

# Le Rassembleur

Bulletin de liaison de l'Ordre Franciscain Séculier,  
Fraternité régionale émergente Ouest



March2024

*(Secular Franciscan Regional fraternity liaison Bulletin for the  
emerging Québec West Regional Fraternity)*

We are delighted to present the 5th issue of LE RASSEMBLEUR, the first of which was published in March2023.

With this issue, Madeleine Bigras ofs, will develop a rubric under the theme: REMAINING IN MY LOVE, and it will be developed taking into account our current realities, but always in the light of the Gospel and our Rule, (from the Gospel to life and from life to the Gospel (Art.4).

Fr. Henri Éthier, OFM, will also be sharing his reflections with us.

With Easter just around the corner, His resurrection is eminent, and with summer at the door, let us welcome this gift from the Lord.



*Photo by Richard Chamberland, ofs: Clouds, trees, fisherman on a river as smooth as a mirror.*

# The Great Feast of Easter is Coming!



We are still in Lent, but the early spring is already speaking to us of Resurrection and Life. After the earth's dormant time, when nature was stripped bare, the milder weather heralds the return of life, a beautiful sign of the Resurrection, of the victory of LIFE over death, of LOVE over all forms of hatred.

The sign is there, but we remain on the Lenten journey to experience the conversion of heart that opens us up to greater intimacy with the Lord and to a fraternal love that is still growing. The Kingdom of God calls us to commitment, and we are well aware that this call requires us to be disciples of Jesus Christ. We have life choices to make, sacrifices to accept, conversions to experience in order to walk with Christ as *missionary disciples* so beautifully expressed by Pope Francis.

Saint Francis inspires us on his own journey. He lived Lent as a privileged time of encounter with the Lord, a time to be ready to abandon oneself to God as Christ lovingly abandoned himself to the Father.

The Easter ascent gave him the opportunity to discover just how much God has loved us in Jesus Christ. Jesus' faithfulness to his mission of proclaiming the Good News of God's love despite misunderstandings, refusals and rejections. Celebration of the gift of Jesus in the Eucharist on the eve of his death, given out of love. Contemplation of the Passion of Jesus and of the Cross, to the point of wishing to feel the immense love of Jesus on the Cross with all our being. The silence of the tomb before the great discovery of the glorious

Resurrection. The joy of Easter, which rekindles hope and prepares the way for the birth of the Church. These are the great stages that we too are invited to experience in the days ahead.

May we take the time to let our hearts be touched by this journey towards Easter through moments of silence, prayer, listening to the Word, caring for and serving our brothers and sisters in the way of Jesus. Above all, let us not forget the many men and women from all walks of life who are currently experiencing situations of war, injustice, persecution and violence as pathways of death, and who are calling out for LIFE.

May the Risen Lord help us to build paths of Peace, Reconciliation and Justice

*Happy Easter!* Fraternally, Fr. Henri Éthier, OFM

**CHRONICLE-1 BY MADELEINE BIGRAS, ofs**

**Abide in my Love**



This year we are celebrating the 8<sup>e</sup> centenary of Greggio's Crib and Rule. I thought about writing a Chronicle on the spirituality of St Francis. In his Rule, St Francis always referred to the Gospel. From the Gospel to life and from life to the Gospel (Art.4) Faith, a firm and vigilant faith, is at the heart of the spirituality of Saint Francis.

To those who want to live and follow the Gospel, Francis seems to say this:

*Remain open to the call of God and his Holy Spirit*

*Listen to God and seek him with all your heart.*

*Let yourself be loved and transfigured by Him.*

Let yourself be led through the night of this world by the hope that has taken on the face of Jesus, the brother of us all.

Don't be afraid to go against the spirit of the world, carrying only the Gospel of peace.

Jesus on the Cross cries out "I thirst! He thirsts to love us and I hear in my heart: "Let me love you, fill you, heal you. In order to understand and respond to his thirst, I suggest that you go and meditate in the silence of your heart (St John 15, 1-17) on Jesus the true Vine.

Together, in communion with Humanity and Creation, let us experience Easter Joy in the Love of the Father's heart in the Son and in the fires of the Holy Spirit, Fires of Love Fire, now and into Eternity. So be it.

Peace and joy, Madeleine Bigras, ofs

# Fraternité 2024

HEAR YE, HEAR YE, HEAR YE!

*FOR YOUR INFORMATION*

The dates and location are changing, so please take note.

**Fraternité 2024, will be held from 23 to 25 August**

**at the Ursulines in Québec City (Loretteville).**

In a few weeks' time, we'll be bringing you all the details.

We look forward to meeting you.

Peace and Joy, Richard Chamberland, ofs

What the caterpillar calls the end, the rest of the world calls a butterfly.



### THOUGHTS OF THE DAY

*No one can do for children what grandparents do.  
They spread a kind of happy power over their lives. - source unknown.  
One thing you can't recycle is the time you've wasted.*

*-Claire De La Chevrotière*

## Testimonial

A member of the Sainte-Colette fraternity asked me to tell you about my presence at the fraternity. I gladly accepted, in recognition of the warm welcome given by our hosts Micheline and Richard.

So I came to the fraternity at the invitation of a friend who had already been a member for several years. I accepted this invitation as a gift from the Lord, to whom I was asking for a group to which I could belong in order to grow in my faith.

In my former home town, Valleyfield, I had been part of a very dynamic prayer group for several years. When I arrived in Magog, I couldn't wait to find friends and brothers and sisters in the faith.

Once a fortnight, I'm always ready to go and join my friends in the fraternity, to pray together and comment on the Gospel for the following Sunday. I'm convinced of the power of prayer in community. Didn't Christ say: "When two or three are gathered in my name, I am with them"? "

From the very first meeting, I felt at ease and accepted into this group, where people of all ages pray with one heart. Time is also set aside for everyone to express themselves and make requests for intercession.

I'm truly grateful to the Lord for this fraternity that He has offered me, which responds with kindness to my spiritual needs.

Blessed are You, Lord, for Your great goodness to me and to the people You have put in my path, in my new home town! Amen

Suzanne Lupien, St. Colette de Corbie Fraternity, Sherbrooke, QC

# The Fraternity of Saint-Esprit de Sherbrooke



Our Saint-Esprit fraternity in Sherbrooke needs to enrich itself with new members. Four very committed members of our fraternity have left us in the last 8 years, heading for a "New Land". Three members of the fraternity had 40 years of Franciscan life. The 4th member, Marcel Boivin, had been involved for 35 years.

We are very saddened and upset by the departure of our brothers and sister of the last 8 years. Our dear brother **Gérald Brasseur**, left us very quickly on 9 January 2024. His wife Jeannine, on 11 July

2016. A couple, including **Gérald and Jeannine Brasseur**, were very committed members from the very beginning of the founding of the Fraternity of Saint-Esprit. They have marked and enriched our fraternity with their charisms, their constant dedication and their faithful presence. The 3rd death was that of my dear husband **Gaétan Fortier**, on 24 April 2019. He was also a devoted member who gave generously and joyfully of his knowledge, skills and desire to pass on God's goodness and love with conviction and profusion.

The 4th departure, and not the least, is our dear brother **Marcel Boivin**, who died on 22 May 2022. For our fraternity, he was a member who loved to spread the joy of life. He was a man of service and great devotion. His little treats were always much appreciated.

So here we are, for the members of our fraternity, orphans, but of admiration for all those people who have disappeared into new skies. They are no longer here, but they are close to us. They support us with their prayers and their faithful company. By the grace of God, we trust in them, and we live in the hope of a happy eternity. These dear departed leave deep marks of kindness, love and dedication in the service of our brothers and sisters of the Saint-Esprit fraternity.

Thank you, Lord, for filling us with the power of the Holy Spirit, and for once again filling the immense voids in our fraternity, so that we can spread the Good News of your love.

The harvest was plentiful, but the workers were few.

**"Ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest"** (Matthew 9-38)

Come Holy Spirit, through the powerful intercession of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Saint Francis and Saint Clare, visit and enrich our fraternity with new members, so that we may continue our Franciscan vocation in peace and joy. Amen.

United in hope and confident prayer!

Little Sister Lise Fortier ofs



We are here to live  
the years of the birth of  
the Franciscan orders.



2023-Greccio and The Rule of the First Order  
2024-The Stigmata of St Francis  
2025-The Canticle of the Creatures  
2026-St. Francis Easter

*Saint Francis, at the end of his life, would have said,  
brothers, we haven't done anything yet, let's start.*

*So off we go, my sisters and brothers...*

