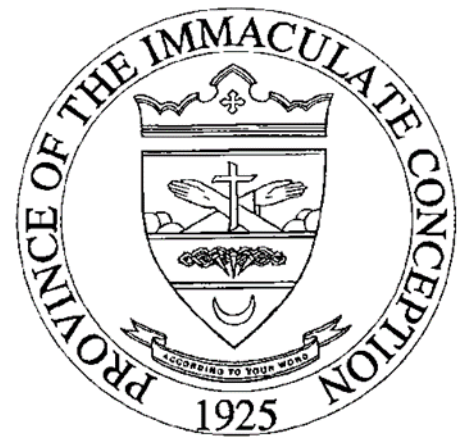


Franciscan Friars

Third Order Regular

Immaculate Conception Province, USA
January, 2014



Above: The *praesepe* at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in Altoona, PA.

[More photos ►](#)





Thanks to Fr. Frank Scornaienchi, TOR for these photos.

Mission Appeals 2013

In 2013 Mission Appeals were completed in the Dioceses of Pittsburg, Altoona-Johnstown and Paterson and the Archdiocese of St. Paul-Minneapolis. Many thanks to Fr. Patrick, Fr. Carl, Fr. Brad and Fr. David for preaching these appeals.

Fr. Gerard Connolly, TOR

Our New Parish - **OUR LADY, STAR OF THE SEA** - New Smyrna Beach, FL

From Fr. Seraphin Conley, TOR

Our Lady, Star of the Sea parish was founded in 1973. The current parish campus consists of the sanctuary, parish hall with kitchen, classrooms and offices, a separate residence (former rectory) and ample parking. One of the features of the parish is an outdoor grotto in a lovely setting. The parish primarily serves an older, retired population and a sizeable 'snowbird' flock and so there is no school and just a small CCD program. A few select photos of the parish can be seen below. If you would like to see more photos go to this link:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/115467442@N04/sets/72157640145596614/>





Fr. Seraphin presiding at Mass for the fiftieth anniversary of his ordination.



JUSTICE AND PEACE CORNER

Dear friars,

May God give you peace.

At a November meeting in the Vatican on human trafficking, it was requested that Pope Francis designate February 8 as a day of prayer and fasting for an end to human trafficking. As you may know, this is feast of St. Josephine Bakhita, a Sudanese slave- turned nun, who was kidnapped at the age of 7, sold into slavery and given the name Bakhita. Josephine was sold several times, brutally treated, and eventually met and joined the Canossian Daughters of Charity in 1893. At her canonization Mass in 2000, Pope John Paul II said: "the history of her life inspires not passive acceptance but the firm resolve to work effectively to free girls and women from oppression and violence and to return them to their dignity in the full exercise of their rights."

The United States Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking have developed resources to honor the day. Here is a link for more information: <http://bakhitainitiative.com/bakhitainitiative/>

Human trafficking has been the focus of the justice commission of the Franciscan Federation for the past three years. This summer's gathering in St. Louis, which I am helping to plan, will focus on trafficking again with the connection to climate change.

The U.S. Catholic Bishops Conference last year promoted a movie, "Sun Come Up," about the world's first climate refugees on an island in the South Pacific. Because of rising sea levels around the globe and more devastating climate disasters, thousands of people have been displaced. These, especially women and children, have become more vulnerable to being trafficked and exploited.

This year is also the 35th anniversary of St. Francis being named the patron saint of ecology by Pope John Paul II. It is another reason why the Federation and other Franciscan groups will be marking 2014 in a special way.

Finally, Fast4families, the group that sponsored the December fast on the Mall in Washington, D.C. is making a continued push for immigration reform. They are organizing the **Fast for Families Tour and Caravan: A Call for Immigration Reform and Citizenship**. The tour will stop in close to 130 cities nationwide. Those who led the DC fast for so long will be going city by city to focus on key House of Representatives' districts. The goals of this tour are to build on the momentum sparked by the Fast for Families and to increase the level of urgency to act to end the moral crisis created by our broken immigration system.

Thank you for your prayers and fasting for these efforts.

Your brother,
John

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!!

PROVINCE CHAPTER

**MAY 5-9 AT SAN PEDRO SPIRITUAL LIFE CENTER,
WINTER PARK, FLORIDA**

**CHAPTER BEGINS WITH VESPERS ON MAY 5 AND CONCLUDES ON MAY 9 WITH
THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST.**

PROVINCE VISITATION DATES

February 4-5	Washington, D.C.	<i>Ambrose, Didacus</i>
February 6-9	Florida	<i>Local friars, Raphael & the Snowbird(s)</i>
February 10-12	Minnesota	<i>Anthony, Edward & Brad</i>
February 13-?	Pennsylvania	<i>Local friars, Bill, Donald</i>