



the Seraph

News and Notables of
St. Bonaventure
Province

Issue #4 2023

A WORD FROM OUR PROVINCIAL

Dear Brothers in Christ,

Greetings and peace to you as I conclude my annual visit with our brothers in Australia.

The Delegation's Assembly was a blessed encounter with Christ and with one another. During our time together, we were fed spiritually by Archbishop Christopher PROWSE (Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn) and the Most Reverend Charles BALVO (Papal Nuncio of Australia). With the help of the Holy Spirit, we discerned challenging matters before us and made difficult decisions for the future of the Delegation and our brothers Down Under. Personally, these many weeks together have been a powerful experience of solidarity and fraternity.

Meanwhile, we have all faced the disruption of peace in yet another part of the world: the Middle East. As Franciscans, each of us is called to be an instrument of peace. I urge



us all to unite in whatever ways we can in our various apostolates to be living, meaningful, and public witnesses of peace. I call on us all to pray for peace in a particular and public way. Let us, by our example, lead others to fast; to pray the Stations of the Cross; to hold Holy Hours before the Blessed Sacrament; to be intentional in our response to this crisis; to pave a path of peace wherever hurt and hatred seem to prevail. Do not hide our light under a bushel basket, my brothers. Let us shine for the world to see. This is what the Lord and our Seraphic Father Saint Francis have called us to in our world so desperate for us to show them the way to peace.

Finally, let us rejoice with our brothers, Father Leonard TESTA and Father Christopher SHORROCK, as they celebrate a total of **100 years** of religious profession!! Father Leonard celebrated **60 years** on 13 October and Father Chris celebrates **40 years** on 8 December. Stolat!

May the Lord give you and our world peace!
Father Paul Joseph





More photos from Australia



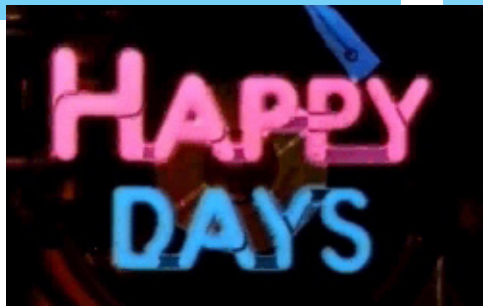
Jim Ciaramitaro was sworn in as Guardian of All Saints Friary during Evening Prayer on August 9, 2023.



Bishop Stephen Lopes of the Personal Ordinariate of the Chair of Saint Peter and chairman of the USCCB committee on Divine worship, visited the Basilica in August.



The Friars of St. Josaphat friary welcomed Friar Michael Heine for a few days of R&R: dinner at a Wisconsin supper club, Brewers game and a visit to the Bronze Fonz.



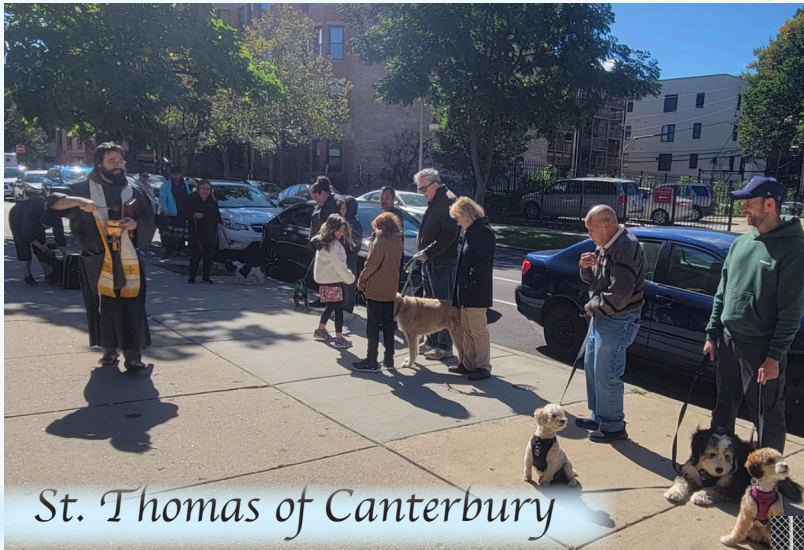
Pet Blessings



Marytown



St. Gregory the Great



St. Thomas of Canterbury



St. Ita

LIFE ON THE LINE CONFERENCE

On Friday 13th October, the pro-life group 'Life Choice' held its inaugural 'Life on the Line Conference' at Campion College, a Catholic liberal arts college based in western Sydney. The conference was well attended by students and other guests and boasted two fantastic speakers from academic and political backgrounds, each touching on key points of the reality of the tragedies of abortion and euthanasia in Australia and how we as Catholics can enter into respectful and effective debate in the public forum. Several pro-life organizations were invited to facilitate booths promoting their work and ministries, including our Franciscan Shrine of the Holy Innocents which was represented by Br. Bernard Mary.



Friars from St. Francis of Assisi Friary joined the friars at St. Bonaventure Friary for Vespers, preprandium, and dinner.



FRANCISCAN MEN

After the exciting and moving events of World Youth Day 2023 in Lisbon, Portugal, Br. Bernard Mary was inspired to create a space for adult Catholic men to gather for a time of prayer, fraternity, and discussion; and so 'Franciscan Men' was born. The group, taking Saint Francis as their model for Christian masculinity, has attracted a huge response from men seeking brotherhood and a way of deepening their Catholic faith and practice. Held every second Sunday of the month, more than 40 men of varying ages, have been attending the gatherings and contributing to the incredible atmosphere and experience. The night begins with Holy Hour and Rosary, followed by a meal. A guest speaker is invited to share on a particular topic, after which men are invited to discuss the subject and ask questions.



NATIONAL SHRINE OF ST. MAXIMILIAN KOLBE AT MARYTOWN

Presents best-selling, award winning author and renowned "Purgatory Lady"

Susan Tassone

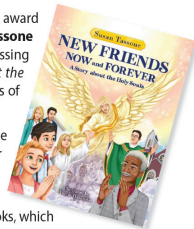
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2023 | CONFERENCE CENTER



Please join us as Marytown proudly presents best-selling, award winning author and renowned "Purgatory Lady" **Susan Tassone** who will be presenting a talk on Purgatory and discussing her newest book; *New Friends Now and Forever; A Story about the Holy Souls*, the first children's picture book about the holy souls of purgatory!

Don't miss this special November event, which coincides with the month the Church dedicates to offering prayers for all of our deceased brothers and sisters, trusting in the power of prayer and the infinite mercy of God.

Following the presentation, Susan will be autographing her books, which will be available for sale in the Marytown gift shop.



To register visit kolbeshrine.org/events-news

or

Scan QRcode above

Transitus at Mary, Mother of God Parish



For more photos, please visit
<https://www.motherofgodchicago.org/parish-news>

Upcoming Events

November 11, Saturday: **Ordination of Bede Thigpen to the Priesthood, St. Ita Church, 10:30am**

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

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

January 8, Monday: **Province Epiphany Party, Marytown, Evening Prayer at 5pm. Preprandium, dinner, and extractions to follow**

*Now will I praise those godly men, our ancestors,
counselors in their prudence, seers of all things in prophecy;
resolute princes of the folk, and governors with their staves;
authors skilled in composition, and writers of epigrams with their quills;
composers of melodious psalms, or discourses on lyric themes.
Through God's covenant with them, their family endures,
their glory will never be blotted out; their bodies are peacefully laid away,
but their names live on and on. At gatherings their wisdom is retold,
and the assembly proclaims their praise.*

Sirach 44:1-15

