



# the Seraph

News and Notables of  
St. Bonaventure  
Province

August 2016

## Celebrating Bishop Vincent Long, OFM Conv.

The Liturgical Reception and Mass of Installation of Bishop Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFM Conv. as the fourth Bishop of Parramatta, Australia, took place on June 16 in St. Patrick's Cathedral in Parramatta.

In his homily, Bishop Long spoke of his experience as a refugee and boat person, and his kinship with those who are alienated or marginalized. "I am committed to be a bridge builder...

I am committed to make the church in Parramatta the house for all peoples, a church where there is less an experience of exclusion but more an encounter of radical love, inclusiveness, and solidarity."

His entire homily may be viewed at:  
<http://catholicoutlook.org/bishop-vincent-installation-mass-homily/>

*See inside for new faces, new ministries, renovations and more!*



L to R: Paschal Corby, Benedict LaVolpe, Bishop Long, Joseph Wood

## A WORD FROM OUR PROVINCIAL

Dear Friars,

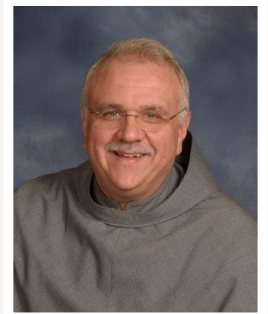
Praised be Jesus Christ!

I cannot believe that we are coming to the unofficial end of Summer, Labor Day weekend! I hope that you all had an opportunity for some rest and relaxation, enjoying the beauty of Summer.

I was privileged to participate in the Tau Experience at the beginning of August in Wappinger Falls, New York, and even though a 10-day renewal experience seems long, the time flew by. The theme of the Tau Experience was the Trinitarian Life in our own individual lives, in our community life, and in our mission and ministerial life. Each of the speakers challenged us to take an honest look at our lives to see if we really believe that we participate in the Life of the Trinity. We share in the life of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit! A deeper question that we need to reflect and meditate upon is: Do I want to share in the life of the Trinity?

Living in a right relationship with God and with each other is not easy, and is sometimes difficult to do. But when we keep up the struggle of faith, when we are willing to do the things that need to be done in living with our

*Continued inside*



*Continued from Page 1*

brothers and sisters, we continue to become the disciples and witnesses that Jesus Christ is inviting us to be! The Mission and Evangelization that we have been called to live and proclaim are not for the faint of heart! Listening and responding to the call of Jesus Christ is a daily struggle!

As the old Baltimore Catechism taught: God wants to be known and loved by us. It is up to us, as individuals, to come to know God by our study, prayer, reflection, and meditation. Jesus fully and completely revealed the Father to us. We have also been empowered by God the Holy Spirit, but because we are still free, our free will has never been taken away from us. Each day we need to make a conscience choice to live in God. Sounds easy, but with the demands of ministry, the culture of our world, and our own faults and failings, sometimes God and his ways are far from our minds.

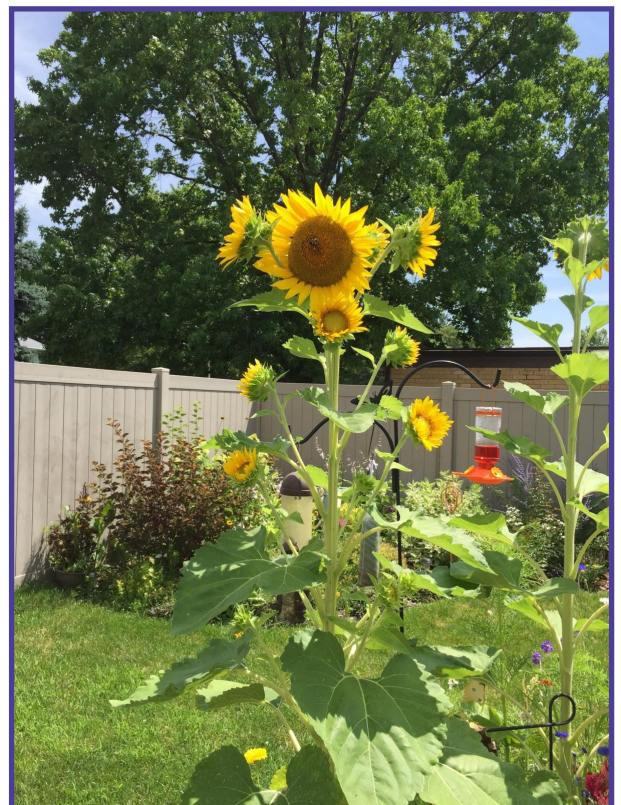
We need times for renewal, reflection, meditation, adoration, and daily moments of prayer so we can remember that we participate in the life of the Trinity. When we remember that we live and belong to God, we continue to grow as disciples, evangelizers, and men of the Gospel. Our greatest gift that we, as Franciscans, can offer the world is how we live in God's life. Our world is longing for community, for union with God and one another. Just look at how the Internet, Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, and all the other media outlets are making communities of people with similar likes. If we, as Franciscans, can continue to live our lives authentically, giving witness to our life with the Trinity, we can continue to be instruments of change and transformation not only in our Church but in our world. Again, it sounds like a tall order. But when we are authentic witnesses is not about us, but about God!

Continue to enjoy the Season of Summer. Make a little extra time to remember that God's Life is in you so that together we can continue to be the disciples, evangelizers, and men of the Gospel that we have vowed to be!

God bless,  
Michael



*Continue to enjoy the Season of Summer. Make a little extra time to remember that God's Life is in you so that together we can continue to be the disciples, evangelizers, and men of the Gospel that we have vowed to be!*



Scenes from Fr. Tony's garden at Holy Family in Peoria.

## Vocations Update from Fr. Hans

In July, 16 men were admitted as Conventual Franciscan Postulants at Saint Bonaventure Friary, the new home of the Postulancy Program for the English-speaking Provinces. Five of the Postulants are from Saint Bonaventure Province: James Battles (from Sacramento, California), Lukas Cichon (Arlington Heights, Illinois), Jason Warrer (Lowell, Indiana), Jonathan Huber (Lexington, Kentucky), and Matt Goodwin (Cheney, Kansas).

At one time we had anticipated welcoming a sixth member from SB Province, but the candidate was unable to complete the application process in time. He is still actively considering joining us, and we hope to have his application completed for next year's class.

We have moved up the deadline for the application process completion date to March 15. Circumstances from this year have made the change necessary, especially since the program begins so early in July.

I have filled my schedule for the next several months with travel and conferences across the central part of the US in order to promote the Province. Some of these trips will be in collaboration with Fr. John Bamman, the Vocation Director from the Province of Our Lady of Consolation. Please keep me in your prayers.

Our schedule for upcoming Province vocation activities is included to the right.

Once again, I want to thank all of you for your powerful prayer support in drawing vocations to our community, and for the efforts you made over the past year to encourage young men to consider joining us. I am fortunate to have you helping me, and you can see the results of our work together. Some of you made visits with me to talk with these candidates. Some opened their friaries during "Come & See" weekends so guests could see working a friary and parish. Some had a few of the men before they joined us over for dinner at their friaries. Let us thank God for opening the hearts of these men to the words of the Gospel. Please continue to pray for them as they continue in their discernment.



New Postulants entering the Holy Door at Saint Ita's. With the Basilica and Marytown, the Province now has three Holy Doors for the Jubilee Year of Mercy. (See more about St. Ita on page 5.)

### Upcoming events

#### **Come and See Weekend Retreat, The Feast of the Stigmata of St. Francis of Assisi**

September 16-18, 2016, Saint Bonaventure Friary, Chicago

#### **Day-long Vocation Retreat, Feast of St. Francis of Assisi**

October 4, 2016, Marytown, Libertyville, Illinois

#### **Weekend Vocation Retreat**

October 21-23, Saint Bonaventure Friary, Chicago

#### **Come and See Week-long Retreat – Christmas with St. Francis**

December 27, 2016 through January 1, 2017, Marytown

#### **Come and See Weekend Retreat**

February 17-19, 2017, Saint Bonaventure Friary, Chicago

Sixteen postulants were welcomed to the House of Studies in July.



## New Province Parishes

**Saint Ita Parish** was organized in 1900 for Irish Immigrants and the present Church was built in 1924. Saint Ita was to be the final church Cardinal Mundelein would build in the city of Chicago. Being at the height of his powers, he spared no expense in its design and cost, earning for his venture the nickname “Mundelein’s folly.”

Mundelein wanted to create a French Gothic church and used the notable church architect Henry Schlacks, known for Chicago’s Saint Mary of the Angels, Saint Ignatius, and renovations to Holy Name Cathedral. Mundelein himself worked with Schlacks on the design, drawing inspiration from Chartres Cathedral and the Royal Monastery of Brou. The result was a Gothic Revival masterpiece that is considered to be one of Chicago’s most beautiful churches and is part of the Chicago Architecture Foundation’s Church Tour and Open House Chicago Tour.

Its parish boundaries include parts of Edgewater, Andersonville, and Uptown, as well as the historic Lakewood-Balmoral District, the Edgewater Beach Apartments, and the birthplace of Hillary Clinton. Its most famous parishioner, George Halas (owner of the Chicago Bears), was buried from the Church in 1983. Our House of Studies on North Kenmore is one block outside of the parish border.

Saint Ita Church is reputed to be the most diverse congregation in the city, with 32 languages or dialects spoken in the parish. Its annual Taste of Summer features food booths from 17 different cultural groups. It has five Masses on the weekend, and hosts Chicago’s only Burmese Mass monthly. Average Sunday attendance usually exceeds 1,200. While Saint Ita does not have a school, Saint Thomas School is located on the property and the friars of both parishes serve as its chaplains.



*Saint Ita*



St. Ita’s annual Taste of Summer features foods from many different cultures. Friars Arturo, Michael, and Giles with friend.



## New Province Parishes

**Saint Thomas of Canterbury parish** was founded in 1916 and was the first Church built by Cardinal Mundelein following his appointment as Archbishop.

The Church's architecture reflected Mundelein's attempt to create an American Catholic style that borrowed from a Colonial aesthetic. At the dedication, Mundelein noted that "There are many Yankee meeting-houses of the colonial type, but this is the only Catholic church, in this diocese at least, built in this style.... it is symbolic of the twin devotions of your heart, love of God and love of Country." Mundelein would bring this style to perfection in the the architecture of the University of Saint Mary of the Lake.

Originally founded as an Irish parish, Saint Thomas of Canterbury came to reflect the changing demographics of the Uptown neighborhood, which became home to everyone from Native Americans and Appalachians, to Latinos, Asians, and Africans. Today, the parish boundaries include Asia on Argyle, as well as the historic entertainment venues of the Aragon Ballroom, the Riviera, and the Uptown Theater.

While never a large parish, Saint Thomas is noted for its diversity. It has three Sunday Masses in three different languages: Vietnamese/Laotian, English and Spanish. Once a month, St. Thomas hosts Chicago's only Gêez Rite Mass for natives of Ethiopia and Eritrea. Total attendance for all Sunday Masses can reach 350 people.

Saint Thomas is most regarded for its enduring history of outreach. Its soup kitchen (founded by a nearby Catholic Worker House), food pantry, and clothing room are longstanding ministries known throughout the Archdiocese. Its parish school (which resides on the campus of Saint Ita Parish), is made up almost entirely of refugee and immigrant children.

## *Saint Thomas of Canterbury*



Interior of the church with flags representing the nationalities represented in the parish



The parish is known for its outreach, including its soup kitchen. On the left is Jim Eder, director of the soup kitchen. Jim worked with Dorothy Day for four years. On the right is Br. Donald with a very large pot of soup!

# Welcome

## Fr. Lawrence W. Zurek



I was born and reared on the south side of Chicago and went to Quigley High School Seminary South with Fr. John Grigus. I began my life with the Order of Friars Minor in 1976, attending Duns Scotus College

Seminary in Detroit. I professed first vows on May 31, 1980, and was ordained a priest on July 8, 1985. I spent the first thirty years of my priesthood in parochial ministry, first in Lafayette, Indiana, then Emporia, Kansas, Galveston, Texas, and then was pastor in Detroit for ten years and for eleven years in Peoria, Illinois, where I came to know many of the friars of St. Bonaventure Province. The last year I served in the vocation office.

My coming to the Conventual Friars is a story in itself, but suffice it to say that I see it as a gift from the Lord. Never did I imagine that at this stage of my life I would be leaving a community I have known for forty years to venture out and affiliate with another community. During my visits and since I have arrived at Marytown, I have been warmly welcomed by my Conventual brothers. I look forward to living with and ministering with you!



Fr. Lawrence of Marytown blessing pilgrims from Saint Ita's with the relic of St. Maximilian Kolbe.

## Argentinian Friars Elio Rojas and Tarcissus Bucca, FMVA



Friar Elio is here from La Vigna in Rome learning English. Friar Tarcissus is with us at Marytown while he completes his studies.

## Fr. Martin from India and Fr. Simon from Kenya



The House of Studies has taken on an international flavor with Fr. Martin from India, Fr. Simon from Kenya, and Fr. Elio from Argentina staying with us.

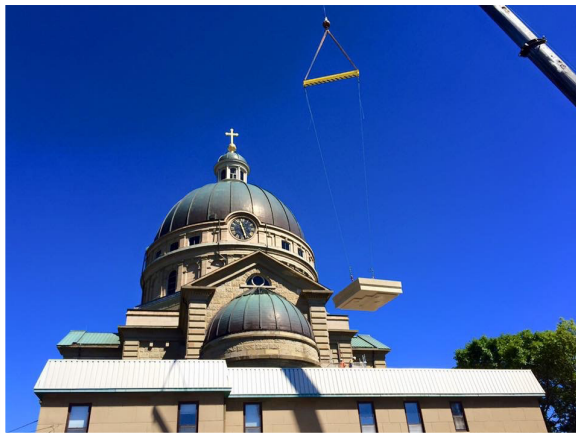
# Renewal

## Friar Jerome Renews Simple Vows

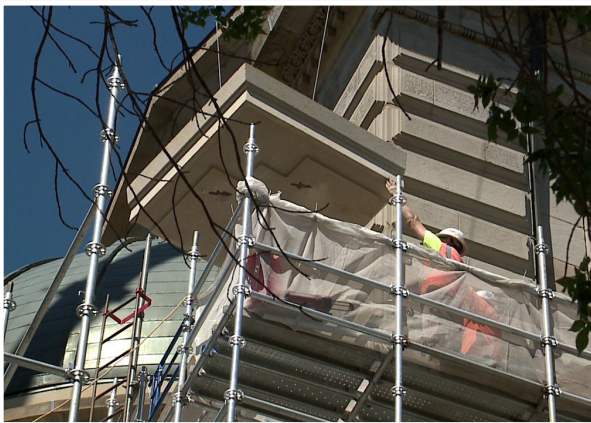
At St. Joseph Cupertino Friary, Dingley Village, on July 15, Friar Jerome Mary Westenberg renewed his Simple Vows into the hands of our Provincial Delegate, Br. Joseph Wood, and was officially witnessed by Fr. Paschal Mary Corby and Friar Thomas Fetz. For more photos visit [www.franciscanfriarsaustralia.org](http://www.franciscanfriarsaustralia.org)



## Restoration Project Enters Final Phase



The masonry restoration priority project at the Basilica of St. Josaphat in Milwaukee entered its final phase this month as five massive stones were hoisted and installed. Each stone weighs about 9,000 pounds and was sourced from the same quarry in Ohio from which the U.S. Post Office and Custom House in Chicago was built in the 1880s. Each stone was cut to fit and detailed to match the exact pattern as the original stones. Today, we have forklifts and cranes. 120 years ago when the Basilica was constructed, they had horses and pulleys. The Franciscans and the St. Josaphat Basilica Foundation continue to raise needed funds through a capital campaign to meet current and future preservation needs of the Basilica. Please pray for the success of this endeavor.



# Celebrations



Brother Donnie bringing the heat for the July 4 cookout at Marytown.



The Feast of Saint Bonaventure at Marytown.

Another successful Heritage Days with plenty of food, fun, rides, and games for all kids of all ages. (Below) Fr. Patrick picks the lucky winner of the grand prize drawing. (Top Right) Fr. Paul works the crowd to take their chances at the Shooting Gallery. (Bottom Right) Fr. Tony shoots the breeze.





*A Few More Photos*



Fr. Michael samples the Polish plate while some of the postulants visit the Nigerian booth at St. Ita's Taste of Summer.



The grand pulpit of St. Ita and a gargoyle on the outside



Friar Paul Schneider leading the weekly Holy Hour for Soup Kitchen volunteers at St. Thomas of Canterbury. Also pictured are the parish's Vietnamese Shrine and the Rectory staircase.



Feast of the Portiuncula at Marytown (L to R: Postulants Mario Camarillo, Steven Arias, Friar John Clote, Joseph Krodon)



Friar Anthony Lajato at the Basilica and National Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation in Carey, Ohio.

## Upcoming Events

### September

- 4-5 Defintory Meeting, Marytown  
16-19 Hidden Treasures Resale, Marytown  
18 Annual Pork Chop Dinner, St. John, Clinton  
24 Festa Sacra Famiglia, Holy Family, Peoria  
24 9th Annual Parish Roast and Dinner, Saint Anthony, Rockford

### October

- 2 Nigerian Independence Day Mass and Festival, Saint Ita  
8 Loaves and Fishes Gala, Basilica of Saint Josaphat  
16 Parish 100th Anniversary Celebration, Saint Thomas of Canterbury

November 29-December 2 Joint Defintory Meeting with OLC and SJC Provinces, Mesilla Park, NM



Statue of St. Anthony in St. Ita Church.

*We beg You, Lord Jesus,  
bind us with the love of You and our neighbor,  
so that we can love You deeply  
with our whole heart and not be separated from You;  
so that we can love You deeply,  
with our whole soul wisely not to be deceived;  
with all our strength and with our whole mind sweetly,  
not to be separated from Your love by other allure nets.  
And may we love others as we love ourselves,  
with Your help who are blessed throughout all ages. Amen.*

St. Anthony of Padua, conclusion of the Sermo for the Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost