilkinson read the names of the following from the St. Francis of Assisi Fraternity: *Margaret Beecham, Helen Chandler, Garry Doiron, Evangeline Duffney, Geraldine Fitzgerald, Tom Garvey, Fr. Clare MacDonald, Stella Smith, Helen Timlin, Darrell Tschirhart, and also a friend of the fraternity, Jimmy Kelly.*

Vice Minister Edwena Arbuckle read the names of the following from the Br. Leo Fraternity: *Kirk Arbuckle, Rita Boyd, Felicia Donahoe, Raymond Gill, Ann Gill, and Virginia Scotto MacDonald.*

At the conclusion of the celebration, members of the St. Francis and Br. Leo Fraternities reminisced and shared some memories of the deceased.

### **Annual Fraternity Retreat 2020 - Change of Date**

**The 2020 annual fraternity retreat will be held on September 25-27, 2020 at Our Lady of Hope Retreat Centre.** Please take note of this date on your calendars.

### **Regional Elective Chapter**

The Regional Elective Chapter of the Regional Fraternity of Eastern Canada will be held on July 31 – August 2, 2020 in Cacouna, Quebec.

### **January Birthdays**

January 12	Nancy Murphy
January 15	Louise Larkin-Arsenault
January 30	Gillian Garson



Happy Birthday Nancy, Louise and Gillian! Blessings to you and your families.

### **Lunch Schedule**

Doug & Marion Clorey

### **Newsletter**

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

## **Upcoming Events**

**Fraternity Meeting - Sunday, January 12 at 2:00 pm** in St. Francis of Assisi parish centre, Cornwall.

### **Fraternity Meeting Dates for 2020 in St. Francis of Assisi parish centre, Cornwall**

Sunday, February 9	2-4 p.m.	
Sunday, March 8	2-4 p.m.	
Sunday, April 5		7-9 p.m. (Note: the <b>first</b> Sunday of the month)
Sunday, May 3		7-9 p.m. (Note: the <b>first</b> Sunday of the month)
Sunday, June 14		7-9 p.m.
Sunday, July 12		7-9 p.m.
August: no fraternity meeting (annual picnic)		
Sunday, September 13		7-9 p.m.
October: no fraternity meeting (annual retreat)		
Sunday, November 8	2-4 p.m.	
Sunday, December 13	2-4 p.m.	

**HAPPY AND BLESSED NEW YEAR TO ALL!**