

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

“O give thanks to the Lord for he is good;
for his steadfast love endures forever.” Psalm 107



Fr. Emile A. Gentile, T.O.R.

Born on September 24, 1936

Professed on June 23, 1956

Ordained on February 8, 1964

Born into eternal life on November 10, 2011

The following is reprinted through the courtesy of the Diocese of Orlando, Florida

Fr. Emile was born on September 24, 1936 in Brooklyn, NY, the son of Louis and Mildred Trochiano. He entered the Franciscan Preparatory Seminary in Hollidaysburg, PA in 1952. He entered the Novitiate of the Third Order Regular of St. Francis on June 21, 1955, and professed his vows of poverty, chastity and obedience on June 23, 1956. He studied at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. receiving his B.A. in Philosophy, and his M.A. in Modern Languages and Italian Literature. On June 23, 1959, he professed his Solemn Vows at the Franciscan Preparatory Seminary. He was ordained to the priesthood by Most Rev. Philip Hannon, D.D. on February 8, 1964 at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C.

He was appointed Chaplain and Instructor for the Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls, MN from 1965 to 1971 serving at St. Francis High School and St. Clare College. In 1971 Father was appointed Director of Novices at St. Bernadine Monastery in Hollidaysburg until 1974. From 1974 to 1982 Father Emile was elected Minister Provincial of the Immaculate Conception Province of the Third Order Regular of St. Francis while residing in Silver Spring, MD. During this time he also served as the representative of the Conference of Major Superiors of Men to the National Advisory Council of the United States Catholic Conference of Catholic Bishops. In 1980 he served as a delegate to the Fourth Inter-American Conference of Major Superiors in Santiago, Chile.

From 1983 to 1989 he ministered as the Administrator of the San Pedro Spiritual Life Center in Winter Park during which time, he was instrumental in the planning and building of the Mother of God Chapel on the grounds of the Center. Father Gentile served as Chaplain at Florida Manor in Orlando. He was named Pastor of St. Patrick Church in Mt. Dora, FL in 1995 and planned and developed the building of the new parish church, and remained there until he retired at Villa Madonna Friary in New Smyrna Beach in 2007.

Father Emile Gentile was part of the fabric of life of the Diocese of Orlando. In the Chancery Office, Father Gentile served as Secretary of the Secretariat for Pastoral Ministries and as Vicar for Clergy and Religious of the Diocese of Orlando. As Secretary of the Secretariat for Pastoral Ministries, he oversaw Clergy Personnel, Lay Ministry Development, Permanent Diaconate, Priests' Continuing Education, and Vicar for Religious and Vocations. He also served as Director of Priest Personnel from 1988 - 2005.

May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE PROVINCE

A **meeting** of Local and Regional Ministers took place at St. Bernardine's Monastery on October 25, 2011. The meeting was facilitated by Fr. Jim Morman, T.O.R.



A meeting of leadership for the Care for Creation Center at St. Bernardine's Monastery on October 26. Those participating were: Pat Trimble, Renee Rimbeck, Kim Zeiss, Cathy Schwartz, Dolly DeAntonio, Fr. G. Doug DeAntonio, Fr. Gerard Connolly, T.O.R., Brother John Kerr, T.O.R. and Brother Stephen Baker, T.O.R.



On September 30, and October 1 the friars at Saint Bridget held a huge estate sale to liquidate the contents of the former Saint Bridget Friary and convent. Sojourner Truth Academy (STA), which already rents the former Saint Bridget grade school, is a flourishing Minneapolis charter school. STA secured significant grant money for the development of three classrooms in the former friary-convent. Renovation of the building was completed at the end of September and the school took occupancy under a rental arrangement with the parish of Saint Bridget on October 7. The architect in charge of the renovation was asked to maintain the integrity of the building. He did a masterful job of preserving the wood frame doors and windows, duplicating the terrazzo floors, and mimicking the original bathroom tile work of the 1924 building. Weeks of preparation for the two-day estate sale paid off, netting over \$6,000, which was split between the Province and the parish. The sale was advertised in Archdiocesan church bulletins, the local Catholic paper, and Craig's List. The Craig's List ad featured photos of some of the original furnishings belonging to the convent. The items for sale, once assembled, filled the entire chapel and every available space in the basement of the former friary. What remained after the sale was donated to the Saint Vincent de Paul Society. Many people who showed up for the sale had wonderful stories about classes with the good Benedictine sisters who lived and ministered for many years at Saint Bridget's. It is exciting to see the building well-utilized and filled with the energy and excited voices of three classes of kindergarten children.



The former recreation room contained furniture and lamps.



The art studio was packed with linens.



The former laundry area contained religious goods and house ware items.

In gratitude for his servant leadership on its Coordinating Council, Spiritual Directors International arranged for a tree to be planted in Bro. David's name on the grounds of San Pedro Center. Bro. Tello coordinated the purchase of the tree. The Yellow Flame Tree was ceremoniously planted on Saturday, September 10 by the Audire community at the opening session of their new term. Audire is a three-year training program for the ministry of spiritual direction. Founded at San Pedro Center over twenty years ago, Audire has become a nationally recognized and respected program. Audire recently established itself as an independent 501(c) (3) organization and rents space from San Pedro Center on a monthly basis. Bro David completed two, three-year terms on the Coordinating Council on June 30, 2011. At the request of Spiritual Directors International, Bro. David will lead a ten-day, international, inter-

faith, contemplative pilgrimage to Assisi in May 2012. Forty-five pilgrims will be led in prayer and reflection by Bro. David and Margaret Benefiel, a Quaker and spiritual director from Boston, MA. For more information about Spiritual Directors International and the pilgrimage go to: www.sdiworld.org.



Members of the Audire community plant a tree on the grounds of San Pedro Center, Winter Park, FL.

One of the amazing acts of damage resulting from the tornado that struck North Minneapolis in May, 2011 was the collapse of the heavy stone sign for the Church of Saint Bridget on the northeast corner of the property. Parts of the church sign were found in classrooms of the school on the other side of Emerson Avenue. Saint Bridget church was on the left edge of the damaging path of the tornado. Extensive repairs to the school were completed in time for the opening of the new school year in September. Following the repair of the school, the church roof and windows were replaced and other ancillary repairs were completed. The last item to be repaired was the church sign. Saint Bridget's now boasts a beautiful, new, digital sign housed within a construction of stone salvaged after the tornado.



The damaged church sign following the tornado...



The newly designed and constructed digital sign for the Church of Saint Bridget.

On Thursday, November 3 the leadership (Trustees, Parish Pastoral Council/Congress and Finance Councils) of Saint Bridget's and Saint Austin's parish met with Fr. Anthony, Fr. George (pastor of Saint Austin) and Dale Hennen (a member of the Archdiocesan Parish Support Team) to begin engaging in a merger process that was announced by the Archdiocese of Saint Paul-Minneapolis in October. Although the merger was originally announced a year ago, as part of the restructuring plan of the Archdiocese, this merger was delayed following an appeal initiated by members of the parish of Saint Austin. The appeal was reviewed first by Archbishop Nienstedt and then by Rome. Ultimately, it was denied and the merger will proceed. Despite the fact that no work toward the merger could be done while the appeal was in process, the Archdiocese has directed that it be completed in the same time-frame mandated for the other parishes affected by the restructuring plan. The merger becomes effective January 1, 2012. Decisions regarding the church buildings of the newly combined parish community will be made after January 1. In the meantime, both sets of church buildings will remain open. Fr. Anthony has been named as pastor of the new community by the Archdiocese. At the November 3 meeting, Bro. David led those assembled in a ritual he designed to prayerfully acknowledge the losses and anticipate the promises experienced as a result of embracing this vision of a new community of faith. Ritual prayers have similarly been designed for the four Sundays of Advent to assist the people of Saint Austin's and Saint Bridget's celebrate what it means to welcome Christ incarnate.



◀ Ceramic chalice and paten (unknown origin): chalice 6 ½" high; paten 9" diameter

Wood chalice and paten made by Fr. John Flannelly, TOR: chalice 7" high; paten 8 ½" diameter ▶



◀ Ceramic chalice and paten (unknown origin): chalice ½" high; paten 9" diameter



Three chalices and patens from the sacristy of the former friary at Saint Bridget's are available for use in any of the chapels and churches under the care of our Province. If any Province community wants one of the chalice/patens pictured below, please contact Brother David.

Development Office News

- **On a cold and windy day**, the Development Office and volunteers participated in the 2011 Pumpkin Festival in Hollidaysburg! Father Gerard, Patty, Kellie, as well as several volunteers, donated time and talent to make play dough and pumpkin treats at Tim's house and sell them at our booth. We gave the play dough away to drive traffic to our website, 32 people viewed a video on how to make pumpkin pie play dough (www.thefranciscanfriars.org/pumpkinfest) - let's pray this could plant a "pumpkin seed" for a future vocation.

- **Our acquisition efforts** are attracting new donors to the Province. Tim was excited that in October we had more donations than in any single month for the past five years. So far we have acquired 3,922 new donors since we began testing acquisition efforts in 2009, most of these new donors been acquired this year. We have also had 943 gifts from our marketing website www.thefranciscanfriars.org. We are also working on a Christmas Event in December. The owner of the Iron Corbel Inn in Hollidaysburg has an annual event where she donates proceeds to a local nonprofit, this year she has selected the Monastery and the Franciscan Friars, TOR as the beneficiary. We expect 100 people to attend. Please let Tim know if you want a ticket to the event, it will be from 12 – 5 pm on December 3rd in Hollidaysburg.

Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation Corner – November, 2011 - Brother John Kerr

Dear friars,

May God give you peace.

While I was at Saints Cosmas and Damien after my recent Franciscan pilgrimage, I had the opportunity to talk with Fr. Jose Martorell, Secretary General, General Councilor and the one in our Order who directs justice, peace and integrity of creation efforts. "Joe," as he introduced himself from many years in Texas, shared with me his duties and insights of doing justice work from Rome.

He told me that he tries to convey to all the friars that justice begins at home with the just treatment of one another in the friary. From there it moves out to activism in a peaceful way, as Francis showed us. This surprised me as simple and yet radical. I tend to think of it as external ministry. And yet one of our pilgrimage guides said that Francis could practice peace because he knew the violence within himself. In that sense, justice and peace begins with one's self and all are called to do it.

As we act, Joe said, we ought to do so with "peace and good," or else we are just activists. Our cause may be righteous but our manner will turn people away if it is done with coercion. What I also learned on pilgrimage was that "good" was Francis' favorite word for God. He calls God "all good,

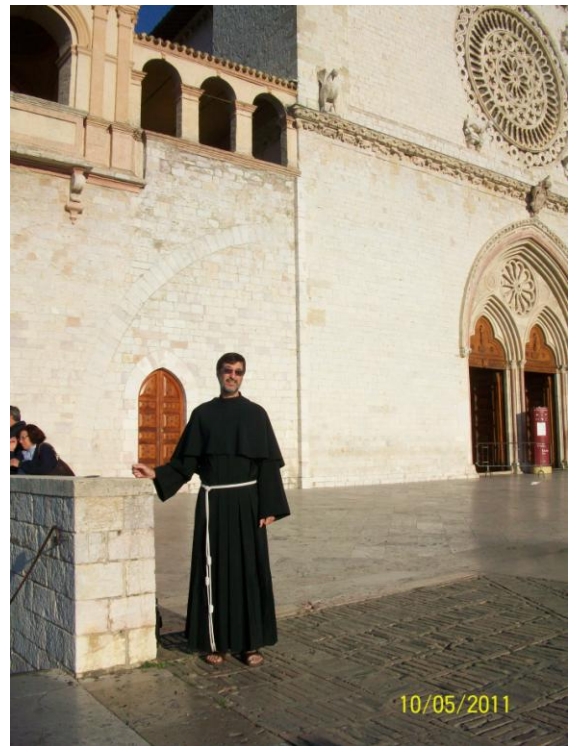
totally good, the only good.....” in various writings. Since he knew God was in all people and creation, he saw that all were good, even when people didn’t believe themselves good.

Joe is encouraging prayer for peace on the 27th of every month in all of our friaries. Please consider it in your own.

Pace e Bene,

Your brother,

John





ADDRESS UPDATES

Fr. Bonaventure Midili
Garvey Manor
1037 South Logan Blvd., Room D212
Hollidaysburg, PA 16648

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Fr. Seamus Corcoran

New email addresses: seamus.corcoran@hotmail.com seamustor@yahoo.com

Vocation Update

Here is a quick update on the vocation ministry of the Province.

We currently have two men who are applying to the Province. They are:

David Ratliff, 39 of San Antonio, TX

David has an MS degree in Public Health and runs a website that provides health and social service information to the public.

Br. Andrew-Paul Harrison, 49, of Elizabeth, NJ

Brother Andrew-Paul was a member of a diocesan religious community and now desires to enter the Franciscans. He has a master's degree in Education and is a licensed addiction counselor.

The friars at San Pedro Center will host four men for a Discernment Retreat weekend from December 2-4. In addition to Brother Andrew-Paul, Luis Jacquez, Adrian Britton and Michael Bova will be attending. All of them are seriously considering our Franciscan way of life.

Please keep these and all our inquirers in your prayers.

As the calendar year comes to a close, please check your supply of vocation materials (pamphlets, etc.) If you are in need of anything, let me know. David Kaczmarek, T.O.R.

Final Word

“The Church can't be put forward by anybody but God and one is apt to do great damage by trying.” Flannery O'Connor, The Habit of Being: Letters of Flannery O'Connor, ed. Sally Fitzgerald (New York: Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 1979) p. 134.

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