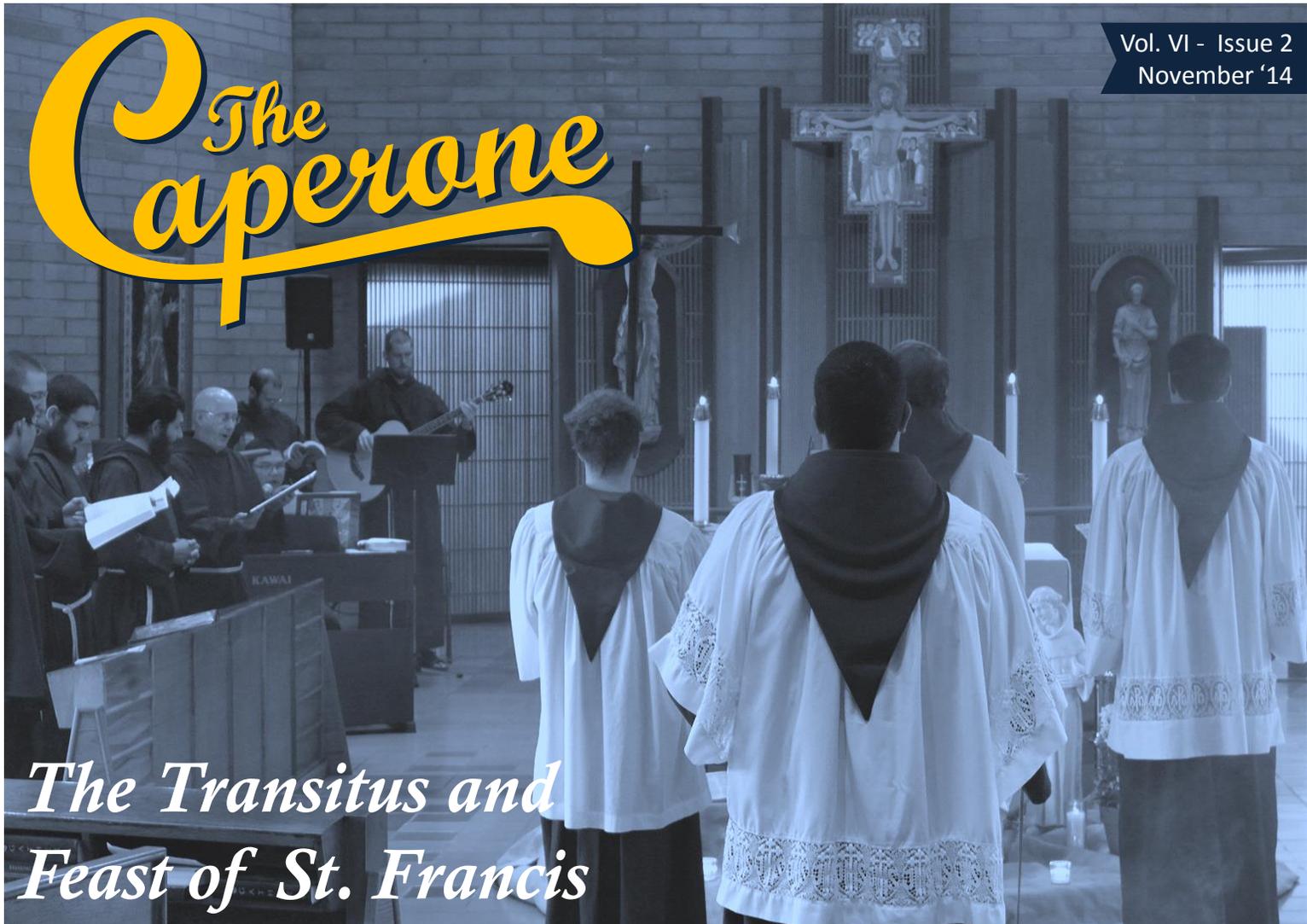


The Caperone



The Transitus and Feast of St. Francis

Novitiate is moving fast with a full month of October activity passed us. We began the month with the celebration of our Seraphic father St. Francis's Transitus and Feast celebrations. There were visits with friars from within the California province as well as from our provinces around the world. It was a much valued time of fraternal interaction, encouragement, and fun. We gained a larger vision of the Capuchin order as a whole and a better look at what at the life we are discerning. We are grateful that through your prayers and interest in our life you continue to walk with us on this journey. Please enjoy our reflections and pictures from the month!

Novitiate Events

- Oct. 6-15:
History of Religious Life
Bro. Frank Grinko
- Oct. 20-21
Day of Recollection
Fr. John Love
- Oct. 27-29
Vow of Chastity
Bro. Jerry Johnson
- Oct. 23-25
Presentation on Celibacy
Fr. Gerard McGlone, SJ
- Nov. 3-19, **History of Franciscan Movement**
Bro. Bobby Barbato
- Nov. 24-25
Liturgy (Advent Preparation)
Bro. Bob Herrick
- Nov. 25-26
Day of Recollection
Bro. Harold Snider, OFM, Cap





Whether it will transform into a lifetime commitment, or be one more step towards better understanding his ever-unfolding spiritual journey; your son, brother, friend has asked our religious community of Capuchin-Franciscans to assist him in his discernment process.

As a man of faith, he realizes that to have said 'Yes' to this year was more than a coincidence in his life but rather a God-incident built upon his ponderings about life and his life-choices. He already knows that someone has brought him to this point: in prayer he felt His Presence and in faith he has responded to Him.

His personal goal is now filled with a desire to discover a means and the space necessary to intensify his search for further clarity in understanding God's will for his life. It is a goal not unlike anyone else's for we all hope to become the person we were created by God to be. This process includes both discovering and then freely embracing the type of lifestyle best suited to our own personality, temperament, talents and capabilities. This has been traditionally referred to as one's vocation in life.

As a "novice" (one who is "new") to this particular form of life, he has chosen to enter into a highly structured one year program required by the Catholic Church for those considering religious life. We are providing him with the tools necessary for proper discernment while he is saying 'Yes' to spending his time considering and experiencing such Capuchin-Franciscan values as contemplation, community life, and concern for the poor. He is asking himself the question "Does this way of life suit me?" while the formation team considers "Is he suitable for our way of life?"

This is the heart and soul of discernment – and your son, brother, friend has immersed himself in it.

-Bro. Frank Grinko, OFM Cap. & the Novitiate Team



Bro. Frank working hard at pruning the vineyard...much like he works with the Lord in pruning the Novices!

Bro. Bob Herrick leads the Novice Schola Choir during the Oct. 3 Transitus

Master gardener Bro. Jerry Johnson teaching novices vineyard construction



“I have done my part, may Christ teach you yours.”

-St Bonaventure, Legend Major, XIV, 3

On the evening of October 3rd, we celebrated the Transitus of our founder St. Francis here at San Lorenzo Friary. The Transitus is a Franciscan devotion to ritually remember the passing of St. Francis from this into God. Francis died October 3, 1226 in Assisi, Italy. All of the Novices served on committees to plan the various liturgies around Transitus and the feast day for St. Francis which is the day after.

Francis made several requests to his brother before his death. He asked them to pray Psalm 141 which begins: “With all my voice I cry to you, Lord. With all my voice I entreat you.” He also added a verse to his Canticle of the Creatures: “Be praised my Lord, through our sister bodily death, from whose embrace no living person can escape.” He asked his brothers to sing the Canticle for him before his death and they included this final verse. The brothers, also, read from St. John’s Gospel (13:1-7), where Jesus washes the feet of his disciples and says to them: “What I just did was to give you an example, as I have done, so you must do.” Francis has shared a similar sentiment with his followers: “I have done what is mine to do. May Christ teach you what is yours.”

The chapel was beautifully decorated for the service by the brothers here and a relic of St. Francis was venerated by everyone at the conclusion of the service. The Schola (choir) at San Lorenzo sang a song titled, ‘Transitus.’ It is based on a poem written by our own friar, Br. Bobby Barbato. The Transitus is a celebration of the life and spirit of St. Francis who is in our midst today in each of us. Each of us can be a light in the world through Francis’ inspiration.

-Bro. Bob Herrick





Novice Bro. Jordan Schmeidler gave a heartfelt reflection on Francis's *Transitus*



Sacristan Novice brothers Andrew Corriente and Jordan Schmeidler put a lot of daily work into keeping our Chapel clean and beautifully arranged...as in this Altar arrangement for the Feast.

Bro. Bobby with his friend Abbot Father Damian Higgins of Holy Transfiguration Monastery showing the two new icons Damian created for San Lorenzo



The Novice's enjoyed a feast dinner celebration provided by the friars at Mission Santa Ines

Novice Bro. Lawrence Borja grill's some chicken **CHAMORRO** style!





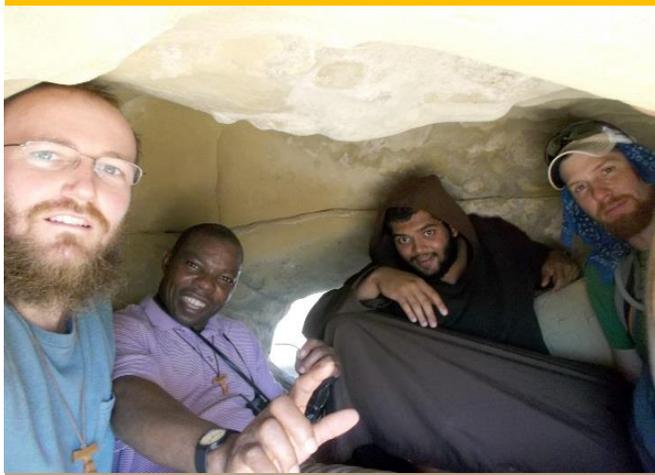
Friars Gather for Formation Workshop

Every few years the friars who work in formation for the provinces of the NAPCC try to gather to get updated as well as form fraternal bonds. This year the workshop was held at Mission Santa Barbara Renewal Center. There October 19-22 almost forty friars working at different levels of formation (vocation recruitment, postulancy, novitiate and post-novitiate) gathered to reflect on the topic "Technology and Capuchin Formation." Addressing this important topic were Dr. Mary Hess of Luther Seminary in Minnesota and Fr. Gerard McGlone, SJ, of Guest House Services in Detroit. They both shared with the friars the effect modern technologies, especially communication technologies, have on those coming to religious life. They showed both the positive and the challenging aspects of this for those who work with them in formation. The friars appreciated the range of knowledge and insight these speakers brought with them.

In addition to Dr. Hess and Fr. McGlone, the friars also heard from our own Capuchin Br. Charles Alphonse, who works with the secretariat of formation at our general curia in Rome. Br. Charles spoke about formation efforts worldwide as well as the secretariat's work in developing a general Ratio Formationis (formation plan) for the whole order. A highlight of the workshop was the journey to San Lorenzo, where the formators and novitiate community joined together for talks, eucharist and dinner. As always, the beauty of San Lorenzo itself helped make the visit a wonderful event, as well as the fraternal welcome and wonderful music at the liturgy. The conference was organized by Bros. Bill Hugo (St. Joseph Province), Michael Marigliano (St. Mary Province) and Bobby Barbato (Our Lady of Angels Province and novitiate team).

-Bro. Bobby Barbato





The thing I looked forward to most about moving to Santa Ynez was its location in California's central coast. However, it wasn't until I got here that I learned California was home to many hiking trails. So about a month and a half ago, six brothers, including myself, decided to go for a hike on a Thursday (which is our free day). We chose Goleta beach, located in Santa Barbara. At the end of the day, the hike had me physically exhausted, but spiritually refreshed. Upon arrival to the beach we were informed about some natural cave formations on different parts of the hill. From the bottom of the hill, these caves looked like nothing that I'd be too excited about. As we moved along, I complained a little inside myself. There was dust in my sandals (not a smart move on my part to wear sandals for a hike), the sun seemed brighter than ever, and the heat was scorching. All these irritations, however, added up to nothing when the brothers and I reached one of the caves. When we went inside the caves, I was unable to contain my excitement. They were so beautifully formed, as if on purpose. Inside one of the caves was a naturally formed window on the cave that boasted a spectacular view of the hills and ocean. I was brought to silence, and the only thing I could do was marvel at God's beautiful creation in sacred silence. Through interior silence one learns to listen more intimately to the externals so God's creation becomes more vivid. I realized at that point that this was only one of countless works of God. The experience helped me to better see and listen to God in His magnificent work. On the way back, as exhausted as I was, I felt God's presence not only inside myself, but all around me.

-Bro. Merwyn D'Silva



The Novices had the opportunity during late September to cruise on Lake Cachuma. We were able to glimpse the picturesque wilderness around the Santa Inez Valley. The ladies from the Hospitality ministry at Old Mission Santa Inez hosted the San Lorenzo community for a pontoon boat cruise and a delightful picnic. Even though the lake continues to get shallower due to the drought we were able to enjoy much of the surrounding wildlife and breathtaking landscape. Our tour guide was especially enthusiastic and so willing to share this cherished piece of the central coast. Our morning was capped-off with a picnic prepared by the generous ladies from the Mission. We experienced their love and warmth by the good company and home-made chili and cookies. It was a relaxing and enjoyable way to bond with each other. A special thanks to the sponsor for this cruise, the vocation office and Br. Peter Banks of the OLA Province. And we are deeply grateful for the warm welcome given by the Hospitality ministry from the Old Mission.

-Bro. Brenton Ertel



Novice Bro. Carl Schultz caught some National Geographic worthy nature shots!



Upon arriving at San Lorenzo, we were told of two things, among others: House Jobs and Work Projects. House Jobs are pretty simple to explain, House Jobs are chores each Brother is assigned to do around San Lorenzo. Jobs like cleaning the kitchen, cleaning Marian Hall, grounds keeping, and Sacristy/Chapel cleaning and set up. House Jobs and Work Projects are done twice a week. Work Projects are split up amongst all sixteen of us, usually in groups of four or five per job. Work Projects can consist of many different activities such as, tomato jarring, painting, work in the garden, and work in the vineyard. The vineyard work is among the toughest work for Work Projects. Working in the Vineyard can mean a few different things like: digging three foot deep anchor holes, filling in the anchor holes with cement, installing the wire trellis, and tending the vines. To dig a single three foot deep anchor hole takes about three Brothers thirty minutes. Mind that the brothers are only using a shovel, a long thirty pound metal spear, and small plastic cups to dig these holes. So far our Class has dug about fifteen holes in all and filled them with cement. Vineyard work has resulted in blistered hands, sunburn, and satisfied Novices. The vineyard work is truly appropriate for a Novitiate because of all the scriptural connections and parables with the symbol of a vineyard. For example, the scripture passage titled The Workers in the Vineyard, Matthew Chapter 20 verses 1-16, has the familiar story of a master searching the land for laborers at different times of day and agreeing with them for the usual daily wage. This scripture passage happened to come up one day in Scripture study class and all the Novices were asked to reflect on this passage. After reflecting on this passage, some of the Novices were asked to share. Br. Nicholas from the Guam Province shared this with the class, "So I noticed that all of the workers in the vineyard in this passage were paid the usual wage, I also noticed that we work in the vineyard. Shouldn't we get paid too? It's scriptural." The entire class laughed and Br. Nicholas sat down.

-Bro. Nicholas Martinez



In the Vineyard



Me (Bro. Nicholas) clearing away debris in the anchor holes



Thoughts on Discernment *by Bro. Cody Lizama*

When I hear the word “discernment” I can’t help but think of questions. “What is God’s will?” “What does He want from me?” “Where is He taking me?” In all simplicity, that is what discernment is, asking a question. While it is simple in principle, anyone who has done discernment can tell you how difficult and confusing it can be. Often times, discernment isn’t something you can do in one sitting. For me, the process of discernment began as a child, when I believe I received my call for the first time. Since then the process continues to this day.

Long discernment is such a beautiful experience because through it we experience His grace every step of the way. In it we open ourselves up to His will and His grace. Hopefully we can have the same courage Our Lady had in order to say, “Let it be done unto me according to Thy will.” I can imagine some things that hinder our willingness to be as accepting of His will as Our Lady. I believe impatience is a torpedo against discernment. We need to know that God will reveal all in His time. Rushing Him will only confuse us. We need to remember that it took God almost 2000 years to reveal to His chosen people His Christ. Even Simeon waited patiently in the Temple for Christ. I remember a phrase from one of my favorite movies, *The Mummy* that was said while being rushed by an angry mob: “Patience is a virtue.”

The worst sabotage of discerning I believe is a closed mind. If we have a set mentality of what we think God’s will is then there is no point of discerning. We would only be looking for ways to support our will instead of His. If this is the case, then it is we who tell God what He wills instead of letting Him reveal it to us. How backwards is that? We tell the omniscient God what He wills. That is why we need to be open during discernment. Otherwise it isn’t discernment. It’s just us staring in a mirror agreeing with ourselves. In spite of all these downfalls God, in His infinite wisdom, saw it necessary for man to discern for himself what God’s will is. God could and can tell us His will through a voice in the sky, message on a wall, or an email. However, in His love He wants us to go through the process and I believe it is because He wants us to fall in deeper love with Him along the way. We get to see how God is working personally. The more time we spend with someone, the more we grow in love with them. That is also why a consistent prayer life is so essential during this time. How can we know God’s will if we don’t ask Him? If we take out prayer in discernment, we take out God. We lose our focus and goal. We should remember that it is about God and when we put God in the center of our lives happiness is sure to follow. That is why it is sad to hear about people who never had a chance to open themselves to God’s will. They don’t know of the happiness it will bring.

I have had Candidacy, Postulancy, and now Novitiate to do something that most people never get to do. Thanks be to God for the opportunity I have. I hope and pray that He will continue to guide all of us to Himself with the aid of Our Lady for it is only through him that we will find our peace. Pax et Bonum!

