

## Franciscan Friars Third Order Regular

Province of the Immaculate Conception, USA  
Province Newsletter • June 2012  
“We are always courageous...  
for we walk by faith and not by sight.” *2Cor 5:6-10*

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On March 30, 2012, the **Church of St. Gerard** in Brooklyn Park, Minnesota put on their 6<sup>th</sup> annual production of the Passion of Jesus. First year Confirmation Candidates from their Faith Formation program portray the life and death of our Lord from His miracles and ministry through the tragedy on the cross. They are guided and directed by volunteer parishioners and leaders from the Faith Formation Staff.



“It is the highlight of my year!” exclaimed Joe Nelson who has been volunteering for the program since he acted in the play’s inception. “I love how the students come into the start of the program not really knowing each other or much about the stories of Jesus and after the play you can’t get them to leave because they’re having so much fun together. Even six years after the play I can still recite all my lines and a lot of the lines from the other characters. It really made us learn and appreciate what really happened to Jesus.”



Like Joe, many former cast members return each year to participate in some way. "Us 'Jesuses' have to stick together," said Mitchell Rue who portrayed Jesus in the 2011 production. "It's a lot easier to learn from someone who has 'been there and done that'. There are a lot of lines to memorize and you just have to pray a lot that you can do the best you can acting as the center focal point of our faith. It's a huge responsibility and a blessing at the same time."

This year's production included 59 students, mostly in ninth grade. Each student portrayed at least one major character from the Gospels ranging from Scribes to Pharisees and Apostles to Roman Guards. "I think the best part of the entire experience was getting to wear the costumes and the staging make-up," said Jackson Applequist who played Pilate. "I really felt like I was the governor of Rome back in the day!"

Students that participated in the 2012 Passion of Jesus are set to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in May of 2013. They will complete their studies next year by participating in large group learning sessions, small group discussions, service, and worship. "It is our hope that their involvement in the Passion drama will not only lead to a better understanding of the life and works of Jesus Christ, but will bond the group closer as they progress towards full initiation into our Church," said Brittany Ecker, Confirmation Coordinator at St. Gerards. "It's truly amazing to see young people not only living out Scripture but really having fun, growing in their faith, and developing a sense of community in their own parish."







## More News from Minnesota...

**TWIN CITIES FRANCISCANS** What began as a conversation between two Franciscans over coffee has blossomed into an effort to make the Franciscan presence in the Twin Cities more visible and accessible to people in the Local Church. About 15 friars and sisters, including **Anthony Criscitelli** and **David Liedl** have been meeting monthly since December to reflect and to dream about how we might live and interact in such a way that our collective presence would be more visible. In addition our our friars, also represented are Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls, Rochester, and Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration from LaCrosse, WI. Members of the Secular Franciscan Order from the Queen of Peace Region have also been participating. At the last meeting it was decided that we would begin our effort by trying to gather as many Franciscan men and women as possible for prayer and a potluck dinner on October 7, 2012. In addition to praying together and getting to know one another, it is our hope that others will join us in this effort so that we can share our Franciscan spirit with the People of God.

**CELEBRATING ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA** As has been their custom for many years, the Secular Fraternity attached to St. Bridget's celebrated their patronal feast with a festive Eucharist and reception for parishioners, neighbors and fraternity members. About 55 people were in attendance for the event at which **Anthony Criscitelli** presided. In the course of the liturgy, the traditional blessing and distribution of St. Anthony's Bread also took place. **David Liedl** and **Edward Sabo** also participated in the festivities. Next month, the Fraternity will gather for their annual picnic on the grounds of the Church of St. Gerard, Brooklyn Park.

**PARISH MERGER** As a result of the Strategic Planning Process of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, the parish of St. Austin in north Minneapolis was merged into the parish of St. Bridget. Although the Strategic Plan was announced in October 2010, the merger did not take effect until January of this year. People from St. Austin's exercised their right to an appeal from the Archdiocese and also from Rome. These appeals having been turned down, the parishes merged on January 1, 2012. **Anthony Criscitelli** was named pastor of the new entity, which is known as The Parish Community of St. Bridget. For the present time and into the foreseeable future, the parish community is operating out of two campuses. With the help of the Archdiocese and the support of parishioners from both campuses, the merger is going well. Masses are celebrated in both churches and various social gatherings and other events take place at each site. In an effort to bring people together and overcome fears and hurts, and create a

climate of trust and optimism for the future, Anthony began by bringing together various groups within the parish--Liturgical Ministers, the choir, the ladies' groups, and parish festival committees. Once some of the barriers were broken down and people began to know and work with one another, other things began to fall into place. There is still work to be done, but having made a good beginning, it will be easier. Historically, the parish of St. Austin grew out of the parish of St. Bridget in the late 30's. Since the merging process began, it has been interesting to find out how many of St. Austin's long-time parishioners were baptized, educated, and married at St. Bridget's. St. Bridget's was established in 1915 and will be celebrating its centenary in two years. The Franciscan Friars of the Third Order Regular have cared for the parish of St. Bridget since 1974 and a good number of our friars have passed through there in those years.

**ASSISI PILGRIMAGE** During the month of May, **David Liedl** was part of team who led a pilgrimage to Assisi under the auspices of Spiritual Directors International. Over 30 men and women from diverse religious traditions took part in this experience. Thanks to the hospitality of **Mark McBride** and the friars at Saints Cosmas and Damian, David was able to bring the group to the basilica for a tour and time of rest during their day in Rome. It was a wonderful experience and a privilege to share our Franciscan story and spirituality with others.

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**Fr. Raphael F. Eagle, T.O.R.** is featured in an article in the Fort Worth Diocese Catholic Newspaper concerning his thirteen years of ministry as a Chaplain at Cook Children's Hospital. The headline of the article reads: *Hospital Chaplain Fr. Raphael Eagle Brings God's Healing Presence by Guiding Families along a Spiritual Journey at Cook Children's*

You can read the full text of the article by following these links:

<http://www.fwdioc.org/ntc/Pages/FrEagleFeature.aspx>

<http://www.fwdioc.org/ntc/Pages/PrayerBears.aspx>

Congratulations, Fr. Raphael!

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**SPECIAL REQUEST:** If you have a copy of the Franciscan Morning and Evening Prayer book that you are not using, Fr. Robert and Fr. Carl would like to request that you donate them for use at Saint Patrick's Parish in Mount Dora, FL. Bring any books you would like to donate to the Province Gathering in August.

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## NEWS FROM ST. BERNARDINE'S MONASTERY

*From Brother John Kerr, T.O.R.:*

Here are a few photos of today's blessing (June 2) of the Monastery Gardens. Fr. Eugene Kubina did the blessing with holy water and I offer any who wanted to take some 'holy dirt' from the shrine in Chimayo, New Mexico, to spread on their individual plots. Fr. Gerard and Brother Stephen also attended from the Monastery. A potluck dinner was held afterward.



### More News:

On Memorial Day local veterans stopped to pray, post flags and offer a ceremonial gun salute at the Monastery cemetery. Fr. Patrick, Fr. Eugene and Fr. Kenneth all attended.



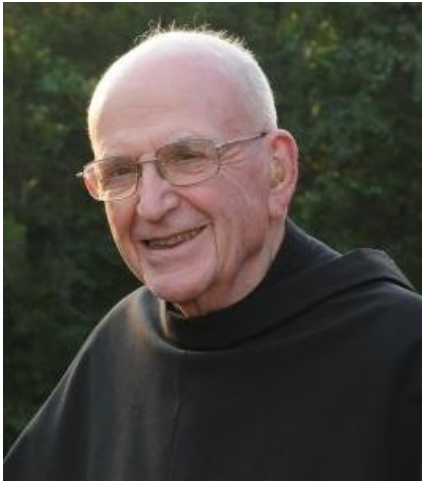


## 2012 Jubilarians



**Fr. Gerard M. Connolly, T.O.R.**

**Fifty Years of Religious Profession**



**Fr. Kenneth C. LaPan, T.O.R.**

**Sixty Years of Priestly Ordination**



**Fr. A. Giles Schinelli, T.O.R.**

**Fifty Years of Religious Profession**



## **SPECIAL REMINDER:**

### **PROVINCE GATHERING**

**August 6-10**

**At Priest Field in WV.**

**The Gathering begins on Monday, August 6 at 4:00 PM so please plan to arrive a little early. Please let me know when you plan to arrive and depart and whether you have any special needs.**

**Thank You!**

**David K.**

**[davidktor@yahoo.com](mailto:davidktor@yahoo.com)**

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### **Final Word**

According to the doctrine of the Trinity, God lives as the mystery of love among persons. If we are created in the image of this God, and if our destiny is to live forever with this God and with God's beloved creatures, then what forms of life best enable us to live as Christ lived, to show forth the Spirit of God, and ultimately to be deified?

*God for Us*  
"Living the Trinitarian Faith"  
Catherine Mowry LaCugna

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*fine*