

The Caperone

Volume IV, Issue 11 July-August 2013

Newsletter of the North American Pacific Capuchin Conference Novitiate



'The Road Goes Ever On': To Vows and Beyond
Novices at Provincial Chapters
Our Very Own Vineyard

FROM THE EDITORS

After the Transfiguration, a Summons

Gladness and Sadness

May the peace of God be in your hearts.

Our novitiate year will soon come to an end, and so it is time to say goodbye to all of you, dear readers. What a year! I have grown both humanly and spiritually. Working as an editor of this newsletter has contributed to my growth. This ministry has helped me to develop gifts God has given me but that I had not used frequently. To all of our readers, thank you for being part of this.

Finishing novitiate raises two feelings in me: gladness and sadness. I am glad I have almost finished another step in my formation and that God continues inviting me to keep discerning this wonderful vocation.

At the same time, I am a little bit sad because I have to leave this wonderful and beautiful place in which God has touched me in a special way. Like the apostles after witnessing Jesus' transfiguration, I would like to stay in this place longer. But, the Lord is telling me that it is time come down from the mountain of contemplation and start sharing what he has given me, and so I obey.

I have already started packing and arranging my trip back to my province. It has been great and real! Praise God!

I ask you, please, to keep all of us in your prayers; we will be praying for all of you as well.

Bro. Carlos García-Cruz

June 25, 2013

Ad Maiorem Dei Gloriam.

Surrender to the Voice

During our year-end retreat on the vows (see Page 11), I found myself tongue-tied when it came to our fraternal conversation on poverty.

The words have left me. Once, as an editor, I made a living on words, stacking them, bricking them, describing other people's lives from a distance. From the privileged perch of the journalist, my voice resounded, naming and shaping reality for others.

Later, as a community organizer, I helped workers and immigrants recover their voice, and I used my words to amplify theirs. We worked together to shape a better world, a shared reality.

Now as a friar about to vow poverty, I seek to surrender myself totally to the Voice who is utterly beyond my power to command or create. This Voice summons me to let go of control. This Voice I can hear in the cry of the poor—it is the voice of the God of Jesus Christ. It will shape my reality with its absolute, unconditional claim on my soul. If today I hear this voice—and it is always today, and it is always sounding—and if I heed it, then I will know the poverty of spirit Jesus called blessed.

In these pages, with a few words and many voices, we have showed you how God moves us to affirm the Gospel way of life Francis of Assisi accepted. We appreciate you, readers, for your listening ear, and we appreciate you three times more for your prayers. As Francis and Clare have done their part to hear the Voice and herald the reign of God, now may we listen and do for others wisely!

Bro. Anthony Zuba

June 24, 2013

Solemnity of the Birth of John the Baptist



The Caperone

Founded 2009

Newsletter of the North American Pacific
Capuchin Conference Novitiate
"My God and My All"

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North American Pacific Capuchin Conference Provinces

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
(Vice Province: Guam-Hawaii)
Saint Augustine (Pennsylvania)
Saint Conrad (Mid-America)
Saint Joseph (Detroit)
Saint Mary (New York-New England)
Stigmata of Saint Francis (New Jersey)

Cover: Bro. Bob Herrick passing the San
Lorenzo welcome sign on his daily walk.
Photo by Bro. Carlos Garcia-Cruz.

Novitiate Calendar

July 1: Canada Day

July 1-5: Sharing of vocation stories

July 3: Saint Thomas, apostle (feast)

July 4: Independence Day (U.S.)

July 8-12: Deep cleaning of friary
and grounds

July 13: Novitiate ends

July 15: Saint Bonaventure (feast)

July 19: Arrival of new novices

July 21: Saint Lawrence of Brindisi
(feast); investiture

Agents of Our Spiritual and Ministerial Formation



BRO. CARLOS GARCIA-CRUZ

Brothers Tague and Will flank their respective spiritual directors, Josephite Frs. Ed Jalbert and Mark Newman, who came to San Lorenzo on June 29 with several of our ministry site supervisors and other spiritual directors for a luncheon in appreciation of their assistance in our initial formation.

FROM THE FORMATORS

Sending and Receiving

Peace and Good! In the earliest days of the order, Saint Francis decided to send his friars (all seven of them) on a mission to proclaim the gospel. They went out two by two (Francis himself was one of them), each pair in a different direction. Thomas of Celano tells us: "Only a short time passed when Saint Francis began desiring to see them all. He prayed to the Lord to bring them together soon. Coming together in one place, they reported the good things the merciful Lord was doing for them."

We are getting ready to send out our brother novices to many different corners of the earth, praying that the Lord will continue to do good things for them and through them. Because of the bonds of brotherhood that have grown over the year, it won't be easy to say goodbye. (We bid an early and wistful farewell to one more novice, Bro. Jose Chavez, last month.) Because of these same bonds, however, we are glad to see them continue their journey as professed friars. Perhaps the Lord will not bring us all back together very soon, but we hope to remain united by

prayer, charity, and, of course, the Internet.

The rhythm of the novitiate means, of course, that while we are preparing to say goodbye to this year's novices, we are also getting ready to receive a new group of brothers, who will be invested in the habit on July 21, the feast of Saint Lawrence of Brindisi, patron of the novitiate. These 23 men will bring their own joys and sorrows, strengths and weaknesses, dreams and fears. We ask your prayers for them and for us as their formators.

At this time, I would like to give special thanks to Brother Anthony and Brother Carlos for all their hard work on *The Caperone*. Each year, the novitiate has its own character (and characters) and is a new adventure in God's grace. This is reflected in the newsletter. This year's *Caperone* has done a good job in giving you a glimpse into the life of the friars at San Lorenzo Seminary. I look forward to sharing with you whatever form it will take in the coming year.

May the Lord bless and protect us all!

Bro. Bobby Barbato

July 5, 2013

First Profession of Vows: Come Celebrate With Us

Mary, Mother of the Good Shepherd

Bros. Michael Mascarenhas and Fadi Touma

Thursday, July 18, 5 p.m.

Saint Philip Neri Church

2100 Jane Street

Toronto, ON M3M 1A1

Our Lady of Angels

Bros. Alexander Rodriguez and Alejandro Sanchez

Saturday, July 13, 11 a.m.

Old Mission Santa Ines

1760 Mission Drive

Solvang, CA 93463

Our Lady Star of the Sea

Bro. Gavin Diego

Saturday, Aug. 3, 5 p.m.

Saint Joseph Church

1 San Jose Avenue

Inarajan, Guam 96917

Saint Augustine

Bros. Tague Danielson, Reynaldo Frias-Santana,

Carlos Garcia-Cruz, Ryan Gebhart,

Christopher Johnson, and Andrew McCarty

Saturday, July 20, 10:30 a.m.

Mount Alvernia Convent

(Sisters of Saint Francis of Millvale)

146 Hawthorne Road

Pittsburgh, PA 15209

Saint Conrad

Bros. Jason Moore and Marshall Schmidt

Wednesday, July 17, 5 p.m.

Saint Patrick Oratory

3301 Pecos Street

Denver, CO 80205

Saint Joseph

Bros. Fred Cabras and Jason Graves

Saturday, July 27, 10:30 a.m.

Saint Bonaventure Monastery

1740 Mount Elliott Street

Detroit, MI 48207

Saint Mary

Bros. John Aharado, Linneker Marin,

Will Tarraza, and Anthony Zuba

Saturday, July 20, 11 a.m.

Sacred Heart Church

110 Shonnard Place

Yonkers, NY 10703

Meet the Post-Novices



John Alvarado

Saint Mary

Studies: University of Massachusetts-Boston, Bachelor of Arts, philosophy

Dream ministry: Hospital chaplaincy. I would like to volunteer at the Shattuck Hospital in Jamaica Plain.

High point of novitiate: Sunday Mass at San Lorenzo

Final words: Thank you for the love. I love you all, and I will be praying for you.



Gavin Diego

Our Lady

Star of the Sea

Studies: University of Guam, Mangilao, Guam, Bachelor of Science, education

Dream ministry: Youth ministry or teaching

High point of novitiate: Friday night faith sharing; seeing and hearing my brothers open their heart and soul, and giving me the courage to do the same

Final words: This year has been the most grace-filled and happiest of my life. I was able to grow up and taste what it means to be a brother. I know that I cannot thank God or those supporting me enough, but I will start by being the brother God is calling me to be.



Fred Cabras

Saint Joseph

Studies: Catholic Theological Union, Chicago, Master of Divinity

Dream ministry: Working with the students at the University of Illinois at Chicago Newman Center, doing Bible study, faith sharing, and discernment groups.

High point of novitiate: Our year-end retreat in Malibu. It was so peaceful and re-energizing.

Final words: My time here has been of great joy and true peace. I have learned the beauty of community and have faced many struggles, but through it all God has graced me with peace. Being able to feel a part of the greater Capuchin community by sharing my novitiate with so many different brothers and the faithful people of Santa Ynez has been my great joy. Thank you for your prayers and support this year.



Tage Danielson

Saint Augustine

Studies: Catholic University of America, Washington, DC, Master of Divinity

Dream ministry: Work with Missionaries of Charity at their house near Capuchin College

High point of novitiate: Easter vigil

Final words: The best part of novitiate was time for prayer. Pray often and seek the Lord!

Meet the Post-Novices

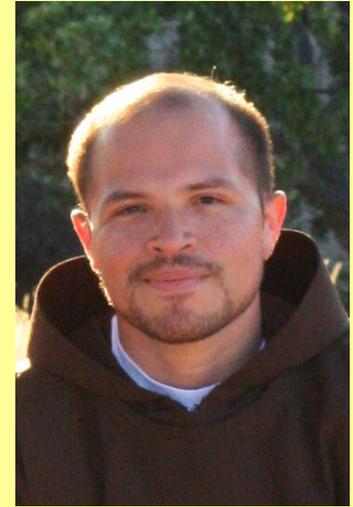


Reynaldo
Frias-Santana
Saint Augustine

Studies: Catholic University of America, Master of Divinity
Dream ministry: I would like to go wherever the Church and my province need me to be.
High point of novitiate: Many of the most memorable moments of my novitiate have been the liturgy and our community prayer life.
Final words: The word “caperone” brings a lot of images to my mind. We novices had to wear our caperone everyday in the novitiate. Before being at the novitiate I wanted to know about the newsletter. And I know that you, dear readers and friends of *The Caperone*, wanted to know about our life and our formation program in the novitiate. Therefore, *The Caperone* served as a great bridge among us. It helped us to communicate with you about our life, and it allowed you to know more about us and to keep us in your prayers. Peace and good.

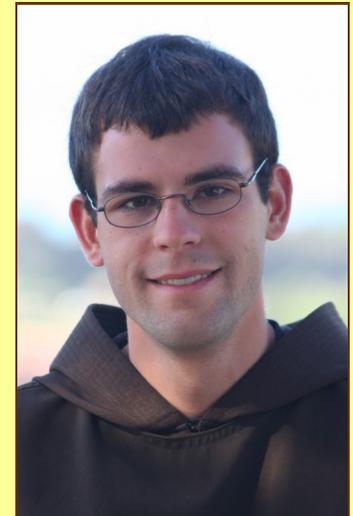
Carlos Garcia-Cruz
Saint Augustine

Studies: Catholic University of America, Master of Divinity, with a focus in Hispanic ministry
Dream ministry: Hospital chaplaincy or preaching ministry through music.
High point of novitiate: The best moments of my novitiate have been my ministry at Marian Medical Center in Santa Maria. God has used me as his instrument to bring his loving presence to the suffering, and God has touched my heart through the patients. Each visit has been an encounter with our living God.
Final words: Thank you very much for all the spiritual support you have provided for all of us during this novitiate year. You are a main reason for our perseverance. Be sure of my prayers for all of you. *Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam!*



Ryan Gebhart
Saint Augustine

Studies: Catholic University of America, Master of Divinity
Dream ministry: Campus ministry
High point of novitiate: Easter Triduum
Final words: This year has been a true gift, and I am very grateful for everyone who has kept me in their prayers.



Jason D. Graves
Saint Joseph

Studies: Catholic Theological Union, Master of Divinity
Dream ministry: Student outreach at Saint Lawrence Seminary in Mount Calvary, Wis.
High point of novitiate: Pilgrimage to San Francisco
Final words: The novitiate was a great time of prayer and self-discovery. We all go forward from here prepared to live our Capuchin vocation to the fullest. I pray future classes find and experience the many blessings San Lorenzo has to offer.



Meet the Post-Novices



Christopher Johnson

Saint Augustine

Studies: Catholic University of America, Bachelor of Arts, philosophy

Dream ministry: Youth group

High point of novitiate: New Year's Day: Welcoming the new year in Eucharistic adoration with my brothers.

Final words: This year has been one of many beginnings. My person has been stretched physically, emotionally, spiritually, creating a new wholeness. I have begun to learn the language of God, that is, silence, and as I look forward to the future I remain content in today.



Linneker Marin

Saint Mary

Studies: University of Massachusetts-Boston, Bachelor of Arts, philosophy

Dream ministry: I would like to serve and do ministry either in a parish, visiting the homebound, or working with teens in a school. I would like to be available and offer myself and bring joy for as many people as I can.

High point of novitiate: I have had many and great experiences, but one which I enjoyed a lot was the silent retreat in Santa Cruz. I was in heaven, because of nature and the beautiful trails. Being in silence and alone with the Lord, just listening to him as he speaks to me through the Holy Spirit, was an amazing experience. I thank the novitiate team for giving me the opportunity to experience all of this.

Final words: The novitiate year has come to an end which has helped me to grow and gain experience in different aspects of life. I was able to be inspired by my brothers and grow closer to God more than in other years in my life. I would like to thank you, the readers, for your prayers, which have helped me get through the struggles. Thank you for walking along with me in this journey and may God bless you.



Michael Mascarenhas

Mary, Mother of the Good Shepherd

Studies: Saint Michael's College, Toronto, Bachelor of Arts, philosophy/theology

Dream ministry: To serve the poor, working in a shelter, visiting the sick in hospitals, etc.

High point of novitiate: The trip to Los Angeles. I loved Watts and the people there.

Final words: I will forever be grateful for the many blessings I received in my novitiate. It has been a great year with great memories that I forever will keep in my heart. The greatest thing for me as a friar is fraternity and my love for the poor. Thank you, God, for everything you have done for me.



Andrew McCarty

Saint Augustine

Studies: Catholic University of America, Master of Arts, theology

Dream ministry: Legal assistance/Capuchin Franciscan Volunteer Corps/campus ministry/Hispanic ministry

High point of novitiate: Pilgrimage to Northern California

Final words: As I depart the novitiate, I am filled with gratitude and enthusiasm. The Lord used the past 12 months to teach, affirm, and challenge me in many ways. I look forward to the vowed life, the next chapter in the story I see God writing for me.

Meet the Post-Novices



Alex Rodriguez
Our Lady of Angels

Studies: I will attend Berkeley City College in Berkeley, Calif. I am going to complete my requirements as a sophomore before I transfer and major in philosophy for priestly formation.

Dream ministry: To work at a parish. I also want to do ministry at St. Vincent de Paul or St. Anthony's Foundation in San Francisco.

High point of novitiate: Saint Clare's Retreat Center in Soquel, Calif. (Santa Cruz). While I had difficulty understanding if my call is from God, I prayed in the silence of the place, walked up the hills where I could meditate on the Passion, or meditated on the importance of living the vows faithfully.

Final words: After two years of being with the Capuchin Franciscans, learning the life of a friar, and prayer and conversion through my encounter with the suffering Christ in the poor, I can truly say that my spirituality changed to love my neighbor as myself.

Jason Moore

Saint Conrad

Studies: Regis University, Denver, Spanish (non-degree student). My focus will be an undetermined ministry.

Dream ministry: I have always loved working with youth, and I would jump at the opportunity to do so again in any capacity.

High point of novitiate: My high point is our fraternity. What a blessing this year has been to get to know so many brothers from all over that share in a common goal, supporting each other and pushing each other to grow.

Final words: Thank you for all the prayers. This is a time in my life that I will never forget, and I will continue to reflect on what I have learned here throughout the rest of my life.



Alejandro Sanchez

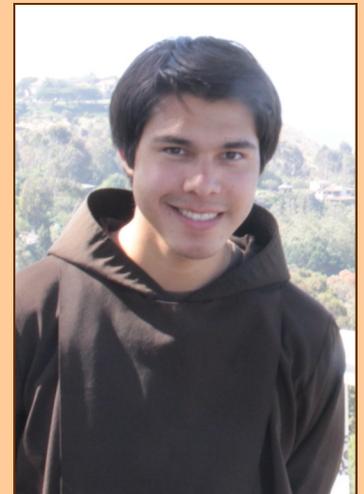
Our Lady of Angels

Studies: Berkeley City College, Associate in Arts, liberal arts

Dream ministry: Whatever God wants (no preference)

High point in novitiate: The retreat in Santa Cruz (in silence) ... I was able to see how much the Lord has truly transformed me.

Final words: So, so grateful to and for all! Words fails to truly express my gratitude. May God continue to bless you all and strengthen me so that I may persevere in doing God's will.



Marshall Schmidt

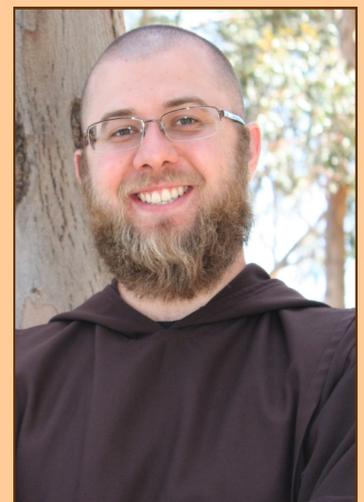
Saint Conrad

Studies: Regis University, Spanish (non-degree student)

Dream ministry: Missions, preaching, baking

High point of novitiate: Both retreats

Final words: Thank you for your support and prayers this year. It has not always been easy or fun, but this novitiate year was worth it.



Meet the Post-Novices



William Tarraza

Saint Mary

Studies: Saint John's Seminary, Brighton, Mass. (pre-theology); Boston College School of Theology and Ministry, Chestnut Hill, Mass., Master of Divinity

Dream ministry: A college campus ministry

High point of novitiate: Feast of Saint Francis

Final words: May the road rise to meet you, may the wind be always at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face, the rains fall soft upon your fields. And until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of his hand.



Fadi Touma

Mary, Mother of the Good Shepherd

Studies: University of Toronto, Master of Divinity

Dream ministry: Traveling preacher or hermit

High point of novitiate: The first retreat, the silent retreat, was the high point of my novitiate experience.

Final words: The Lord has anointed me with the oil of gladness and vested me with the robe of salvation.



Anthony Zuba

Saint Mary

Studies: Boston College School of Theology and Ministry, Master of Theology

Dream ministry: "Labor chaplain," providing spiritual support to worker organizations

High point of novitiate: Silent retreat

Final words: Because of Christ, we are living at the end of time. I will struggle faithfully with my brothers to live into the reign of God here and now. Nothing less than total commitment to the word-made-Messiah, heard in the cry of the poor, and to bringing about justice for all people, now, today, matters.

The holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ is, in every age, the source of the entire life of the Church and the message of salvation for the whole world.

For, through it, the Church, led by the Holy Spirit, comes to know Christ and accepts in faith His deeds and words which are spirit and life to those who believe.

Saint Francis, the founder of our Fraternity, accepted the Gospel as the principle of his life and activity from the very beginning of his conversion.

In the beginning and end of the Rule, therefore, he expressly commanded its observance and, in the Testament, declared that it was revealed to him to live according to the pattern of the holy Gospel.

Since we are his sons, therefore, let us always take care to make progress in our understanding of the Gospel.

In all circumstances in our life, let us follow the Gospel as the supreme law, assiduously read the words of salvation, and, like the Blessed Virgin Mary, carry them in our heart. Thus, as the Gospel increasingly fashions our life, we may grow in Christ in all things.

Constitutions of the Capuchin Friars Minor (1:1-6)

Meanwhile, Back in Kansas ...



PHOTO COURTESY BRO. MICHAEL GRECO

... the Inter-Provincial Postulancy Program has begun at Saint Fidelis Friary in Victoria. Front row: Joseph Taylor, Saint Joseph; Fernando Iniguez, Saint Joseph; Luis Reyes, Saint Joseph; William Paulino II, Our Lady Star of the Sea; Logan Christopher, Saint Conrad; Victor Taglianetti, Our Lady of Angels; Francisco Lopez, Saint Augustine; Diogo Escudero, Saint Augustine. Second row: Daniel Bernal, Saint Augustine; Keon Tu, Saint Augustine; Tommy Piolata, Saint Augustine; Brian Wolford, Saint Augustine; Jason Chargualaf, Our Lady Star of the Sea; George Alvarado, Saint Mary; Lance Houck, Our Lady of Angels. Third row: Michael Culhane, Saint Joseph; Ross Henley, Saint Augustine; Jordan Rojas, Saint Conrad; Joshua Minden, Saint Joseph; Andrew Skonieczny, Saint Mary; Michael Lettko, Saint Mary. Fourth row: Bro. Randy Knauf, Saint Joseph; Saul Soriano, Saint Augustine; Bro. Michael Greco, Saint Mary; Jacob Bearer, Saint Augustine; Bro. Jim Froehlich, Saint Augustine.

Post-Novitiate Houses of Formation

Mary, Mother of the Good Shepherd

Saint Conrad Friary
100 Pelmo Crescent
Toronto, ON M9N 2P5
(416) 531-4423

Our Lady of Angels

Saint Conrad Friary
1534 Arch Street
Berkeley, CA 94708
(510) 841-2229

Our Lady Star of the Sea

Saint Fidelis Friary
135 Chalan Kapuchino
Agaña Heights, Guam 96019
(671) 472-3339, 472-4339

Saint Augustine
Saint Francis Friary
Capuchin College
4121 Harewood Road NE
Washington, DC 20017
(202) 529-2188

Saint Conrad
Saint Anthony of Padua Friary
3805 West Walsh Place
Denver, CO 80219-3241
(303) 936-6242

Saint Joseph
Saint Clare Community
3407 South Archer Avenue
Chicago, IL 60608
(773) 890-1238

Saint Mary
San Lorenzo Friary
15 Montebello Road
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130
(617) 983-1919



San Lorenzo Friary, Jamaica Plain, Mass.

At Chapter, a Foretaste of One's Own Fraternity

Novitiate is a time of intentional separation from all the ties that bind us. Only for the gravest reasons, such as the death of an immediate family member, could a novice take a leave of absence. We are separated not only from the world but also from our native provinces. Thus we have missed our religious families' affairs: funerals, professions, and ordinations. However, an exception is made for the provincial chapter. This spring, the brothers of the provinces of Mary, Mother of the Good Shepherd, Saint Augustine, and Saint Conrad had the opportunity, indeed obligation, to attend their triennial chapters.

A taste of freedom! A taste of home! A time for re-connection and recollection. And a chance to make one's voice heard as the fraternity chose leaders and deliberated over administration, governance, and policy.

What was it like, after so many months of seclusion, to be reunited with one's confreres? Here are a few perspectives.

Saint Conrad

April 1-5, 2013

Saint Fidelis Friary

Victoria, Kan.

I had a wonderful time at chapter. I stepped off the plane and saw one of the friars there to pick us up, and I felt immediately at home. Chapter itself was nice. It was a good time to share and be in fraternity with the friars I rarely see. Coming home [to San Lorenzo] was a challenge. I had a much greater longing to be back with my province than before. All in all, it was a wonderful experience.

Bro. Marshall Schmidt

Mary, Mother of the Good Shepherd

May 13-16, 2013

Saint Francis Centre

Caledon, Ont.

It was great to go back home to Canada for chapter in May. All of the brothers were very happy to see me there. I was asked to help as secretary, taking notes on the many impor-



The Province of Saint Augustine novices at chapter with fellow friars Cardinal Sean O'Malley (left); Provincial Minister David Nestler (second from left); and Minister General Mauro Jöhri (right).

BRO. CARLOS GARCIA-CRUZ

tant topics that were addressed. Many ideas and opinions were given. I thought how important it was that we were all together and present to one another. I felt at home with my province, and the Holy Spirit was present with many blessings. I experienced a lot of joy at chapter, joy that has been a part of my life as a Capuchin.

Bro. Michael Mascarenhas

Saint Augustine

May 27-31, 2013

DoubleTree Hotel

Green Tree, Pa.

My recent experience of chapter was very positive and enriching. Two aspects caught my attention during this gathering: fraternity and community prayer. The way in which the friars shared and socialized with one another was a strong sign of the fraternal and community life which we are called to live as Capuchin Franciscans. It was a testimony to love and unity. As Capuchin Franciscans, prayer in community is part of our identity and our charism. It pleased me very much to be able to pray and meditate each day in community and thus to celebrate the liturgy of the word as one unified body in Jesus Christ. From my personal point of view, I think that I was

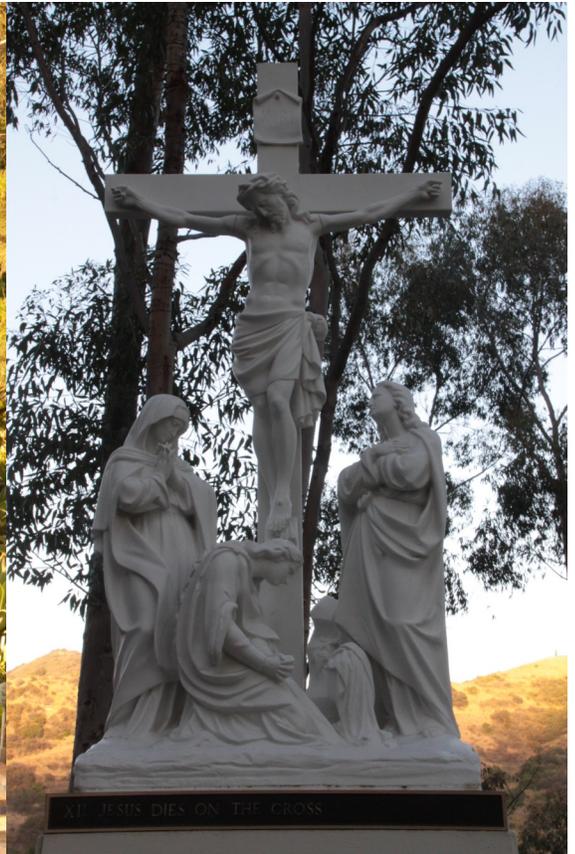
witness to a living Jesus for those brothers and sisters who were working in the hotel, and for the others who were staying there as well.

Finally, the chapter offered me the opportunity to get a better understanding of the inner workings of my own province that were operative in the choice of our new leaders. I also had the chance to participate in discussions about the future of the province, about the new evangelization, and about our ministries. The discussions and presentations on the various ideas and topics were handled in an orderly and respectful way. Although there were times when differences of opinion were evident, they were expressed in a spirit of charity and fraternal love.

Bro. Reynaldo Frías-Santana

It was very interesting, informative, and fun to be at our chapter. Seeing most of the friars of the province together gave me a better perspective on the religious order I am becoming part of. I loved to see all the friars discussing important matters for our way of life and having fun with each other. I could see men who love to be friars and desire to keep building God's kingdom here on earth as Capuchin friars. I am looking forward to walking my spiritual journey with these men.

Bro. Carlos Garcia-Cruz



Ending the Year, Contemplating the Vows

As the first day of summer drew near, we made a five-day retreat in order to reflect on the vows of chastity, poverty, and obedience.

The brothers passed the mornings in prayerful silence while meditating on the meaning of the vows in Capuchin life. Among other helps for our meditation were Capuchin sources like the Constitutions and the documents of the seven Plenary Councils of the Order. We spent the afternoons in gentle quietude or in one-on-one conversations until gathering in small groups for deep sharing. This was not a silent retreat, but given the opportunity to make much of it a time of hermitage, a few brothers made themselves scarce!

The evenings we spent variously: Mass on Monday, Eucharistic adoration on Tuesday, a movie on the life of Saint Giuseppe Moscati (d. 1927), a Naples physician, on Wednesday, a social on Thursday. We visited the Santa Monica Pier and supped at a soup and salad buffet in Camarillo on our way home Friday.

By the end of our retreat, we felt renewed and eager to take vows.

We thank the Franciscan Friars and their staff for the food for our bodies and the fantastic flora (food for our eyes) at Serra Retreat Center in Malibu.

Photos by Bro. Carlos Garcia-Cruz.





BRO. CARLOS GARCIA-CRUZ

In recent days, all the able-bodied brothers came out to the lookout point every evening in order to get our 50 vines into the ground before the ideal time for planting passed.

IN THE GARDEN

And Now, the Vineyard, Too

BY BRO. JERRY JOHNSON

In the May *Caperone*, Brother Frank wrote about the vineyard project. To give a little update: things have been coming along with a lot of difficulty and a lot of grace.

Since we do not have the tools necessary to prepare the soil and build the deer fence, we've had to rely on a lot of help from others. David Bradley, Mary and Don Dascomb of Dascomb Cellars, John and Nancy Dorwin, Don and Ginette Hartshorn, and Louis Lucas of Lucas & Lewellen Vineyards have all guided us with the vineyard design and planning. Tutti Frutti Organic Farms came with their monster tractor to give a good deep plowing to the 200-by-150-foot plot for the grapes. Craig Juratsch loaned his auger attachment for the tractor to dig even deeper where the vines will be planted. This is so that gypsum, a clay softener, could be added to the holes so that the vine roots can push deep and wide.

Robert Clarke at Nielson Lumber gave some good advice and help with the lumber needed to build the deer fence surrounding the

vineyard. Aaron Gendernalik of Aaron's Plumbing allowed us to use his jackhammer to get a few more of the large post holes finished. So far, the fence is only temporarily completed to a height of 6 feet. The bracing structures for the end posts still need a lot of work, and strands of wire will be added so that the finished height of the deer fence is 8 feet.

Louis Lucas has been a long time supporter of San Lorenzo Seminary, and despite being swamped with his own work, he has been an invaluable resource. In addition to his advice, he has connected us with some high-quality grafted vines for both wine and table grapes. His love for the full cycle of winemaking, soil preparation, and plant care is contagious.

The work of the friars, combined with the sharing of time and knowledge from our very generous neighbors and friends, has been a reminder to rejoice in God's creativity in bringing people together. In a few years, God willing, the wine and grapes will continue to be a way to bring people together and be a gift of thanks-

giving to all those who do so much to support the friars and the vision of Saint Francis.

Postscript: From the Garden

As of now, the garden has hoses that snake from one end to another to quench its thirst with water.

Last month, before we left for Serra Retreat Center in Malibu, Brothers Jerry, Andrew, and I finished installing new emitters. These water the green peppers, jalapeños, tomatoes, squash, watermelon, and zucchini.

The teroldego, a red Italian grape, has grown steadily over the last couple of months, although only three or four have survived out of about eight clusters. The asparagus has also grown taller and fuller. Next to them, the strawberries are not showing signs of new growth. The raspberries are almost ready to be picked.

In all that we have done to produce our own food, the irrigation system we have set up will give some relief from labor for next year's novices.

Bro. Alex Rodriguez

(Crop Report by Bro. Andrew McCarty.)

CROP REPORT (PLANTINGS AS OF JULY 2)

Amaranth: 6 plants

Beans: 8 plants

Cilantro: 3 bunches

Cucumbers: 17 plants

Hops: 1 plant

Jalapeños and other peppers: 70 plants

Raspberries: 13 small plants and 1 massive patch of plants

Rhubarb: 9 plants

Squash: 27 decorative squash plants

Strawberries: 102 plants

Tomatillos: 12 plants

Tomatoes: 79 plants (beefsteak, cherry, Roma, and others)

Thyme: 13 plants

Watermelon: 7 plants

Zucchini: 13 plants

Asparagus: innumerable plants