



Conventual Franciscan Life

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Fall 2016



First Fruits - a Gift for God



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Friars on the Move**



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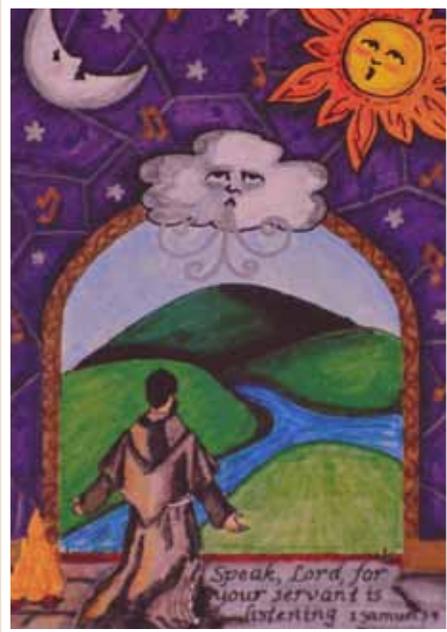
A Great Devotion by Friar Don Bassana, OFM Conv.

Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening

I Samuel 3:9



Friar Don professed his Solemn Vows on September 3, 2016, at San Francesco Di Paolo Church, in San Antonio, Texas. Below is the Holy Card he designed for the occasion.



Looking back at my Franciscan sojourn from postulancy to profession, I can see the golden thread Our Lady has woven to guide me.

During my novitiate, our class visited several Conventual Franciscan friaries and places of ministry. One of the more memorable places for me was Marytown. I felt a wonderful presence and peace about the place, especially in the chapel. I recall picking up a Marian pamphlet with specific prayers to Our Lady for each month of the year as well as a book, a sort of do-it-yourself retreat for making a Marian Consecration.

As our novitiate year was coming to a close, it came time to profess our simple vows in the Conventual Franciscan Order. Due to a scheduling conflict at the usual location, our novice class would be the only one to profess simple vows at Marytown.

This year, at the end of the summer, I professed Solemn Vows at San Francesco di Paola in San Antonio, and

received my official Letter of Obedience, informing me I would report for ministry at Marytown. This is also the National Headquarters for the Militia Immaculata (MI), a Marian movement begun in 1917 by Conventual Franciscan Saint Maximilian Mary Kolbe.

As I look back, I see that I have received Graces beyond the merit of my actions. These experiences make evident the action of God's Mercy throughout my life.

I share this with the hope of inspiring others to also make a Marian consecration through the MI, and invite them to quiet their minds and open their hearts so they too may hear the promptings of the Holy Spirit.

Pace e Bene. Ave Maria!

Do you know someone who would make a great Friar?

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Bình an và thiện hảo! Peace and all Good!

by Friar Paul Schloemer, OFM Conv.



My time in the Conventual Order has given me an appreciation for languages, and learning an Asian language made its way onto my Bucket List. Because of its western style alphabet, Vietnamese seemed the “easier” option. Also, my Novitiate classmate, Friar Luke Vu is currently the head of the Conventual Franciscan Mission in Vietnam, so I knew at least one person there.

Perhaps more importantly, with the closer collaboration of Conventual Formation, our formation house in San Antonio, where I reside, is now receiving Vietnamese students. Even though they speak English, language goes a long way toward understanding culture and attitude.

As Grace would have it, the pieces fell into place, and at the end of June I headed to Ho Chi Minh City for five weeks of Vietnamese Friar life. The Friars in Vietnam have only two friaries, both Formation houses: St.

Anthony in Ho Chi Minh (post-novitiate), and St. Francis Friary in Cu Chi about an hour away (Postulancy)

In keeping with my aforementioned goals, my time was spent trying to grasp this language so different from my own. I had classes in town four days a week. Each morning one of the student-friars would put me on the back of his motorcycle, and off we would go into the systematic chaos that is Vietnamese traffic.

The rest of my time was spent studying and trying to make sense of conversation to and around me – not an easy task!

I introduced the Vietnamese Friars to real homemade ham-



burgers, potato salad, brownies (and good German Hefeweizen), which leads to my biggest takeaway: *Friars are Friars the world over.* I never could follow the conversations around the table, but the laughing and joy were very familiar. And while often a Friar would switch to English to catch me up, they really didn’t need to. I was smiling along with the rest of them.

The three knots in a Friar’s cord represent the Vows of Poverty, Chastity, and Obedience.



Becoming a friar: the stages of formation

Postulancy:

During his year as a Postulant, a man experiences daily life, the cycle of prayer, and the work of the Friars in a Conventual Franciscan community.

Novitiate:

Novices receive the Conventual Franciscan habit and enter a year of intensive, prayerful discernment, focusing on the vows of Poverty, Chastity, and Obedience. At the end of the Novitiate year, the man makes a Profession of Simple (temporary) Vows, normally lasting at least three years.

Post-Novitiate:

During the last phase of formal formation, the Friar continues training and education, leading either to ministry as a Brother or ordination to the priesthood, while focusing on his decision to make a permanent commitment to the Conventual Franciscan life. He then will profess Solemn (permanent) Vows, giving his life to God, following in the path of St. Francis of Assisi.

Conventual, derived from the Latin convenire (to come together), signifies that community is the key aspect of our Franciscan life and service.



First Fruits - A Gift for God

Many people in parishes have two questions. How do we pass our faith on to our children and grandchildren? And how do we teach them to put that faith into action? For the past six years, a group of volunteers at St. Anthony Parish in Clarksville, Indiana, has been working to answer both.

On the second Friday of every month, students at St. Anthony School participate in "Stewardship Friday." The program began six years ago with students from Kindergarten through second grade, and this is the first year that the whole school is participating.

"Over the course of their time at St. Anthony's, a student gains an awareness of people in the community," said Jim Kenney, who coordinates the program. "When you know more about people, how they may be faced with obstacles, you will be able to serve them in a Christian way. If you're not aware, you're not as willing to help."

The program lasts for about an hour, and each class has its own focus for the year. Each month a specific virtue is taught, backed up with passages from Scripture. Kenney has invited Conventual Franciscans from the Province of Our Lady of Consolation to be the virtue speakers.

"It's a further introduction to the religious life, and provides them with an opportunity to make more connections with the Friars," he said. "They get to see someone else, not just the Friar they see at Mass every week."

On a recent Friday, students were given different amounts of money, then had to pay bills and do the other things families do. Some even had to go through the process of seeking a loan. All the while, Friar John Bamman went around with a basket, asking for alms – showing them the reality of mendicant life, and the needs of others.

Many parents, grandparents, and other volunteers from the parish are involved, and share their wisdom and life experiences with the students.

"It's awareness," said Kenney. "With knowledge, they will be more comfortable in helping people, and in continuing to serve them in the future."



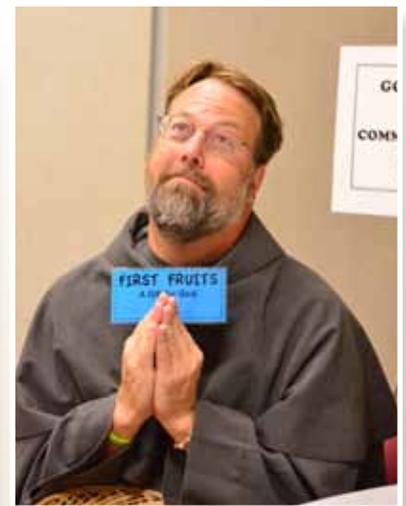
Jim Kenney runs the program - recruiting volunteers, maintaining the focus, and cheering on the progress as the students learn about life's challenges and the importance of service to those in need.



Many volunteers help the program succeed. Sue Grady represented both an insurance agency and a medical center.



Mike Hornung ran a 'Pawn Shop' and could be heard saying: "Are you sure you want to pawn your great-grandmother's engagement ring that's been in the family for 100 years?"



Friar John Bamman begged for donations for the Church. One young lady said, "I'd like to give, but I have to feed my kids!"

For more photos, please visit our website!

In Honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Every year, in celebration of the Feast of their Patroness, the mission parish of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Tortugas, New Mexico, hosts a three-day pilgrimage from December 10-12. For many years, Conventual Friars from the Province of Our Lady of Consolation have served the mission, located near Holy Cross Retreat Center in Mesilla Park.

The annual festival commemorates Juan Diego's vision of the Virgin Mary in 1531. On December 10, the image of Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe is carried from the chapel to the Casa de Pueblo where an all-night vigil is held, with alternating prayer and traditional dances. At dawn on December 11, the image of Our Lady is taken to the church. The pilgrimage to Tortugas Mountain follows (a four and a half mile walk up a steep summit), where Mass is celebrated. On December 12, Mass is celebrated at the church, and groups perform traditional dances in front of the church to honor Our Lady.

Everyone is then invited to a free homemade meal at noon in the Casa de Comida. If you are interested in attending, please consider joining us. The events are free, but if you wish to undertake the pilgrimage as part of the ceremony, you need to register early in the morning of the 11th. If you plan to make the pilgrimage, consider dressing in layers. It is usually cold in the morning and warms during the day.

Let us all pray that Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Americas and Our Mother, will lead us into the arms of Her Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.



Friar Valentine Jankowski is the pastor at Our Lady of Guadalupe in Tortugas, New Mexico.

Living and Learning in Tanzania by Friar Paul Clark, OFM Conv.

Nineteen students from the University of Louisville, as well as from seven other universities in three states, joined me, two other faculty members, and several staff members, for a four-week international service/learning adventure in Tanzania (Eastern Africa) through a program offered by the Kentucky Institute of International Studies.

Program director William Mkanta, PhD, of Western Kentucky University, coordinated the program. Dr. Mkanta arranged for students interested in health professions to have experiences caring for patients in hospitals and orphanages in both Dar es Salaam and Arusha, Tanzania.

Dr. Monika Sawhney, PhD (Public Health), and I offered two three-hour courses each in public

health and nursing, so students were able to complete six hours of course work that could be applied toward their majors. At the same time, they were applying this classroom information in the clinics and orphanages, gaining meaningful experiences working with patients and staff in



The group donated medical supplies to a regional hospital that provides care for TB, pediatric, maternity, and surgical patients. Dr. Benella (left) and Dr. Mkanta (right)

live patient-care settings.

The trip also included a one-day safari, visits to a village of Masai people, and a sun-drenched Fourth of July celebration on the island of Zanzibar. Experiencing the beauty of Tanzania and the hospitality of those who took care of us during our stay was truly amazing. Even more amazing was watching students transition from a that's-not-how-we-do-it-in-the-US mindset, to a position of integrating themselves into another culture, finding value and meaning in that new (to them) reality.

I hope to return with this program in future summers to facilitate another experience with students and to again experience the richness of this wonderful country.



Friar Paul preparing to snorkel in Zanzibar.

Nourishment for Spirit and Body

St. Francis lived a simple and humble life. He embraced poverty, chastity, and obedience. But when the occasion called for celebration (such as Christmas) he would say “let the walls be plastered with meat.” So, we share with you a few recipes, perhaps for your Thanksgiving or Christmas celebrations. And, we share three prayers that are helpful anytime of the year!

Meditation Prayer of St. Francis

My God and my All!

Friar Paul Faroh's Lebanese Humous Dip

3 small cans chickpeas (garbanzo)
3 cloves garlic smashed
1 tsp salt
½ cup fresh lemon juice
1 cup tahini (ground sesame seed)
Run chickpeas through blender until smooth.
Mix with other ingredients. Serve with pocket bread, or crackers.

Friar Steve McMichael's Beef Brisket

1 4-pound beef brisket
4 cloves fresh garlic, crushed (or 1/2 tsp garlic powder)
1 large onion, sliced
1 15-ounce can jellied cranberry sauce
1 15-ounce can tomato sauce

Put brisket in oven-safe heavy dish or roasting pan. Rub with garlic and spread sliced onions over it. Dissolve the cranberry sauce into the tomato sauce in a saucepan over low heat and stir to mix. Pour the sauce over the meat. Cover and bake at 325 for three hours or until tender. This recipe can be halved easily, or for convenience, made a day ahead. Leftovers make great sandwiches. Serves 8

Prayer Before the Crucifix

*Most high, glorious God,
enlighten the darkness of my heart and
give me true faith, a certain hope, a
perfect charity, sense and knowledge so
that I may carry out Your holy and true
command.*

We Adore You

*We adore You,
Lord Jesus Christ,
in all Your churches
throughout the world
and we bless You
because by Your holy cross
You have redeemed the world.*

Quick and Easy Apple Graham Dessert

This dessert may be made in any size container. Fill the bottom of the dish with a layer of graham crackers. Spread on top of this a layer of apple butter. Repeat at least 3 or 4 times. End with apple butter then wrap and refrigerate at for several hours or overnight. Serve in thin slices with whipped cream.

Return, Recharge, Renew Retreat Centers Celebrate

The Friars and friends of the Mount St. Francis Center for Spirituality, in Mount St. Francis, Indiana, and the Franciscan Retreats and Spirituality Center, in Prior Lake, Minnesota, enjoyed celebrating milestones in 2016.



The Chapel at Holy Cross Retreat Center

In 2017, Holy Cross Retreat Center in Mesilla Park, New Mexico, will celebrate its 60th anniversary. Here are some of the planned activities:

- March 12 Blessing of the Chapel's stained glass windows, statues, and Stations of the Cross at 2:00 p.m.
- June 18 Open House with a meal to see the renovated rooms and new additions. Recognition of volunteers through the years and of the HCR Foundation.
- Sept. 2-3 Franciscan Festival of Fine Arts—85+ artists, food booths, beer and wine garden, live music on two stages! Remembrance of previous Festivals at HCRC.
- Sept. 24 Outdoor mass with a reception to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the first retreat in 1957.

Searching for the perfect gift? Consider providing a retreat at one of our four centers for someone you know who needs a break or some time alone with God.

Here are just a few of the upcoming opportunities to recharge and renew.

Please visit our retreat center websites for much, much more.

Mount St. Francis, IN **www.mountsaintfrancis.org**

A great gift for someone on your list - pottery classes! These classes are held year round every Monday and Wednesday evening from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. Classes are \$25 a session with the option to purchase a punch card of five classes for \$125 and get a sixth class free. Clay is \$10 for 25lbs.

Franciscans Retreats & Spirituality Center, **Prior Lake, MN** **www.franciscanretreat.net**

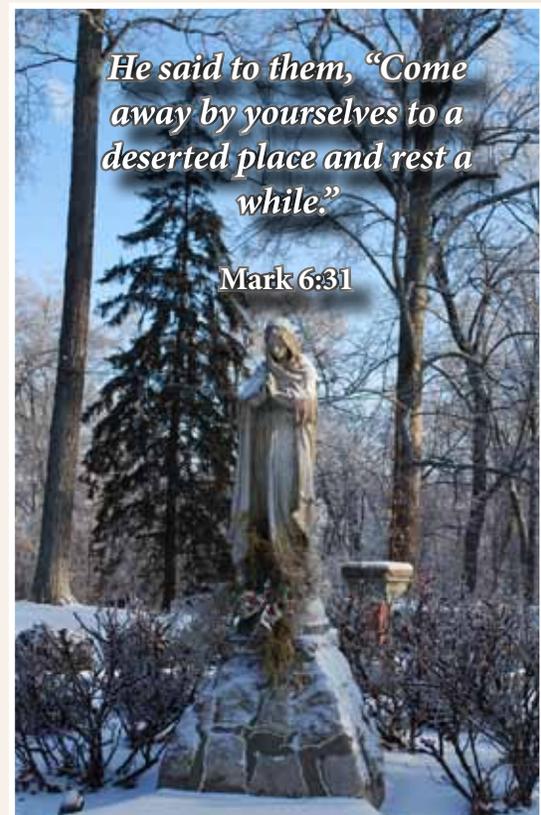
Christmas open house on December 15 from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Over 5,000 lights adorn our buildings and surrounding spruce trees. Enjoy a roaring bonfire, apple cider, and treats from the renowned Edelweiss bakery. No registration and no fee.

Our Lady of Consolation Retreat House, Carey, OH **www.olcshrine.com**

The annual Christmas Family Retreat is December 9 to 11. This is a great way to spend time with your family and enjoy a wide variety of activities geared for all ages. Coincides with the Ecumenical Christmas Concert at 4:30pm on December 11.

Holy Cross Retreats, Mesilla Park, NM **www.holycrossretreat.org**

December 16 and 17 - "Preparing to Welcome Christ into our Hearts and Homes" - This is a short retreat for adults and families to open our hearts for the coming of Christ.



Caring for those around us . . .

We look out for our family, friends, our community, and those in need. It is part of our human nature to want to care for the people around us and to help them feel good.

2016 has been a good year for our Province. We're seeing encouraging growth: three Postulants are beginning their experience of Franciscan life, and another four men have entered the Novitiate for a year of discernment, working toward their first Profession of Vows. There are three men who are Simply Professed and continuing their studies. Our Br. Nick Wolfla was ordained to the Diaconate. Friars Ian Bremar and Don Bassana professed Solemn Vows, committing themselves to the Gospel Life, walking in the steps of St. Francis. On November 4th, Friar Mario Serrano will be ordained to the priesthood. Through the generosity of our caring donors, these fourteen men have a solid foundation from which to serve in an ever-changing and challenging world. Soon they could even be serving you in one of our Franciscan parishes.

We know you receive many pleas for help, especially at this time of year. We are blessed and grateful that so many people choose to share their resources with the Conventual Franciscan Friars. Fortunately, many of our benefactors send a gift to us around this time of year, while giving Thanks and preparing for Christmas. *Your generosity supports our work throughout the year, so our wish is that we are on your list again.*

We want your gift to serve you as well. There are options for giving which **include opportunities that could enhance your financial situation**. Just remember that your gift must be completed by December 31st to qualify for a 2016 gift tax deduction.

If you have questions about these gift vehicles you can call Maureen McCawley at 812.923.5250. During this season the Friars will remember you and your family in their prayers and Masses, returning your generosity in the best way they can.



The Lord gave me brothers St. Francis of Assisi (Photo taken following Friar Ian Bremar's profession of Solemn Vows.)

Cash

- Check payable to: Province of Our Lady of Consolation, Inc. (Legal Title of the Conventual Franciscan Friars)
- Tax deduction for the full amount

IRA Rollover

- Age 70½ – give annual mandatory distribution, or up to \$100,000
- Tax Advantage – not taxable income (no gift tax deduction)
- Check must come directly from the financial institution holding the IRA to the charity

Franciscan Charitable Gift Annuity

- Make a gift to the Friars and receive payments for life
- Minimum age: 60 Minimum gift: \$1,500

Appreciated Stock, Bonds, and Mutual Funds

- Receive a tax deduction for the current market value
- By-pass capital gains tax that would be due on a sale

Age	Rate
65	4.7
70	5.1
71	5.3
75	5.8
76	6.0
80	6.8
85	7.8
87	8.2
90 +	9.0

The box to the left is an example of one-life gift annuity rates. A person aged 70 with a \$10,000 gift will receive an annual payout of 5.1% - \$510.



Dear Friars,

I would like to learn more about gifts that could enhance my financial plan.

Please send me the complimentary booklet(s),

- "GIVING SECURITIES" "BETTER ESTATE PLANNING" "GIVING THROUGH GIFT ANNUITIES"

I would like a confidential proposal for a charitable gift annuity to see how it works with my retirement plan.

I am considering: \$5,000 \$1,500 (minimum) \$10,000 Other _____

One-Life: Date of Birth ____/____/____ Two-Life Date of Birth ____/____/____ (you) ____/____/____ (spouse)

Name: _____

Street: _____ City: _____ St: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Phone: (____) _____

Mail to: Development Office • 103 St. Francis Blvd. • Mount St. Francis, IN 47146

CFL 11.16

