



the Seraph

News and Notables of
St. Bonaventure
Province

Issue #2 2020

A WORD FROM OUR PROVINCIAL

Dear Friars,



Praised be Jesus Christ!

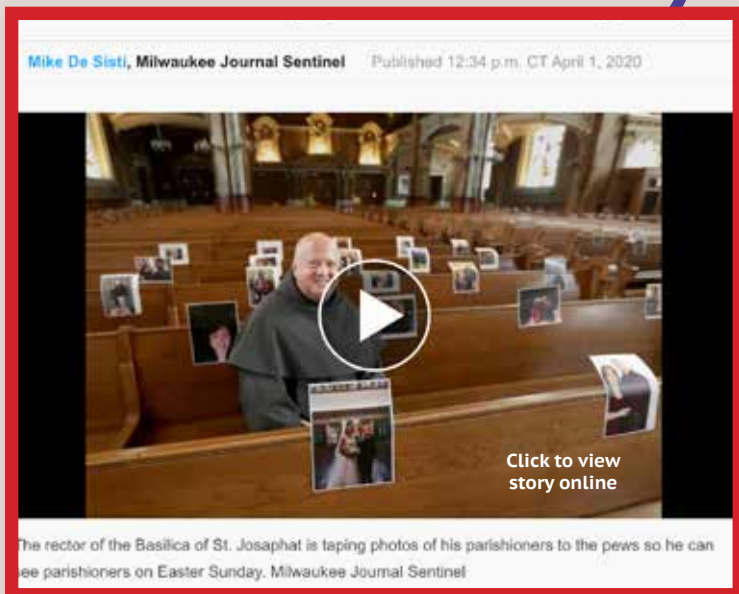
I pray that all of you are well, safe from the Coronavirus. A few of us were talking the other morning at the breakfast table about the Easter Season and Friar Brad brought to our attention the poem by Gerard Manley Hopkins, *The Wreck of the Deutschland*. In this poem there is a line that reads: **“let Him Easter in us...”** The word “Easter” goes from a noun to a verb; a very interesting happening. What does it mean using “Easter” as a verb?

As we continue our celebration of the Easter Season these next weeks we need to let the Lord “Easter” in us. With the pandemic still in full swing, the battles and protests of living in America, with all of our liberties and rights – **how do we witness to Easter?**

We have experienced the love and power of the Resurrected Lord in a unique way as vowed religious, men of the Gospel. We need to live daily how we are “Eastering.” Each day we have the opportunity to show (to our brothers and the people to whom we are called to minister) how the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ has a profound effect in our daily lives.

Yes, these are trying times; and yes, we are living and ministering in ways in which only science fiction books could have dreamt. But being an “Eastering” people, we know that Jesus Christ has conquered death and all the negative things that have been happening throughout the world these last months.

Continued inside



Center: Ss. Ita and Thomas of Canterbury outreach continues as an essential operation. Bro. Don, Bro. Ayub, Fr. Bob and postulants from the House of Studies (Kenmore) continue to staff the food pantry and soup kitchen with the help of the Daughters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary and parishioners; **Bottom:** Bro. Charles and Bro. Augustine at Easter Vigil, Marytown

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We know that this pandemic is not a punishment from God. This pandemic has happened because we humans think that we are God. We do not know the full consequences of our actions. Then, when things go wrong, we cry out: “Why, God, did you let this happen!”

We, as men of the Gospel, need to stand straight and announce by our deeds and actions that God is in charge and we are His redeemed creatures. As men who have died and risen with Jesus Christ, we proclaim that, yes, God gave us the intellect and will to be in union with Him, not to go against His will. Every time we set ourselves in opposition to God’s will, that is when trouble happens for us!

As the old saying goes: “God writes straight with our crooked lines.” And as corny as it may sound, “we are an Easter people and Alleluia is our song.” Now more than ever do we need to sing Alleluia!

Please continue to be safe from the virus – ***but daring and bold in proclaiming Jesus Christ!*** Let Him “*Easter*” in you so that you in turn can “*Easter*” in one another and in the lives of the people you have been called to serve. Together as God’s chosen people we will get through these trying times; stronger, bolder, more on fire with the Holy Spirit so that the mission and message of Jesus Christ will continue to transform the world!

Celebrate the fifty days of Easter! Let Him “*Easter*” in us!

God bless,
Michael



Painting by Raphael (c. 1515)
Christ's Charge to Peter

***We are an Easter people
and Alleluia is our song!***



Top (l to r) Fr Arturo with the parish young adult group for the annual “sip and paint” gathering; “Hoppy” Easter! The Community at Kellyville after the Live Stream broadcast of the Easter Vigil from the friary chapel (from left to right): Fr. Tony Fox, Fr. David Blowey, Fr. Alejandro López, Br. Bernard Fonkalsrud, Fr. Leonides Mateo, Aspirant Mitchell Gallagher with Rosie the Rabbit! **Center (l to r)** Guatemalan Community had annual Mass for Señor Esquipulas, which included a visit from Consul General Billy Munoz Miranda, pictured with the friars; Fr Jerzy visits the STC soup kitchen before returning to Assisi. **Bottom (l to r)** Fr. Emilian and Br. David preparing Easter flowers; Fr. Michael Zielke was chef for the 5th annual spaghetti supper at Ss. Ita and Thomas of Canterbury - More photos of this event on following pages!



Triduum & Easter at Marytown

Top Consecration during Holy Thursday; Friars at the Altar **Center** Proclamation of the Passion Good Friday; Fr. Benedict blesses the Easter Water; Preparation of the Paschal candle on Easter Vigil **Bottom** Fr Benedict blesses the Friars; Br. Tarcisius; The Universal Prayer on Good Friday

We Are (Still) Here

As this pandemic of Covid-19 progressed, Marytown was ahead of most parishes since we had already had the equipment for live-streaming and had been doing it for many years. The problem came when we could not say Mass in the main chapel. Therefore, we moved up to the second-floor chapel and used the mobile live-stream camera, but only for Sunday Mass. However, for the weekday Masses, I (Fr. Hans) suggested we at least video tape and post the homilies on Marytown's website. Notwithstanding, the Lord was not going to allow it to stop there.

It then came to the point where we could not allow people in the main chapel, which knocked out our 24-hour adorers. We did not stop the adoration. Each of the friars took at least two holy hours in a twenty-four period. During one of mine, I started to get some thoughts about doing podcasts. The name that came to me was: "We Are Here." I just felt we needed to show the people we were still here for them, even though we could not be amongst them to provide the Sacraments or just talk face-to-face. I was also thinking: besides being a good way to evangelize, this may be the only way to attract vocations to our Order.

I mentioned this podcast thought to Fr. Benedict La Volpe and he was all for it. He and I did the **first** one. We talked about the changes that have happened since the Pandemic and how it has affected those who loved coming to Marytown to adore our Lord in the Monstrance.

The **second** one was with Br. Charles Madden. He talked about an ancient pandemic – abortion. Somehow he traveled off to one of his stories about the mob. It was relevant. His was a hit – we had 130 downloads.

The **third** was with Br. Donnie Thielsen in the studio with me and Fr. Bob Cook over the speaker phone. They shared their challenges with dealing with the homeless and poor, and the work of the



Soup Kitchen since the Corona Virus outbreak; for example, how it is all pick-up only at this time.

The **fourth** was also via speaker phone with Fr. Micheal Zielke, who was kind enough to give an overview of the province during this time, especially when we have friars spread across the United States, and even having one, Fr. Anthony Lajato, in the hotbed of Rome.

The **fifth**, again was over the speaker phone with Fr. Paul Scheinder, sharing how the rules of the Postulant House have changed on what can be done and what shall not be done. One notable change was their "3rd floor to 2nd floor" retreat. This came

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about since the postulants could not travel to Indiana for their regularly-planned retreat.

Fr. Arturo Felix was the **sixth** podcast, giving us the update on the simply professed. He described for our listeners how the formation process works in post-Novitiate, as the temporary vowed student begin their studies. Fr. Arturo shared how these students were faring out in each of their quarantine friary's.

This **seventh** podcast is not yet posted, but has three guests involved. Br. Tarcisius Bucca was in the Clare Studio with me, then we called Br. Jason Warrer in Silver Spring, Maryland, and our postulant Anthony Ruffolo in Chicago, and had them on a conference call over the speaker phone. We just talked about stuff. What was going on in their lives? Did they have any stories? How was their year progressing? You know, stuff. It was pretty entertaining, especially since Br. T. was there to incite chaos.

The 'We Are Here' podcasts were video-recorded, then I stripped the audio off and placed these audio podcasts on the front page of our websites, FranciscanCommunity.com and KolbeShrine.org. Some of these were too large to post directly on our webpage, so indirectly I posted them through buzzsprout.com. So far it is free, unless I start doing more podcasts. I use Vimeo as a server to put



our videos through because there are too many and can be too large to display directly on our webpage. buzzsprout.com is the same concept for audio podcasting.

Let me know if you have any interesting stories you would like to share, and we will set up a taping session. The people of God are hungry to hear from us, and they would like to know who we were before we became friars.

Also – Stephanie Santa and Br. Donnie helped me do some commercials for the podcasts. I stuck them in at the breaks.

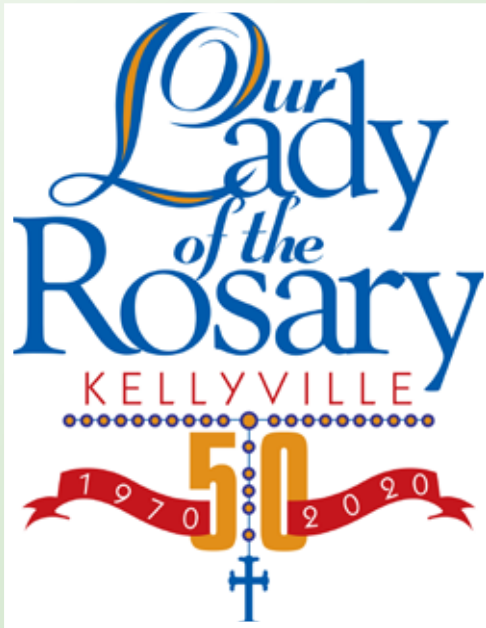


Lenten Day of Recollection,
entitled **At the Foot of the Cross with the Sorrowful Mother**, was given by Fr Benedict LaVolpe.

(Ss. Ita and Thomas of Canterbury)

Happy 50th Anniversary

On *Laetare* Sunday 2020, Our Lady of the Rosary Parish (Kellyville, Australia) celebrated its 50th Anniversary. The Parish was established on 8 March 1950. On hand for the special Mass were (photo 1, from left to right) the first parish priest, Fr. Leonard Testa, former parish priest now bishop, Most Rev. Vincent Long and current parish priest, Fr. Alejandro López, along with the whole Kellyville friary community. The large cake was cut up by the first and current pastors (photo 2). A former graphic designer, Fr. Alejandro designed the parish's new logo which was reproduced on special commemorative mugs that were given out one per family to those in attendance!



Church pews may be empty, but Easter still happens. The environment of the church at Saint John's, Clinton and Sacred Heart, Farmer City; proclaims **E A S T E R**. It is important in this time of social distancing, the sights and smells of Easter **must** happen. God's House proclaims to the world our faith in the Risen Lord. In spite of suppression nothing will stop the proclamation that:

CHRIST IS RISEN; He is risen indeed!



Sacred Heart Farmer City



St . John's Clinton - Easter 2020

With many of the typical Lenten activities suppressed because of the Coronavirus Pandemic, it was a challenge to offer spiritual support for those who sought the mercy of God. Many parishes offered "drive-thur" Confessions. Fr. Jim Henning attempted to schedule such an event. However, the 'devil' was at work. Confessions were scheduled for 6 pm in the Parish Parking Lot at St. John's in Clinton. At 5:45 strong winds, hail, and rain threatened to cancel the event. *"Neither snow, nor rain, nor dark of night..."* With the help of a couple of parishioners, alternative areas were hastily setup. Fr. Jim said he had fun. He'd do it again! (See below)



Jim Henning with his Easter "Congregation"
Deacon Scott Whitehouse and wife, Janet

Far right - Jim Henning at his perch inside the garage. Cars drove up on the apron

STAY CONNECTED
SOCIAL DISTANCE DOESN'T MEAN WE CAN'T STAY CONNECTED

Right - Fr. Paul Langevin weathered the storm and came in from Peoria. He was sheltered in the doorway of the Parish Hall so cars with more than one person could stand at safe distance and receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.



5th Annual Spaghetti Supper

Ss. Ita and Thomas of Canterbury 5th annual spaghetti supper, featuring chef Michael Zielke and his Assisi Marinara Sauce. This was the largest crowd ever-- nearly 400 diners.



Suyapa

The Honduran Community had their annual Mass for La Virgen de Suyapa.



Lunar New Year

Ss. Ita & Thomas of Canterbury has an Asian Immigrant population of about 25%. The Vietnamese and Lao communities celebrate the Lunar New Year in February, while the Burmese refugee community marks the new year with House Blessings.



Welcome

The parish welcomed the Daughters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary from Nigeria, who have established a convent in the St. Thomas of Canterbury rectory.



Upcoming Events

Wednesday, July 15 Friars' Day, Marytown, 10am-5pm

September 28 - October 1 Extraordinary Provincial Chapter, Marytown

Dates for Ordinary Provincial Chapter (2022)

First Session: **April 25 - 29, 2022**

Second Session: **June 27 - July 1, 2022**

Marytown



One day the blessed father was praying in his cell and that brother came to the place disturbed by his usual thoughts. The holy one of God knew both that the brother had come and understood what was twisting in his heart. So the blessed father immediately call him to himself. “Let no temptation disturb you, son,” he said to him, “and do not be troubled by any thought. You are very dear to me and you should know that, among those dearest to me, you are worthy of my love and intimacy. Come to me confidently whenever you want, knowing you are welcome, and, in this intimacy, speak freely.”

That brother was amazed and from then on became even more reverent. The more that he grew in the holy father’s grace, the more he began to enjoy God’s mercy with confidence.

Thomas of Celano, Book One, Chapter 18