

# Gertrude

OCTOBER 2011



### WELCOME TO OUR NEW BROTHERS

On September 20th St. Bonaventure Province welcomed its newest postulants at Kenmore. Here are pictures of the "Beginning Fraternity" ceremony.



## PART TWO OF A SPECIAL FOUR-PART STORY Formed by Our Ministry

By Br. Joseph Schenk

The men in formation at Sacred Heart Friary have engaged in a wide array of ministries over the years. The variety of personalities and interests that each group of postulants and student friars possesses—together with the opportunities for ministry that come with living in the middle of the nation's third-largest city—makes for a diverse list of ministries. In the last several years, these ministries have included: direct service to the hungry and homeless (St. Stanislaus Kostka parish soup kitchen); assistance to the elderly (Heart-to-Heart ministry at St. Gertrude's parish and Caring Connections for Seniors); pro-life causes (Archdiocese of Chicago's Respect Life Office); visits to the sick and homebound (St. Gregory the Great parish's ministry of care) and advocacy for social change (8th Day Center for Justice). What unites these varied expressions of service are the Franciscan spirit of mission and a solidarity with those in society who are usually ignored or rejected.

Two of our temporary professed friars who are currently engaged in important ministries are Giles Gilbert and Peter-Joseph O'Malley.



Friar Giles Gilbert and Friar Peter-Joseph O'Malley

Friar Giles visits the residents of Little Sisters of the Poor on Chicago's North Side about every other week. He has been doing this ministry since 2002; first, at the Sisters' facility in Palatine prior to entering religious life, and then at one of the Sisters' facilities in Massachusetts while a friar with the Little Brothers of St. Francis. Giles says that his ministry at the Little Sisters is largely about presence and "being able to find Christ in the face of each resident and them being able to find Christ in mine. When I make visits, the majority of my time is spent in just being attentive to the residents and

(Continued on page 3.)



### ETERNAL REST GRANT UNTO BR. GEORGE

On October 2, Br. George Searles passed away unexpectedly while attending Mass at his new assignment at Marytown, in Libertyville, Illinois.

Fr. Luke Poczworowski has agreed to be our new Province Treasurer. Luke will continue to live in Wenona and carry on in his ministry there, but will assume the additional responsibility of Treasurer, filling out the duration of this term. Thank you to Luke for his continued dedication.



**Arise Milwaukee!**

On Saturday, September 24, the Basilica of St. Josaphat in Milwaukee hosted over 300 people for a Praise & Worship Evening of Adoration. The event, called "Arise!," included praise and worship music, confessions, Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction. Auxiliary Bishop Donald Hying of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee presided at the event (pictured at left). Friars Paul Schneider and Pio Alves assisted (pictured adoring the Blessed Sacrament with the Auxiliary Bishop in the lower right photo). The Basilica will host another Arise! evening in February.



**Ministry of Acolyte** On October 5, 2011, Friar Paul Schneider received the Ministry of Acolyte at Sacred Heart Seminary along with 7 other men. The Minister Provincial, Fr. Patrick Greenough and



friars from the Basilica of St. Josaphat celebrated the Mass with their brother. It was a joyful and fraternal time. The Sacred Heart School of Theology professors and staff expressed appreciation for the felt Conventual

Franciscan presence. All should be proud of Friar Paul and of the men who represented the Province. Keep all of our students in formation in your prayers, as they are our hope and our future.

**HAPPY FEAST OF ST. FRANCIS!**

Blessings of pets took place in a plethora of places! Deacon Fran McGann blesses a schnauzer outside the friary in Wenona (Top most photo) while Fathers Alejandro López, Michael Glastetter and Hans Flondor sprinkled the aspergillum in Milwaukee on Saturday October 2 in anticipation of the Solemnity. "Joey" (pictured at bottom) was also blessed!



(Continued from page 1.)

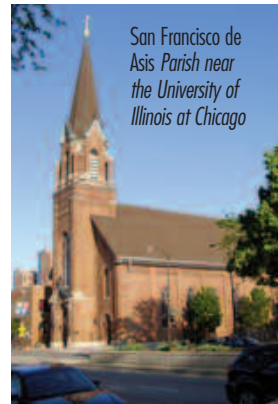
listening to them. Often, it may involve simply being with an elderly man or woman in their loneliness or suffering." Two of the residents that Giles regularly visits are our own Br. Regis and Br. Raphael. When asked how he deals with the difficulties that can accompany this ministry, Giles again emphasizes the importance of simply being



present for the residents: "I find developing an interior disposition of heart that is attentive and available to be the challenge I come across. To listen not only with the ears but with the heart demands a deeper and deeper intimacy with Christ. I want to listen to each person I meet, be attentive to them, and show them God's love for them through my attentiveness and joy."

Friar Peter-Joseph also ministers at Little Sisters, but he

has also begun ministering every Sunday at San Francisco de Asis Parish near the University of Illinois at Chicago's campus. He serves as a catechism teacher, providing supplementary material to the large number of students preparing to make Confirmation. As the students often do not attend catechism classes between First Communion and Confirmation, they have forgotten the very basic tenets of the faith. For his part, Peter-Joseph teaches a series of presentations to each Confirmation classroom regarding these central tenets: confession, the Eucharist, the Rosary, etc. After the classes are finished for the day, he attends Sunday Mass with the students and their families in Spanish. "I like having an opportunity to educate the students and re-educate myself regarding the importance of living a sacramental life," says Peter-Joseph. "I am also thoroughly impressed with the sense of mystery and reverence that even the students have for the sacraments. I also enjoy meeting the various devout Catholics who make the program possible and their absolute spirit of hospitality."



San Francisco de Asis Parish near the University of Illinois at Chicago

**PASTOR "DANCES WITH THE WENONA STARS"** Fr. Luke Poczworowski, OFM Conv.; pastor of St. Mary Parish (Wenona), St. John (Lostant), and St. Patrick (Minonk) and parishioner Kris Klieber donned authentic Polish dance costumes and danced "The Chicago Polka" as part of "Dancing with Wenona Stars" (pictured at left). The fund-raiser happened August 10-14 at the Wenona Days Festival. Proceeds from the event helped Wenona firefighters purchase air packs. Below: Fr. Luke's Fan Club Celebrates a win!




## Appreciation Mass and luncheon

The St. Hedwig Cemetery staff appreciation luncheon took place on August 12, 2011 in Dearborn Heights Michigan. Fr. Tony Fox presided at the Mass. All staff members came for the Mass and a luncheon in the afternoon to offer appreciation for their wonderful work at the cemetery. Here are a sampling of photos from the event.



**Did you know**  
In a ten-minute shower, the average person uses 70 gallons of water. That's 1, 120 8-oz. bottles of water!

# We will never forget—9/11 Remembered throughout St. Bonaventure Province

Fr. Justin celebrated a Memorial Mass in remembrance of September 11 in the All Saints Friary Chapel in Dearborn Heights, Michigan.



The display (above) with an image of the World Trade Center in New York was prominent during Masses of Remembrance for the tenth anniversary of the 9-11 terrorist attacks. Fr. Luke Poczworowski presided while Deacon Fran McGann was the homilist at the Masses at St. Mary in Wenona, Illinois.

