



# the Seraph

News and Notables of  
St. Bonaventure  
Province

Issue #3 2022

## A WORD FROM OUR PROVINCIAL

My Dear Brothers in Christ,

*The Lord give you peace!*

I am wrapping up my visit with the Novices in Arroyo Grande, CA. If you have not been to this beautiful sanctuary of the Novitiate, I implore you to take the time and visit. I will gladly cover your responsibilities and your many holy tasks so that you can come here and feel this peacefulness, to encounter this connection with God in His creation, and to untangle the knot in which we can unwittingly wind ourselves amidst the hustle and bustle of our ministries.

The friar Novices newly invested with the habit and now coming out of the desert experience all seem



to be doing well. They are in the excellent hands and hearts of friars Joseph Wood and Marek Stybor. During my visit, they participated in a collaborative formation conference on *Laudato Si* along with our Observant and Capuchin brothers. They also had a workshop on sexuality and celibate chastity presented by Dr. Fernando Ortiz, Ph.D. So much promise for our future as these men seem deeply invested in learning and growing in our Conventual Franciscan way of life. They send their fraternal greetings and prayers.

This time with our Novices and their formators has been a stark reminder of my need to take time to step away from the noise and the busyness of life to better hear the gentle and quiet voice of God calling me more to Himself ... to be still and know that He is God. We all must return from time to time to the Novitiate – figuratively and literally – and reconnect. To tap back into that intentionality and desire to live together in harmony as brothers. *Continued on Page 2*

Friar Jason Warrer made his Profession of Solemn Vows on Sunday, August 14 at St. Ita (More photos on page 3)



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To authentically relate to each other as brothers. To genuinely care for and love each other as brothers. This is what we must do to best welcome our brothers in all levels of formation as they come to us and want to continue learning and growing as friars, and to infuse their passion, their spirit, and their unique gifts and talents to enliven our friaries and apostolates. God help us if we're the ones sending them away because we have caused disillusion or disappointment by our laziness, or by being grumpy and grouchy brothers. Much grace has been given to me here at the Novitiate. I believe much grace awaits us all, if we return to the Novitiate – figuratively and literally. If we do, I believe we're destined to come back new again!

*See you around our hallowed halls!*

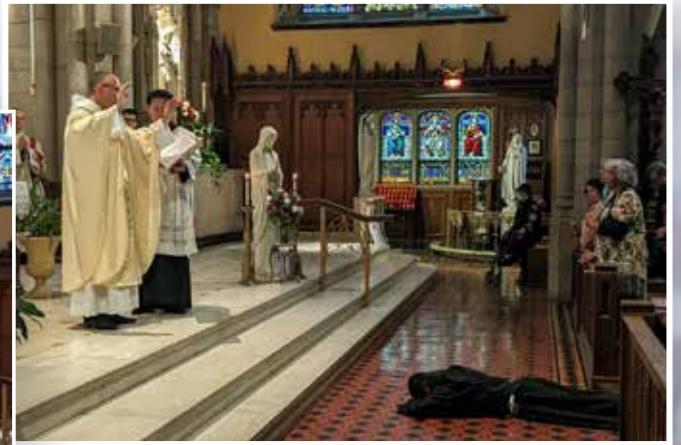
*Paul Joseph*

(Right) Our **Postulants** participated in a **Transitus** service for members of the Franciscan family in Chicago at **Sacred Heart Church** on Saturday, October 1st. In addition to our postulants and their directors, OFM and Capuchin friars participated, as well as Felician Sisters, Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration (La Crosse, WI), and Secular Franciscans.

(Below) **Transitus** at **St. Ita**.



*Friar Jason Warrer  
Solemn Vows*



*Fr. Robert Melnick  
Celebrated 25 Years of Priesthood  
Sunday, September 18, at St. Ita*



Hans Flondor interviewed Fr. Bernard Geiger last winter. The interview is broken into seven video segments. **The Fr. Bernard Geiger Series** is available on Vimeo.

Here's the link to Vimeo: <https://vimeo.com/user43043367>

The Videos are broken into the following chapters:

One - My Plan

Two - Do Not Go Against God

Three - Unshakable Confidence

Four - Fr. Dominic Szymanski's Prophetic Message

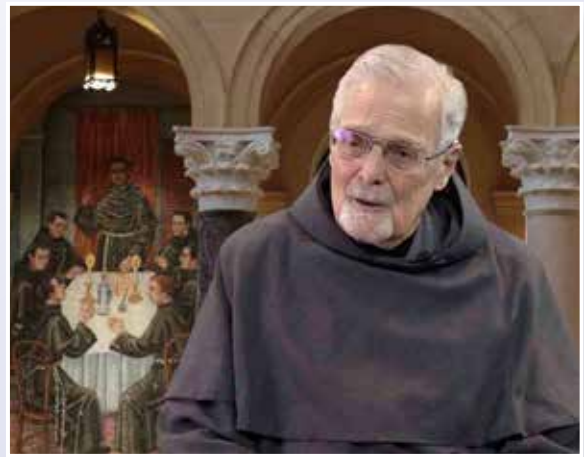
Five - Linotype Operator to Priest

Six - Sent to Rome

Seven - Sensible Wisdom



You may also link to Vimeo from our website. Look for the Vimeo icon at the bottom of the homepage.



## Vocations Update

### Next Come & See

**November 11-13, 2022**

Any friar who knows of anyone interested can contact the vocation director at [FriarVocations@FranciscanCommunity.org](mailto:FriarVocations@FranciscanCommunity.org)

**The registration deadline is**

**November 4, 2022**



Several friars enjoyed a day at Six Flags on August 9th. A good time was had by all!





## Marytown

This year's recipient of the **Kolbe Award** is the Father Kolbe Missionaries of the Immaculata, a Secular Institute of Pontifical Right made up of Missionaries (consecrated laywomen) and Volunteers (associated lay or cleric members). Their Institute was founded in 1954 in Bologna, Italy, by Conventual Franciscan Father Luigi Faccenda. Its objective is to be a Marian and missionary presence in the Church and society. The spiritual experience of St. Maximilian Kolbe, martyr in Auschwitz, based on the entrustment to the Immaculata, is the richness

that unites them and that they wish to welcome, live, and communicate. Congratulations Father Kolbe Missionaries of the Immaculata! (The conference speaker was Ann O'Donnell.)



On Thursday, September 15, the **Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows**, Marytown celebrated the 74th anniversary of its founding. And we were extremely blessed to have our beloved **Br. Martin Schmitz** with us for the celebration. Br. Martin is the only living member of the original community founded in Crystal Lake, IL on September 15, 1948. He now lives at the Little Sisters of the Poor and made this special visit to share some of his thoughts and reflections about the early years of the community, following the homily during our special Mass. It was truly wonderful to once again experience his great wit and charm. God bless you Br. Martin for your life of service to the Lord and your great witness to the Franciscan way of life!

On Saturday October 1st at 10:00AM, **Marytown** carried on the Franciscan custom of the **Blessing of the Animals**, conducted in remembrance of St. Francis of Assisi's love for all of God's creatures.



*St. Bonaventure  
Holy Hour for  
Peace  
October 11*



## Basilica of St. Josaphat



Fr. Jim with members of the parish discussing the upcoming renovations of the parking lot of the Basilica.

Celebration of Mass with the students of Saint Josaphat's School for the solemnity of Saint Francis.



Br. Tarcisius working in the kitchen and serving lunch to the students of Saint Josaphat School.







Fr. Chris blessing the food for Christian Women gathering at the **Basilica**.



Fr. Krzysztof and Br. Tarcisius at the Irish Festival in Milwaukee.



**Blessing of the Animals** at the **Basilica**



### **St. Ita Summer Celebration**

The Celebrate Summer festival showcases the diversity of the parish, with food from around the world, music, and dancing.



# A Royal Visit

**Aussies' new King Charles III visited the Shrine of St Francis in Assisi, on the 8th of April 1986.** During his visit, Fr. Leonard Testa, together with other Friars and entourage, escorted then Prince Charles around the Shrine of St. Francis.

The Prince admired St Francis, noting that he still speaks to our contemporaries in the various aspects of his life. He admired the pre-Renaissance art and religious life.



Prince Charles welcomed at entrance to Lower Basilica in Assisi



Accompanied by Fr Maximilian Mizzi, Ecumenist Representative at the Shrine, and Fr Leonard in the grey habit



# Kellyville parish renovations “an investment for the future”

By Mary Brazell, 5 August 2022



A view of the renovation project at Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, Kellyville, in August 2022. Image: Diocese of Parramatta.

The parish community of Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, Kellyville, are rejoicing after officially celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary – two-and-a-half years later.

On Saturday 23 July, around 250 people gathered for a grand dinner-dance in celebration but also as a reunion of the tight-knit community of parishioners who are now friends.

“There was such rejoicing that we can gather again and celebrate our parish,” parish priest Fr Alejandro López OFM Conv told *Catholic Outlook*.

“Like a lot of parishes, it was a real strain for our parish to not be able to gather and celebrate for the last two-and-a-half years.

“Our Anniversary dinner-dance was a real relief and a release of our need to be present for one another.”



A view of the 50th Anniversary dinner-dance celebration and fundraiser for Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, Kellyville.

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As well as being a parish celebration, the dinner-dance was another fundraising initiative for the community's new church, which is on the cusp of completion.

Some parishioners 'donated' the cost of the ticket so that other members of the community could attend, others bid in a silent auction – with one prize being a home-cooked meal by Fr Alejandro himself – and others sponsored some of Fr Alejandro's "wish list items" for the church such as a new crucifix and a reliquary case for the parish's Saint Faustina relic.

"The beautiful things that we do as a parish is that we always try to offer tickets to anyone who wants to attend big parish events, regardless of whether they can afford to or not," Fr Alejandro said.

"We want to make sure that everyone who wants to be there can be there. It's really something beautiful because our folks readily come forward to sacrifice the cost of a ticket for someone else whom they don't even know!

"I am proud and it really says a lot about our parish, and how we come together for events like this so that everyone can celebrate and no one is excluded."



Fr Alejandro, who has been documenting the whole renovation project on the parish's Facebook account, explained that the renovation project is close to completion.

He says there is a sense of excitement of the parishioners every time they come to celebrate Mass at the primary school hall, as they have been able to see the changes "literally rise from the ground".

The internal worship space is almost finished, but recent challenges and delays mean the exterior won't be completed for a few more weeks.

"The parish has been praying to Pope Francis' patron, Our Lady, Un-doer of Knots, so hopefully Mary can undo this log jam," he said.

The parish still requires help paying for joinery in the new sacristy and piety store, replacing a water retention tank, and a new altar, as the previous one fell apart during construction. Fr Alejandro is also set to [participate in the City2Surf fun run](#) to raise funds for the tiles in the church sanctuary space, aisle and sacristy.

Despite all the challenges the parish has faced, the community remains positive that all their hard work and prayers will not go unnoticed.

"We couldn't do this without our church community acting as a community," Fr Alejandro said.



"It's only done because our parishioners and visitors are generous and see this as their faith home – a home in which they, and their children and grandchildren, will bring their prayers, their joys, their disappointments, sorrows and hope to God who loves us.

"I am blessed that they have opened their doors and hearts to me as their parish priest. They trust me with this renovation project.

"Too often in the past, the parish has suffered because of not having invested in what we have, but what we do now is an investment.

"My hope is that people will arrive at this renovated church and feel inspired.

"They will come to give thanks to God not just for the next year or so, but for many years to come."

[View the photos](#)

If you wish to sponsor Fr Alejandro as he competes in the City2Surf, you can donate to his fundraising page [here](#).

If you wish to donate to the parish's renovation project, you can contact the parish office on (02) 9629 2595 or [admin@olorparishkellyville.org.au](mailto:admin@olorparishkellyville.org.au).



Story reprinted with permission from Catholic Outlook/Diocese of Parramatta  
(Link to original story: <https://catholicoutlook.orwitg/kellyville-parish-renovations-an-investment-for-the-future/>)

# Dancing & More



The Welcome Back Dinner Dance was hosted on September 24 by the Filipinos of St. Gregory the Great, a group that has been active since 1987. Proceeds support parish projects.



Tim and Staci Campbell visited Chicago from Holy Family Peoria to view the recently installed picture of the minister provincial at St. Francis Friary.



St. Ita welcomed Martha Hennessy, the granddaughter of Servant of God Dorothy Day, for a morning of reflection on the Catholic Worker movement and its mission.

## Upcoming Events

**Next Come & See November 11-13, 2022**

**Our Lady Help of Christians Delegation Assembly November 22-24, 2022**

**Epiphany Party, Marytown January 9, 2023**

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As a result, whoever fails –

to be dazzled by such radiance of created things is blind;  
to be awakened by such loud outcries is deaf;  
to praise God for all of these displays is mute;  
to turn toward the First Beginning from such great signs is stupid.

Therefore open your eyes,  
incline your spiritual ears,  
loosen your lips,  
and apply your heart  
so that in all created beings  
you may see, hear, praise, love, and worship,  
glorify and honor your God...

St. Bonaventure  
*from A Guide for the Mind Into God*  
*(tr. by Regis Armstrong OFM Cap.)*