



# the Seraph

News and Notables of  
St. Bonaventure  
Province

Issue #2 2018



## A Word from Our Provincial

Dear Friars,

*Praised be Jesus Christ!*

I cannot believe that we are coming to the end of our Easter Season! We have already finished the First Session of Chapter and before you know it we will be gathered in Techny for our Second Session. I guess the old cliché still applies: *“Time flies when you are having fun!”*



As we end our Easter Season, the Scripture readings at Mass have been telling us that we have an Advocate, the Holy Spirit Jesus promised to His followers, who would continue to teach, guide, protect, and govern — if they would remain open. God the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Blessed Trinity, the Sanctifier, the One who enables us to say that Jesus is Lord, is so elusive that for centuries The Spirit has been depicted as a dove! St. Francis of Assisi says that the Holy Spirit is the true Minister General of the Order, because for St. Francis it is the Spirit who leads, inspires, guides, and sanctifies us. If we are not following the Spirit, then whom are we following?

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As we prepare for the Second Session of Chapter, we will need to focus on the next four years as a Province. How is the Spirit calling us to live as Franciscans in the third millennium? In our report from our General Visitor we have been challenged not to live a middle class life-style. What is poverty in the third millennium? Do we go back to our Orders' first beginnings where the friars lived in tents and did not even have their own breviary to pray the Divine Office?

Do we see our prayer life as vital – both communal and private? Sometimes the demands of ministry eat up the time that we need to spend with the Lord. How often have we heard that we can only give to the people whom we are called to serve only what we have received from the Lord! Do I dare 'waste' an hour with the Lord for a private holy hour?

Do I see my vocation as a Franciscan to reach out to the marginalized, the refugee, the immigrant, and the foreigner? Most probably in our own family history we have come to this country as immigrants. How do we make our places of ministry, and even the neighborhoods where we live, welcoming?

The notion of collaboration and working with other provinces and jurisdictions is complicated. As it was said at Chapter: "When you collaborate, you gain some and you lose some!" Where is the Spirit calling us to go? Are we like ostriches who bury our heads in the sand, or do we believe that the Spirit will lead and guide us?

How do we really partner with Australia? Yes, to help our brothers in Australia is a wonderful thing, but don't ask me to go! How is the Spirit calling us to be creative?

Ongoing Formation is great! We need to do it! Continuing education should be part and parcel of who we are as friars. When events are planned how fast can we think of an excuse not to go?

Sometimes the challenges that we face can be daunting and overwhelming. Sometimes we feel as though we are paralyzed because the challenges seem to be too great and heavy to handle.

We are Franciscans, we are men of the Word and we profess the Gospel! Open to the Holy Spirit, we will continue to do what God is calling us to do! As St. Francis concludes the Rule with his exhortation to the friars, so we meditate and reflect on it as we prepare for the Second Session of Chapter: "O most beloved brothers and sons forever blessed, hear me, hear the voice of your Father; great things we have promised; greater have been promised us. Let us observe the former; let us aspire to the latter. Pleasure is short; punishment, everlasting. Suffering is slight; glory, infinite. Many are called; few are chosen. Retribution for all. Brethren, while we have time, let us do good."

*God bless,  
Michael*



*While we have time,  
let us do good.*

# First Session of Chapter



**Fr. Benedict La Volpe presiding for Mass of Sts. Philip and James.**



**Top: In meetings**

**Bottom: Offering of obedience after swearing in the new provincial.**



**Provincial Fr. Michael Zielke and his Definitory: Secretary Br. Joe Schenk** works at Catholic Charities in Chicago. This summer he will assume the administration of the outreach programs at St. Thomas of Canterbury. He is also the Province's Mission Promoter.; **Vicar Fr. Paul Schneider** has been pastor of St. Thomas of Canterbury Parish in Chicago. This summer he will become the Associate Director of the Postulancy Program and reside at St. Bonaventure Friary.; **Definitor Fr. Benedict La Volpe** is currently Guardian of St. Joseph, Husband of Mary Friary and pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Springvale, Victoria (Australia), and will be nominated at the second session of Chapter to become Guardian and Rector of Marytown; **Definitor Fr. Jim Ciaramitaro** is pastor of St. Anthony of Padua Parish (Rockford, Illinois), and Guardian of the Friary there.; **Definitor Fr. Paul Langevin** is parochial vicar at the Basilica of St. Josaphat (Milwaukee, Wisconsin).; at the top of the stairs **Treasurer Fr. Robert Melnick** is in residence at St. Ita's in Chicago and will be working in Province fund development.

*See more photos on Page 6.*

# News from Kenya



As many of you know, we have been working with the Kenya Custody in mission promotion for the last few years. Kenya generously supplies friars to cover mission appeals for us here in the U.S. and we, in turn, provide funding for some of their projects in Kenya. The photos show some recent improvements that funding has helped to put in place at St. Anthony Nursery & Primary School in the city of Meru, a few hours drive north of Nairobi. The friars at the school were recently able to open the school's dormitory (being blessed by one of the friars), thanks to funding for a new fence around the dormitory which is required by law. In addition, funds were used to construct new outhouses and install a new water tank. It is important to note that a good portion of these funds were donated by the family and friends of former novice, Jack Butler, whose father, Jim, died unexpectedly last December. Jack kindly set up a GoFundMe page for the needs of St. Anthony's in his father's memory.



St. Anthony School is comprised of about 250 boys and girls, most of them from poor farming families. Anthony Lajato and Joseph Schenk had the privilege of visiting the school and the friars' other ministry sites in Kenya back in February.



# Trekking with Jesus

A Day Hike for Catholic Men

Many guys like nothing more than to think about “nothing” once they get out of university for their summer break. Attending a custom *Come & See* weekend does not play well in May. With this in mind, I was talking with our Deacon Tom Gaida. We decided we would like to do a short hike to start off the summer. We decided to invite a few friends, and at that point, I snowballed it into an invitation for any Catholic, like-minded man, 18 years or older, who would like to hike 13 miles in one day. We chose Friday and Saturday, May 25-26 to venture out on this excursion.

The idea was not to make it an intentional “*Come & See*” visit. Men’s groups can attract men, and hiking can, we hope, attract younger men. Therefore being optimistic, we figured we may start off small then

## Future Come & See dates

October 3-4, 2018 – Feast of St. Francis at Marytown

October 19-21, 2018 – at St. Bonaventure Friary, postulant house

December 27, 2018 - January 1, 2019 – Christmas with St. Francis at Marytown

February 15-17, 2019 – at St. Bonaventure Friary, postulant house

introduce this day hike at different times of the summer in different states, allowing it to grow organically through word of mouth, keeping it relaxed and fun. We thought it might be an easy way to get to know the friars. If it seems to be a good attraction we will bring it back next spring and summer.

Ten people signed up for the “Trekking w/ Jesus” Men’s Day Hike. We went up on Friday evening and stayed overnight at Durwards Glen Retreat Center. On Saturday we had Mass at 6 am, went to breakfast, and were at the Ice Age Trail trailhead at about 8:30 am. No



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**Fr. Arturo Felix counts ballots as Friar Tom Fetz looks on.**



**Above: Swearing in of Definitors.  
Right: Fr. Paul Schneider is installed as Vicar Provincial.**



**The friars enjoyed getting together in the evenings for some recreation time.**



**Friar Tom Fetz and Fr. Steve McKinley collaborated on music.**

# *Inter-Franciscan Soccer Team*



Above is a photo of our inter-Franciscan novitiate soccer team, pictured together with the Los Angeles Seminary soccer team. On April 7th, our second annual soccer match was held at St. John the Evangelist Seminary in Camarillo, just north of Los Angeles. The friars are in orange, the seminarians are in green. Not everyone played, but everyone had a good time cheering for both sides. Our three novitiates were very

proud of their 7-2 loss, since we lost by 10 points last year! Our spirits were high no matter the number of goals! The Knights of Columbus offered us a cookout afterwards. Then the rector, Msgr. Marc Trudeau – who was named a new Auxiliary for Los Angeles only the day before – greeted us warmly, and welcomed his seminarians to offer us a thorough tour of their vast seminary. It was a great day and great fraternity!



## *Celebrating Laotian New Year* **St. Thomas of Canterbury Parish**

# Easter Photos



**L to R, Top:** Fr. Benedict and Bro. Bernard at the Easter Vigil, Springvale; Our Lady of Rosary, Kellyville **Middle:** Holy Family, Peoria; **Bottom:** St. Anthony of Padua, Rockford; St. Thomas of Canterbury, Chicago







**L to R, Top:** All Saints Friary Chapel, Dearborn Heights; Holy Family, Peoria **Middle:** Fr. Joseph Truong, Vietnamese language Easter Vigil, Springvale; St. Ita **Bottom:** St. Ita; Good Friday Veneration, Springvale



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# Trekking

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one turned back and chickened out. I missed some of the connections from one trail to another, but we managed to circle around to the point that we ended up hiking our designated hike in reverse direction. All the men made it up the 500-foot bluffs and down on the west side of Devil's Lake, then up again on the slippery granite rock on the east side where some of the men posed at Balancing Rock. The weather was in our favor. The prediction had been 80 degrees with 60 percent chance of rain. Instead there were clear blue skies in 91 degree weather and less than 20 percent humidity. The only difficulty we all had, even with all the bug repellent we sprayed on, were the mosquitos. Ages of the men that hiked this moderate to challenging hike ranged from the late 20s to men in their 60s. The hike took all day and was about 12 miles long.

The small video of our hike can be seen on the [franciscancommunity.com/vocation](http://franciscancommunity.com/vocation) page.



# *Easter* *Continued from Page 9*

**L to R, Top:** Holy Family, Peoria; **Middle:** Our Lady of the Rosary, Kellyville; The Elect being baptised by Fr. Alejandro Lopez at the Easter Vigil, Kellyville  
**Bottom:** Holy Family, Peoria; St. Ita



## Upcoming Events

**June 7 - 9** Heritage Days 2018, Holy Family (Peoria)

**June 23** Morning Reflection on St. John the Baptist, presented by Br. Augustine Kelly OFM Conv., 10-11:30, Marytown

**June 24** Basilica Parish Picnic, Basilica of St. Josaphat

**July 15** First Profession of Vows, Matt Godwin and Jason Warrer, Marytown (time to be determined)

**July 14-15** Tastes of Summer, St. Ita (Chicago), Saturday evening Concert Kickoff with food and drinks, Main event Sunday 9:30 am - 9 pm

**August 11** 2018 Marian Conference and Kolbe Award (2018 Honoree Most Reverend Thomas J. Paprocki, Bishop of Springfield, Illinois) Marytown



Pentecost at St. Anthony of Padua, Rockford

O Lord Jesus, through You I humbly beg the merciful Father to send the Holy Spirit of grace, that He may bestow upon us His sevenfold gifts. May He send us the gift of WISDOM, which will make us relish the Tree of Life that is none other than Yourself; the gift of UNDERSTANDING, which will enlighten us; the gift of COUNSEL, which will guide us in the way of righteousness; and the gift of FORTITUDE, which will give us the strength to vanquish the enemies of our sanctification and salvation.



May He impart to us the gift of KNOWLEDGE, which will enable us to discern Your teaching and distinguish good from evil; the gift of PIETY, which will make us enjoy true peace; and the gift of FEAR, which will make us shun all iniquity and avoid all danger of offending Your Majesty.

To the Father  
and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit  
be given all glory and thanksgiving forever.  
Amen.

*St. Bonaventure*