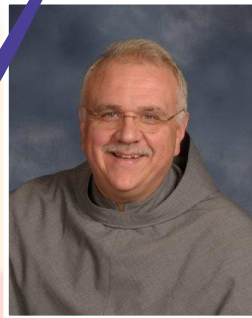




# the Seraph

News and Notables of  
St. Bonaventure  
Province

Issue #3 2019



## A WORD FROM OUR PROVINCIAL

Dear Friars,

Praised be Jesus Christ!

I returned from the 202nd General Chapter on June 19 after adding another 300 votes on the Motions, General Statutes, and the Special Statutes that govern the life and ministry of the General Custody in Assisi. When added to the voting that was done nine months ago at the Extra-ordinary General Chapter to approve the Constitutions, I voted almost 1,300 times on the life and workings of our Order! Mind-boggling when you stop and reflect on what took place in just nine months!

During the General Chapter we were organized into groups that consisted of two languages. My small group was Polish and English, and since all the Poles in the group spoke and understood English that was what we used during discussions. After the periods of sharing and reflecting on the life, ministry, challenges, and blessings of our Order, my group came to the conclusion that we have a crisis in *minoritas*.

We know from our reading of the Franciscan sources that St. Francis wanted his friars to follow the way of the lowly and humble. Even the words St. Francis chose to denote leadership in the community – minister, guardian, servant, and mother – all give a *minoritas* sense in being of service to our brothers. The early sources tell us that if our way of life, Gospel living, and values are going to have a changing and lasting effect in our lives and world, then we must follow the humble way of Jesus Christ, the One who came not to be served but to serve.



Above: The logo for the 202nd General Chapter; On Saturday, May 25, the Capitulars elected Friar Carlos Alberto TROVARELLI as the 120th Minister General of the Order. Fr. Carlos blessed the Capitulars with the relic of St. Francis.

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Unfortunately, the *minoritas* that St. Francis lived and preached did not take root in the Order the way that he wanted. Even before St. Francis died, the friars were receiving all types of privileges that distracted them from truly living *minoritas*. So often we think that “my way is the right way is the only way.” And when we have this type of attitude, fraternal life suffers so much so that many friars give up the fight and go their merry way – sometimes even in living the promises of Holy Orders.

St. Francis always thanked God for the gift of his brothers: brothers brought into being not by a natural birth but by a supernatural one. God is the One who plants the seed of a vocation, and the community is called to help the individual nurture that seed so that it can grow and develop into the Gospel life that our vows call us to live; to be men of the Word.

In these next few months we will be called upon to share our thoughts and reflections, preparing to put into place a strategic plan that will help us organize for the future. In our living of *minoritas* we are called to share and reflect together. As individuals, we do not have all the answers. Together, however, we can find answers that will allow us to continue and grow in our vowed life, in our witnessing to Gospel values and Gospel living, in being part of the new evangelization, in reaching out *ad gentes* and locally in the missionary activity of our Church, and in renewing our Conventual charism that the Church and world desperately need.

As our Father, St. Francis tells us in his exhortation: *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. Brothers, while we have time, let us do good.*

God bless,  
Michael



*God is the One who plants the seed of a vocation, and the community is called to help the individual nurture that seed so that it can grow and develop into the Gospel life that our vows call us to live; to be men of the Word.*



Above: Fr. Carlos making his profession of faith at the tomb of St. Francis. Fr. Michael offering his obedience to the new General (Carlos Trovarelli).

# *Kenya is established as a province at the chapter*



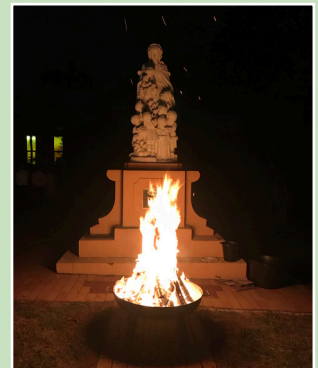
The photo above shows Fr. Carlos cutting the “birthday cake” with the Custos of Kenya, Fr. Kazimierz Szulc. Left: Fr. Carlos with Kenyan students from the Seraphicum along with missionaries (past and present) and provincials (past and present) from Kenya’s mother province of Gdańsk.

# *Feast of St. Anthony, in Padua*





*Holy Week & Easter 2019*  
*"Jesus said: I am the resurrection. Anyone who believes in me, even though that person dies, will live," - John 11:25*



Top Left Clockwise: Youth group in Kellyville presented a Live Stations of the Cross; Easter Vigil before Mass at Marytown; Good Friday Friars procession at Marytown; Easter fire in Kellyville; the chapel at All Saints Friary in Dearborn Heights; Vigil at Marytown, Fr. Benedict blesses the fire; Eritrean Easter Vigil; Deacons (Patrick Comfort and Scott Whitehouse) substituted for Fr. Jim Henning as the traditional "Mandatum" was observed at Sacred Heart; Our Lady of the Rosary in Kellyville; Center Photo - Vigil at the altar in Marytown (More photos on page 6)



## *Easter 2019* *continued*

Photos Top Left  
Counterclockwise: **(First 3 photos)** Perhaps bad knees may slow Fr. Jim Henning down a little, but it did not prevent **Holy Week** celebrations in the **Central Illinois Parishes of Sacred Heart - Farmer City and St. John's - Clinton**. One of two adult baptisms that was celebrated at the Easter Vigil in St. John's. Fr. Jim "gently washes" a neophyte. Welcoming 5 new members into Full Communion with the Catholic Church. With his unique style of imposition of hands, Fr. Jim sends the Holy Spirit on a candidate for Confirmation. **Kellyville Friars gather for Easter Dinner**, from left to right: Bernard Fonkalsrud, Alejandro López, David Blowey, Dominic Levak, Gerard Lofranco. **Holy Thursday at Marytown** - Fr. Benedict washing of feet and Fr. Hans preaching.





*St. Thomas of Canterbury & St. Ita Parish*



**Top Row:** Confirmation; Graduation  
**Second Row:** Spring Concert; Fr. Simon preaching Divine Mercy Sunday; Lao Lunar New Year  
**Third Row:** Brother Tarcisius teaching a class to parish sacristans; First Communion  
**Bottom Row:** Br. Don working in the soup kitchen; Spring Concert; Friar Matt enjoying a Boodle Fight sponsored by the Filipino community; Brother Ayub in the soup kitchen

# Other Celebrations & Events



On June 3, we were blessed to have the Relic of the Heart of St John Vianney visit us here at Marytown organized by the Knights of Columbus.



Fr. John Calgario with Springfield (IL) Bishop Thomas Paprocki at Marytown after concelebration of the Vigil of Pentecost

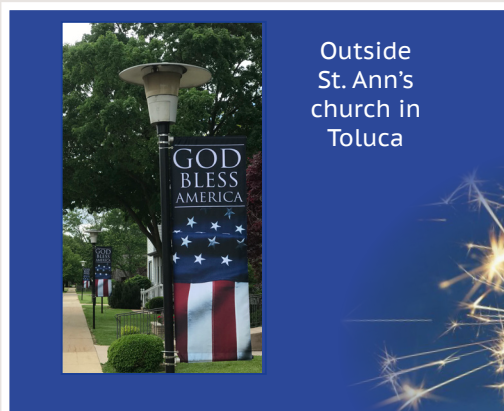
## Fr. Steve McKinley's 25th Anniversary of Priesthood



Fr. Steve and the Franciscan Sisters in Lacon, Illinois



Fr. Patrick Greenough wrote two articles for the Toluca Newspaper. "The lost art of Crusin'" and Miller's Hardware.



Outside St. Ann's church in Toluca



## Upcoming Events

- Monday, July 15**      **Friars' Day** *Topic: Mission Advancement with Sr. Georgette Lebmuth OSF, President and CEO, National Catholic Development Conference, **Marytown**;*  
If you need overnight accommodations or if you plan on being there for lunch before the meeting, please contact Chris Gremore before July 8th (retreats@KolbeShrine.org or (847) 367-7800, ext. 225.)
- Friday, August 2**      **Profession of Solemn Vows of Friar Bede Thigpen, **Marytown**,**  
*Solemn Vespers, 5 pm, Reception to follow*
- Monday, September 23**      **Profession of Solemn Vows of Friar Bernard Mary Fonkalsrud,**  
*Our Lady of the Rosary, **Kellyville***
- Saturday, October 5**      **40th Anniversary of Conventual Friars at Holy Family, Peoria,**  
*Mass at 5 pm, Dinner and Auction at 6 pm*
- Wednesday, October 16**      **Study Day on the revised Constitutions, with Friar Tim Kulbicki,**  
***Marytown**, 1:30 pm*
- September 16-17, 2020**      **Extraordinary Provincial Chapter**



But as the Lord has given me to speak and write the Rule and these words simply and purely, may you understand them simply and without gloss and observe them with a holy activity until the end. And whoever observes these things, let him be blessed in heaven with the blessing of the Most High Father, and on earth with the blessing of His Beloved Son with the Most Holy Spirit, the Paraclete, and all the powers of heaven and with all the saints.

The Testament, 1226