



# *the Seraph*

**News and Notables of  
St. Bonaventure  
Province**

*July 2015*



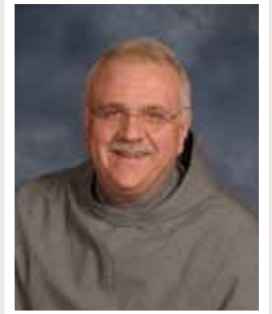
*Friars' Day*



*More photos inside ...*

## **A Word from Our Provincial**

Dear Friars, Praised be Jesus Christ!



While I have been in Australia – being part of the Assembly, presiding over the funeral of our brother, fr. Anthony Zahra, and visiting the friars in their various friaries and ministry apostolates – I have been reading the book: *Forming Intentional Disciples, The Path to Knowing and Following Jesus* by Sherry A. Weddell. She discusses tried and true ways of making disciples not only of people who have never heard of Jesus Christ, but also of lifelong Christians who know the story and message of Jesus Christ but who do not have a personal relationship with Him! She gives very interesting stories of men and women who are cradle Catholics, who know the Ten Commandments and the precepts of the Church, who attend Mass, sometimes even daily, but who do not have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

As we begin to reflect on our second step of our Province's Four Year Plan, Mission and the New Evangelization, I could not help but begin to reflect and meditate on my own personal relationship with Jesus Christ. If I am being called to go out and announce who Jesus Christ is, I first have to make sure I know Him and He knows me. Then when I proclaim Jesus Christ and His message, it is truly Him and His message that I am

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announcing. All the studies of how people come to believe in Jesus Christ, and stay part of His church and mission, tell us that a personal relationship with Christ keeps them grounded and motivated in being disciples. If we, as men of the Gospel, do not stay grounded in Jesus Christ and His message then we no longer are seen as credible witnesses to Him. If we are no longer credible witnesses to Jesus Christ, then instead of building up God's Kingdom we are tearing it down by our lack of sincerity.

Mission and New Evangelization call us out of ourselves and sends us forth into the world, proclaiming Jesus Christ not only with our words but by our deeds and our own personal relationship with Christ! If we are going to make disciples of Christ, then people must see in our very lives that we believe what we say and that Jesus Christ has a daily impact on who we are as individuals and as Conventual Franciscans. People know whether or not we believe what we say and live what we believe. Isn't that what Pope Francis is calling all believers to do? To be authentic people, authentic witnesses, disciples, and evangelizers of Jesus Christ and His message.

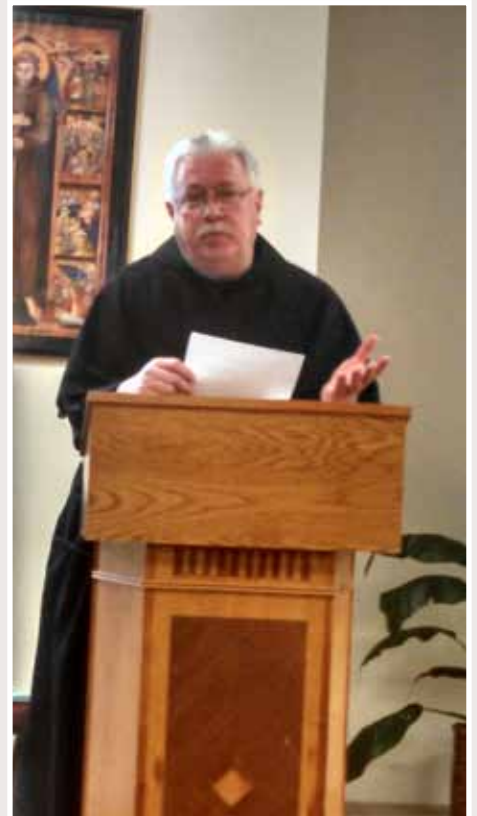
All we need to do as Franciscans is to look at our long history of men and women who were authentic believers in Jesus Christ. From the moment that Christ spoke to St. Francis from the Cross down through our own time, we see men and women who are authentic, who know Jesus Christ and who are not afraid to proclaim Him, even in the face of persecution and death. Our very own brothers, Michael and Zygmund are going to be beautified in December in Peru because they were authentic, intentional disciples, proclaiming not their message or their importance but the story of Jesus Christ. Every day as we gather to pray together, may we continue to become intentional disciples of Jesus Christ proclaiming to each other and to the world the Lord's great love at work in our lives, and inviting His love to work in the lives of the people whom we are called to serve.

God bless,  
Michael

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## *Friars' Day*

Photos by Bob Cook

On June 12, the friars gathered for a Friars' Day. The Schedule included:

- a presentation by *Friar Angelo Paleri* (Postulator General for the Order) on the canonization process and the case for our brother Casmir Cypher,
- a discussion led by *Bro. Jim O'Brien* on health care issues and the creation of a booklet honoring our senior friars, and
- Second Vespers of the Sacred Heart of Jesus with reconsecration of the Province to the Sacred Heart.

The day concluded with preprandials in the friars recreation room, followed by dinner.



*Jim Henning's reaction to being deemed a senior friar.*



# *Assembly in Australia*

We held a two-day Assembly of all of the friars working in Australia between 18-19 June. It was a meeting to plan for our future together for the next four years. It was a short time together, but I believe a fraternal time together... and I pray that I was able to offer some hope for our future presence here. Also, we have a number of housecleaning and renovation projects, as well as infrastructure things such as working on a new archives.

---Friar Joseph Wood



## *Two Future Saints Commune?*

In a photo dated 1962 found in the archives at Kellyville, NSW, Fr. Mitchell Darmofal stands besides a future saint, Pope John XXIII.

## *Other News from Australia*



*Friars Alejandro López and Jerome Westenberg* celebrated the Feast of St. Thomas by exploring a neighboring national park: Illawarra. While traversing the 1.5 kilometer trail above the trees (on cantilevered paths that ranged from 25 to 45 meters above the ground), the friars enjoyed the fauna (including the gum tree, a.k.a. eucalyptus tree), vistas toward the Pacific, and the many native birds. Though they spotted no koalas, they did come across a mother wombat with her child safely tucked into her pouch!

----**Friar Alejandro López**



## *Conclusion of the Postulancy Program*



The friars and postulants of the House of Studies celebrated the conclusion of Postulancy program with dinner at Lady Gregory's in Andersonville. The postulants will be invested with the habit on July 23. The new postulants arrive on July 6. Also present for the dinner was Friar Charlie Smiech OFM, who is returning to his community after several years in residence at the House of Studies.

# News from the Basilica



The Basilica of St. Josaphat welcomed the Schola Cantorum of the Cardinal Vaughan Memorial School in London. The boys performed a concert on Saturday, 27 June, and joined the men of the Basilica Choir for the Sunday 10:00AM Mass on 28 June. The world-renowned English Catholic boys choir sang sacred music spanning five centuries.



On July 1, 2015, Gov. Scott Walker of Wisconsin signed into law a bill which allows the placement of a sign on Interstate-94 facilitating tourist travel to the Basilica of St. Josaphat. Thanks very much to the hard work of Susan Rabe of and the Basilica Foundation. *Friars Michael Glastetter, Paul Schneider, and Bob Cook* also participated in the campaign by participating in hearings before the State Senate and House. *Fr. Paul Schneider* and members of the Basilica Foundation attended the signing.



Sunday, 28 June was the Basilica Parish Picnic. A good time was had by all. *Fr. Paul* is shown pulling winners for the various raffles: “Winner! Winner! Chicken Dinner!”

----Friar Michael Glastetter



*Father Michael Zielke* celebrated our annual Memorial Day Mass held here at St. Hedwig Cemetery. Our Mass was held on Monday, May 25th at 10:00 a.m. The Mass was celebrated with about 700 people and was a great way to celebrate Memorial Day and all those who have served our country.

----**Jason Varlesi, Counselor at Hedwig Cemetery**

## *Other News*



On May 20, *Friars Paul Langevin and Bob Cook* were among the several chaperones for the Holy Family 8th Grade graduation field trip to Chicago. The students took the Chicago River Boat Architecture Tour, visited the Bean in Millennium Park, and attended a showing of the Blue Man Group before returning to Peoria. Under Fr. Paul's watchful supervision, all students returned accounted for.



"Peace! Here are some pictures taken during our Walk -for-Life on May 9th. It was raining on that day, which discouraged a lot of people from coming. God's blessings be upon you!"

---**Friar John Calgaro at Christo Rey Parish, Austin TX**



The Province Mission Appeals are in full swing. *Friars Joe Schenk and Simon Minyatti* are pictured at a diner en route to their first mission appeal of the summer. In all, there will be nearly 20 mission appeals to raise funds for the Order's Formation Fund.

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### **Thank you to mulch volunteers at Marytown**

First Row: Jim Butts, Jr., Joe Nield, Tom Nield.

Second Row: Mike Graham, Jim Willemsen, John McDonald. Third Row: Tom Curley, Steve Mosely, Russ Kraly, Jim Raihle, Jim Lobus. Not seen (taking the photos and the hardest workers): Jim Butts Sr. and Dave Nield



*“Friar Jim Henning was more than a little surprised when the doctor asked if he was ready for his lobotomy surgery. No surprise to the rest of us, however.....”* Jim had cataract surgery on his left eye. He was to have another surgery in mid-June on his right eye. He was entertaining the nurses and doctors with his humor and good cheer, but they may have to give him more medicine next time to make him behave!

**----Friar Paul Joseph Langevin**



## Upcoming Events

**Investiture and profession of simple vows: July 23-24, 2015 Saint Francis  
Novitiate, Mishawaka, IN**

**Profession of Solemn Vows for Friars Arturo Felix and Thomas Fetz  
September 12, 2015 Noon at Marytown**

**Ordination to the Diaconate for Friar Arturo  
October 31, 2015 2:00 p.m. Marytown**

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*Other photos from Australia  
courtesy of Fr. Al*

