



the Seraph

News and Notables of
St. Bonaventure
Province

Issue #4 2020

A WORD FROM OUR PROVINCIAL

Dear Friars,

Praised be Jesus Christ!

I pray that all of you are well and safe from the effects of the coronavirus. It was good to be with those of you who were able to attend our Assembly at Marytown.

As I reflect on our Province's 4-Year-Plan that we discussed at the Assembly, I cannot help but think how the Holy Spirit is working in the life of our Church and community. The letter that the three Minister Generals wrote on the 800th anniversary of the Rule of 1221, and the Holy Father's signing of Fratelli Tutti, his second encyclical (on the eve of St. Francis Day and at the Basilica of St. Francis), call us to a deeper spirit of living our common life in such a way that we show the world



that there is a better way to live as brothers and sisters and with all of creation.

We all know how fractured our world is, and it seems the divisions and divisiveness are pulling us further and further apart. The tone of discourse in our society and culture have become so negative that sometimes what we say, and how we say it to one another, borders on hatred. Our world has forgotten that we were created to be in community, and when we live as a community we bring the best out of each other.

Since the beginning of the world, humankind has struggled to live community with one another and with all of creation in the way that God intended. Our first parents, Adam and Eve, had such a unique relationship with God that the Book of Genesis tells us that every afternoon God came to the Garden of Eden to walk with them. When Adam and Eve sinned by eating from the tree from which God asked them not to eat, division entered into their relationship

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The Diaconate Ordination of Thomas Fetz took place Wednesday, March 30th, at Marytown.
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Continued from Page 1 with God, between themselves, and with all of creation.

And even though this division seems to be getting worse with the passing of each day, we need to remember that Jesus' death has healed this rupture. Christ's death has brought us back into a right relationship with God, ourselves, others, and with all of creation – if we so choose to participate in God's unconditional love!

My brothers, we are in a Franciscan moment where our lives, living together as brothers, can have a profound effect and change in our world. We have professed vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience, living as brothers in a fraternity. By the way we choose to live with one another, we tell the world that it is possible to live in community the way that God intended humankind to live.

God is our Father and Christ is our brother. We are part of God's family and He is calling us to live as a faith-filled fraternity, knowing that our differences can lead to a unity that speaks of the Divine – a Divine communion with God and our brothers. If we want to be honest, how many of us would choose the people that we are living with right now? I am sure that many of us would have chosen other individuals. But we know that God has brought us together for His purpose, a Divine purpose.

Our community life is good and we are better men, growing in holiness and in our Franciscan vocation. Yes, living in community has its ups and downs but when we realize that God is the One who has brought us together for His Divine purpose, our struggles in living the common life can easily be overcome. It is a choice that we make not once in our lives, but daily and sometimes many times throughout our day.

Conversion, transformation, accepting our limitations and the limitations of others, is a lifelong commitment. We know that true change takes time. Conversion does not happen overnight. Yes, miracles can happen, but the normal course of action is dying to self each day so that Christ can live in and through us.

Christ is asking us to live as His brothers. The Church is asking us to be witnesses to authentic community living. The world is on the brink, needing true disciples of Jesus Christ who witness to Him. The Holy Spirit has inspired us to be Conventual Franciscan Friars. Are ready for the challenge that is ahead of us?

Peace and all good!

God bless,
Michael





*Diaconate Ordination
Friar Thomas Fetz*



For the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, Paul Joseph Langevin spoke with all the Holy Family (Peoria) school students about the life of our founder and his care for all of creation. Children brought in pictures of their pets to be blessed. Clifford the Big Red Dog assisted.

While in Peoria for the Funeral Mass of +Archbishop John Myers, our confrere Bishop William Callahan OFM Conv. (Bishop of LaCrosse) celebrated a Memorial Mass (with Paul concelebrating) for the **second anniversary of the death of +Michael Glastetter.** The beautiful arrangement of friar Michael's favorite flowers graces the Sanctuary of Holy Family Catholic Church, which was friar Michael's home parish and where the friars have ministered since 1979.



Left
From Patrick Greenough

Adoration at renovated church of St. John the Baptist in Lostat, Illinois.



Pet Blessing

October 3

at Ss. Ita and Gregory the Great





*Blessing of the Animals
at Marytown*



From Christopher Shorrock - **Professions into the Secular Franciscan Order at the Basilica on Saturday, October 3rd.**

Monet in Toluca

All of the great artists have painted rural scenes, and the city of Toluca and Claude Monet have come together in a unique exhibit of Monet's famous paintings "*Haystacks*." From his back porch in Giverny France, Monet painted a series of 25 haystacks at various times of the day and seasons. What makes this exhibit of his paintings so unique, is that 11 prints are exhibited not on walls in a building, but on the ground in a grassy field. This gives a unique perspective of how Monet saw the haystacks when he first painted them. It puts his paintings back into the original rural-life setting from which he was inspired.

This was able to be done with the help of Murals by Jericho (muralsbyjericho.com), in Peoria Illinois. At first glance all one sees are haystacks, but as the light

and seasons change, so do the haystacks and the colors surrounding them. People too are like *Haystacks*; they at first glance may seem somewhat ordinary, but become extraordinary when viewed from the times and seasons of their lives.

The exhibit runs throughout the month of October, and longer weather permitting. There is no charge and the exhibit can be viewed from sunrise to sundown, much in the same way that Monet himself painted the originals, in the grassy field at 311 W. Santa Fe, in Toluca. Brochures explaining Monet's Haystacks and Impressionist art are available for free near the exhibit. Because of Covid 19 the outdoor nature of the exhibit is perfect for social distancing and experiencing the beauty of Rural Life in America.



Left to Right: Andrew Hattermann, Father Patrick, Robert Hill



On October 10, Robert Melnick gave a presentation to the Secular Franciscan Fraternity at Marytown on "*Perfect Joy*." He discussed the difference between transformation and sanctification, and how this was lived out in the lives of St. Francis and St. Maximilian Kolbe.



Cake for Donald Thielsen's 25th Anniversary of Vows



Steve McKinley playing at recreation during the Assembly



OFS Fraternity at Marytown

Live interview with Fr. Benedict La Volpe, OFM Conv. Recorded Live

Institute on Religious Life **Liturgical Renewal at a National Shrine**

A live interview with Fr. Benedict La Volpe, OFM Conv.

Check out the interview friar Benedict did with the Institute for Religious Life at <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1018820715287705>



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Upcoming Events

Come & See Weekends

November 27 - 29, 2020, Marytown

December 27, 2020 - January 1, 2021, Marytown

February 19 - 21, 2021, Postulant House, Chicago

Dates for Ordinary Provincial Chapter (2022), Marytown

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

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



The Vision of St. Francis of Assisi
(painting by Luis Tristan, 1610)

A *maskil* of David, when he was in the cave.
A prayer.

With my own voice I cry to the LORD;
with my own voice I beseech the LORD.

Before him I pour out my complaint,
tell of my distress in front of him.

When my spirit is faint within me,
you know my path.
As I go along this path,
they have hidden a trap for me.

I look to my right hand to see
that there is no one willing to acknowledge me.
My escape has perished;
no one cares for me.

I cry out to you, LORD,
I say, You are my refuge,
my portion in the land of the living.

Listen to my cry for help,
for I am brought very low.
Rescue me from my pursuers,
for they are too strong for me.

Lead my soul from prison,
that I may give thanks to your name.
Then the righteous shall gather around me
because you have been good to me.

