



the Seraph

NEWS and NOTABLES of
SAINT BONAVENTURE
PROVINCE October 2014



BUONA FESTA!

Pictures poured in from Midwestern friars for the Feast of Our Holy Father, St. Francis. The Transitus at Holy Family in Peoria, IL included the local sisters of St. John the Baptist (pictured left with Friar Anthony Labedis, far left and Friar Paul Langevin, center, with other parishioners).

On Saturday, October 4,

Friar Tony led the opening hymn of "How Much is that Doggy in the Window" as all creatures of our God and King gathered for the traditional pet blessing (at right).

In Milwaukee, Friar Paul Schneider officiated the ceremony that blessed mostly dogs, a few cats, a pair of hamsters and one white rat! The friary dog, "Joey," (pictured below with Friar Michael Glastetter, rector and pastor of the Basilica) greeted the crowds in a sporty cardigan with the sweetness expected of a *chocolate* lab!



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A WORD FROM OUR PROVINCIAL

Dear friars, Praised be Jesus Christ!

From October 6 - 11, 2014, I have been privileged



to be part of the CFC meeting in Castro Valley, CA. The Ministers Provincial, Custos from England and Ireland, and the Delegate

for Australia discussed issues and proposals to help us better live the Gospel Life and witness to our Conventual charism. Whether we live in the Midwest or on an island in the middle of the North Sea, we know that we give a greater witness to who we are as friars when we collaborate and work together!

The new President of the CFC is Friar Jim Kent, I was elected the Vice-president and Friar James Doyle was elected the Secretary. We have a great spirit of fraternity and cooperation among ourselves that will help our Conference to continue to walk in the footsteps of our founder, St. Francis, who so perfectly mirrored Jesus Christ for his time. My prayer is that what we do as a Conference will help all of us to mirror Jesus Christ for our time.

Peace and all Good!—Friar Michael Zielke





A GRAND TIME FOR ALL...ESPECIALLY THE FRIARS!

The annual Loaves and Fishes Gala took place at the Blue Mound Country Club in Milwaukee, WI. The event raises money to help fund the ministries at the Basilica of St. Josaphat and the Foundation that helps maintain and preserve the historic building. For the first time the silent auction was handled through Kindles and smart phones allowing participants the opportunity to know when they were outbid and to increase their offering.

One of the unique items for the

live auction included a proggy rug of St. Francis. The original creation was designed by a parishioner, took two years to create and included the fabric of the pastor's worn out habit woven into the artwork.

Friar Paul Langevin won a choice of one of the four top prizes when his name was drawn in the grand raffle. He graciously declined, allowing another person to win a trip to Napa Valley, CA for a unique wine tasting experience when her name was pulled.

Clockwise from above: from l. to r.: Friars Alejandro López, Paul Langevin and Luke Poczworowski with Jackie Glastetter and her son Friar Michael Glastetter; parishioner Sharon Felten stands next to a proggy rug of St. Francis of Assisi; Friars Alejandro and Robert Cook pose for the paparazzi; longtime Basilica electrician Tom Guenette with Basilica Foundation President and C.E.O. Susan Rabe hold a wine bottle decorated for the event; after having his number drawn in the grand raffle, Friar Paul graciously declines his prize; at the table, from l. to r.: Friars John Grigus, Jerome Westenberg, James Hoffman, Arturo Felix, Thomas Fetz, Anthony Lajato and Joseph Schenk.





POVERELLO OUTREACH: HELPING PEOPLE IN RURAL ILLINOIS TOWNS

In 2011, on the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi, a financial help ministry was proposed by Friars Luke Poczworowski and Fran McGann to the trustees of the Illinois parishes of St. Mary, (Wenona), St. John the Baptist (Lostant) and St. Patrick (Minonk). Friar Fran had noted how folks in small towns and rural areas were not immune to the economic and employment hardships facing other U.S. citizens; this kind of ministry would afford the congregations an opportunity to share with others what God had loaned to them.

Launched in January 2012 by friar Fran and seven volunteers, The Poverello Outreach To The Poor initially met with clients on a monthly basis. Soon they realized they needed to meet semi-monthly and enlist more volunteers.

In the spirit of St. Francis, the ministry helps folks who want to help themselves. Many find that after exhausting all other resources they are still unable to pay the expenses of basic human needs and services. Most seeking assistance are the truly working poor. They work at minimum wage jobs, often at multiple jobs, yet receive 30 hours or less per week. Others suffer from health issues due to injuries on the job or because of a vehicular accident. Others still have children with severe health issues or have endured other hardships from which they cannot financially recover. Clients are helped with their utility bills and/or rent. Without the assistance, many would face shut-offs and evictions.

The Poverello Outreach concludes its third year, now under the directorship of Friar Juniper Kriss (pictured above with some volunteers) and with the blessings of the new guardian, Friar Stephen McKinley. Both felt truly impressed by the operation of the ministry laid out by Friar Fran and the generosity of the parishioners who have embraced the work as their own. Friar Juniper and nine volunteers continue to meet semi-monthly with clients. Through the generosity of monthly donations at four parishes now ministered by the Conventual Franciscans, over \$48,000 has been disbursed, helping over 100 families! Truly, parishioners have embraced the spirit of the Poverello of Assisi and the marginalized in their communities!

Spring has sprung! The weather is warming up fast here in Kellyville in New South Wales, Australia. Friar Louis Schmid's garden in front of the Shrine of the Unborn is blooming lovely!

During this time, it has been school holidays here and some of the local young people, who have their final year exams, have been coming to our early morning Mass, praying for all the Divine help they can get! They have been encouraged to pray to St Joseph of Cupertino, patron saint of students. In fact, some borrowed his relic for their class! God love them and guide them! I pray that you in the States are not too cold!

—Friar Adrian-John Robson

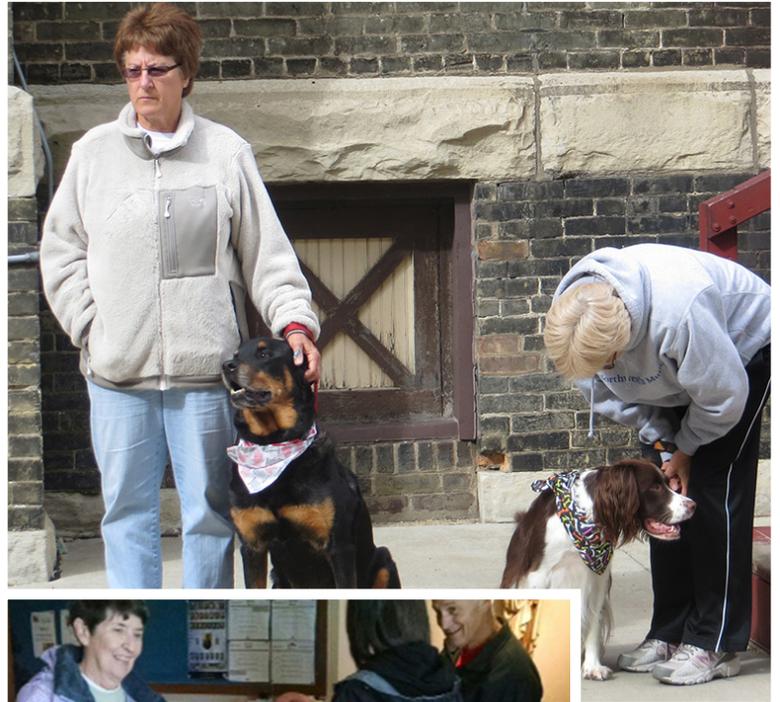


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At top, a panoramic of the Blessing of Pets at the Basilica of St. Josaphat.

Clockwise from far left: In Milwaukee, Friar Paul Schneider offers prayers before the blessing; Friar Alejandro López blesses a "grumpy cat"; two dogs await the sprinkling in the shadow of the dome; pets and their owners gather in the vestibule at Holy Family (Peoria); Friar Patrick Stoffer, pastor at Holy Family, offers advice on caring for birds to one of his flock.





Friars Tony, Patrick and Paul are settled in at Holy Family Friary and ready to cook up a storm for you. Come stay a spell at the "hosts with the most" in Peoria, IL.



Friar Alejandro López's drawing entitled *Lo, How a Rose Ere Blooming* (pictured above) fetched a whopping \$1,900 for the 2014 Loaves and Fishes Gala for the Basilica of St. Josaphat in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The image was inspired by the statue of our Lady of Peace in St. Josaphat's mother Basilica of Mary Major in Rome.



Let Us Continue to Pray, for our brother, Robert Joseph Switanowski who died on the 19th of September. His Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated by the Most Reverend William P. Callahan, OFM Conv. (below) and was concelebrated and attended by many of the friars and parishioners.

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord!

Friar Michael Zielke (below) prays for Friar Robert Joseph Switanowski before burial at St. Adalbert's Cemetery in Milwaukee, WI.

