



the Seraph

News and Notables of
St. Bonaventure
Province

Issue #1 2023

A WORD FROM OUR PROVINCIAL

My Dearest Brothers in Christ,

The Lord give you peace!

*Happy New Year! ¡Feliz Año Nuevo!
Buon Anno! Szczęśliwego Nowego Roku!
Frohes Neues Jahr! Bonne année! С Новым
годом! Mutlu Yillar!*



As we begin this new year of grace, we are mindful of commemorating the 800th anniversaries of the *Later Rule* and the *Christmas at Greccio*. As we do, these centenaries should not be insular celebrations within our friaries, but occasions to make our Franciscan way of life visible to others in the communities where we minister and to the world. If we do, the celebrations will have positive effects in our own lives and in the lives of others. “*No one who lights a lamp hides it away or places it [under a bushel basket], but on a lampstand so that those who enter might see the light* (Luke 11:33).” Therefore, let the beauty of our lives as consecrated religious men shine for all to see.

When Francis was inspired to write the *Later Rule*, it was a time of tension and turmoil within the fraternity.

Despite the difficulties, he never turned his back on living as a brother to all – and neither should we. Recognized as the “saint of fraternal love” (*Fratelli tutti* 2), may our fraternal love for one another inspire the hearts of those who accompany us along the way of the Gospel.

As we celebrate the centenary of the *Christmas at Greccio*, we consider the mystery of love and the immense depth of God’s love for all of us. The Son of God becomes the Son of man; He becomes one of us, our brother (cf. *Second Version of the Letter to the Faithful* 56, FF 201). This celebration can be a watershed moment in our lives, to love each other more deeply and to encounter Christ more intimately when we do. We are called to become living nativities through our simplicity, poverty, and humility. Looking to the Holy Family, let us be mindful of the way we respond to the joys and the sorrows along the pilgrim path, with one another and all those we serve.

May this year of grace, my brothers, be a celebration of the great gifts we have received from our Seraphic Father Saint Francis and share them with the world.

Peace and all good!
Paul Joseph

Kenyan Nativity scene at St. Clare Friary in Clintonville, WI



Celebrating Epiphany



Christmas Memories



*St. Mary's
Leopolis, WI*



*St. Rose
Clintonville, WI*



*St. Mary's
Bear Creek, WI*



*Our Lady
of the Rosary
Kellyville, NSW,
Australia*



The friars gathered for Christmas lunch (provided by parishioner Pina Frasca) following the 11 am Mass (l to r): friars Leonides Mateo, Tony Fox, Bernard Fonkalsrud, Dominic Levak, David Blowey, and Alejandro López.



*St. Thomas of
Canterbury*



St. Ita



*Mary, Mother
of God*



*St. Gregory the
Great*



Newly-Elected Meet in Rome



Cardinal Mauro Gambetti, OFM Conv., was the celebrant at Santi Apostoli during the recent gathering of newly-elected Provincials (including Paul Joseph) and Secretaries Provincial in Rome. He joined the friars after Mass for a festive dinner.



In Rome, Paul Joseph joined the line of the faithful paying their respects to Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI at St. Peter's.



While in Italy, Paul Joseph was able to make a pilgrimage to the birthplace of our Province patron in Bagnoregio (left) and visit the Monumental Complex of Santa Chiara in Naples with Anthony Lajato.



Basilica of St. Josaphat



On Saturday, November 5, Fr. Jim baptized 21 children from St. Josaphat School.

Celebrating 40 Years of Priesthood



Tony Fox celebrated 40 years of priesthood on Sunday, November 27, at Our Lady of the Rosary Parish in Kellyville. Following an 11am Mass of Thanksgiving, a "bring a plate to share" feast took place in the parish's former worship space, now used as the parish hall. Fr. Tony shared how he wished his parents could be there to celebrate after the gathered sang him congratulations. (Funny enough, the hall was also the site of Fr. Tony's diaconate ordination!) May the Lord give Fr. Tony many more years of service and blessings!

Kellyville parish looks forward to the future with a new church fitout for generations to come

By Isabell Petrinic, 19 December 2022

The parishioners of Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, Kellyville, have a special reason to celebrate this Advent, with the opening of their extensively renovated church and dedication of their new altar.

Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv was a priest at the parish from 1998 to 2002, before he was ordained Bishop of the Diocese. He was warmly welcomed back to a church full of parishioners to celebrate the Mass and reopening of the building.

He opened his remarks during the balmy evening service by congratulating and noting the accomplishment of Parish Priest Fr Alejandro López OFM Conv, a Conventual Franciscan, in overseeing and moving the 14-year project to its completion for the benefit of current and future generations.



A view of the newly renovated Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, Kellyville. Image: Diocese of Parramatta

Excerpt from Catholic Outlook, news from the Diocese of Parramatta: You can view the full article and many more photos at <https://catholicoutlook.org/kellyville-parish-looks-forward-to-the-future-with-a-new-church-fitout-for-generations-to-come/>

New Guardian

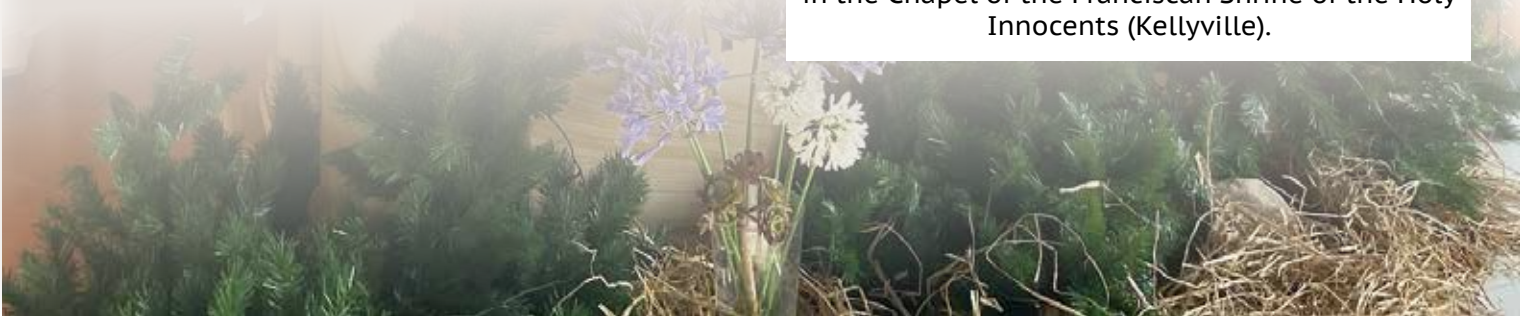
On Sunday, December 18th, Friar Paul Joseph - acting on behalf of the Provincial of Kenya - accepted the oath of office from Friar Timothy Machila as guardian of the newly-erected St. Clare Friary in Clintonville, WI. Friars Timothy, Ayub, and Simon staff four parishes in the Diocese of Green Bay as new apostolates within the USA for the Province of Saint Francis of Assisi-Kenya.



40th Anniversary



On January 11, the 40th anniversary of when Dominic Levac was blessed by his mother as he left home to join the friars and begin his formation was recognized. Mass was celebrated in the Chapel of the Franciscan Shrine of the Holy Innocents (Kellyville).



Other News



The "Cord Wall" in Bro. Augustine's tailor shop. So much cord; so few friars.
Pray for vocations!



Martin is the oldest member of our community. He lives at Saint Joseph Home run by the Little Sisters of the Poor. Tom Hercegovics works at the home in the Activity Department.



Aidrian Robson enjoyed Australia Day on January 26.



Upcoming Events

Definitory Meetings

St. Bonaventure Friary, **Thursday, February 2, 2023**

Via Zoom (St. Hedwig Cemetery Annual Board Meeting) **Friday, February 3, 2023**

St. Bonaventure Friary, **Thursday, March 6, 2023**

**A Friar Minor
must read three books
*the Book of Nature,
the Book of the Holy Writ,
and the Book of His Conscience.***

He must read the first to retrace the eternal footprints of God; he must read the second to investigate the divine decrees; he must read the third to detect his faults and promote his spiritual improvement.

Saint Bonaventure

