



the Seraph

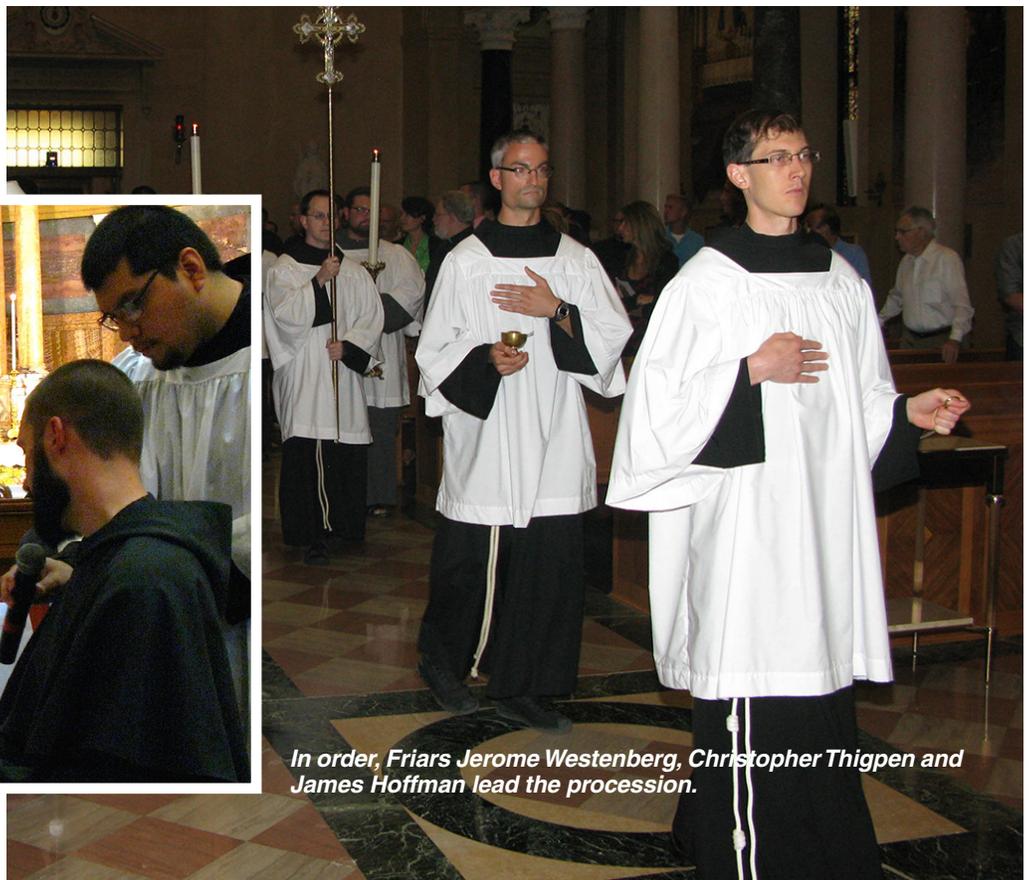
NEWS and NOTABLES of
SAINT BONAVENTURE
PROVINCE *September 2014*

CONGRATULATIONS, FRIAR GILES!

In the morning of September 8, 2014, the Memorial of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Friar Giles Gilbert meditated at the shrine of St. Therese of the Little Flower, in Darien, Illinois and at the Poor Clare Monastery in Palos Heights, Illinois to prepare for Solemn Vows later that evening.

Fr. Michael Zielke, our Minister Provincial, accepted the vows of Friar Giles and the Master of Ceremonies was Friar Arturo Felix (pictured below). The witnesses to the profession were Friar Augustine Kelly and Friar Donald Thielsen. Servers included Friars Jerome Westenberg, Christopher

Continued on page 2.



In order, Friars Jerome Westenberg, Christopher Thigpen and James Hoffman lead the procession.



Continued from page 1.

Thigpen, James Hoffman, Dale King, and Luke Fonkalsrud with Luke Fiocchi.

Many of our friars celebrated with friar Giles' family (pictured right), friends, seminarians class mates and even some of his bosses from past jobs.

Several mentioned how moved they were with the ceremony. In particular, they mentioned the part where Friar Giles prostrated on the floor with his hands outstretched in the sign of the cross, representing dying to his old life and rising to a new life in the footsteps of Saint Francis (pictured right). As this took place, the Litany of the Saints was intoned by Friar Thomas Fetz.

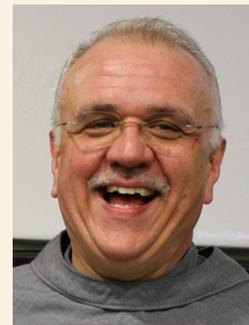
We are happy for friar Giles and his decision to fashion his life as a Franciscan.



A WORD FROM OUR PROVINCIAL

Dear friars, Hi! We had a wonderful celebration in Marytown as our brother, Giles, professed his Solemn Vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience on the birthday of our Blessed Mother. To all the friars who were present, I say "Thank you" because it was a great showing of our fraternity! We owe a big THANK YOU to the friars and staff of Marytown for their hospitality and generosity!

We have called ourselves to reflect on the Gospel Life this year and Giles' Solemn Profession was an example of living the Gospel Life. The Solemn Vespers lifted our hearts, minds, and souls in praise and worship of God! Giles' profession of vows reminded us that God is the one calling us to live the Gospel Life, walking humbly in the footsteps of St. Francis. He so perfectly mirrored Jesus Christ. When we focus on God, He gives us all that we need to remain faithful to our calling. The fraternity and fellowship that followed reminded us all that to really live the Gospel Life we need one another, a community. As we continue to reflect and meditate on the Gospel Life, let's remember that we have brothers. We have each other. We are gifts to one another, helping each other to truly become men of the Gospel, men who want to mirror Jesus Christ for our world today!



Peace and all good! —Fr. Michael Zielke

Let Us Continue to Pray, for Pamela Krasinski who died on Thursday, August 28, 2014. Pam was the secretary of the Provincial Office for many years. Her funeral was celebrated on September 2 by her cousin, Fr. Luke Poczworowski. It was celebrated and attended by many of our friars.



Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord!



Happy Investiture! We welcome and congratulate Christopher Thigpen, Luke Fonkalsrud (from the Australian delegation of Our Lady, Help of Christians) and Dale King, who were invested with the Franciscan habit on July 25, 2014, the Feast of St. James the Apostle. (Pictured above from right to left with Friar Michael Zielke, seated) They are joined with six other newly invested friars from the provinces of Our Lady of Consolation, Our Lady of the Angels and St. Joseph of Cupertino. Let us keep all in prayer as they proceed through their year-and-a-day of discernment.



Friar Jim Reiter returns to the House of Studies. After 38 years, Brother Jim Reiter is back in the Mother Province and living on Kenmore Avenue—this time as the director of the SB/SJC/OLA Postulancy Program. There are five postulants under his direction.

Below: **Friars Anthony Lajato and Zlatko Vlahek** from Croatia toured St Mary of the Lake Seminary in Mundelein. They joined the SB seminarians for lunch in the seminary refectory.



Pictured above: the provincials and their new novices.

At right: the habits to be blessed prior to investiture.





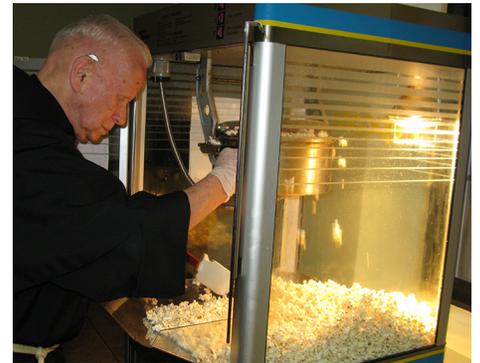
Above (from l. to r.): Friars Don Thielsen, Jim Reiter Augustine Kelly, Robert Cook and Zlatko Vlahek.

LABOR DAY FUN

*L*abor Day: a day to have fun, relax and exhaust oneself by eating and running around. Marytown hosted St. Bonaventure Friary for the day. Friar Jerome Westenberg was the main food planner (in the center photo) and was assisted by Friars Arturo Felix (pictured far left, center photo) and James Hoffman. Grilled brats, hamburgers, cheese burgers, potato salad and all the fixings preceded some wonderful pies. All were devoured with pleasure. Finally, it would not be a party without Br. Martin Schmitz's famous popcorn.



After a time of recuperation, many headed out to the field to throw a Frisbee, kick the soccer ball and play a little wiffle ball. In all, it was a wonderful day to let loose.



...meanwhile it's springtime Down Under! Special thanks to these photos of the hermitage by Friar Dominic Levak.



Above, Friar Zlatko Vlahek learns the art of wiffle ball during the Marytown Labor Day picnic. On the pitcher's mound is Aaron Clark, a postulant from SJC Province, with Anthony Lajato calling balls and strikes.



MI RETREATS *by Friar Thomas Fetz*

Each summer, the Militia of the Immaculata runs youth retreats in Washington, Oregon, and Marytown. This year's retreat theme was taken from the Pope's letter distributed at World Youth Day, wherein he challenged our youth to take up the "courage to be happy" in light of the beatitude "blessed are the poor in spirit." Inspired by the evangelical poverty and joy of those who gave up all to live amongst the poor, especially St. Francis, Friar Zeno, and his Japanese companion Kitahara Satoko, the youth were challenged to be attentive to the poor and embrace that absolute spiritual poverty which Marian consecration demands. The Seattle and Marytown retreats served about 75 youth each, while the Oregon retreat hosted 30. All said and done, more than 80 young retreatants made their total consecration to Our Lady! In this great work, Conventual Franciscans were involved in all three retreats: Friar Anthony Lajato offered talks and

served as chaplain at the Seattle and Marytown retreats, Friar Hans Flondor offered spiritual guidance for the teens at the Marytown retreat, and Friar Thomas Fetz helped to lead all three. Special thanks to each of them for their generous service to our youth.

(An aside from our Vocation Director, Friar Hans Flondor: It has been mentioned to me as vocation director: "Why are we not getting more vocations through the M.I.?"

From the perspective of those who run the M.I. (our coordinators and young adult leaders) the M.I. retreats often do not have enough friars attending to become a consistent visual and supportive presence. Marytown's M.I. retreats have an advantage because of the amount of friars that live on site. Other M.I. retreats typically have one or two friars, at most.

I would encourage us to make ourselves available to attend at least one retreat somewhere in the country starting next summer. As friars, we all have the capability to listen and be a positive presence for the kids.

It was suggested that I be available for spiritual direction. Many of the retreatants surprised me and took advantage of the time to ask questions about how to discern a calling from God. Also, there were those who needed advice with personal problems. For many, it was the first time that they could talk to a religious. Thus, any of us could be a listening ear. If you do not have any advice, then do what we do best: pray with them.

I know that scheduling ourselves away from the parish or friary for retreats, vacations or other apostolates can be difficult. Let's see if we can get three to four friars at each retreat next summer. I would especially encourage more of our younger friars who are simply and newly professed to do this and coordinate their time with their formation leader. To help, please contact either Shevawn Pearson or Shevawn Dillingham through the M.I. website at www.miyouth.org. I am certain you will find these retreats to be grace-filled experiences as well as great opportunities to witness to our Franciscan charism.)



Friar Joe Schenk, the Province Mission Promoter, met over breakfast with Friar Lucjan Krolkowski at the Senior Friar's Residence in Chicopee, MA. Friar Lucjan is the author of books on his work with refugees and Franciscan spirituality. He was invested in the habit of Saint Maximilian Kolbe, who also received his simple vows. Two of Friar Lucjan's classmates were martyred during World War II and have been declared blessed by the Church.

A final note from Grandpa Hans: Many of you have asked how my grandson has been doing. That still sounds funny to me, especially since I have not been married for over twenty-five years and am now a priest. I want to first thank all of you who offered prayers for my daughter Crystal, her husband Nathan and their new baby Elijah Alexander English. He was born eight weeks early on August 23, 2014. He is doing surprising well, finally closing in at about five pounds.

Being a preemie, he is taking longer to learn his motor skills like how to suck on a bottle. He has a small feeding tube through his nose to help him. The only other delay that keeps Elijah from going home is that his body has

not been able to regulate its temperature. Elijah burns up a lot of calories trying to keep warm. Once he can keep his body temperature to around 98.6 degrees and his weight steady at about five pounds or more, then he will be able to go home. Here is one quick picture I was able to get of an involuntary reflex smile. He looks like a happy baby.

