



the Seraph

NEWS and NOTABLES of
SAINT BONAVENTURE
PROVINCE September 2013

BEGINNING FRATERNITY

Editor's note: below is the transcript of the homily delivered at Marytown in Libertyville, Illinois on September 25 by the Very Rev. Patrick Greenough at the "Beginning Fraternity" ceremony to welcome our new postulants. Pictured below from l. to r.: postulants Christopher Thigpen, Dale King and Luke Fonkalsrud with the Minister Provincial and their director, Fr. Patrick Stoffer.

Some of these expectations are realistic and some are not. Some will be met and others will not. I came in 1980 with a truckload of expectations. After all of these years some have been met and some have not.



Secondly, the only expectation that God has of you is that you love. The Greatest Commandment is to love God with all your heart, and soul, and all of your mind, and strength. And that you love your neighbor as yourself. Because God is love. And in the end, love is the only thing that endures.

Everything else that you do, that you strive for, that you expect, will eventually fade away. Today and everyday, set your heart on love because only that endures forever.



OTHER FORMATION NEWS

On September 8th, the Minister Provincial approved a third postulant for our community. **Dale King** of Chicago has been a live-in volunteer at Marytown this past year. He attended a Franciscan high school in Pulaski, WI and felt a vocation very early on. Instead however, he entered the military and afterward earned an MA in Administration and Social Work focusing a career on counseling people with a variety of issues and mental disorders.



Before you walked in the door you probably had some expectations.

On what Community would be like..Or Prayer...Or how we live Poverty.

But the most important expectations are not the ones we have of the Order, or of our brothers, but the ones we have of ourselves.

First of all try to live up to your own expectations. When you do, your example might encourage others to up their game. And when you do not live up to your expectations, it may help you be more compassionate to others who are not yet quite perfect either.



PLEASE PRAYER FOR OUR STUDENTS IN INITIAL FORMATION AND THEIR DIRECTORS



Pictured at left, from left to right: postulants ChristOpher Thigpen, Dale King and Luke Fonkalsrud with their director, Fr. Patrick Stoffer.

Pictured at right, from left to right: Director Fr. Anthony Lajato with Friars Arturo Felix, Giles Gilbert, Thomas Fetz and Jerome Westenberg



Pictured at left, from left to right: Fr. Pio Antonio Alves, Friar Paul Joseph Langevin, their Director Very. Rev. Michael Glastetter and Friar John Mary Clote.

HOLY FAMILY HAPPENINGS

By Rev. Paul M. Schneider, OFM Conv.

The Holy Family Parish Picnic (pictured at right) was held on the school grounds on August 10, 2013 after the 5 p.m. Mass. We had a good crowd. The event was a fun way to say thank you for all the hard work everyone has done over the past year, especially at Heritage Days Festival. Everyone had a good time, especially the kids who loved the bouncy clown house.

The friars have a little piece of paradise in the friary backyard (pictured below). Daily, Fr. Tony Labedis works in this garden, watering and pruning so that those assigned here can enjoy nature's beauty. Keep up the good work!



At right, Father Tony is pictured with Manuel, a friend of the friars, who helped with planting, in the spring.

BLESSING AND DEDICATION OF CLASSROOMS AT ST. MARY PARISH HALL

In celebration of Catechetical Sunday in the Catholic Church and the start of R.E.A.D.Y. (Religious Education And Development of Youth) classes for St. Mary, St. Ann and St. John the Baptist students, the Friars blessed the classrooms at St. Mary Parish Hall in Wenona, Illinois, on Sunday, September 15. They also dedicated the rooms to Franciscan places and saints with the large hall named as Assisi Hall, and classrooms named in honor of St. Francis of Assisi, St. Clare, St. Anthony of Padua, St. Joseph of Cupertino, and St. Maximilian Kolbe.

Father Luke Poczworowski, O.F.M. Conv., Pastor of all the parishes, blessed the rooms and led those assembled in prayers. The St. Mary Choir sang the Prayer of St. Francis during the dedication. Deacon Brother

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THE ANNUAL HARVEST MASS

By Rev. James P. Henning, OFM Conv.

The 7th annual Harvest Mass took place at the farm of Blake and Camille Munson in Bellflower, Illinois. Fr. Jim Henning and Deacon Scott Whitehouse fought the “gentle” breeze that often blows through the farmland of the state. Pictured at right, Deacon Scott makes sure this year’s soybeans get a good blessing of holy water while young parishioner Anna Mae Henehan, inset, appears at home in the field.



The day was so windy the altar cloth wouldn't stay on the table. Father Jim and his assistants



didn't even attempt to light the candles. And Jesus had to be held tightly so he didn't act like Joseph of Cupertino!



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Fran McGann, O.F.M. Conv. (pictured right) spoke about his two month assignment as a tour guide at the Basilica of St. Francis in Assisi, Italy in 2012. Father Luke also shared about the life of each of the Franciscan Saints having a classroom dedicated in his or her name. In closing, he blessed the assembly with a relic of St. Francis of Assisi and dismissed the students to their classrooms.

The Growing In Faith Together (G.I.F.T.) initiative underway in the Diocese of Peoria has promoted area churches to pool human and financial resources. The Religious Education programs at the four parishes ministered by the Conventual Franciscan Friars: St. Mary, Wenona; St. John the Baptist, Lostant; St. Patrick, Minonk; and St. Ann, Toluca; have embraced that idea. Their R.E.A.D.Y., Confirmation, R.C.I.A. and Adult Faith Education programs are operated and financed at the cluster level, with all programs uniformly supported by every parish.



Above: The icons of St. Francis, the San Damiano Crucifix, and St. Clare which hang in Assisi Hall were beautifully framed by Father Hans Flondor, O.F.M. Conv., Associate Pastor of the parishes. At left: Father Luke blesses the rooms at St. Mary Parish Hall.

ORDINARY PROVINCIAL CHAPTER 2014

First session: April 28-May 2, 2014

Second Session: July 7-11, 2014

- Oct. 10-21 Minister Provincial in Rome
MI Council
- Oct. 12 "Loaves & Fishes" Gala,
Basilica of St. Josaphat, Milwaukee
- Oct 30-
Nov 15 Visitation of the Province by
Most Rev. Jude Winkler,
Assistant General
- Nov. 4-8 Province Retreat,
Marytown, Libertyville, IL
- Nov. 14-15 Definitory
- Nov 16 Diaconate Ordination of Friar Paul
Langevin in Milwaukee, WI, 11am

In preparation for the First Session of the Provincial Chapter, the Minister Provincial has scheduled the following dates for 2013 Visitation:

- Rockford, to be determined
- Chicago, Sept. 19
- Milwaukee, Sept. 21
- Peoria, Nov. 4-8
- Detroit, Nov. 14-18.

Because the Provincial resides at Marytown, the Vicar Provincial will officially visit at a date to be determined.

2014 Dates

75th Anniversary of St. Bonaventure Province

Provincial Chapters

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

AROUND THE WORLD IN THE ORDER



The consecration of the Church at St. Petersburg, Russia

The Archbishop in Moscow of the Mother of God presided at the solemn dedication of the Church and the altar at the Franciscan friary in St. Petersburg on September 8th of this year. There were so many participants that not all of them could enter inside of the Church during the ceremony, but an audio-visual system was set up in the cloister to let those outside view the service which went on for two hours. More than thirty priests concelebrated the Mass together with Msgr. Paolo Pezzi. The precious marble altar came from the Shrine of St. Anthony of Padua. It was a "temporary tomb" for two years, 2008-2010, for the body of the Wonder Worker while work was taking place on the 15th century tomb inside of the Basilica. It took two years to clear the paperwork and the customs so that this marble relic might be brought to St. Petersburg and consecrated (pictured above). This tomb was a gift to the new Church which is dedicated to the Evangelical Doctor. A relic of the Saint, who is much venerated by Catholics in Russia, was placed inside of the altar.

The Union of the Italian Ministers Provincial (OFM Conv)

The 12 jurisdictions of the Conventual Franciscan Friars, which are part of the CIMP Conference have established a legal entity as a Church Organization for cult and religion entitled the "Union of the Provincial Ministers of the Order of Friars Minor Conventual of Italy." This has followed a long process in which they received a decree issued by the Minister General in December of 2011, the approval of the Congregation for Consecrated Life and recently, of the Ministry of the Interior of the Government of Italy. This gives them the possibility of engaging in works of social solidarity, especially those intended for alms giving, assistance for social and health activities, education and formation, collaboration and promotion of culture in Italy and outside of Italy.



Some members of Fr. Casimir Cypher's family visited the Basilica of St. Josaphat, Milwaukee, WI on the Solemnity of the Stigmata of St. Francis, September 17, 2013. The family joined the friars for Mass and a festive luncheon in the friary. Of particular interest was the window commemorating "Contemporary Martyrs of the Franciscan Order." Killed in Honduras in 1975, Fr. Casimir inspired the stained glass image (left most window above).