

The Caperone

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Newsletter of the North American Pacific Capuchin Conference Novitiate



As It Was in the Beginning ... and Is Now

A Visit From Saint Anthony



BRO. CARLOS GARCIA-CRUZ

Brother Alex venerates relics of Saint Anthony of Padua, brought from his basilica in Italy, at the end of a Eucharistic celebration at Old Mission Santa Barbara on April 17.



The Caperone

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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 (California-Oregon)
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: Jubilee of San Lorenzo. Top: reception of novices of the Irish Capuchin mission, 1963; photo courtesy Capuchin Franciscans. Bottom: NAPCC novices and solemnly professed, April 19, 2013; photo by Bro. Christopher Silva.

FROM THE EDITORS

The 'Do-Nothing' Novitiate

Inside our cattle gate, life goes on serenely. We pray, study, work, play, and rest. Life goes on much as it did 50 years ago, when Bro. Eugene Ludwig and the novices of the Irish Capuchin mission first commenced initial formation here, and a 27-year-old Bro. Joachim Strupp said his first Mass at Saint George Parish in Kenosha, Wis. Yes, life goes on serenely.

Too serene? I confess: Sometimes it is hard to stay inside San Lorenzo when life beyond the seminary is hit daily with shocks. Syria is at war. North Korea breathes murderous threats. In the U.S., gun violence goes unchecked. The unemployed and working poor go hungry. Immigrants continue to live in the shadows. And with two explosives, two brothers staggered a city and brought the lives of two million people to a standstill.

I can imagine Saint Francis of Assisi tugging at the hem of Jesus' tunic, telling him, "Let's go! The world needs you now. It's time for your coming in glory." And I can hear Jesus replying, "You don't know what you are asking. My hour has not yet come." Francis, bold as ever, would retort, "Then send my brothers, my Lord! Up to now they have done nothing."

And Jesus would say, "Patience, my son. Doing nothing is the point. Before your broth-

ers can do something well, let them learn first to do nothing well."

"And how will they do this, my Lord?"

"By remaining in my love. And this is not in their doing, but in their being."

Being comes before doing. As Bro. Larry Webber, director of the Solanus Casey Center in Detroit, told the novices recently, Christian ministry is a vocation first, and a job only secondarily. Franciscan ministry is a call to self-emptying, a consecration of the mind, heart, body, and soul. Out of this consecration of being, and only from this, comes our doing. For our principal ministry is "to live a Gospel life in truth, simplicity, and joy" (*Constitutions*, 145).

So life goes on at San Lorenzo. We tend our garden (Page 8). Ricardo and Ruben, who are like extended family to us, prepare the meals and care for the grounds, respectively (Pages 6 and 7). The ways of providence have brought San Lorenzo and Brother Joachim together, and on the weekend of April 20-21 we celebrated their respective jubilees (Pages 4 and 5). It may look like we are doing nothing. But we are being and becoming followers of Christ, whose being is the heart of life. That is everything.

Bro. Anthony Zuba
April 30, 2013

A cross, a hermitage, and a wilderness ...



... or a vineyard on fertile ground yielding the most lush grapes?

BRO. FRANK GRINKO

Novitiate Calendar

May 3: Saints Philip and James, apostles (feast)

May 4: Self-reflections and peer evaluations due for third formal evaluation

May 9: Bro. Fred Cabras (birthday)

May 12: Ascension (solemnity); Bro. John Alvarado (birthday)

May 14: Saint Matthias, apostle (feast)

May 18: House chapter

May 19: Pentecost (solemnity)

May 21-22: Day of recollection (presenter: Bro. James Gavin, Province of Saint Mary)

May 24: Dedication of the Basilica of Saint Francis (feast)

May 26: Trinity Sunday (solemnity); Bro. Ryan Gebhart (birthday)

May 28: Bro. Majdi Ammari (birthday)

May 29: Bro. Christopher Johnson (birthday)

2012-13 NAPCC Novices

Mary, Mother of the Good Shepherd	Carlos Garcia-Cruz Ryan Gebhart
Michael Mascarenhas	Christopher Johnson
Fadi Touma	Andrew McCarty

Our Lady of Angels	Saint Conrad
Jose Chavez	Jason Moore
Alexander Rodriguez	Marshall Schmidt
Alejandro Sanchez	

Our Lady Star of the Sea	Saint Joseph
Gavin Diego	Fred Cabras
	Jason Graves

Saint Augustine	Saint Mary
Majdi Ammari	John Alvarado
Tage Danielson	Linneker Marin
Reynaldo Frias-Santana	Will Tarraza
	Anthony Zuba

FROM THE FORMATORS

The Way to New Vistas

What do you see in the above three photographs? One might realistically remark, “The bottom photo is the hermitage; the top photo is the cross located at ‘The Point’; and the middle shot is that of the large expanse of fallow, weed- and ground squirrel-infested nothingness that separates the two structures.” To which I would say, “You are somewhat right but totally wrong.”

What I see is a vineyard of lush grapes for both wine and immediate consumption extending from the hermitage to the cross. The fertile soil contains a variety of grapes totaling a minimum of 120 vines. They are well-manicured, protected from deer, rabbit, and ground squirrel, and the harvest is incredible!

The vision stems from a one-hour conversation that Brother Jerry and I were blessed to have with Louis Lucas from the renowned Lucas & Lewellen Estate Vineyards. His knowledge gave us hope. His observations left me seeing potential where moments beforehand I was only experiencing the jagged stickers collecting on my socks and invading my tennis shoes as we walked among the weeds.

To our pleasant surprise, the topsoil is richer than either Brother Jerry or I expected. As we continued the conversation, we began to realize how richly blessed we are. We have

outdoor water faucets available nearby, which encircle the plot of land; we have a newly purchased tractor; and we have an energetic labor force to join us in making our dream into a fruitful reality.

May is normally a month of sitting back and admiring the myriad of flowers in bloom. It is a time of easing back and counting the days until summer vacation begins. Some may see this as a veiled call to my brothers to “Stay the course; keep plowing and tilling the soil of your spirituality; remove the stickers still clinging to you; and ...” To which I would say, “You are somewhat right but totally wrong.”

Rather, to those preparing to depart the novitiate in the not-so-distant future, I hope that our conversations and the team’s collective knowledge have helped you see life with the eyes and heart of faith; that, during your own ever-deepening prayer life and soul searching, you discovered a depth of rich spirituality beneath the surface that you now cultivate daily; and, as you move forward, you have realized that the sometimes weed-infested, untilled landscape is not confirmation of barrenness, but merely the terrain we cross while reaching for the starting point of new vistas.

Bro. Frank Grinko
April 12, 2013



Friars and friends of San Lorenzo Seminary observed its jubilee as a novitiate with a Eucharistic celebration on April 20.

BRO. MAJDI AMMARI

San Lorenzo Seminary Celebrates 50 Years

In 1961, the Irish Capuchins needed a place on the West Coast for a novitiate. Bro. Tim Joe O'Sullivan, pastor of Mission Santa Inés, shared their search with a parishioner, Lawrence "Bud" Hourihan. Mr. Hourihan replied, "Let me show you a section of my ranch; I think it might be just the place." The friars were shown a grassy hillside, spotted with oaks, and decided it was indeed the ideal spot. Bud Hourihan and his four sisters gave 28 acres to the friars, and construction began.

By the fall of 1962, San Lorenzo (named after Saint Lawrence of Brindisi) was ready for occupancy. Previously, new members of the Irish mission had done novitiate in Wilmington, Del., but in 1963 the first novices received the habit at San Lorenzo. Bro. Eugene Ludwig, who currently teaches theology in Berkeley, was in that first class. Until 1982, the friary served exclusively as a formation house, but in that year Bro. Peter Banks and the community also hosted a small group of Catholic Workers who were looking for a place to make a retreat. After that, San Lorenzo served as both novitiate and retreat house.

In 1997, when Our Lady of Angels Province began sending novices to Allison Park, Pa., San Lorenzo became a full-time retreat facility. Hundreds of people were graced by their time at San Lorenzo as well as the counseling and encouragement of the friars. Many Alcoholics Anonymous groups had regular weekends each year and found much healing and strength.

In 2011, the NAPCC asked to use San Lorenzo as the site of its common novitiate. Its size and setting made San Lorenzo an ideal place for this international effort. Also important was the wonderful support the Capuchins have always had from the people of the Santa Ynez Valley (the friars have been at Mission Santa Inés in Solvang since 1924). The first novices in this new era arrived in July 2011.

On Saturday, April 20, Bro. Matthew Elshoff, provincial minister of Our Lady of Angels Province, led a Mass of thanksgiving for San Lorenzo's first fifty years. He began by recalling the generosity of the Hourihan family, which he called a great legacy of love. "The generosity of Bud Hourihan and his four sisters, Kathleen, Babe, Eleanor, and Gerry, has been an inspiration for countless Capuchin friars, as well as the retreatants who have come to this place," Brother Matthew noted.

Attending the Mass were friends from all over the area and several members of the local clergy. Bro. Mark Schenk, general definitor of the Capuchin Order, brought the greetings and best wishes of the minister general, Bro. Mauro Jöhri, and thanked San Lorenzo's many friends and benefactors. Bro. Bob Herrick and the *schola* of novices provided beautiful music for the Mass, and Bro. Bobby Barbato preached.

Helping with the ceremonies as well as the luncheon afterward were members of the San Lorenzo Foundation, a local group dedicated to helping San Lorenzo both financially and spiritually in its mission. Gary Waples, president of the foundation, noted the long association his family has had with San Lorenzo and the warm welcome they and others have received at the seminary.

As Brother Bobby said in his sermon, "A jubilee is a time to look both backward and forward. We look back at the founding of San Lorenzo and its history so far, and give thanks to God for the generosity of so many benefactors and the holiness of so many who have passed through here. We also look forward to serving the Lord and sharing the grace of this place. Saint Francis cherished Mount La Verna as a place where God spoke in a special way, and those who come to San Lorenzo feel the same about this blessed spot."

REFLECTION

How Times Have Changed

BY BRO. JOACHIM STRUPP

On Sunday, April 21, the community at San Lorenzo celebrated Brother Joachim's 50 years of priestly service to the Church and the world. At our request, Brother Joachim has put into words some prayerful thoughts about the way initial formation formed him into a Capuchin priest of the Province of Saint Joseph, as well as how initial formation has changed since his novitiate. **The Editors**

For the golden jubilee of my being an ordained priest, I was asked how my novitiate and post-novitiate training prepared me for priestly ministry. Those were very different times than now. For one thing, those who wanted to be priests had a separate novitiate from those who wanted to be lay brothers. This set up sort of a caste system. If you weren't "smart" enough to be a priest, you could become "just" a lay brother.

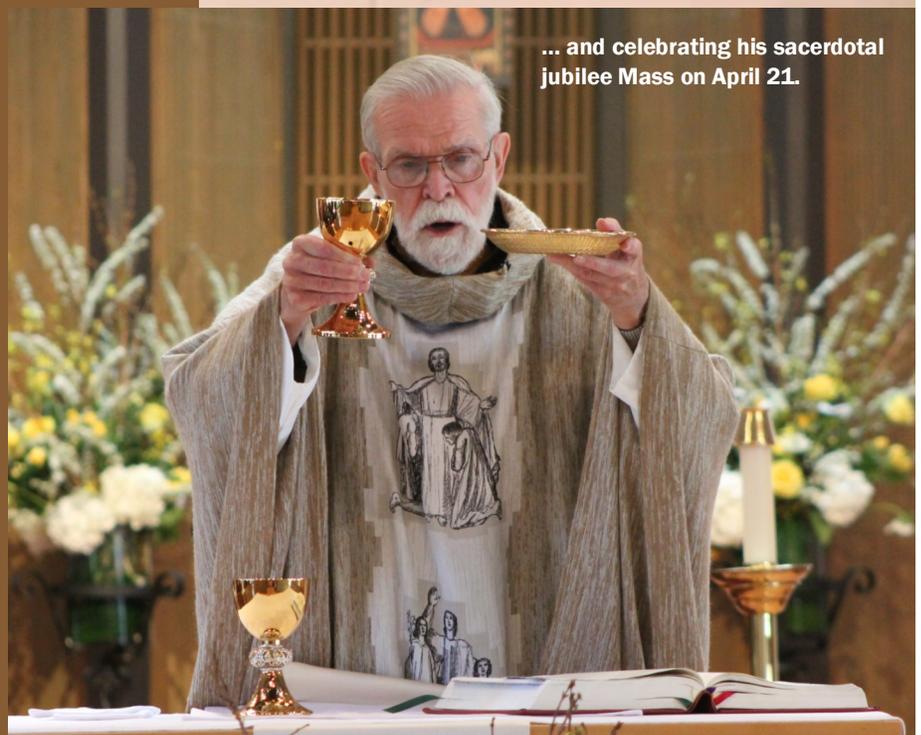
Each province ran its own seminaries. We had our own house of philosophy (college) and house of theology. We all took the same courses and had the same teachers. Outside lecturers were few and far between, and ministry experience was rare. But visiting friars of various ministries (especially foreign missionaries) made it a point to visit the houses of study and interact with the students, inspiring them. My own interest in our Indian mission in Montana was begun in this way, and that ended up being my first assignment.

We had faculty who worked hard to form us into zealous and educated priests. Some of these professors stand out for me. One in philosophy was Bro. Martinian (Eugene) Wolf. He taught us social ethics, and he made the courses come alive by using the social issues of the day. I think he was a major player whose influence explains why my province has a strong interest in social justice issues. One instructor in theology who stands out is Bro. Peter Hesse. He taught us moral theology. His experience as a pastor and his sharp mind made his classes valuable for a future priest.

How times have changed! Gone are the separate novitiates. Now the emphasis in a common novitiate is on what it means to be a brother in Capuchin fraternity. We are equals, no matter what ministry one chooses to follow. Now, after novitiate, studies are pursued mainly in institutions with members of other religious orders and lay people, men and women. And there is a chance for some ministry from postulancy onward. Yes, times have changed for the better!



Brother Joachim, newly ordained priest, with his parents in 1963 ...



... and celebrating his sacerdotal jubilee Mass on April 21.



Ricardo Garay.

BRO. CARLOS GARCIA-CRUZ

Our Givers of Bread and Roses

BY BRO. CARLOS GARCIA-CRUZ

Religious people like us depend primarily on God's grace to persevere in our vocations. We also depend on the generosity and kindness of so many people who support us spiritually and financially. To all of them, we are very thankful because our way of life would not be possible without their help.

Here at San Lorenzo, we also depend on the physical support of two very important people. We want especially to acknowledge Ricardo Garay and Ruben Zepeda, who with their energy support us daily in our novitiate.

Brother Ricardo

Ricardo is the instrument God uses to provide for our daily bread. During the weekdays, he cooks lunch and dinner, and he also makes all kinds of treats to satisfy our sweet tooth. In addition, Ricardo is responsible for ordering our food supplies.

Ricardo is originally from Mexico; he came to the U.S. in 1981. After arriving he worked mainly as a cook in different restaurants. In 1999, he came into contact with the friars through an aunt of his who informed him that the friars needed a part-time cook. Ricardo started working here twice a week for the retreats we used to hold before becoming an interprovincial novitiate. In 2000, Ricardo started working full time.

the brothers on the weekend. Ricardo also has taught a couple of the novices how to bake cookies and cakes.

Ricardo's cooking manifests his appreciation and love for the friars. He puts a lot of time and creativity into his cooking. Whatever type of food we ask him to prepare, especially for our birthdays when we have the opportunity to request our favorite food, he is willing to make it, although this often requires him to learn something completely new. Ricardo's meals are delicious because they are made with a special ingredient: love.

As we affirm Ricardo is a blessing to us, he says he feels blessed working at San Lorenzo. In his prior job, he said his bosses were always pushing him to work harder and faster. At San Lorenzo, the friars have given a lot of freedom in how to do his job. As a result, Ricardo says his work life is now less stressful. He adds that working at San Lorenzo has allowed him to grow in understanding and appreciation of religious life and the life of the Church. Now, he feels more comfortable in approaching religious people and participating more consciously in the Church's liturgy.

Working at San Lorenzo over many years has produced many fruits for both Ricardo and the friars. For this we are grateful to God.



Ruben Zepeda.

BRO. CARLOS GARCIA-CRUZ

Brother Ruben

Ruben, our gardener brother, is the instrument God uses to maintain the beauty of the land and property on which we are so fortunate to live.

Ruben immigrated to the U.S. from Jalisco, Mexico, in 1978. Since his arrival, he worked mostly as a cook until five years ago, when he started working at San Lorenzo as gardener and in maintenance. (He joined his wife, who also worked here for a time, cooking and cleaning.) Before he was hired, he started embellishing San Lorenzo simply because he liked the place. He would arrive an hour before his wife finished working so he could clean up a statue of our Heavenly Mother, tidy the grounds around it, and plant varieties of roses around it.

The friars eventually offered Ruben a full-time job as groundskeeper, maintaining the green spaces around our campus. He does this very well. He starts working around 6 a.m. watering

Ricardo and Ruben are the instruments God uses to provide for our daily bread and the beauty of the land.

the grass and many other plants. He trims the roses and other bushes and tidies the different green areas. Besides this, Ruben does electrical and plumbing repairs and other jobs with Bro. Lance Love.

We are very blessed to have Ruben here with us. Through his hard work we are able to enjoy an environment that is conducive to our life of contemplation. It is also thanks to Ruben that our facilities stay in good order, affording us a comfortable life.

Just as we are thankful to Ruben, so Ruben gives thanks for his job. He appreciates the flexibility of his schedule, which he says allows him to spend more time with his wife and children. (In former jobs he worked seven days a week.) As a result, his family life has improved. Ruben says that working at San Lorenzo has helped him establish a simpler way of life. He has learned to become more patient, cultivating a more reflective and peaceful style of life.

"Working at San Lorenzo is a lot of work. But I am free to work as I please, as long as I complete my responsibilities. I like working at San Lorenzo," Ruben concludes.

'WHERE WAS GOD?'

He created us, we are his most precious piece of art
Once you decide to make room for the Lord to live in your heart
Day by day, he will take it apart and Jesus will fully take over
We will be God's instrument, his tool to put everything in order
We will be the pencil and God will be the hand*
We will be the clay and God will be the potter
God will send us to visit the fatherless and widows and comfort them in their affliction**
To be with all humans caught up in any sort of addiction
To be with the poor and discriminated is his petition
With those the world forgets and who are left aside
The world managed to destroy their pride, now they consider committing suicide
No longer will the world say: "When I was in need, where was the God almighty?
Where was God when I was lonely, scared and confused?
Where was God when I was homeless, hungry, cold and thirsty?
Where was God when I was getting abused?
Where was God when I was getting bullied in school?"
God wants to be there, but he wants to use us to be his tool
Through us he can and will be there.

*Mother Teresa.

**James 1:27.

Bro. Linneker Marin

REFLECTION

The Gospel and Economic Justice

BY BRO. REYNALDO FRIAS-SANTANA

According to the papal encyclical *Sollicitudo Rei Socialis*, "Economic activity ...

needs to be directed towards the pursuit of the common good, for which the political community in particular must also take responsibility. Therefore, it must be borne in mind that grave imbalances are produced when economic action, conceived merely as an engine for the creation of wealth, is detached from political action, conceived as a means to pursuing justice through redistribution" (36).

The economic systems applied in most of the world are unfair, and we must look for much greater equity in the distribution of the wealth of the earth. As a Catholic and as a Capuchin novice, I believe that the Church must be more involved in the economic situation, preaching by example and not just by words. The



current crisis obliges us to re-plan our ministry, to set ourselves new commitments. The crisis thus becomes an opportunity for discernment, in which to shape a new vision for the future.

It is important for the Church to model Gospel values with both action and words. The church should examine complicated situations like national and international economics, and, with the help of professional economists and professional moral theologians, the hierarchy should help the people to understand whether economic policies and practices are in agreement with or are (partially or completely) contrary to Gospel values.

Therefore, the potential impact of the teaching of the Church will depend on whether we ourselves act in accordance with what we teach. The administration of our dioceses and parishes must be honest and just, and other institutions that carry the name "Catholic" must be conducted in morally acceptable ways.

An important but complicated challenge in modern society is knowing when and how to make financial investments, being careful not to support immoral practices. We also need to communicate effectively with the legislatures in democratic countries, influencing our elected political officials to remove unjust laws and regulations and to make laws which protect the just rights of citizens, immigrants (documented or not), and to adopt international policies which are in line with a sense of justice that safeguards human rights.

REFLECTION

The University Is My Parish

BY BRO. MICHAEL MASCARENHAS

Ministry is an important part of our life as Capuchins. Saint Francis asked Brother Sylvester and Saint Clare to pray for him and find out whether the Lord wanted him to live as a hermit or pursue an active life of ministry to others. They came back and told him that while his life of prayer is necessary, he must also go out and minister to those in need.



I minister with Brother Marshall at St. Mark's University Parish at the University of California at Santa Barbara. Saint Mark's is a "university parish" in the college town of Isla Vista where students come to spend time to study or hang out.

I eat lunch with the graduate students, and afterward we have faith sharing, reflecting on the Gospel reading for the upcoming Sunday celebrations. It is great to see the students put their hearts into the Gospel. I can see the Lord working with them.

Later in the afternoon, I walk around the campus, and I meet many students who are from different religions. I approach the students in a friendly way, saying hello to them, introducing myself as Brother Michael, and telling them about the Capuchins. The students are very interested, and they ask questions about the church and many other topics. There are UCSB students who worship at St. Mark's who tell me they feel happy to see me, a friar, representing the Catholic Church. I believe that it is important to be present to the students. I enjoy speaking to them, and it makes me feel happy. One of the things I tell them is to act righteously, use good morals, and be responsible.

Saint Mark's also has a lunch program for the homeless. They take responsibility for the

IN THE GARDEN

God Works in The Garden, Too

"The work that I do may seem physically fruitful only, but tending the garden has caused me to reflect on my spiritual life. The garden has tested my self-complacency," Brother Alex writes. "I have felt growing pains over these nine months of the intense, prayerful, apostolic lifestyle of novitiate. In the next few months, the garden will continue to challenge me to follow our Lord Jesus Christ more faithfully."

BY BRO. ALEX RODRIGUEZ

Después de seis meses trabajando en la cocina, limpiando las mesas del comedor y removiendo las grasas en las parrillas de la estufa en la cocina, fui asignado para trabajar en el huerto del noviciado con el hermano Andrew.

No me sentía cómodo con la nueva asignación que me dieron, pero oré y reflexioné sobre lo positivo que podría salir de esa nueva tarea. Desde que comencé a trabajar en el huerto mi relación con Dios y la fraternidad ha cambiado.

El hermano Jerry Johnson, mi supervisor y administrador del huerto, me pidió regar con agua las fresas y los espárragos hasta que el estiércol se mezele con la tierra y se ponga bien duro como una roca. Antes de unirme a los Capuchinos, nunca me imaginé trabajar en un huerto, arrancar las malezas, o plantar las semillas en pequeños tarros plásticos, y mucho menos ver crecer los vegetales y las plantas, completamente desarrollados en un huerto bastante grande. Apesar de mi poca experiencia, agradezco a la Divina Providencia por poder realizar este trabajo. En el último mes (abril), el hermano Jerry, Andrew, y yo hemos plantado calabazas y fresas. Mientras esperamos verlas crecer, estamos regando las frambuesas, los tomillos, los espárragos y los hongos del hermano Marshall.

Quizás pareciera que el trabajo que realizo es útil solamente por lo que produce, pero trabajar en

program by helping out, setting up the tables and chairs. I have had the opportunity to eat with them, and it was a blessing to be there. I usually see them on the street and at a park nearby the parish where they sleep at night. Jesus lives in them, as He does in all of us, and He said: "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these members of my family,

Dios También Trabaja en el Huerto



BRO. CARLOS GARCIA-CRUZ

el huerto me ha ayudado a reflexionar sobre mi vida espiritual, el huerto es un gran reto para mi propia autosatisfacción. Por ejemplo, reta mi paciencia cuando tengo que pasar mucho tiempo debajo del sol. Cuando terminé de plantar los pimientos, las calabazas, y los tomates, me sentía muy exhausto.

Siento que he crecido durante estos nueve meses de intenso estilo de vida apostólica y de oración en el noviciado. Será un reto para mí trabajar en el huerto los próximos 2 meses, lo cual será una oportunidad para seguir a Jesús con más fidelidad.

Mi trabajo en el huerto ha afectado mi relación con Dios y la fraternidad. Los tomates, las verbenas, y los zuquinis son cosechados en el otoño, lo que significa que este grupo tiene que plantar los vegetales más temprano, mientras que el próximo grupo tiene que trabajar para realizar la cosecha.

Trabajar en el huerto es una forma de cumplir con el requisito de trabajar con nuestras manos para apoyarnos uno al otro en nuestra fraternidad. Ahora puedo apreciar como Dios obra para sostener nuestro estilo de vida a través del trabajo que hacemos en el huerto.

you did it to me" (Matthew 25:40).

I enjoy my ministry at St. Mark's and to the university. It enables me to speak with those who do not know Jesus and are in search of ways of growing closer to Him. Jesus is always there for me, and it brings me joy to help others. As Saint Paul said, "I can do all things in Him who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13).