



Conventual Franciscan Friars

Saint Anthony's

Newsletter

July 2018

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Feeding the Poor in San Antonio

Friar Pedro Lopez OFM Conv.



Last year, student-Friars from the three Franciscan families (Conventuals, Capuchins, and Observant) joined together to minister to the poor, especially the homeless, of San Antonio. This year we have continued to do the same on a monthly basis. With help from members of the Secular Franciscan Order (SFO), we gather at one of the friaries from the OFM Conv., OFM Cap., or OFM communities.

We start early in the morning with Mass and morning prayer, and afterwards go to a local center called Inner City Development (ICD) to prepare breakfast for the homeless and hungry. ICD, a nonprofit, community-based organization, contributes to the effort by providing the use of their facility, in this case a proper kitchen to make breakfast.



The Friars greeted the people who approached the breakfast area.

Friars provided musical entertainment.



Friars listened attentively to their guests' stories, and talked and prayed with them.

After the food is prepared and the kitchen cleaned, we congregate at Milam Park, located in downtown San Antonio. There we set up tables, chairs, and musical instruments to continue with the mission of living the Gospel. While at the park, we feed the hungry spiritually and physically. The Friars encounter different people from many backgrounds, and in this encounter we listen attentively to their stories, talk to them, and pray with them. Meanwhile, other Friars meet and greet the people who approach the breakfast area.

This encounter with the poor has helped us to live and experience the Gospel at first-hand. There are so many needs the people have, and we can only do so much. We need the help of Christians to come together as one body, as the Body of Christ, to minister to His people.

As St. Therese of Avila would say: "Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which he looks with compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Yours are the hands through which he blesses all the world. Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are his body. Christ has no body now on earth but yours." In other words, He needs us to help Him with His work. It's our duty to tend to the people.

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Dear Friends,

As we get to the middle of Summer, our Province is going through a time of transition. As I mentioned in the previous newsletter, Fr. Wayne Hellmann OFM Conv. has been installed as our new Minister Provincial. Then, in the first session of our Chapter, the meeting we have every four years to determine the direction of the Province, we elected the rest of our leadership team for the next four years. You can see their picture in this issue.



Fr. John Elmer OFM Conv.

Also, a few of our Friars will be moving to different parts of the Province and new opportunities for service. This is always a bittersweet time for the Friars — it's exciting to embrace a new challenge, yet difficult to leave a position where you have invested effort and an area where you've gotten to know and love God's people.

It's also an exciting time because we have welcomed four young men as Postulants in our community. They will spend the next year learning more about what it means to be a Conventual Franciscan and discern whether God is calling them to join us. Please keep them and all our Friars in your prayers.

We also say goodbye this summer to one of our committed Provincial lay staff. LeDonna Mitchell has served for many years as our Director of Development. It is an important, but almost hidden position. Her work behind the scenes has helped me and the other Friars stay in touch with our benefactors across the country. She has served with dedication and a great Franciscan spirit. We will miss her joyful presence in the office. And we welcome Becki Romans who will now provide the expertise and service we need to encourage support for the Friars and our ministries.

That is the one thing that remains constant — your faithful, prayerful support. When we go through these times of transition, we have confidence that you are with us, and that your prayers and gifts will sustain us and make our work bear great fruit.

You and your intentions are always remembered in our Masses and prayers. But at times like this, when we gather together from different parts of the Province and worship together, we give special thanks to God for the great gift you are to us.

Peace and all Good Things,

Fr. John Elmer OFM Conv.
Spiritual Director



ST. ANTHONY'S CORNER

At the conclusion of a meditation on the Gospel where Jesus raises the dead son of a widow to life, St. Anthony has this prayer:

*Dearly beloved, let us ask the Lord Jesus Christ
to make us rise from our sins,
to make us persevere in contrition of heart,
to make us confess our sins,
to be reconciled with our mother, that is, divine grace,
so that we may merit to be conducted by the hands of angels
to Jerusalem, our heavenly mother.
May He grant us these things,
Who is righteous, kind, merciful,
patient, and worthy of all praise. Amen*

In Thanksgiving

Dear Fr. John,

I am thankful for the doctors and nurses that saved my father's life in the emergency room.

S.C.

Dear Fr. John,

In thanksgiving for my mother Alice who celebrated her 89th birthday, and for Guy's mother who is 77.

D.G.

Dear Fr. John,

In thanksgiving for Pope Francis and all the hard-working religious.

T.M.





Newly-Elected Leadership Team for 2018 to 2022

Minister Provincial Wayne Hellmann and his Definitory – 2018 to 2022: L to R: Friars John Pozhathuparambil, Miguel Briseño, Mario Serrano, Martin Day (Vicar,) Andy Martinez, Wayne Hellmann (Minister Provincial,) Nicholas Wolfla (Secretary)

Thank You

Dear friends,

After 21 years in the Development Office, the last nine as Director, I will be retiring at the end of June. I have come to know many of you through personal visits, phone calls, cards, and letters. When I reflect on how you have been a part of my life over these past years, I know it is by your example that you have helped me become the person I am today.

Thank you for your generous support of our Friars over these many years. Your gifts allow the Friars to continue to keep the Franciscan vision and their ministries alive.

Thank you for entrusting us with your many prayer requests. We've listened and joined you in prayer for your families, friends, and loved ones. When I listened to your faith-filled stories, I always experienced a sense of gratitude and thanksgiving. Truly the spirit of St. Francis is realized in you.

Fr. John Elmer, our Spiritual Advisor, will still be in the office to answer your calls. Many of you have already met Becki Romans, our new Director, and come to know her as a very caring and



The OLC Development Office staff pictured with two Friars visiting from Zambia – top row: Fr. John, Fr. Peter, LeDonna, Fr. Richard, Kayla; bottom row: Becki and Nicole.

compassionate individual. Of course, Nicole and Kayla are always there to answer your calls or light a candle for you.

Please keep me in your prayers as I enter this new phase of my life. You too will always be in my thoughts and prayers. It is a blessing to know, regardless of where we go in our lives, we all remain a part of the Franciscan family.

God Bless,
LeDonna Mitchell

Embracing the Silence

NEW HERMITAGE AT HOLY CROSS RETREAT CENTER

In Scripture, the word ‘desert’ often means more than an area without water or vegetation. It is a place of mercy and grace where John the Baptist went to proclaim the coming of the Messiah. Then Jesus Himself spent 40 days in the desert in prayer and preparation for his public ministry.

On May 20, 2018, the Friars blessed a new Hermitage at Holy Cross Retreat Center in Mesilla Park, New Mexico. This will be a place where people can spend time alone with God, seeking in the silence the quiet voice that can speak so powerfully in our souls and lives.

In the Gospels, the expression ‘deserted place’ is linked with the contemplative dimension of the life of Christ and the Apostles. For them it was the privileged place for prayer and encountering God. There are many examples of Jesus going to a deserted place to pray. And after returning from their first missionary journey, Jesus invited his disciples to “Come away by yourselves to a deserted place and rest awhile.” (Mark 6:30-31)

That same invitation is extended to each of us. We encourage you to consider taking some time for yourselves, to experience the silence where God speaks most clearly.

Please visit our website, franciscansusa.org, for links to our retreat centers. For more information about the Hermitage, you can visit the website holycrossretreat.org



The Hermitage is located to provide a wonderful view of the Organ Mountains. It has a full bathroom and kitchenette. To reserve, contact Fr. Tom Smith OFM Conv. at Director@holycrossretreat.org or by phone (575) 524-3688.

Feeding the Poor in San Antonio – Continued from page 1



The Friars not only handed out breakfast; they also prepared it.

As instruments of God’s peace that’s our mission, putting into practice St. Francis’ peace prayer: “Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; and where there is sadness, joy. O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.”

May the all-good Lord help us to carry out His work. Thank you for your partnership with our Province, helping us serve God’s people, especially the poor and most vulnerable. Peace and all good to you and your families.

In the Way of St. Francis

Fr. Miguel Briseño OFM Conv.

We are all pilgrims on a journey, a journey seeking and searching to deepening our relationship with our God. Recognizing the need to step out of our busy schedules to do this, we take the time to make a pilgrimage to sacred places or shrines. These places allow us to hear the voice of God, and have the time to reflect and ponder where God is leading us. For example, when we make a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, we have the opportunity to walk in the footsteps of Christ, and by actually being at these sacred places, we allow the Scriptures to come alive for us.

A Franciscan Pilgrimage is similar; but here we will have the opportunity to follow in the footsteps of St. Francis and St. Clare. We will visit places that were important to both of them as they developed their spirituality and deepened their awareness of how God was working in their lives.

These places continue to be important in understanding the Franciscan spirituality: **Grecio** – the Incarnation, the Word made Flesh; **San Damiano** – the Call, “Francis, rebuild my church”; and **La Verna** – the Cross, Francis receives the stigmata. Not only are these places important in understanding Franciscan Spirituality, they will also deepen our relationship with our God.

I invite you to take some time and make a pilgrimage to a sacred place that will help you deepen your relationship with God. Make the spiritual journey to discover the Word made Flesh, but also make the journey to discover your new life with our Creator God.



ITALY WITH THE FRIARS

**A Pilgrimage to Sacred Spaces in Rome and Assisi
September 27th to October 7th 2018**

Under the Spiritual Direction of:

Fr. Tom Smith, OFM Conv.

Fr. Miguel Briseneno, OFM Conv.

Fr. Steve McMichael, OFM Conv.

11 Days (3 days in Rome, 7 days in Assisi)

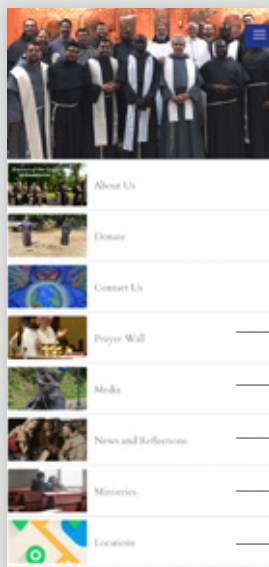
Price: \$3,800

Includes airfare, accommodations, and most meals.

(Single Room Supplement - \$300, Land only - \$2,800)

Departs from Chicago (ORD)

For more information about the *Sacred Spaces Pilgrimage*, please contact Becki Romans in our Development Office at (812) 923-5250. I hope you will be able to join us in this exciting Franciscan experience.



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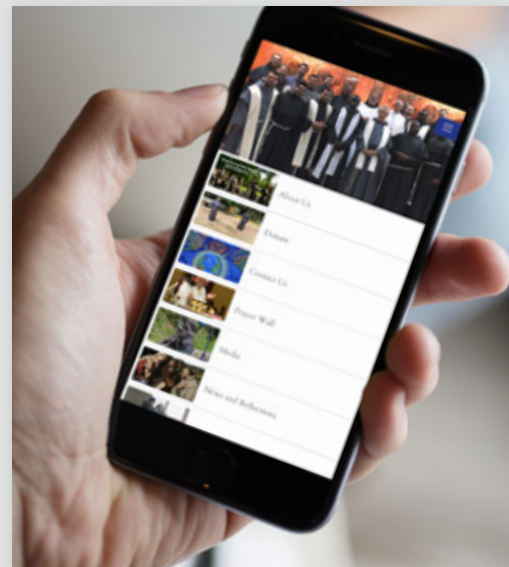
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60th Franciscan International Award Dinner

More than 240 people attended the 60th Franciscan International Award Dinner at the Wilds Golf Club in Prior Lake, MN on May 10, 2018. Fr. Richard Kaley, OFM Conv., presented the 2018 Franciscan International Award to **Risen Savior Missions**, whose mission is to glorify God by feeding starving children in the Philippines. Jerry Krosnoski, co-founder of Risen Savior Missions, accepted the award and spoke about the plight of starving children in the Philippines, and the success of Risen Savior Missions.

During the FIA Dinner special recognition was given to **Marilyn Johnson**, of Hopkins, MN, who has attended all 60 dinners! **Helen White**, who with her late husband, **Bill**, sold the property on which Franciscan Retreats and Spirituality Center now sits to Fr. Urban in 1964, was also recognized for her long time support of the Retreat Center and the FIA Dinner. **Mary Therese Hart**, the FIA Dinner's staunchest supporter and biggest seller of tickets was recognized for her many years of hard work to make the FIA Dinner a success.



Fr. Richard Kaley presents the award to Jerry Krosnoski, co-founder of Risen Savior Missions.



Marilyn Johnson has attended all 60 dinners!



Helen White with Br. Bob Roddy



Mary Therese Hart, staunchest supporter and biggest seller of tickets



The Friars enjoyed the opportunity to visit with the San Damiano Legacy Society members and other guests.



Fr. Jim Kent presented a San Damiano Cross to Maureen McCawley, a long-time member of the Development team, recognizing her years of service to the Friars and their benefactors.

San Damiano Legacy Society of The Province of Our Lady of Consolation

The San Damiano Legacy Society of The Province of Our Lady of Consolation has been created to honor our friends who have given the unusual gift of their time and commitment to plan for a future gift to the Conventual Franciscan Friars of The Province of Our Lady of Consolation, Inc. These gifts are made through bequests, charitable gift annuities, securities (gifts of appreciated stock), insurance payments, trusts, retirement plans (IRA) and real estate gifts. The first annual San Damiano Legacy Society Mass and Luncheon was held April 14, 2018.



**Province of Our Lady of Consolation, Inc.
Conventual Franciscan Friars**

www.franciscansusa.org

Legal Title of the Conventual Franciscan Friars:
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