



Franciscan Friars Third Order Regular Immaculate Conception Province, USA NEWSLETTER • SEPTEMBER 2011

“The souls of the just are in the hand of God, and no torment shall touch them. Grace and mercy are with his holy ones and his care is with his elect.” *Wisdom 3:1-9*

INDEX

Remembering 9/11- Homily Resources by John Kerr.....	1
Provincial Retreat in Pictures.....	2-4
A Special Celebration.....	4
A Special Invitation.....	5
Vocation Update by David Kaczmarek.....	6
Address Updates.....	6
A Final Word.....	7

Remembering 9/11 – Homily Resources

by John Kerr

The tenth anniversary of 9/11 is upon us and those presiding at liturgy will certainly want to reflect on these events in their homilies and prayers. Here are some possible resources to use that were given to me by Bob Walz. We should note that the Lectionary readings for this day are particularly appropriate:

1st reading: Wrath and anger are hateful things, yet the sinner hugs them tight.

Gospel: "Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive?

As many as seven times?" Jesus answered, "I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times.

- The Kindle edition of the book Franciscan Voices on 9/11 has just been released:

<http://www.amazon.com/Franciscan-Voices-9-11-ebook/dp/B0057CQF14>

- Also, the USCCB is offering suggestions on remembering the victims of 9/11. These can be accessed at this address: <http://new.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/liturgical-resources/liturgical-considerations-for-september-11.cfm>
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Provincial Retreat in Pictures

Space limitations prevent showing all of the photos taken during our Province Retreat, but here is a sampling. The complete set of photos will be uploaded to our FB page within the next week.



**Our retreat master,
Rev. Matthew T. Allman,
C.Ss.R.**



Prayer.....





Socializing....



Feasting.....



And Celebration....



Our Jubilarians!

Jubilee Celebration in Florida: Fr. Seraphin Conley celebrated Fifty years of Ordination with a Mass at Our Lady, Star of the Sea Parish in New Smyrna Beach, FL.



A Special Invitation



You are cordially invited to join the Parish Family of
Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Altoona
as they celebrate
the 50th Anniversary
of ordination of

Very Rev. Fr. William Santre, T.O.R.

at a Mass on
Saturday, September 10th at 4 pm

There will be a reception
following in the

San Damiano Parish Hall

RSVP by September 2nd to bilsant@aol.com or (814) 942-8501

Concelebrants please bring alb and white stole.

Vocation Update by David Kaczmarek

It's no mystery that the work of a vocation director is largely wasted effort, especially in this age of the internet. Gone are the days of applicants writing to us in response to an advertisement in the Catholic Digest. Now, 98% of those who contact us use the internet because of our on-line advertising in vocation sites. Given the nature of the internet and of the various websites that serve as clearinghouses of information on religious life, when a man contacts us, they are also contacting nearly every other religious order in the U.S. Consequently, even though I personally respond to every message and send out truckloads of material, virtually no one replies.

As I said, *virtually* no one replies. But there are some very bright lights on our horizon. The friars at San Pedro will be hosting our version of a 'Come and See' weekend from September 23-25 and several men with a significant interest in our community are planning to attend. I would like to invite all of the friars to keep these men in prayer during their time of discernment:

Nicolas Yslas, 26, of Prescott, AZ
Eufemio Dimas Robaina, 32, of Tampa, FL
Luis Jacquez, 24, of El Paso, TX
Adrian Britton, 32, of West Friendship, MD
Fr. Elliot R. Rodriguez Torres, PR

I will keep everyone updated on these men and all those interested in our way of life. Many have said this before, but it remains true that the most effective vocational tool is the personal invitation. The internet is a tool but a highly imperfect one just because it is so removed. Acts of the Apostles tells us that thousands of people turned to faith in Jesus in the time after his Ascension. Even if there is a certain amount of exaggeration in the account, there must also be some truth in it. How is it that so many lives were transformed? It goes without saying they did not have the internet! The message of the Gospel was transmitted person to person through personal witness. We can learn a lesson from scripture. If we want brothers to join our province, we need to be brothers to them and invite them personally to consider our Gospel way of life.

David Kaczmarek

ADDRESS UPDATES

The Eagle has landed!

Raphael's new cell number: 817-888-5793

Corey also has a cell number to share: 503-453-6350

A FINAL WORD

Excerpt from, “If My Words Remain in You...” by Regis J. Armstrong

“The Lord Gave Me Brothers...”

Challenged by living with brothers, Francis could have turned to a Benedictine/Cistercian monastic paradigm or to one of an Augustinian community. He rejected both even when urged to do so and turned confidently—even boldly—to the gospel. How *he* was to live was according to the gospel. Christ became the paradigm, or the Word incarnated through him became the paradigm. How essential that is in understanding the Franciscan approach to fraternity is verified in the historical contours of the *Earlier Rule*. Obstacles arose at nearly every turn challenging the brothers in their daily life. *Itinerancy*: how to maintain the bonds of union when “on the road?” *Poverty*: how to provide for the sick, for the hermits, for those in need? *Human Frailty*: how to live with one another, with the spiritually immature, with the recalcitrant? The answers were always found in the gospel. The *Earlier Rule* shows how together the brothers wrestled with the new situations or problems confronting them and, as each chapter shows, found the formulas for their daily lives in the gospel.

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