

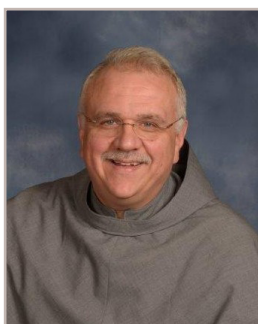


# the Seraph

News and Notables of  
St. Bonaventure  
Province

Issue #4 2019

## A WORD FROM OUR PROVINCIAL



Dear Friars,

Praised be Jesus Christ!

As we prepare to celebrate another Franciscan Advent Fast, beginning on November 1 and ending with First Vespers of the Solemnity of the Lord's Birth, we should go back and read what our Seraphic Father, St. Francis, has to say about fasting, prayer, conversion, and penance.

At a quick glance, the word penance seems to mean "extra" prayers, as well as fasting from food and drink; something above and beyond the normal course of following the Lord. Yes, St. Francis always performed extra forms of penance but when you take the time to read what he is trying to say to us, his brothers and all those people who want to follow him, is that daily we need to have an ongoing spirit of conversion to the Lord and His ways.

Every day the Lord wants to make His presence known to us; every day the Lord knocks on the door of our hearts asking us to let Him in; every day He nourishes us with His Word and His Body and Blood so that we can be His presence in the world, continuing His mission and spreading His Word.

One of the greatest obstacles in responding daily to the Lord's invitation and call is that we have so many distractions that vie for our attention. Some of these distractions can occur because we are involved in building God's Kingdom and spreading His Word. How do we make time in

*Continued inside*

*the Lord gave me brothers*



Friar Bede Thigpen - Solemn Profession of Vows August 2nd at Marytown; Friar Bernard Mary Fonkalsrud, Our Lady of Help Delegation, Australia - Solemn Profession of Vows September 23rd at Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church in Kellyville N.S.W.

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our daily lives so that these obstacles and distractions do not lead us away from the Lord, but draw us closer to Him?

One way of staying close to the Lord and His ways is our faithfulness to our prayer life. Sometimes during a penitential season, instead of adding “more” prayers, why don’t we make a more concerted effort in focusing in what we are doing. Instead of rushing into the chapel ten seconds before prayer starts, come five or ten minutes ahead of time so that we can be recollected.

Perhaps St. Francis speaks of penance so often in his writings because he knew how difficult it is to stay focused on the Lord and His ways. To walk the path of the Lord takes determination, focus, and the realization that the way of the Lord is a gift. And as with all gifts, to use them well we need to keep our hearts, minds and souls as free as possible from distractions and obstacles. St. Francis knew that conversion was a life-long process; prayer, fasting and almsgiving will always be a part of lives until the day the Lord calls us home to His Kingdom.

What forms of penance do we need this year as we prepare to celebrate the Lord’s Birth? How might the Lord be calling us to a deeper way of following Him so that we can be more authentic men of the Word, more authentic followers of St. Francis. Remember, brothers, that our acts of penance need to make us more loving and more joyful in the ways of the Lord. These days the Church has enough bad press! If our acts of penance do not lead us to more loving, more faith-filled, and more joyous, then they are not the way of conversion for us.

**Happy Franciscan Advent!**

***God bless,  
Michael***



*More photos on page 3*



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takes determination, focus, and  
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Lord is a gift.***



*100th birthday celebration*

Fr. Lucjan Krolikowski's 100th birthday celebration in Chicopee, Massachusetts. He met Sister Death on October 11th at which time he was Dean of the Order. *May God grant him peace.*

*Friar Bede*



*Friar Bernard Mary*

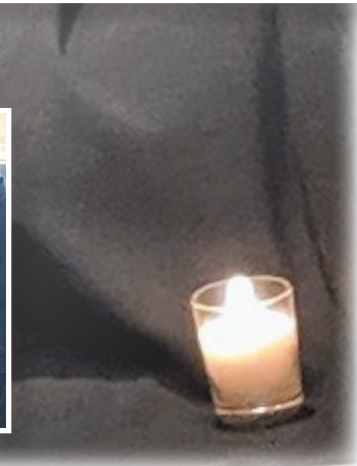


# Transitus & the Feast of St. Francis

Bishop Mark Bartosic celebrated Mass at St. Bonaventure Friary on the Feast of St. Francis. Bishop Bartosic is the Auxiliary Bishop for Vicariate II in the Archdiocese of Chicago.

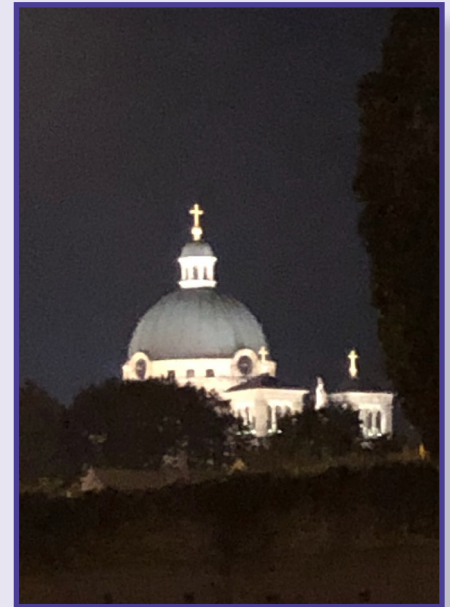


Above: Transitus at the Felician Sisters Motherhouse in Detroit (Livonia) - Fr. Tony Fox presided. Right: Transitus at St. Ita; Below: All God's creatures were blessed by Fr. Giles, Fr. Paul, and Fr. Al (visiting from Australia)



# *Lighting the Dome Basilica of St. Josaphat*

In September, the dome of the Basilica was lit by 26 points of light marking the culmination of the major restoration project.



# *Annual Kolbe Award Marytown*

The 2019 Annual Kolbe Award was held on August 10, with speakers Fr Edward Looney, Fr James Presta and the Award recipient Fr Michael Gaitley MIC.



Above: Conference Mass (Fr. Benedict preaching); Left: Br. Augustine and Fr. Benedict presented the award to Fr. Michael Gaitley; Below (L to R): Conference speakers Frs. James Presta and Edward Looney.



# October C.F.F. Meeting



# St. Francis Friary



Cardinal Cupich visited and joined the friars for dinner.

# La Dolce Vita Holy Family, Peoria

Holy Family in Peoria celebrated La Dolce Vita (the sweet life) parish dinner/fundraiser/auction with a special commemoration of the 40th Anniversary of the Franciscan Friars ministering at the parish.



The Holy Family Gym is turned into a true gala! The Wine Pull at the auction included bottles 'dressed' in Franciscan habits made by our dear friend, Susan Widawski (from Detroit).

# Postulant Cookout



## St. Ita Photos

Above: Fr. Arturo, school chaplain, with his flock;  
Left: First twelve professions of the new St. Bonaventure Secular Franciscan Fraternity at St. Ita.

# 1st Kenyan Provincial Chapter



**Left:** Fr. Simon, Br. Ayub, and Br. Joe Schenk

**Right:** The new (and first) Minister Provincial of Kenya, Fr. Obed Karobia. **Below left:** The five new solemnly professed members of the Kenyan Province. The profession occurred at St. Catherine of Alexandria parish in Nairobi.

**Below right:** The Minister General, Fr. Carlos Trovarelli, with the 23 new postulants for East Africa (Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda)



Kenyan Friars Hillary, Ayub and Simon sightseeing in Chicago.





## Upcoming Events

**November 2 (Saturday) - Loaves & Fishes:** The 19th Annual Gala benefiting the Basilica of St. Josaphat, at the **Historic Pritzlaff Building** in Milwaukee, 5:30-10 pm

**December 7 (Saturday) - (Tentative) First Profession of Brother Tarcisius Bucca, Marytown, 4:30 pm**

**January 6 (Monday) - Epiphany Party, Marytown,** Evening Prayer at 5 pm, followed by dinner

**September 28-October 1, 2020 (Monday through Thursday) - Extraordinary Chapter at Marytown:** Arrive in time for dinner (5:15) on September 28, to be followed by 1st Session; full working days on September 29 and 30; departure after Mass and breakfast on October 1



**B**ut, in the holy love which is God, I beg all my brothers, both the ministers and the others, after overcoming every impediment and putting aside every care and anxiety, to serve, love, honor, and adore the Lord God with a clean heart and a pure mind in whatever way they are best able to do so, for that is what He wants above all else.

The Earlier Rule