



# the Seraph

NEWS and NOTABLES of  
SAINT BONAVENTURE  
PROVINCE July 2012

The newest and oldest members of St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, Lostant with their new associate pastor Fr. Hans Flondor OFM, Conv.



## LOSTANT PARISH CELEBRATES 150 YEARS!

Bishop Daniel R. Jenky, CSC, joined the members of St. John the Baptist Church (in Lostant, Illinois) on Sunday, June 24, to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the parish's founding.

The current pastor, Father Luke Poczworowski, OFM Conv., and former pastors and administrators concelebrated the 3 p.m. Mass. Sunday, June 24 was the Solemnity of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist, the parish's patronal feast. The celebrations continued with refreshments served in a large tent on the church grounds after the liturgy.

During Civil War days, Catholics in the Lostant community were served by priests from Ottawa and LaSalle, and later Wenona. Masses were offered in a room over the Pioneer store and private homes until a small frame build-

ing was erected by the village in 1862. It was used as a church, school and townhall until it became too small for school use and the Catholic community of St. John the Baptist purchased it.

A new church was built in 1883 and remodeled in 1902. It was replaced by the current worship assembly building, which was dedicated by Bishop Edward O'Rourke on Nov. 12, 1972.

Today, St. John the Baptist Church is one of five faith communities served by Father Luke and Father Hans Flondor, OFM Conv., and Brother Fran McGann, OFM Conv. In addition to the Lostant parish, they have pastoral care of St. Mary's in Wenona, where the parish office and rectory are located; St. Patrick's, Minonk; St. Ann's, Toluca; and Sacred Heart, Rutland.

## CONGRATULATIONS, FR. TONY!

Last month the friars in Dearborn Heights, Michigan celebrated Fr. Tony Fox's Feast Day. This month they celebrated when he received his Green Card and Social Security Number!

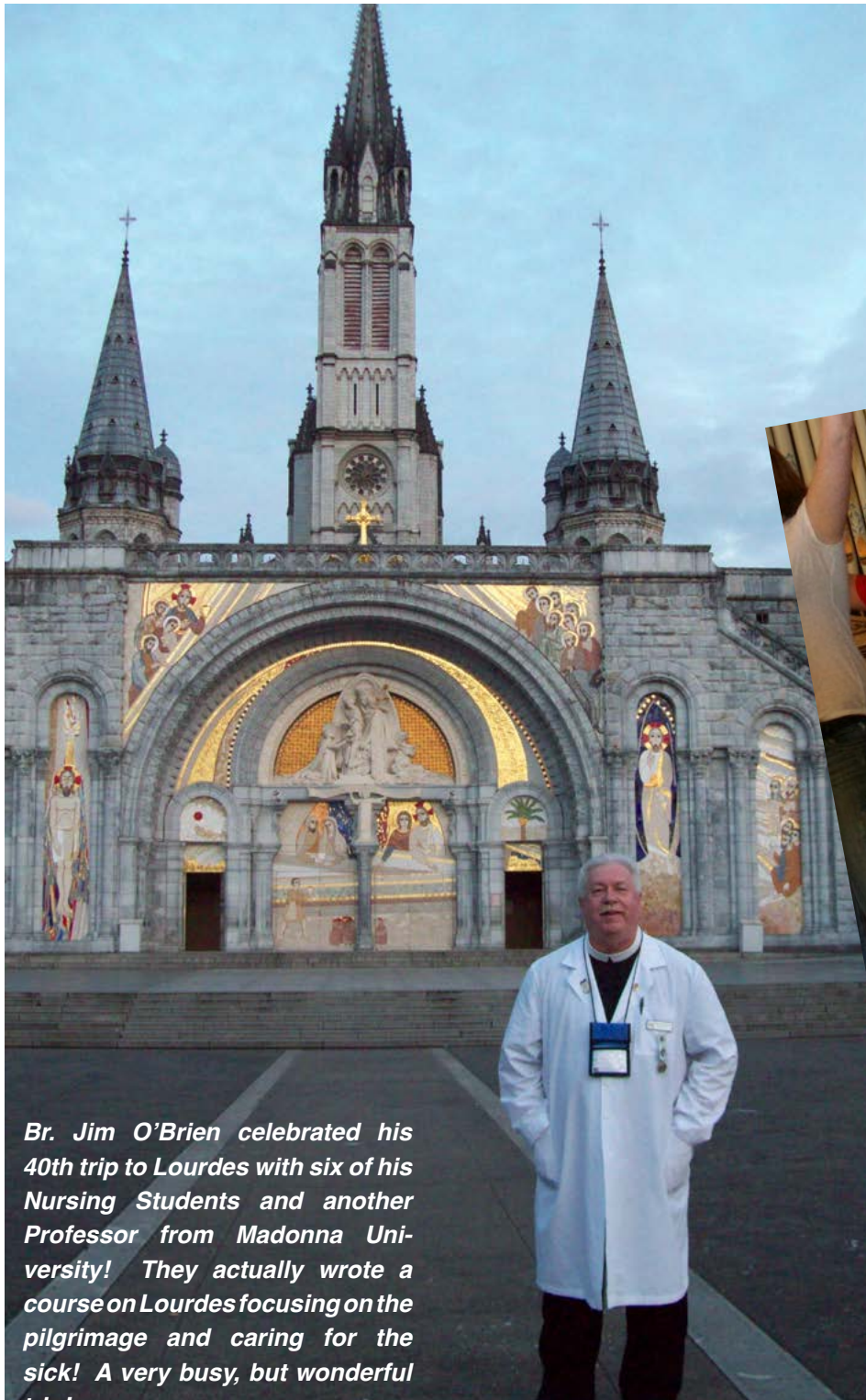


All Saints Friary also welcomed a new member: a beagle named "Max." Pictured below, prayerfully in *his* pew, he attends all Masses and Prayers.



**FLASH MOB IN FARMER CITY!**

*"He sings. He dances. All for the 175th Birthday of Farmer City, Illinois."* Father Jim Henning (below) is part of a "flash mob" at the Ecumenical Commencement Services at the Salt Creek United Methodist Church of Farmer City.



*Br. Jim O'Brien celebrated his 40th trip to Lourdes with six of his Nursing Students and another Professor from Madonna University! They actually wrote a course on Lourdes focusing on the pilgrimage and caring for the sick! A very busy, but wonderful trip!*



Fr. Jim isn't all that's hot! Central Illinois continued to bake. Recent readings from the local bank showed record breaking highs that plagued poor farmers and their wilting crops.





### ON A MISSION, WITH A SMILE

Friar John Clote (pictured far right below) joined UNC students as they traveled to Uganda on July 15. The “dental missionaries” will visit the First Mission of the Grey Friars in Kakooge Uganda where they will meet with Fr. Marian Golab, OFM Conv. and provide lessons on oral hygiene and health. Please keep him in prayer until his return on July 29.



### ELLICOTT CITY POSTULANCY BEGINS

Our new postulant, Jim Hoffman, safely arrived at Ellicott City Maryland on July 1st. (See Jim’s bio in the sidebar.) Brother Joseph Wood accompanied him. Jim said he never felt more welcomed so fast or felt so overwhelmed by the beauty of the place. Our postulant and his five new classmates bonded quickly. Soon all began preparing a great feast for their Welcoming Ceremony held on July 4th, 2012. Some 70 friars, two Provincials, and the Assistant General, Fr. Jude Winkler attended. Very Rev. James McCurry presided and spoke about the Franciscan charism and commitment. He also warmly welcomed the participation of St. Bonaventure Province into the new SA/IC postulancy program which is now also a one-year non-academic model. He reminded the gathered friars—and Jim Hoffman especially—that SB is the daughter of SA and the granddaughter of IC. Fr. James continued to welcome any SB friar to visit with Jim during his postulancy year.



James Hoffman, 43, was born in Connecticut but has been a longtime resident of Chicago. He was raised

Jewish, but attended Catholic High School and felt very close to Catholicism throughout his life. Jim attended the RCIA program and converted to Catholicism through St. Ignatius Parish in Chicago. He has a degree in Religious Studies and has worked as an IT manager for a large accounting firm. He is also a certified yoga instructor. In January, Jim joined the MI.



**In other news:** According to a patient at Northwestern Memorial Hospital: "My Northwestern Hospital experience was excellent. The 12 West staff were fantastic and made my stay very pleasant. They kept me fully informed and were an excellent team." Included in the winning team roster is our student friar, Paul Langevin, doing a C.P.E. (Clinical Pastoral Education) rotation at Northwestern Memorial Hospital in Chicago this summer. Way to go Paul! (Can you spot him among his teammates in the photo above? Hint: he's the only one wearing the color he's wearing!)

Friar Pio Alves nursed a rare, ebony-plumed pigeon back from the brink of death. Apparently, the young bird, nicknamed "Cooper Landry" after two seminarian classmates, had fallen from a nest and would have died without



Pio's help. After the bird's recovery, Pio gave the animal to a local bird trainer. Cooper (pictured above with Pio) will be taught to fly with the trainer's existing flock of white doves, rented for release at weddings. Per Pio's suggestion, Cooper Landry will represent how no marriage is completely perfect.

## PEACE & JUSTICE

A man should turn his full attention to this throne of mercy, and should gaze at him hanging on the cross, full of faith, hope, and charity, devoted, full of wonder and joy, marked by gratitude, and open to praise and jubilation. Then such a man will make with Christ a "pasch," that is, a passing-over. Through the branches of the cross he will pass over the Red Sea, leaving Egypt and entering

the desert. There he will taste the hidden manna, and rest with Christ in the sepulcher, as if he were dead to things outside. He will experience, as much as is possible for one who is still living, what was promised to the thief who hung beside Christ: "Today you will be with me in paradise."—St. Bonaventure, *Journey of the Mind to God*



## ORDINARY PROVINCIAL CHAPTER

Please note the date change for session one of the 2014 Chapter:  
First session: April 28-May 2, 2014  
Second Session: July 7-11, 2014

### DATES

- July 19 Investiture, Mishawaka, 5 p.m.
- July 20 First Profession, Mishawaka, 11 a.m.
- Sept. 4-5 Definitory, Chicago, 11 a.m. (to conclude at noon on Sept. 5)
- Sept. 7 Holy Hour in preparation for the Solemn Profession of Friar Pio Alves, Marytown, 6 p.m.
- Sept. 8 Solemn Profession, Friar Pio Alves, Marytown, noon
- Sept. 16-21 General Definitory, Chicago
- Sept. 21-28 General Definitory and CFC, Marytown
- Oct. 8-12 Province Retreat (Mon-Fri at Marytown). Former Archabbot Lambert Reilly, speaker.
- Oct. 13 Loaves and Fishes Gala, Basilica of St. Josaphat, beginning with Mass, 4:00 p.m.
- Oct. 29-30 Definitory, Chicago, 11 a.m. (to conclude at noon on Oct. 30)

## 2012 ANNIVERSARIES

- 800th Anniversary of the foundation of the Poor Clares
- 160th Anniversary of the Conventual presence in North America
- 140th Anniversary of the establishment of the First North America Province (Immaculate Conception)
- 100th Conventual presence at Our Lady of Consolation, Carey, OH
- 100th St. Stanislaus Parish, Rockford, IL

