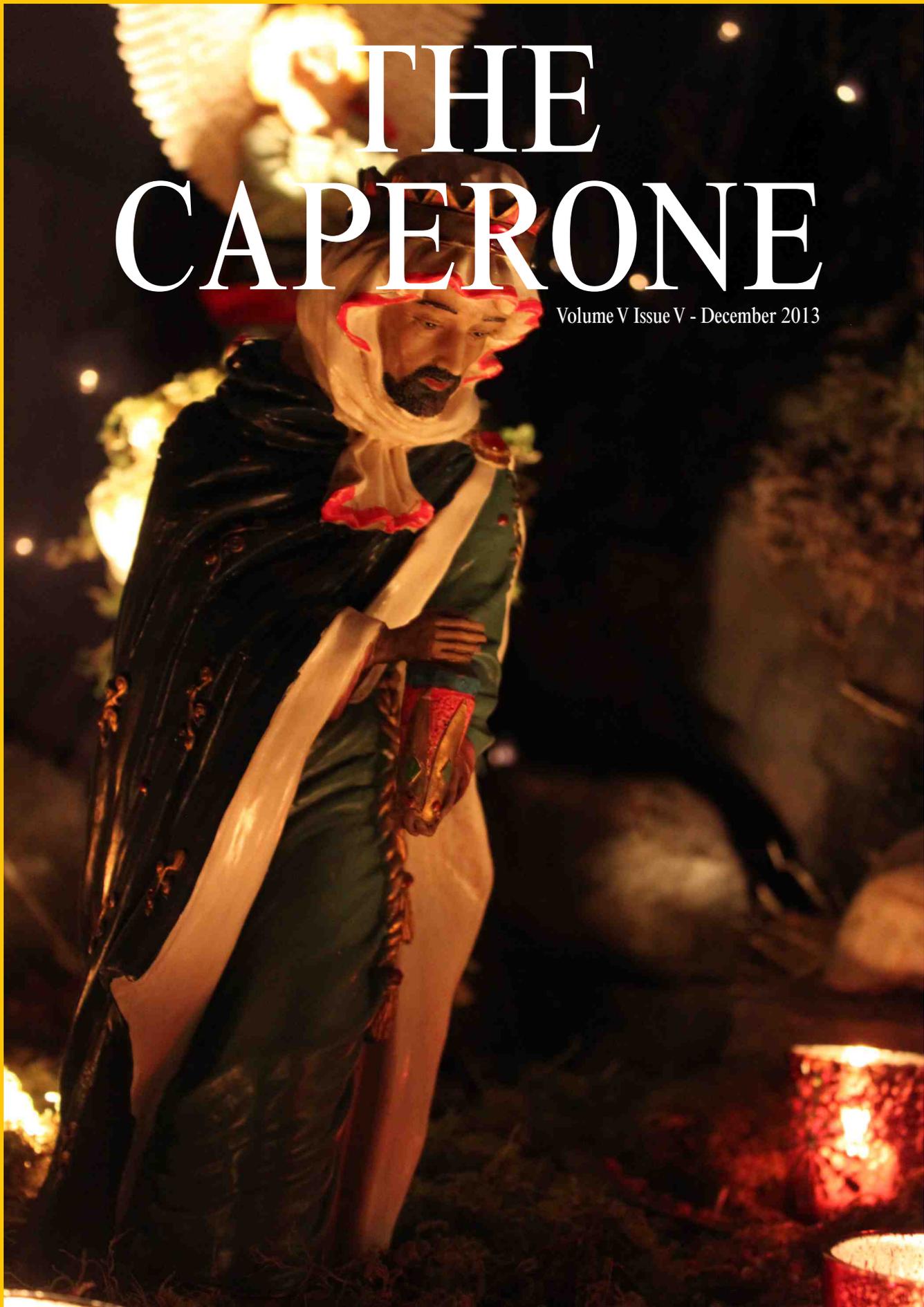


THE CAPERONE

Volume V Issue V - December 2013





Community Coffee House 3 Friars both Novice and Professed gathered on Wednesday, December 11th to share their talents and skills in a night of crafts, music, poetry, and theatrical expression. Bro. Jacob MC'd the evening while he and Brs. Tommy and Joseph each shared original poetry. Brs. Jason and Michael C. lead the gathering in an opening prayer/song. Original songs were also performed by Brs. Victor, Lance, Michael C, and Ross. Brs. Saul & Diogo offered a traditional song in spanish. Br. Bobby shared an original short story while Br. Myke L. shared a personal reflection and then shared his most recent wood carving project, a missal stand for the chapel altar. Brs. Victor, Brian, Michael C., Will, Lance, & Jacob collaborated on a sketch comedy routine and Brs. Keon & Ross closed out the night with a moving flute and guitar feature while leading the group in song.



Christmas Luncheon The hospitality committee at the Old Mission Santa Inés treated the novices to a tasty luncheon on Sunday, December 15th. The spread included a variety of homemade dishes from various cultures included Mexico and Italy. After devouring the holiday food (while avoiding gluttony of course), the afternoon was spent around the tables chatting with parishioners and listening to Christmas songs sung by a local entertainer Mr. Greg Gorman. Toward the end of the day, some of the novices shared their talents by performing a variety of songs including Johnny Cash, Christian rap and Irish folk. A heartfelt thank you to the ladies of the committee (and Wayne Natale!) for a wonderful time!

PHOTO JOURNAL | December ReCap

Immaculate Conception at La Purisma Mission La Purisma Mission was established in 1787 by the Franciscans. In 1933 it was handed over to the government to become a state park with the stipulation that by one public mass be said there each year. On December 8th, our own Bro. Bobby presided the mass there with Bros. Jason and Andrew serving. In attendance were many of the faithful from the area and some of the novices. Ave Maria !



Las Mañanitas Some of the more die-hard novices for Mexican tradition awoke in the middle of the night on December 12th and attended Las Mananitas at Old Mission Santa Ines. The event, part of a larger celebration for the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, began at 3am with a procession and singing through the streets near the mission. At 5am Br. Brendan Buckley presided and Bro. Bobby concelebrated a mass and a Mexican-style breakfast followed. The novices who attended the celebration returned to San Lorenzo just as their less hardcore brothers were awaking at the normal time. Viva !



Local native dancers share their craft outside of Old Mission Santa Ines after the celebration.



Bros. Joseph, Francesco, Saul, Jason, William and Diogo discover the early morning chill.

PHOTO JOURNAL | December ReCap

Deck the Halls Novitiate work projects in the week prior to Christmas were dedicated to preparing the house for the birth of Christ. An arsenal of trees, lights, creches, wreaths and even a toy train were moved into place in the various community spaces at San Lorenzo. A special fraternal gathering was held for the trimming of the Christmas tree. The novices used a special Franciscan method for arranging the tree's decorations -- in a flurry of chaos, friars lunged simultaneously at the tree to hang ornaments in a way each saw fit. There were no injuries except for the formators who each sustained a severe headache.



Belen - Bro. William Paulino

The word Belen is a Spanish and Chamorro word for Bethlehem. On Guam and in some other cultures it is a tradition for families to construct a Belen (Nativity scene) around their homes during the Christmas Season. Having the task of constructing the Nativity for the Novitiate class of 2013-14 was exciting. Fr. Frank explained to all the novices that every year the Belen is always different. I looked at previous photos from the other novice classes and saw their unique characteristics. The first novice class used paper and cardboard and the second novice class used paint to display their scene. Initially, I had to think of a way to gain inspiration to construct an image to focus on the importance on the birth of Christ. I walked around San Lorenzo and noticed that natural surroundings would be exquisite pieces to use. With the help of brothers we gathered California jade rocks, redwood tree bark, hay, and moss. All the brothers did a wonderful job putting details and effects in every piece. Working together as a class has brought us to use our gifts and talents to build fraternity and praise God.

Project Coordinator: Br. Will
Cave Design: Brs. Myke & Jordan
Gloria Sign: Br. Ross
Starry Night: Brs. Ross & George

Decorators: Brs. Francisco, Saul, Victor, Jason, Keon, Luis, Diogo, Brian, Andrew, Fernando, Joe, & George
Star of Bethlehem: Br. Joshua

PHOTO JOURNAL | December ReCap

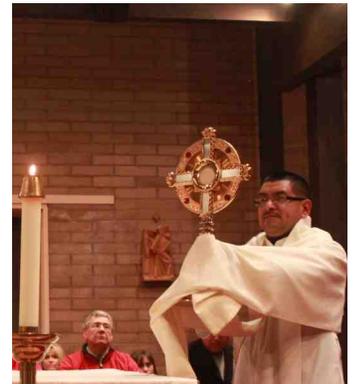


Our chapel was filled with the music of children as many families came to celebrate the Posadas with us.

Las Posadas This year's class of Novices joined in the annual celebration of Las Posadas which has been hosted at San Lorenzo Seminary for many years. The Biligual celebration reenacts Mary and Joseph's search for 'lodging' (the meaning of the word Posada) after arriving in Bethlehem. The Rosary, traditional songs, Benediction, a procession to the Navidad shrine at the bottom of the hill, and the unveiling of this year's Belen (manger scene) have all been a regular part of the evening the last few years.



Left : Bros. Lance and Will sing to the Lord at benediction. Right : Ricardo, San Lorenzo's cook, prepares pozole, a mexican soup traditionally associated with Las Posadas



Left : In the Franciscan tradition of proximity, the friars sat among the community. Right: The liturgy concluded with a solemn blessing.



The community gathered in front of the chapel to contemplate Christ's birth in the manger scene created by the novices.



Led by Bros. Saul and Francisco (pictured), some of the novices led the young people in Praise and Worship outside the refectory after the liturgy.

PHOTO JOURNAL | December ReCap

Midnight Mass The novices celebrated Midnight Mass together with the San Lorenzo community. The celebration started at 11:30pm with a musical prelude of Christmas carols and songs performed by some of the novices. The prelude set the tone for the festive mass that followed with incense and the San Lorenzo schola drawing the senses deeper into the celebration. A multilingual Silent Night that included the exotic tones of Chamorro (from Guam) and Mandarin Chinese reflected the diversity of our community and the universality of God's salvation in Christ's birth. The night did not remain silent for long however, as the celebration ended with refreshments and a delicious spread of Bro. Brian's baked goods in our refectory.



Christmas Day The novices had barely hit their pillows, dreaming of the Midnight Mass they had just celebrated when the time for morning prayer came at 8am on Christmas day. Hairstyles were interesting that morning. The novices spent the remainder of the day resting and calling family while their beloved formators slaved away in the kitchen preparing the evening's meal. This act of service was perhaps the most instructive class on Capuchin life yet. Joining the friars for dinner were Bros. Brendan and Gerald from Mission Santa Ines as well as Bro. Gabriel from St. Francis High School in La Cañada (but from the Goa Province in India). The day concluded with a small gift exchange among the friars. In a very Franciscan way, the gifts reflected each friar's unique personality and in some cases, their idiosyncrasies. Your editor's stomach muscles were sore from laughing so much.



Bros. Frank and Bobby prepare to serve Christmas cuisine in fine Capuchin-ware

Bro. Brendan joins Bros. Jacob, Jason and Ross for conversation and laughs during the pre-dinner social.



Vocation Spotlight | Bro. Victor Taglianetti



I was born to two Catholic parents who, thanks be to God, are still married to this day. They raised me in the Catholic faith and educated me in the faith as best they could, by teaching me at home and furthering that education by enrolling me in Catechism and CCD classes at our local parish in Southern California. Thanks to their efforts, as well as my Godmother's and of course by the grace of God, I felt that I had a great love for God at a young age.

However, as I got older, things began to change as a series of events slowly depleted my love for my Creator and ultimately shaped me into an atheist by the time I was 18. Being a victim of bullying in middle school, followed many self-perceived "failures" on my end, coupled with conflicts with my peers in high school and adopting a more "scientific method mindset," were just some of the problems that I encountered in my youth. To briefly expound further on a few of these issues, I always have had the tendency to be a perfectionist. Starting as a young child, I would strive to be the best in everything that I participated in. In high school, there were many instances in which I got a taste of the real world, and didn't meet the expectations that I set for myself. I was used to being at the top in academics and sports throughout my life, and I wasn't meeting those standards anymore. At that time, I had the incorrect idea that "one gets what he/she deserves." In my mind at the time, I felt that I was a good student, a good athlete, a good son, and a good person, and I was doing everything that I was supposed to be doing. It didn't make sense that I was "failing" and that I wasn't getting anything that I wanted. I saw other kids, who seemed very happy with their life. They had the popularity, a plethora of friends, and the girl on their shoulder, yet in my mind, they were bad students, bad people, etc. I thought to myself, "Why are they getting what they want, and why aren't I?"

While this was happening I became very influenced by what I was learning through various facets. I became infatuated with science, especially with the scientific method. One important aspect of the method is that in order to prove something, you must have evidence. You must be able to measure it or observe it in some way. Because I figured that one could not scientifically observe or measure God, God could not exist. These events as well as others ultimately led to me losing my faith in God, and becoming an atheist in the summer after graduating from High School.

When I entered college, I decided that I was going to change, so that I could get those things that I wanted. The change didn't happen immediately, but rather over a progression of years, but I literally became a new person. I stopped going to Mass, began to hang out with a different crowd, and immersed myself in the party scene in college. I began to live a life full of sin and debauchery, as

I "messed" around with women, and abused alcohol and drugs. At the end of my 4 years in college, I felt surprisingly very sad with my life. I couldn't understand how I could be sad with everything I thought would make me happy. I had a degree, a car, friends and popularity, etc. Despite having all these things, I was empty inside and was longing for something else. That something else was God, but I did not know it at the time.

A few months later, I was back at home with my parents and still very sad with my life. It was Christmas Eve, and my family wanted to attend Midnight Mass. For some reason, which I can only explain as a pull from the Holy Spirit, I decided to join them. During Mass, the priest, Fr. Pat Kirsch, was giving a homily and he showed the congregation a quilt that some of the parishioners had made for him out of pieces of clothing that his deceased mother had once worn. I remembered that he would always talk fondly about his mom, and I just saw how beautiful of a gift it was for him. The expression of love from the parishioners was amazing, and I wanted to come back to Church to be a part of a loving community like that, something that I didn't experience with the type of people I surrounded myself with. But I knew that I couldn't come back because I couldn't get around the fact that I didn't believe that God existed.

Four days later on December 29th, 2010, I was at my friend's apartment watching a movie. Out of nowhere, my entire body became paralyzed, and I heard a voice of great power and thunder and it said, "Why have you abandoned Me?!?!!" It was very strange, for even before the words were spoken, I knew that it was the voice of God, for in scripture it says, "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow me," (Jn 10:27) and "I am the good shepherd, and I know My own and My own know Me." (Jn 10:14). After that experience, I began to realize that God was always there for me, that He had never abandoned me, but it was I who had abandoned Him. I realized God's infinite love and mercy, that He would do anything to bring one of His lost sheep back to Him. I had done absolutely nothing to earn this gift from God. Rather, it was His own free gift to me. I knew that God would do the same for any one of His children, not necessarily in the same way, but that He is continually searching for us.

After that experience, I came back to church, began to pray frequently, read the Bible often, and eventually received the Sacrament of Reconciliation. After some more time and more experiences, I wanted to give my life to God for what He had done for me. I felt His call very strongly and began discerning a vocation to the priesthood and religious life. After months of discerning, I applied with the Capuchins of the Western America Province, and was accepted in May of 2011. My formation in this order has been a great blessing, and I hope to continue to share God's mercy with those I encounter in the future.

The Caperone

Founded 2009

The Newsletter of the North American Pacific
Capuchin Conference Novitiate

Editorial Director: Bro. Bobby Barbato
Managing Editors: Bro. Michael Culhane; Bro.
Joshua Minden

Comments, Questions, Suggestions:
San Lorenzo Seminary
1802 Sky Drive, P.O. Box 247
Santa Ynez, CA 93460

Telephone: (805) 688-5630
thecaperone@gmail.com
www.sanlorenzoseminary.org

NAPCC Member Provinces:

SACRED HEART
(EASTERN CANADA)

MARY, MOTHER OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD
(CENTRAL CANADA)

OUR LADY OF ANGELS
(WESTERN AMERICA)

OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION
(AUSTRALIA)

OUR LADY STAR OF THE SEA
(CUSTODY: GUAM-HAWAII)

SAINT AUGUSTINE
(PENNSYLVANIA)

SAINT CONRAD
(MID-AMERICA)

SAINT JOSEPH
(DETROIT-MIDWEST)

SAINT MARY
(NEW YORK-NEW ENGLAND)

STIGMATA OF SAINT FRANCIS
(NEW JERSEY)