

Province of St. Joseph of the Capuchin Order

www.TheCapuchins.org

Transforming the World Through Reverence

Our Mission

Inspired by the gospel of Jesus and the example of Francis of Assisi, the Capuchin friars of the Province of Saint Joseph, together with our partners in ministry, prayerfully build sister-brotherhood in the world. We attend simply and directly to the spiritual and other basic human needs, especially those of the poor and disenfranchised, promoting justice for all.

Sandal Prints

A Newsletter of the Province of St. Joseph of the Capuchin Order
313.579.2100, ext. 185

Fall 2015

So Much to be Thankful For

This has been an amazing summer for our Capuchin Province! We have celebrated with our elder friars who have been professed for 50, 60, and 65 years. We also celebrated with our brother, Jerry Cornish, who made his perpetual profession. Four brothers received the Capuchin habit and are in California for a year of preparation for first profession. We also received seven new brothers as postulants who will be spending several months in Milwaukee, living in community and getting involved in ministry before they, too, move on to California to receive the Capuchin habit and prepare for their first professions.



Friars in Wisconsin and in Michigan gathered for a week-long workshop reflecting on and studying Pope Francis' Joy of the Gospel exhortation. He summons us to "wake up the world" and to go forth joyfully radiating the love of Christ. I rejoice as I see our Province doing just that.

God bless you!

Br. Michael Sullivan, OFM Cap.

Brother Jerry takes Final Vows

Brother Jerry Cornish, OFM Cap., has professed his perpetual vows as a Capuchin friar. Br. Jerry recently graduated from St. Xavier University with a degree in Sociology and will be ministering at Pretty Eagle Elementary School, Crow Agency, Montana, serving the Northern Crow reservation. The Provincial Minister of the Detroit-based Capuchin Province of St. Joseph, Michael Sullivan, OFM Cap., explains, "Br. Jerry deeply appreciates every person he is with and communicates this lovingly. We friars rejoice with him as he makes his perpetual vows and are delighted to have him as a member of our province."



Holyland Parishes: A Rich Capuchin History



Fathers Gary Wegner, Oliver Bambenek, Larry Abler and Zoy Garibay

It is easy to see why this area in Wisconsin is called the Holyland. Its lush green fields, stately trees, rolling hills dotted with steeples create a vision that you can imagine only existing in paintings. This area is also where our Capuchin friars founded the Capuchin Order in the United States. Today there are now seven provinces in the US, but the original Capuchin presence began in the Holyland.

The newly created Holyland Catholic Parishes are comprised of three parishes and have a rich Capuchin history. The new cluster is comprised of St. Isidore the Farmer Parish (Holy Cross Church, Mt. Calvary;

St. Cloud Church, St. Cloud; St. Joseph Church, St. Joe); St. John the Baptist Parish, Johnsburg; and St. Mary's Parish, Marytown.

All three parishes were founded in the mid-19th century by Father Caspar Rehrl, a diocesan priest from Austria who founded on American soil the Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes. St. John the Baptist had Capuchin presence as early as 1847. Holy Cross Church has had continual Capuchin presence since 1857. It is the oldest parish in the Capuchin Province of St. Joseph, founded in 1849 by Fr. Caspar Rehrl and then served by two diocesan priests from Switzerland, Fathers Gregory Haas and John Frey. The two priests admired the Capuchins so much in their homeland that they desired to establish the Capuchin Order elsewhere. Looking for a home that resembled their native Switzerland, Fathers Frey and Haas settled in Mt. Calvary, Wisconsin where they were invested with the Capuchin habit and took as their religious names Fr. Francis Haas and Fr. Bonaventure Frey. This became the founding site of the Capuchin Order in the United States. Father Fabian Bermadinger, an Austrian Capuchin priest, became St. Mary's first resident pastor.

The newly formed Holyland Catholic Parishes will be served by four Capuchin Friars: Pastor Father Gary Wegner, Associate Pastor Zoy Garibay, and weekend assistants Oliver Bambenek, and Larry Abler.

Capuchin Community Services Unveiled at the Capuchins' Run Walk for the Hungry

This summer, nearly 3,000 supporters assembled for the 10th Annual Capuchins' Run and Walk for the Hungry event. In addition to celebrating another successful event, the good news was shared about the creation of Capuchin Community Services with two Milwaukee locations, the House of Peace and St. Ben's Community Meal.



Vicar Provincial Gary Wegner, OFM Cap., addressed the crowd, asking, "How many know about the good work of St. Ben's Community Meal and the House of Peace? These two ministries have been serving Milwaukee's hungry, poor, and homeless collectively for

90 years! I have good news to share. We realized that we could strengthen our ministry in Milwaukee while serving those in need more effectively by consolidating our two ministries into one."

The consolidation of the two ministries won't be noticed much by the guests we serve. Br. Rob Roemer will still be greeting the guests at St. Ben's Community Meal. Fr. Perry McDonald and Ms. Gerri Sheets-Howard will continue to serve our guests at the House of Peace. But what this change WILL do is provide a more effective service model that we hope will evoke systemic change and to provide a more proactive approach to caring for the poor, the hungry, the homeless.

To learn how you can support Capuchin Community Services, visit www.CapuchinCommunityServices.org

Rosary Garden Unveiled



Solanus Casey Center, a Capuchin ministry in Detroit, is indeed a sacred space filled with God's grace. When you enter the Center, whether it be through the creation garden with its statues dedicated to The Cantic of Brother Sun or through the glass doors etched with

“Listening to the Sacred” This Year's Theme for Capuchin Retreat

Listening is very difficult in today's world. We are bombarded by information that we have not requested and it is easy to lose the sound of what is the most important. Capuchin Retreat's 2015-16 themed retreat's purpose is to re-tune ourselves; to listen for God's presence within ourselves, in others around us, in all of life.



This silent retreat begins on Friday night with orientation at 7:30 PM and finishes with the Noon meal on Sunday.

If you have never attended a retreat, our weekend retreats offer four conferences on the theme of spirituality in our daily life. There are opportunities for the sacraments of Eucharist and Reconciliation along with a healing service. There also is the chance to speak with any of our preaching staff, one to one.

the words, Ask, Seek, Knock...a sense of peace and well-being washes over you. And now there is a new area to find peace and solace.

Thanks to a very generous benefactor (who wishes to remain anonymous), the Solanus Casey Center's Rosary Garden has now been unveiled and dedicated, October 11. The beautiful garden is near the Votive Chapel, giving visitors an opportunity to meditate at the various stations where the mysteries of the rosary are depicted. This is done in the presence of the statues of Our Lady of Fatima along with three children which provide beautiful, peaceful and prayerful environs for visitors to pray and meditate.

Please plan a visit to the Solanus Casey Center this fall and experience our sacred space, now all the more special with our prayerful Rosary Garden.

To learn more about planning your visit to see this beautiful space firsthand, visit www.SolanusCenter.org

A retreat provides an opportunity to see beyond the surface of our everyday life with all its highs and lows. Extracting ourselves from our daily routine, we enter into an atmosphere of solitude and peace. We take the time to see and feel the presence of our God below the surface of our daily movement and find God in the 95 acres of nature, the quiet of the chapel or our room and the nourishment of the sacraments and the scriptures. We are called to challenge our own priorities. We plan for our future with God as a more intimate player in our daily life.

A silent retreat is particularly beneficial as one has the ability to ponder without the 'cluttering' of additional 'noise.' The things that come to mind are those that you may need to...or want to...explore further with God. And naturally, listen to God's response. The cost of the weekend is \$160, which includes a \$50 deposit to confirm your registration.

For available retreat dates, visit www.CapRetreat.org To register, contact a retreat captain for the weekend you are interested in. You do not need to be a member of their parish to attend.

If you have questions, please call Linda Andrews at 248.651.4826. Capuchin Retreat is a Capuchin ministry and is located in Washington, MI.

Jubliarians Honored—710 Years of Combined Service

To be a Capuchin friar means one serves. That service may take form in many different ways. It could be as a cook or perhaps a missionary. It could be running one of our soup kitchens or teaching at a school. It could mean being a pastor or it could mean being a mechanic. Our friars' talents are many and they serve in many different ways. This year, our twelve jubilarians have 710 combined years of service. They have served globally and within the US.



Caption: Front row L-R: Capuchin Friars Joachim Strupp, Elroy Pesch, Nicholas Widhammer, Jim Zelinski, Robert Kose, Richard Merling, Jerry Campbell, and Capuchin Provincial Minister Michael Sullivan Back row: Andre Weller, Lester Bach, Franklin Eichhorst, Anthony Scannell, August Seubert

Blessings Multiplied as Friars Take Vows, Join Postulancy Program

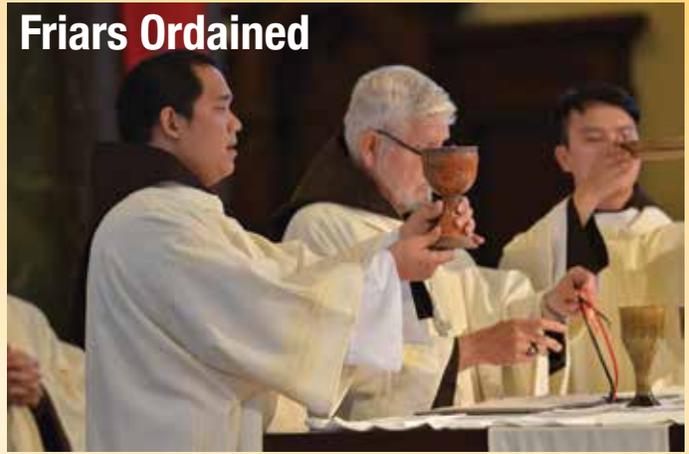
The Capuchin Province of St. Joseph has been blessed multiple ways! Our robust formation program continues to be a training ground for men who are inspired by the Gospel of Jesus, the example of St. Francis of Assisi and prayerfully building sister-brotherhood in the world. We have had a friar take his solemn vows, friars making first vows, friars ordained as deacons, and men joining our postulancy. God is indeed good!

Capuchin Friars Merwyn D'Silva, Brenton Ertel, and Anthony Kote-Witah professed first vows as Capuchin friars. The three friars will be joining 15 other friars at the Chicago formation houses for continued Capuchin and ministry formation, as well as academic studies at Loyola University and Catholic Theological Union. Typically, a friar will profess perpetual vows 4-6 years after first vows.



Brothers Anthony, Merwyn, Provincial Minister Michael and Brenton

Friars Ordained



Capuchin Friars Tien Dinh (R) and Tom Nguyen (L) have been ordained as deacons. Both are alumnus of St. Lawrence Seminary High School, a Capuchin ministry located in the Holyland (Mt. Calvary, WI). Brother Tien recently graduated from Catholic Theological Union in Chicago with a Master in Divinity. He will move to St. Katharine Friary in Crow Agency, Montana where he will serve as a deacon at St. Dennis Parish in the Crow Nation Reservation, Montana. Brother Tom recently graduated from Concordia University Chicago with a Masters in Church Music (MCM) and Chicago's Catholic Theological Union where he earned a Master of Divinity (M.Div.). He will be serving as deacon at the Solanus Casey Center and St. Ambrose Parish, Grosse Pointe Park, MI.

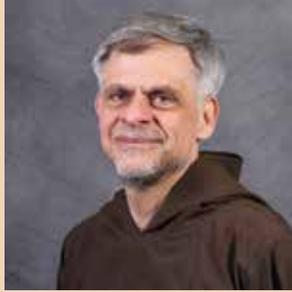
This year we welcome nine men to the postulancy program. The Capuchin postulancy program includes formation studies and ministry work. After one year of postulancy, the candidates continue their studies and vocational discernment process through training as a novice, which is also one year in duration. The novitiate year is when they receive the Capuchin habit. That year focuses on classes, personal and communal prayer, silence, and spiritual direction.



Pictured L to R Sunil D'Costa, Nathan Linton, Alex de Melo, Joseph Babcock, Truyen Nguyen, Faris Najor, Jacob Stanley-Yarbrough, Michael Dorn, McLean Bennett

Going Beyond Borders

Often times when one thinks of the mission field, one thinks of evangelizing to those whom have not yet met Christ. But Capuchin Friar Jozef Timmers, a missionary since 1990, points out that there is a secondary approach to the mission field.



“Missions in the broad sense mean to be sent,” Father Jozef explains. “A missionary is sent beyond borders, beyond their known culture and the missionary must learn from others and to share with others. The flip side of being in the mission field is to serve those who are already in relationship with Christ; not all mission work is about converting.”

Fr. Jozef has been serving in the Middle East for the last three years. He was serving in Panama when he was called to the Middle East. “The Capuchin friars have been in the Persian Gulf countries since the 1800s. There are millions of foreign workers based in that region, many who are Catholic. 90% of the workers are from Asia, but there are many from other global regions. They are not permanent residents or citizens. We friars are here so these good people can continue their relationship with Christ, even though they have been displaced by their work.”

“When I first arrived in Panama as a newly solemnly professed friar, I recall the language being a huge challenge. It was Caribbean Spanish and it took a long time for me to acquire an ear for the language. It was an experience of minority for me. The Panamanians who helped me were my Good News! It was a humbling experience and one that I am again experiencing. You recognize that you are not in control and you ask for help. People are always interested in helping.

“We Christians live as guests in Muslim countries and show respect for their religion, laws and culture. The Muslims in return learn to respect others like us who have a different faith.”

Capuchin friars like Fr. Jozef and many more are in need of your support to continue this most important work around the world. May God inspire in you a generous heart to match their generous faith. To learn more how you can support the Capuchin Missions, visit www.TheCapuchins.org/missions

St. Lawrence Seminary High School continuing to provide spiritual depth & college prep for 156 years



L-R) Michael Jimenez, Nestor Santos, Armando Parra, and Francisco Santillan of St. Lawrence Seminary High School and are parishoners of St. Clare Montefalco, a Chicago Southside parish served by Capuchin friars

For 156 years, Saint Lawrence Seminary High School, a Capuchin ministry, has provided a foundation for young Catholic men to build a life of ministry in the church as laymen, deacons, brothers, or priests. Located in the quiet countryside known as the Holyland of Mount Calvary, Wisconsin, Saint Lawrence Seminary High School is the largest and oldest minor seminary in the United States.

This year, Saint Lawrence Seminary welcomed 204 students to start the school year. This group of diverse young men hail from all four corners of the U.S. Some come from as close as central Wisconsin while others come from as far as the Middle East, Vietnam, South Korea, and Ghana.

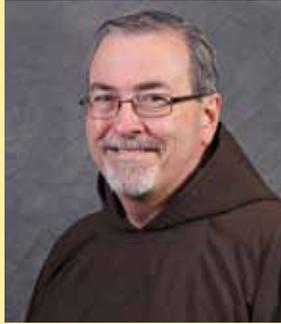
While the campus continues to refurbish and renovate in order to meet the changing needs of our students, the mission and values remain the same: to provide spiritual depth with a college prep setting.

If you're interested in learning more about St. Lawrence Seminary and how it might be a fit for your high school age son, visit www.stlawrence.edu

Lasting Gratitude

By Fr. Larry Webber
Executive Director of Development

In these pages you see just a glimpse of the reach of your goodness. You have impacted the lives of so many, these few pages can hardly convey. We do pray, however, that these pages carry to you the lasting gratitude of the Capuchin Franciscan Friars of the Province of Saint Joseph and of all those we serve in your name.



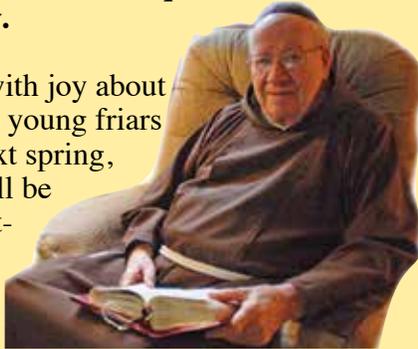
Father Larry Webber,
OFM Cap.
Executive Director
of Development

There are two major needs of our Capuchin Province for which it is more difficult to raise funds. Caring for the needs of our elderly, retired and infirmed senior friars is a growing and ongoing challenge. And raising up and educating a new generation of young Capuchin friars is another growing need, one for which we thank God every day!

You have read in this issue of Sandal Prints about our Capuchin jubilarians and their remarkable legacy of witness and service. Many are no longer able to actively minister, although praying for you and your intentions is now their daily work.

Caring for our Senior Friars requires over \$1,200,000 annually.

You have also read with joy about the ordination of two young friars to the diaconate. Next spring, God willing, they will be ordained to the priesthood. Both Brother Tom and Brother Tien are graduates of Saint Lawrence Seminary.



Following in their footsteps are eighteen Capuchin friars in simple vows studying in Chicago for undergraduate degrees or pursuing Masters of Divinity degrees in preparation for ordination. Four other young men entered the Capuchin novitiate as novices while another seven began their Capuchin lives as postulants.

All these numbers add up to a wondrous resurgence in religious vocations – the answer to decades of fervent prayer! With these blessings come also responsibilities and expenses of educating, forming and caring for these Capuchin brothers.

The Formation and Education budget for the coming year is over \$750,000.



Perhaps you would be willing to join with the Capuchins through your prayers and financial support. Help care for our faithful, elderly senior friars. Help too with educating and forming the coming generation of Capuchins to serve the Lord and to serve the church.

Please send your most generous gift in the envelope you'll find with this issue of Sandal Prints. May God bless you for your faithful friendship.

In celebration of the Year of Mercy, Father Larry Webber, the Detroit Capuchin ministries' development executive director, will be leading a pilgrimage to Rome & Assisi, April 7-14, 2016. There will be four nights in Rome, two nights in Assisi, daily mass in unique and historical churches.

For more information, go to:
www.thecapuchins.org/events/assisi



Capuchin Ministries
invites you on pilgrimage to
Rome & Assisi
in Celebration of the Year of Mercy
April 7 - 14, 2016