



the Seraph

NEWS and NOTABLES of
SAINT BONAVENTURE
PROVINCE April 2014

GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATED

Father Luke Poczworowski, O.F.M. Conv., celebrated the Fiftieth Anniversary of his Ordination to the Priesthood with a Mass of Thanksgiving at St. Mary Church, Wenona, on Saturday, February 22, 2014. He was assisted by Deacon Francis McGann, O.F.M. Conv., and Deacon Charles Zulz. Concelebrants were Father Anthony Labedis, O.F.M. Conv., and Father Paul Schneider, O.F.M. Conv., both of Holy Family Parish, Peoria. Friar Pio Alves, O.F.M. Conv., served as Master of Ceremonies. Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus from the Minonk, Toluca and Streator Councils served as an Honor Guard during the Mass.

Father Anthony was the homilist and paid a heartfelt, and at times light-hearted, tribute to Father Luke. During the communion mediation, as Father Luke prayed silently before the Blessed



Fr. Luke celebrated a Jubilee Mass at St. Mary Church, Wenona, Illinois, flanked by his brothers (l to r): Fr. Paul Schneider and Fr. Anthony Labedis.

Mother, the St. Mary Choir sang "The Black Madonna" (*Czarna Madonna*), a Polish hymn of great sentimental value to Father Luke. Following Mass a light supper, organized by the Parish Office staff, was served and time for fellowship was enjoyed in the Assisi Room of St. Mary Parish Hall.

ministry, two have left the priesthood and two are deceased. A similarity between the 1964 and 2014 winters, noted by Father Luke, was that on the day of his Ordination it was twenty-one degrees below zero!

As a member of the Province of St. Bonaventure in Chicago, Father Luke's ministry has entailed the following assignments as a Conventual Franciscan and a priest:

Parish Priest at St. Anthony of Padua Parish, Rockford; Vocation Director at the House of Studies for the Province in Chicago; Formation Director for the Province in Chicago; Chaplain of the Felician Sisters at their Motherhouse in Chicago at which time he also taught religion at an all-girls Catholic High School; Parish Priest at St. Mary of the Assumption Parish in Fort Madison, IA; Pastor of Holy Family Parish, Peoria; Two-term Provincial (Franciscan equivalent of a diocesan bishop) of the Province; Pastor of St. Anthony of Padua Parish, Rockford; Pastor of St. Mary Parish - Wenona, St. John the Baptist Parish - Lostant and St. Patrick Parish - Minonk; and while remaining Pastor of the last three parishes, additionally assigned Pastor of

Continued on page three.



Father Luke was one of ten Franciscan friars and twenty-five diocesan seminarians who were ordained priests on February 22, 1964, at the Cathedral of Saint Paul in St. Paul, MN. After 50 years, of the ten Franciscans who were ordained, he and five others are still active in their

SANTO NIÑO CELEBRATIONS



Holy Family's pastor, Fr. John Grigus, blesses the new statue.



Filipino priest, Fr. Anthony with the statue installed in its permanent location.

In January 19, Holy Family Parish in Peoria, Illinois enshrined a new image of El Santo Niño de Cebú in its church. The guest homilist Fr. Anthony Maria Lajato, OFM Conv. offered a special Mass honoring the Filipino culture. The enshrinement of the statue is part of a series of new installations that honor different cultures represented in the parish. Many of the parishioners are first generation immigrants. After Mass, the Filipino community invited parishioners to enjoy a Filipino dinner, complete with native dancing and singing at the school gymnasium.

Did you know that El Santo Niño de Cebú is the oldest religious image in the Philippines? Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan originally gave the statue as a baptismal gift in 1521!



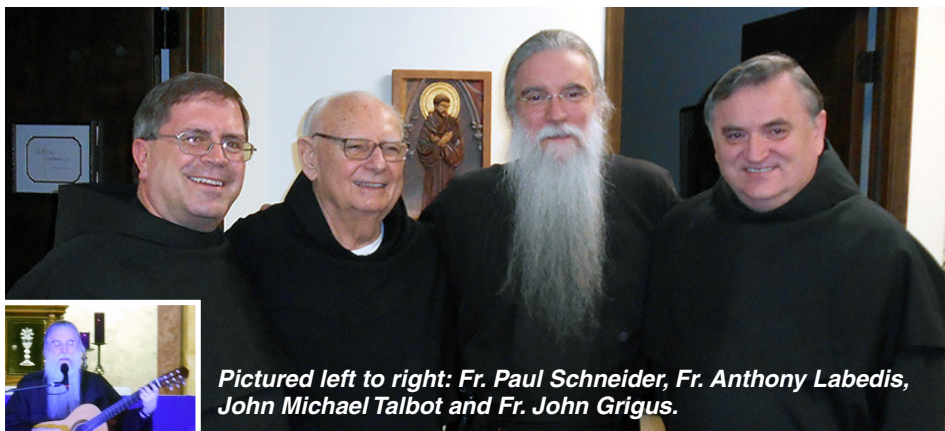
Pictured l to r: Sister Rose Therese Mann, OSF; Father Paul Schneider, OFM Conv.; Sister Anne Germaine Picard, SMP; Sister Theresa Samson, FMA; Sister Marie, CSJ; and Sister Sarah Elizabeth Roy, OSF.

THE "PEARL" OF PEORIA

The newly formed Peoria Association for Religious Life—PEARL—is hoping to help people learn about the joy of religious life. "We're hoping to let people know we're out there and they can contact us, and to look forward to things that are coming up," said Sister Rose Therese Mann, OSF, vocation director for The Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis in East Peoria and director of communications for PEARL. "We have things that are being planned for this upcoming Year of Consecrated Life -- and getting out to visit the schools more because we haven't had an opportunity to do that. It's been hit and miss."

PEARL grew out of a discussion between Sister Rose Therese Mann, OSF, vocation director for The Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis in East Peoria and director of communications for PEARL and Sister Sarah Elizabeth Roy, OSF, vocation coordinator for the Sisters of St. Francis of the Immaculate Conception in West Peoria and PEARL's chairperson.

With the approval of the Bishop of Peoria, Most Rev. Daniel R. Jenky, CSC, they founded PEARL and held the first meeting last September. While 10 communities expressed interest initially, the number has grown to 13 including our own Conventual Franciscans.



Pictured left to right: Fr. Paul Schneider, Fr. Anthony Labedis, John Michael Talbot and Fr. John Grigus.

On March 27-29, 2014, Holy Family Parish hosted a three day Lenten Mission featuring John Michael Talbot. Through music and preaching, the nationally acclaimed Catholic musician and speaker inspired those present, reminding that "Nothing is Impossible for God."



Continued from page one.



St. Ann Parish, Toluca and Sacred Heart Parish, Rutland. Father Luke currently serves as Pastor of St. Mary, St. John the Baptist; St. Patrick and St. Ann Parishes as well as Treasurer of St. Bonaventure Province.

As a Franciscan, Father Luke has been afforded the opportunity to visit Franciscan ministry sites around the world, including Brazil, Germany,



England, Honduras, Ireland, Italy (including the Vatican and Assisi); Jerusalem, Lithuania, Mexico and Poland.

Father Luke's greatest joy as a Priest is celebrating the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. He has certainly spread that joy among the parishioners of his many parishes over the years. Congratulations, Father Luke, on the Golden Jubilee of your Ordination to the Priesthood!

AN INTERVIEW WITH A FRIEND OF CASIMIR

I recently had the honor of interviewing one of the people who last saw and spoke with Fr. Casimir Cypher, in Honduras, the day before he suffered and died. Sister Mary Garcia, of the School Sisters of St. Francis, is now 90 years old; but her recollections of our brother Casimir, some forty years later were fresh, captivating and more heartwarming than I could have anticipated. As we spoke at the Mother House in Milwaukee, Sister Mary spoke of Casimir's quick smile, his unpretentious and simple demeanor, and especially his love and appreciation for the campesinos he ministered to in Olancho. Sister Mary confirmed Casimir avoided the political turmoil of the time, and on his final day – a day she herself was arrested and held – he was seized simply for being a priest in service to the poor. I am grateful for the time and insights Sister Mary shared with me and her support in Father Casimir's canonization process.—Very Rev. Patrick Greenough, OFM Conv.



A Night on the Town:

Some of our students in formation attended a Stravinsky Concert on February 27, 2014 performed by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. Pictured at Giordano's Pizza before the event are (l to r): Friar Jerome Westenberg, Christopher Thigpen, Friar John Clote, Friar Thomas Fetz and Luke Fonkalsrud.



Ministry of Lector: On March 19, 2014, Friar John B. Clote received the Ministry of Lector. Pictured at left, from top to bottom: Very Rev. Michael Glastetter, OFM Conv. with the rector of Sacred Heart School of Theology (Hales Corners, WI) Rector Msgr. Ross Schecterle with Friar John Clote; Bishop Thomas J. Paprocki of Springfield receives Friar John and installs him as a Lector.



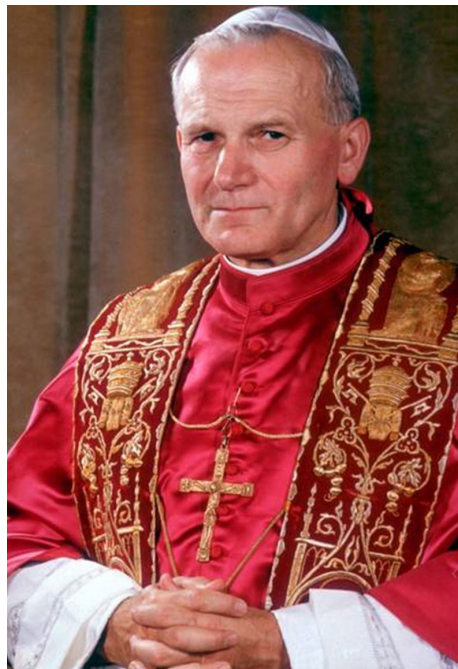
March 16, Sacred Heart Parish, Farmer City, IL celebrated the 100th birthday of Mildred Clifford. She is pictured above with Fr. James P. Henning (the pastor) and the newest member of the parish. The centenarian turned 100 on March 16 and the newest parishioner arrived just 5 weeks ago. Mildred is a former church organist and sacristan and a life-long member of the parish and resident of Farmer City. Over the years she has volunteered many hours for the church and community. As her family, the parish of Sacred Heart hosted a wonderful parish dinner following the 10:30 am Sunday Mass. In her own, very sweet way, Mildred simply said, "Thank you for coming today."

NEW SAINTS OF GOD, COME TO OUR AID!

On Divine Mercy Sunday, April 27, 2014, two blessed popes, John XXIII and John Paul II will be canonized saints. Listed below is some biographical information.



Born Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli November 25, 1881; ordained to the priesthood August 10, 1904; ordained a bishop March 19, 1925; elected pope October 28, 1958; died on June 3, 1963. His Feast Day is celebrated on October 11.



Born Karol Józef Wojtyła May 18, 1920; ordained to the priesthood November 1, 1946; ordained a bishop September 28, 1958; elected pope October 16, 1978; died on April 2, 2005. His Feast Day is celebrated on October 22.



New street signs designed by Fr. Alejandro López were installed around the Basilica of St. Josaphat in Milwaukee Wisconsin, directing visitors to the site.

ORDINARY PROVINCIAL CHAPTER 2014

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

- May 24 Priesthood Ordination of Fr. Paul Langevin
Basilica of St. Josaphat, Milwaukee, 11:00am
- May 25 Fr. Paul's First Mass of Thanksgiving
Basilica of St. Josaphat, Milwaukee, 12:00pm

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
SJC	May 19	July 14