

Happy New Year!



the Seraph

NEWS and NOTABLES of
SAINT BONAVENTURE
PROVINCE January 2013



Turn your gaze, O Father, upon your Religious Family that is celebrating the General Chapter: grant that we might rediscover the enthusiasm and zeal of our origins and renew the evangelical spirit within us!



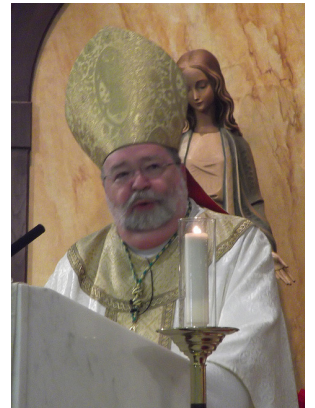
Scenes from the General Chapter in Assisi, January 19-February 18, 2013. Above, the Basilica glows with holiness to warm a wintery night! Inset, our Minister Provincial, the Very Rev. Patrick Greenough, and other heads of the Order listen to the translation of the proceedings via modern means of communication. Left, friars assemble in the Chapter Hall.



BLESSINGS ON THE FEAST OF HOLY FAMILY

By Fr. John Grigus, OFM Conv.

On the Solemnity of the Holy Family, December 30, 2012, Peoria Bishop, the Most Rev. Daniel R. Jenky, right, was invited by the Holy Family Parish community to bless its recent church renovations. The renovations consisted of replacing the existing carpet which had been nearly 30 years old, repainting the entire church, placing new ceiling tiles and, most visibly, the work done to the sanctuary. This consisted of moving the Tabernacle to the middle behind the altar of sacrifice, replacing the large crucifix with a smaller version surrounded by decorative, faux marble, separating the statues of Mary and Joseph and creating separate altars and pedestals for them with similar decorative faux



The pictures shown here and on page five were taken during the dedication and blessing and reflect some of the changes done to the sanctuary.

Continued on page five

Editor's note: The following is a reflection offered at the Basilica in Milwaukee on January 20, 2013 during a holy hour of prayer for the protection of life (pictured below).

LET US GIVE THANKS TO THE FATHER!

By Fr. Paul Schneider, OFM Conv.

*"L*et us give thanks to the Father who has made you fit to share in the inheritance of the holy ones in light." St. Paul in his letter to the Colossians sets the tone for today's holy hour.

Our holy hour gives us an opportunity to thank God for everything that he has given to us, especially the gift of life: life from the moment of conception to the moment of natural death. The value that God places upon the human life was made evident in the birth of Jesus. The Incarnation of Jesus sanctified all life.



A few weeks ago we celebrated the birth of Jesus, our savior. The beauty and the innocence of the newborn child cut through the darkness and coldness that had descended upon the earth. It was this same life, given in love that would bring salvation to all people.

St. Paul reminds us that Jesus was created in the image of the invisible God, echoing the sentiments of the creation story in the book of Genesis in which we are reminded that each one of us is created in the image and likeness of God. Because of this, human life has a special dignity and a sacredness that permeates time and culture.

Jesus is the Word that has been in God for all time; all things in heaven and earth were created in him. By becoming human, Jesus raised the dignity and sacredness of human life to a higher degree.

If God did not hold our human life in such high regard, he would have never sent his only Son to take the form of a human in order to suffer, die, and rise for us so that we may have eternal life. We give God praise and glory for this special gift of life that he has given us.

Unfortunately the reason for our gathering here today is not without sadness. Our Holy Hour also marks the 40th anniversary of the Supreme Court's Roe vs. Wade decision that in effect legalized abortion in this country.

Did you know
CDs and DVDs contain metals
that don't belong in landfills? But
you can recycle them through CD
Recycling Center of America at
cdrecyclingcenter.org

Continued on page four



On January 12, 2013, the Very Rev. Michael Glastetter presented Mrs. Gerry Fotsch with a stone excavated during the installation of the new state-of-the-art air conditioning system at the Basilica of St. Josaphat. The project was the result of a generous donation from the Fotsch Family Foundation. The engraving on the stone reads: "Thank you for keeping us cool."

Dr. Patrick Russell, Vice President for Academic Affairs at the Sacred Heart School of Theology, in Hales Corner, WI, writes:

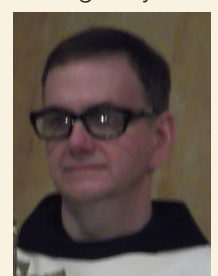
"We send out hearty congratulations to one of our graduates, Rev. Bob Cook, OFM Conv. (class of 2010) (Pictured below). His article entitled "You Are a Very Ignorant Boy": Romano Guardini's Theology of Dogma in 'The Enduring Chill'" was recently published in the *Flannery O'Connor Review*. This is the leading academic journal dedicated to the study of one of the most influential 20th century Catholic literary figures in the United States. The article was originally written as Fr. Cook's M.A.

essay here at SHST...

So, once again, congratulations to our graduate!"



*Flannery
O'Connor*



Continued from page three

It is with sadness that we remember that over 55 million innocent babies have been aborted over these past 40 years. Abortion is symptomatic of an evil that has permeated our society. We are a society that places our person happiness above all other things. The different "isms" that we hear about (materialism, consumerism, and relativism) that govern our lives. We want what makes us happy and we want it now. The sacredness of life has been degraded and its true meaning has been lost by many. The dignity and sacredness of the human life no longer guides many of the moral decisions that have to be made at the beginning of life and at its end. Instead of a culture that honors and celebrates life from the very moment of conception to the moment of its natural death, a culture of death has descended upon us. We are here today to offer our prayers and reparations that this trend will be reversed.

As sad and hopeless as it seems at times, there is hope. Since 1988 the number of abortions has slowly decreased each year. Our prayers are slowly but surely being answered. But unfortunately there are still over 1.2 million abortions performed each year. Our prayers are more urgently needed than ever. We must do more to help instill a culture of life within our society.

Recently a young woman who I know was going through a divorce and became involved with another man and became pregnant with his child. The response of the man was to tell this young mother-to-be to have an



abortion. He wanted nothing to do with a baby or with her for that matter. But there was something within this young woman that told her that the life within her was something very special and precious, as she had two children from her marriage who she adored and who were the center of your life. Despite the intense pressure from the father of the baby, she decided not to abort the baby. While I don't agree with many of the decisions that she made and she is the first to admit that she made some huge mistakes, I do admire that she had the courage and the respect and love for life to want to have this child. To me she is a type of hero for today's society.

For many of us, we would feel happy that she decided to keep the baby and that would be the end of our involvement with her. But for this young lady, it was the beginning of many hardships. Hardships that if she had to handle by herself would have probably led to her having an abortion. Because she was carrying another man's child, her ex-husband made her life miserable. She barely had enough money to support herself and her two children. Then she became ill towards the end of her pregnancy and had to cut her hours at work way back. She was

on the verge of being kicked out of her apartment. She didn't know what to do and was starting to think that having this baby was not such a good idea

But with the help of family and friends, she was able to make ends meet. Her grandmother offered to make her car payments until the baby was born and she could start working full time again. A friend offered to let her and her two children move in for a couple of months and not have to pay any rent. It was only with the help of others that she experienced what love was all about and was able to love her unborn baby even more. Long story short, she had a beautiful, healthy baby girl and things are starting to look a little brighter.

While our prayers are extremely important, many times we are called to do something more to help promote a culture of life. It might mean helping financially a young mother who is struggling to make ends meet like the young lady whose story I shared. It might mean supporting events like a baby shower for the unborn that our parish recently hosted. It might mean sending a postcard or letter to our Senators and Representatives urging them to support pro-life issues. Above all it means giving moral support to those who are pregnant, no matter what the circumstances are, that led up to the pregnancy.

In the letter of St. James, we are told that faith without action is useless. It is up to each of to put our faith and our belief in the dignity and sanctity of life into practice. By doing so, we are able to echo the words of St. Paul: "Let us give thanks to the Father, who has made you worthy to share in the inheritance of the holy ones in light."



All the images on this page are of the Shrine for the Unborn in Kellyville, Australia. While still in progress, the site will be dedicated on June 8, 2013.



Continued from page two



marble behind them to make them stand out more.

The church renovations were made possible through a stewardship campaign which had been conducted earlier in 2012. The "Faith in the Family" campaign brought in over 100 people who signed up for new volunteer activities and ministries around our parish, approximately \$21,000 in scholarship money to help worthy parishioners in need to offset their tuition costs allowing them to continue to provide excellent education for their children at Holy Family School, and enough funds to pay off one of our loans (in excess of \$350,000) and over \$100,000 needed to conduct repairs to both parking lot and church. The long-awaited renovation of our church is now a truly beautiful thing to behold as what once seemed nearly impossible has now become a visible reality.



A moment from our Province Epiphany party held on January 7, 2013 at Marytown in Libertyville, IL. Novices and friars help pass out the extractions following the meal.

ORDINARY PROVINCIAL CHAPTER 2014

First session: April 28-May 2, 2014

Second Session: July 7-11, 2014

Jan. 19- Feb. 18	General Chapter, Assisi
March 20-21	10 a.m. Definitory, Chicago
April 19	6:00 pm Holy Hour in preparation for the Diaconate Ordination, Basilica of St. Josaphat, Milwaukee
April 20	10:30 am Diaconate Ordination of Friar Pio Alves at the Cathedral of St. John, Milwaukee, WI
May 24	6:00 pm Holy Hour in preparation for the Presbyteral Ordination, Basilica of St. Josaphat, Milwaukee
May 25	Priesthood Ordination of Fr. Paul Schneider at the Basilica of St. Josaphat, Milwaukee
May 26	12:00pm Mass of Thanksgiving celebrated by Fr. Paul Schneider, Basilica of St. Josaphat, Milwaukee; followed by Dinner
May 28-29	11 a.m. Definitory, Chicago
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. 17	11 a.m. Definitory, Marytown
Sept 18	Province Assembly (Preparations for Provincial Chapter especially re:Australia 9:30 a.m.- 5 p.m. Marytown All may arrive the evening of the 17. Assembly concludes with supper.

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, Nov. 4-8
Detroit, Nov. 14-19.
Because the Provincial resides at Marytown, a visitor will be appointed for that house.

2014 Dates

75th Anniversary of St. Bonaventure Province

Provincial Chapters

First Session	Second Session
Apr. 28-May 2	July 7-11
SB Province	
May 5-9 IC/SA	Aug. 4
May 12 OLC	July 28
May 19 SJC	July 14