



the Seraph

News and Notables of
St. Bonaventure
Province

Issue #3 2023

A WORD FROM OUR PROVINCIAL

My Dearest Brothers in Christ,

Greetings and peace to you from Subukia where the friars of the Province of Saint Francis of Assisi (KENYA) have just completed the first part of their 2nd Ordinary Provincial Chapter. It was truly a great honor to have been invited by their previous Provincial, Father Obed Muriungi KAROBIA, to lead the spiritual exercise in opening their Chapter. Let us offer our prayers for the newly elected Provincial, Father Raduk Hilary OMONDI, and his Definitors as they follow the impulse of the Holy Spirit in leading them into the next four years.



It is hard putting into words a description of the raw beauty of the land, the peaceful serenity encountered in nature, and the great spirit of hospitality and fraternity among the friars. There is a sense of Saint Francis here in Subukia, as it feels equally as sacred walking the mountain here as it does

Mount La Verna. I hope some of the pictures capture God's awesome power.

One of the many blessings I have received in this visit is a deepening of my sense of belonging to the Order beyond the footprint of our Province and the collaborative relationship we enjoy with the other Provinces comprising the Conventual Franciscan Federation. Despite being 8,000 miles away from you, by celebrating with our brothers here in Kenya Holy Mass and the prayers we universally share, witnessing their expression of the evangelical counsels with some of the same joys and struggles we experience, it helps unite me closer to you and to appreciate "there is something greater" of which we are a blessed part. It is something I experience, too, while being with our brothers in Australia. I feel we are truly blessed to have so many brothers from other regions of our family working alongside us in our Province's portion of the Vineyard of the Lord. What a reflection of the internationality of our Order we have in our Province: Australia, Kenya, Poland, Mexico, Romania, Venezuela. All gifts from God. Continued on Page 2



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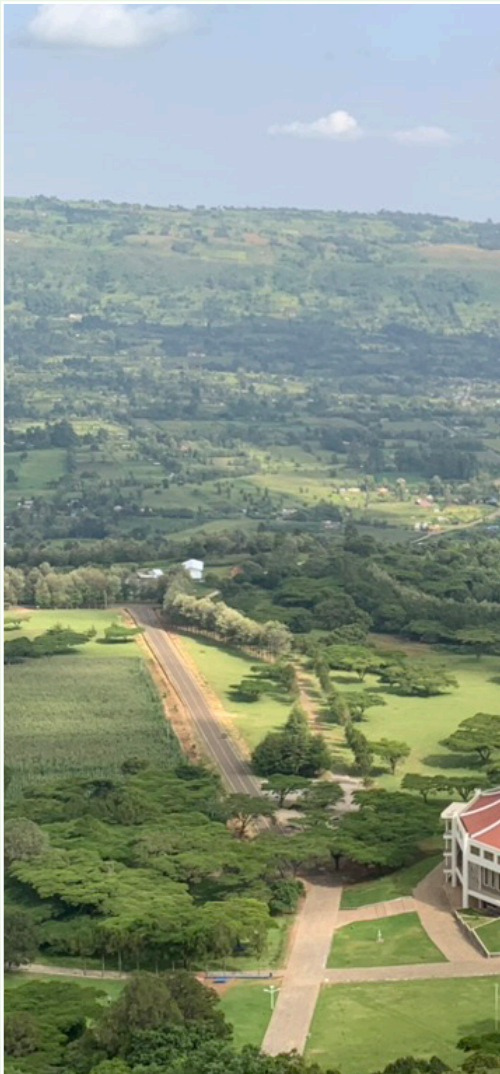
Assuredly, there are differences. But let us never permit differences to divide us, but help lead us to greater appreciate the gifts of the other and to draw upon them for the glory of God.

Very soon, the assignments and moves from our Chapter's slate will be complete. I want to extend my deepest appreciation to each of you for your support, your patience, and for your understanding and openness to how these were necessarily timed. While it certainly wasn't how we've done it in the past, we have shown ourselves and others we can get beyond, *"But we've always done it this way."* God's grace in action. Invoking the trinity of gratitude I say, *"Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!"*

Finally, may the blessed longing Mary had to be united with her Son, which we celebrate being fulfilled in her glorious Assumption, fill our hearts with a holy longing to always be united with Him. And let us ask Our Lady to fill with grace Brother Joseph Wood as he celebrates his 40th anniversary of profession of vows, and to watch over and protect him as he begins his important ministry as Assistant General of the Conventual Franciscan Federation.

See you around the hallowed halls!

Paul Joseph



Maximilian Anselm



(formerly Eric) Rewa professed temporary vows on July 15th at Marytown. In his homily, Jim Ciaramitaro reminded those present that, “Today, we are not just hoping for something in Maximilian’s future – rather, we are seeing **now** a remarkable realization of hope because Maximilian is **dedicating himself** to be a powerful reflection of Jesus’ own life and love. He is professing to be a living sign for all to see, of Jesus emptying Himself, which He did in obedience to the Father so that **we** could all be filled with the very life of God.”



Above: Maximilian with his family
Below: Maximilian with his classmates & Assistant Novice Director Fr. Marek Stybor (on far right)

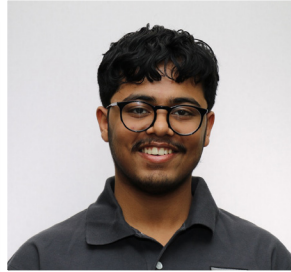


Welcoming New Postulants

We celebrated the Welcoming Ceremony for the new postulants July 7th. St. Bonaventure welcomed Ross V. Caruso from Palatine IL. and Our Lady of Consolation welcomed Paulo Moonjeli from Kochi, Kerala, India.



Ross V. Caruso



Paulo Moonjeli

We also welcomed back James Muzzey from SB Province and Cesar Cruz Perez, III from OLC Province for their second year of postulancy and first year of studies. Afterwards, we all partook in preprandials and then dinner. Once dinner was completed and we were all talked out, many of us went to the basement to converse some more.

However, Fr. Hans found himself battling it out with Paulo Moonjeli in a game of chess. Paulo cleaned his clock. Fr. Bob Cook then was challenged by Paulo. Fr. Bob accepted the challenge. The scuffle began. As Fr. Hans looked on, he noticed that Paulo had no



expression as he played. Fr. Hans wondered if Paulo knew he was playing chess, or thought he was playing poker? Slowly Paulo dismantled Fr. Bob's strategic moves to where, finally, Fr. Bob had to concede the game. At that moment, the Cheshire Cat's smile appeared upon Postulant Paulo's face.

The next day, the whole group went out on the Gangster Tour. Later that evening those guests that were left played Party Uno. Talk about a confusing game where you need to keep reading the instructions. We all thought playing Flip Uno afterwards would be better. Well that did not help. Once you have Uno, someone puts down a flip card and the game changes. No sooner do you know it and the guy with Uno ends up with more cards. Overall, it was great fraternity.

In the Vocation Office: Our new St. Bonaventure Vocation Director is Fr. Paul Langevin. He brought Tom as a vocation guest as did Fr. Hans who brought George to the Welcoming Ceremony. Both were moved and impressed with the Community and its fraternity.



Corpus Christi



Memorial of Immaculate Heart of Mary Concert



This & That



Br. Tom Hercegovics getting ready for an ice cream social for the residents at Saint Joseph Home for the elderly. The home is run by the Little Sisters of the Poor in Palatine, Illinois. Bro. Martin, the oldest member of our Province, lives at the home.



One more photo from Kenya!

Upcoming Events

August 12, Saturday: **Kolbe awards at Marytown**

(Awardees: Fr. Bernard Geiger and Br. Martin Schmitz)

August 17, Thursday: **Definitory Meeting at St. Bonaventure Friary**

October 12, Thursday: **Definitory Meeting via Zoom**

October 21, Saturday: **St. Josaphat Basilica Foundation Loaves and Fishes Gala
at Milwaukee Athletic Club**

December 5, Tuesday: **Definitory Meeting at St. Bonaventure Friary**

December 11-15, Monday-Friday: **Province Retreat at Marytown**



Most high glorious God
enlighten the darkness of my heart,
and give me, Lord
a correct faith
a certain hope
a perfect charity
sense and knowledge
so that I may do
your most holy and true will.

Prayer of St. Francis before the Crucifix