



the Seraph

News and Notables of
St. Bonaventure
Province

Issue #1 2024

A WORD FROM OUR PROVINCIAL

My Dear Brothers in Christ and our Seraphic Father Saint Francis,



Greetings and peace to you!

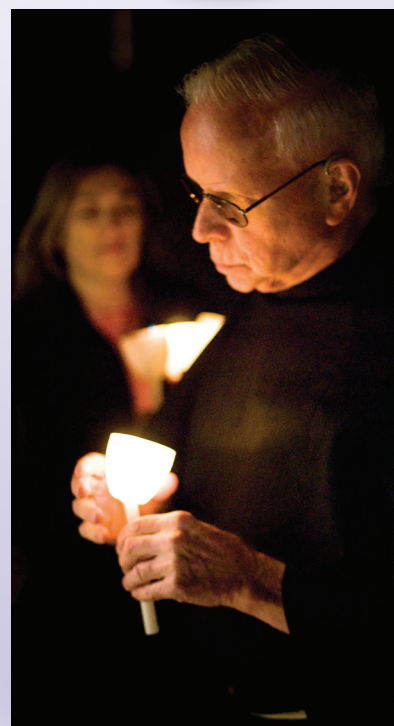
Where does the time go? It seems that Advent went by in the blink of an eye, and while we still have creche scenes on display through February 2nd at our apostolates as we celebrate the eighth centenary of the Christmas at Greccio, the beginning of Lent is just around the corner. I

hope you can get your “Thank You” cards written for Christmas goodies received before the ashes hit your forehead!

Saint Maximilian Kolbe wrote, “The renewal of a religious order is equivalent to the conversion and sanctification of its members. Therefore, the closer a religious order comes to the Immaculata, the more it renews itself, it develops, it flourishes, becoming endowed with fruits, saints, and even canonized saints.”

The words of our beloved confrere encourage us during all seasons of the Church but particularly that of Lent to commit ourselves through the help of Our Lady to a time of new beginnings and renewal individually, within our local Friaries, and within our Province. Our Lady will help us as we strive to turn away from that which is sinful, those struggles that are contrary to what we have professed by our lives as friars, and to help us climb over barriers between one another. Lent is a time to change our hearts, a time to change ourselves, and a time to grow more deeply in love of the Lord—especially in the most Holy Eucharist. What better way for us to renew our daily resolve in emptying ourselves to be of service to and in communion with others, especially the poor, the suffering, the hungry and those in need than to focus on the Lord’s own kenosis. May the Immaculata lead us and help us renew our commitment to greater holiness these 40 days. Let us not delay starting nor take these days for granted.

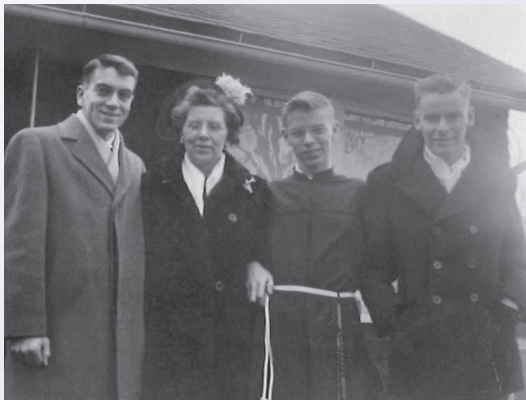
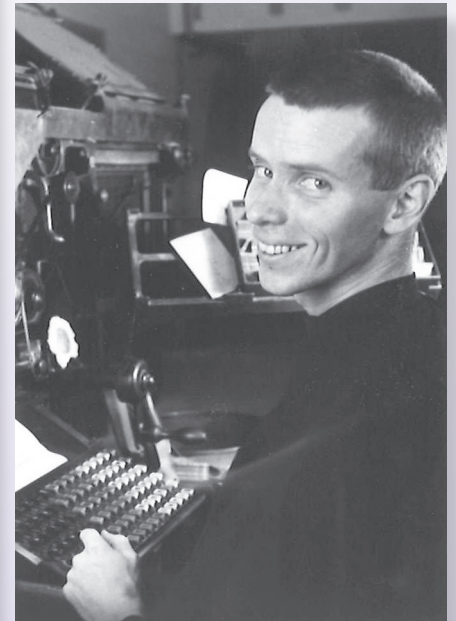
As God would perfectly plan it, we will be able to join with Br. Martin SCHMITZ who will enjoy two scoops of ice cream with his extra-large slice of anniversary cake as he celebrates 70 years of solemn profession (February 12, 1954).



Continued on Page 2

Congratulations....and many more, Bro. Martin! Thank you for your witness of fidelity, joy, and service. May the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the author of all grace, obtain for you - and each of us - graces in abundance and lead us at last to our eternal salvation.

Peace and all good!
Paul Joseph

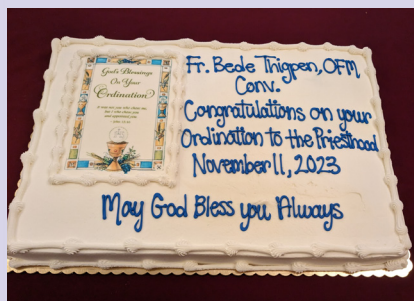


*Congratulations to Bro. Martin Schmitz
Celebrating 70 Years of Solemn Profession*

*Bede Thigpen was ordained to the priesthood on
November 11, 2023 at St. Ita's*



*& celebrated his First Mass at
the Basilica of St. Josaphat on
Sunday, November 12th.*



*Father Bede, Chaplain of St. Josaphat
Parish School, was warmly received after
his ordination at a school assembly.*





Celebrating Epiphany



Christmas Photos



Basilica of Saint Josaphat



All Saints Friary





Marytown



Saint Bonaventure Friary





Jim Ciaramitaro was inducted into the Greater Rockford Italian American Association (GRIAA) Hall of Fame at a dinner banquet at the Venetian Club on Saturday, October 14th for his total of 18 years of ministry at St. Anthony Parish and for establishing the archival museum there. Congratulations, Jim!



Friars Tarcisius Bucca, Jason Warrer, Thomas Fetz, and Alejandro Lopez visit Fr. Bernard Geiger at the Little Sisters of the Poor in Chicago on Thanksgiving day.

Other News



Fr. Pius Musyoka, a friar from the Kenya Province, visited St. Bonaventure Province in the Fall. While in Milwaukee, the friars of St. Josaphat's treated him to Kopp's Frozen Custard.

Upcoming Events

Definitory Meetings

Thursday, February 22

Thursday, April 18

Tuesday, May 28: St. Hedwig Cemetery Board Meeting (Dearborn Heights)

Monday, July 22

Thursday, September 12

Monday, October 14

Thursday, December 5



“The renewal of a religious order is equivalent to the conversion and sanctification of its members. Therefore, the closer a religious order comes to the Immaculata, the more it renews itself, it develops, it flourishes, becoming endowed with fruits, saints, and even canonized saints.”