

Merry Christmas!



the Seraph

NEWS and NOTABLES of
SAINT BONAVENTURE
PROVINCE December 2012

CASIMIR CYPHER, PRAY FOR US!

By Fr. Alejandro López, OFM Conv.

On December 5, 2013 a delegation from St. Bonaventure Province departed O'Hare airport in the wee hours of the morning. The foursome included the Very Rev. Patrick Greenough, Very Rev. Luke Poczworowski, Fr. Paul Schneider and myself. We arrived in the capital of Honduras, Tegucigalpa, around midday. The airport sits in the center surrounded by an erratic arrangement of low lying buildings. Only a hand full of high rises adorn the city.

The next day we departed early to travel to the mountain village of Jutigalpa, our home for the majority of the trip. The Bishop of the diocese of Jutigalpa, the Most Rev. José Bonello OFM (pictured at left) expected us for a meeting to discuss the opening of the process for Canonization of our brother, the late Fr. Casimir Cypher. He had been



a missionary in Honduras, serving the poor of the province of Olanchito. In June of 1975, he was brutally and sadistically murdered. He was the first of the martyred missionaries of Central America that would include Jesuit priests and Maryknoll and Ursuline



Sisters, lay volunteers, and Archbishop Oscar Romero. While there, we were able to be present for the rededication on December 8, 2013 of Fr. Cypher's tomb at the church where he'd been stationed in Honduras.

The Honduran capital, Tegucigalpa sits nestled among the mountains of Central America. Inset above: the weary travelers arrive! Left, a typical mountain road.

While there, then deacon Carlos Cardona invited us to attend his priestly ordination on December 7, 2013. Celebrating his 27th

Continued on page two

Continued from page one

birthday that same day, the diocesan priest attributed his vocation to Fr. Casimir, feeling inspired by our Conventual brother's own sacrifice.

Our group of travelers returned from the experience transformed. I believe we all feel closer to our brother Casimir. We hunger to simplify our lives and work harder for the good of our poor brothers and sisters. In addition, we felt inspired by Bishop José, who literally served us at every opportunity. We felt humbled by the joy of the Honduran Church.

Their choirs led the singing hearts of the faith filled people clearly buoyed by the Holy Spirit. Celebrating Mass there, we couldn't help but smile. Finally, we returned with a greater appreciation for the blessings we often take for granted in this country: ice in sodas, clean drinking water, hot showers, air conditioning, and good roadways to list a few. May our brother Casimir continue to inspire us! May the Spirit continue to bless our work to declare his sanctity and give greater glory to God!



Clockwise from above: Fr. Luke presents an ordination gift to Fr. Carlos of a photo montage of his hero, Padre Casimero; a memorial cross erected by the Catholic Church on the side of the road marking the edge of the property where the bodies of Fr. Casimir and two others were dropped in a well; our friars pose around the newly dedicated tomb; Bishop José Bonello blesses the new tomb.



Did you know
That there were more Christians martyred in the 20th century than in all other centuries combined?

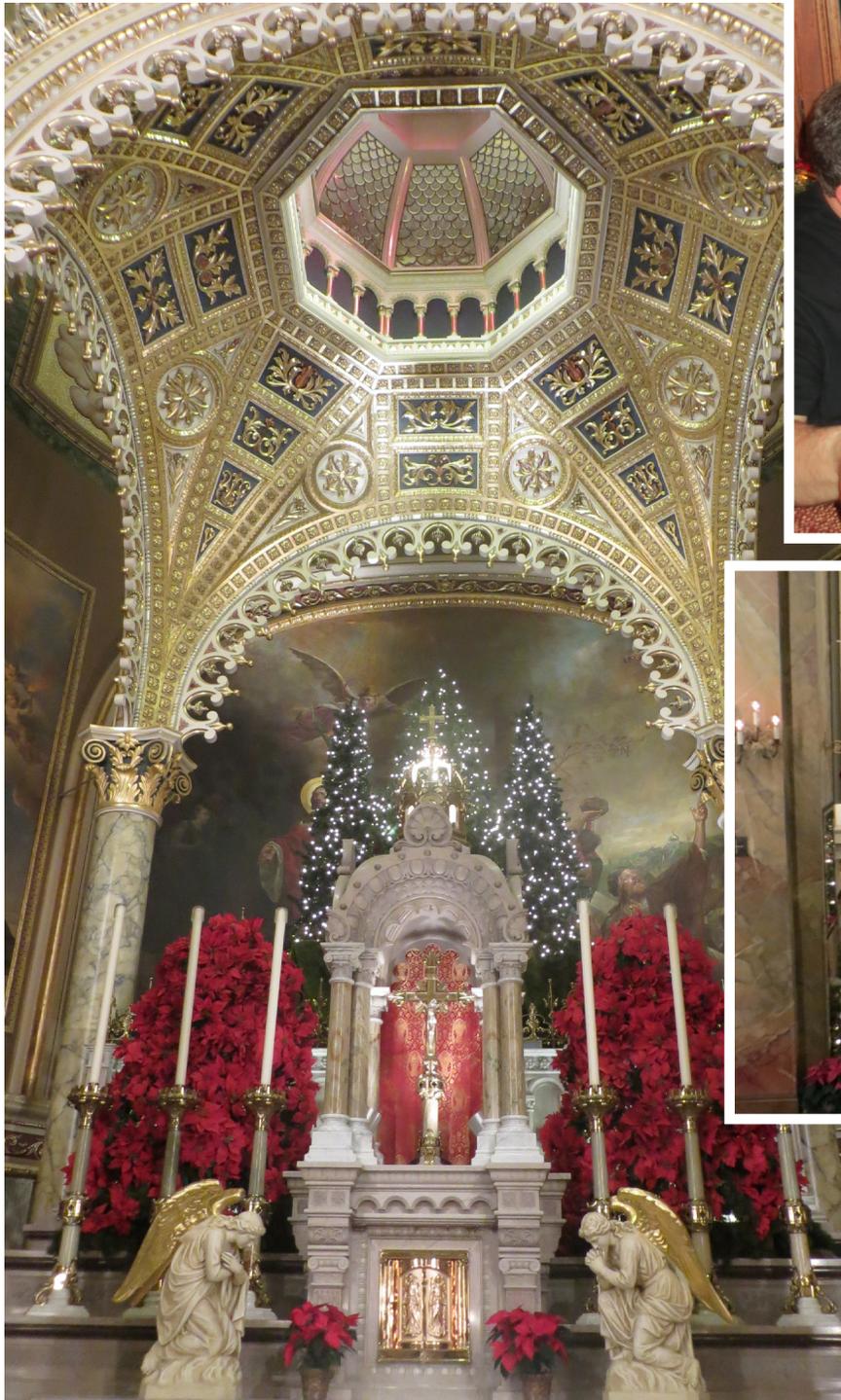
PHOTOS FROM THE BASILICA OF ST. JOSAPHAT



Clockwise from left: Friar Pio Alves and Fr. Paul Schneider rip through gifts at the friary gift exchange; Fr. Michael Glastetter coaxes Joey to express the Christmas spirit; the nativity in the Basilica of St. Josaphat, Milwaukee, Wisconsin; a Polish village rejoices around the image of our Lady of Czestochowa; the high altar at the Basilica decorated for Christmas.

Did you know

That the carol "Jingle Bells" was originally composed in 1857 to celebrate Thanksgiving!



PHOTOS FROM ALL SAINTS FRIARY

Clockwise from right: the Chapel decorated for Christmas; Br. Tom Hercegovics blows out birthday candles (we won't ask how old); the friary mascot Max makes sure Baby Jesus has a "silent night" while guarding the nativity at the foot of the altar; the friary hosted a December potluck for the Dean of Nursing and faculty where Br. Jim O'Brien teaches.



Did you know
Alabama became the first state to declare Christmas a legal holiday in 1836 and Oklahoma was the last in 1890!



ORDINARY PROVINCIAL CHAPTER 2014
First session: April 28-May 2, 2014
Second Session: July 7-11, 2014

Jan. 7	Epiphany Party, Marytown 2:00 p.m. preprandium 3:00 p.m. dinner and extractions
Jan. 8	10 a.m. Definitory, Marytown
Jan. 19- Feb. 18	General Chapter, Assisi
March 20-21	10 a.m. Definitory, Chicago
April 20	Diaconate Ordination of Friar Pio Alves at the Cathedral of St. John, Milwaukee, WI
May 25	Priesthood Ordination of Fr. Paul Schneider at the Basilica of St. Josaphat

June 8	Dedication of the Shrine of the Unborn, Kellyville, Australia
July 24	5 p.m. Investiture, Marytown
July 25	11 a.m. First Profession, Marytown, (followed by dinner)
Aug. 12	7 p.m. Solemn Vows Holy Hour for Friars Paul Langevin and John Clote Marytown
Aug. 13	3 p.m. Solemn Vows, Marytown, followed by dinner
Sept. 9	10 a.m. Definitory, Chicago
Nov. 23	Diaconate Ordination of Friar Paul Langevin Sacred Heart Seminary, Hales Corners, WI (date and time to be determined)

In preparation for the First Session of the Provincial Chapter, the Minister Provincial has settled on the following dates for 2013 Visitation;

Rockford, to be determined; Chicago, Sept. 10, Milwaukee, Sept. 21; Peoria, Oct. 17-23; Detroit, Oct. 26-30. Because the Provincial resides at Marytown, a visitorator will be appointed for that house.

2014 Date

75th Anniversary of St. Bonaventure Province

May 24	Priesthood Ordination: Fr. Paul Langevin and Fr. Pio Alves
July 24	Investiture, Mishawaka, 5 p.m.
July 25	First Profession, Mishawaka, 11 a.m.

Provincial Chapters	
<i>First Session</i>	<i>Second Session</i>
Apr. 28-May 2	July 7-11
May 5-9	Aug. 4
May 12	July 28
May 19	July 14