



The Seraph

SPECIAL CHAPTER ISSUE

NEWS and NOTABLES of
SAINT BONAVENTURE
PROVINCE July 2014

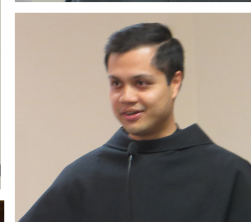


From top to bottom: the friars pose on the steps of Marytown on the last night of Chapter; friars John Clote and Paul Langevin count marbles as friar Joseph Wood looks on and friar Michael Zielke awaits the tally; friar Michael poses with elected guardians: Jim Ciaramitaro, Patrick Stoffer, Augustine Kelly, Jim O'Brien, Paschal Kolodziej and Luke Poczworowski; a cake for celebrating jubilees; and the cake cutter (friar Alejandro López) caught in the act!



CHAPTER TWO!

The friars of St. Bonaventure Province gathered at Marytown in Libertyville, Illinois for the Second Session of Chapter held from July 7-11, 2014. The community finalized a Province Four Year Plan, approved several proposals and elected new guardians. The Chapter also celebrated jubilees of profession of vows and ordinations to Holy Orders as well as the 75th anniversary of SB Province and the 60th anniversary of the Australian Delegation. Pictures from the Chapter continue on the following page.



From top to bottom: festivities begin at preprandium buffet line at the celebrations of jubilees (on July 8, 2014); the friars prepare to toast the witness of our jubilarians, led in thought by fr. James P. Henning and a toast by fr. Anthony Fox; a game "Jurisdictional Jousting" by friar Jim Ciaramitaro; friars from Australia pose after a Mass, l. to r.: friars Adrian Robson, Paschal Corby, John Vayalilkarottu; Emmanuel Gatt, Anthony Fox, Christopher Shorrock and Terrence Naughtin; friar Edmond DesForges (in a sequined hat) prepares to perform at the "Boom Boom Room" with help from fr. Luke Poczworowski and his plaid pjs; fr. Tony Labedis serenades with "The Way We Were"; fr. Adrian Robson sings "Waltzing Matilda"; fr. Pio Alves; and fr. Anthony Lajato tell jokes; the friars at a festive last meal together celebrating the 75th anniversary of SB Province and the 60th anniversary of the Australian Delegation.





TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF SERVICE

Prayers of thanksgiving and great jubilation abounded at the Basilica of St. Stanislaus in Chicopee, Massachusetts, in commemoration of friar Michael Zielke's 25 years of priestly ministry. The celebration was also a bittersweet occasion for the many parishoners to bid farewell to their long-time pastor. Friar Michael offered the silver jubilee Mass surrounded by the loving support of family, parish members, students, religious sisters, classmates and his own Franciscan brothers. Friars Joseph Schenk and Anthony Lajato, representatives of St. Bonaventure Province, enjoyed the fraternal hospitality of the friars at St. Stanislaus. A dinner reception followed in the school gymnasium.



Welcome Home, Luke Fonkalsrud! The friars of Mount Saint Francis Friary visited the home of their novice-to-be, Luke Fonkalsrud. Luke is enjoying his break before Novitiate and his parents invited the community for a luncheon on the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart in June. Pictured above, from l. to r.: Luke's mother, friar Gerard, a Filipino brother who is visiting Australia for 3 months, friar Louis Schmidt, Luke's grandmother, Luke and friar Fr. Joseph Nguyen Xuan Truong. Friar Joseph is preparing for an assignment in Vietnam. (Special thanks to friar Adrian Robson for taking and submitting the article and photograph.)

CONGRATS, DOCTOR

In May 3, 2014, Friar Robert Melnick (pictured below with a seated Cardinal Francis George of Chicago) received a Doctor of Ministry degree from St. Mary of the Lake University at Mundelein, Illinois. His thesis was entitled "Stirring Grace: the Spirituality of the Culinary Arts." The following week Robert presented various aspects of his work to a gathering of postulants, novices, and professed students at Sacred Heart Friary, Chicago.



MEMORIAL DAY FIELD MASS

Gathered together under the warm and beautiful May sky, the people of the linked parishes of St. John the Baptist and Sacred Heart in Central Illinois took time to reflect on those who have died in defense of the United States. Much like a Mass celebrated before battle, there were no frills; there was just prayer and reflection at St. Joseph Cemetery in Farmer City, Illinois. Often before an encounter with the enemy, the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass would be offered on a jeep's hood or the rear gate of a truck. Parishioners also called this to mind on Memorial Day. This Holiday is set aside to remember the blessings Americans enjoy because someone loved enough to lay down his/her life for the nation. May they rest in peace.



Pictured at above, l. to r.: Holding Katie the Koala, Riana Batsie shows the Franciscans of Australia how the US celebrates Memorial Day; in front of a Statue of St. Joseph, Fr. Jim presides; the parishioners form a line for Communion.



HOLY FAMILY HAPPENINGS

At the start of Holy Family Parish's Heritage Days Festival (June 5-7, 2014), the pastor, friar John Grigus (pictured left), "burned the note." The gesture is symbolic of paying off the Peoria, Illinois parish's outstanding debt. Unfortunately, torrential downpours on Saturday afternoon brought the fund raising festival to an early close! Above, the visiting friar Pat Stoffer seeks shelter with a parishioner (Ron Wasson) during a storm. Below, Friar Paul Schneider presides at a Spanish First Communion Mass in May at the Peoria Cathedral of St. Mary.



Friar John Clote (pictured above, left) holds up an ancient, 2nd Century B.C. coin he excavated from the biblical town of Bethsaida, home to the Apostles James, Andrew, and Peter. The coin is now being studied and catalogued by Archeologists from the University of Omaha. Friar John made the discovery while spending three weeks in the Holy Land for an Archeological dig (pictured above) and scripture immersion program.



Congratulations, Luke! Celebrating a 50th Jubilee of Ordination to the Priesthood, fr. Luke Poczworowski offered a Mass of Thanksgiving on the Solemnity of Pentecost (June 8, 2014) at his Chicago southside childhood parish of St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church (pictured above, center). Bishop William P. Callahan delivered the homily (above right). At the reception, a yellow-rosed Luke offered thanks for all involved in the celebrations (above left).

Below, left, a photo of the jubilarian on the day of his Ordination (February 22, 1964) at the Cathedral of St. Paul, Minnesota. Below, center, a close up of the base of his chalice which inspired the 50th anniversary logo. The Cross has five diamonds from his mother's wedding ring and the circle is her actual wedding band. The Cross is made from his maternal grandmother's gold wedding band. The specially designed logo decorated the cake, below right.



SENIOR MOMENTS

In a recent visit, friar Bob Cook took a couple of pictures at the Little Sisters of the Poor nursing home. Friar Raphael Ruffolo (right) reminisced about his family, World War II and the early days of Marytown. He said that he is praying for the friars and is grateful for friars who have come to visit him. When friar Bob asked what he wanted to say to the friars, friar Regis Wojciak (pictured far right) responded, "Na zdrowie."

