

Vol VII - Issue 01

SEPTEMBER 2015

THE Caperone



**NAPCC Interprovincial Novitiate Class
2015-2016**



From The Formators

Caperone August 29, 2015

Peace and Good! This morning the novices along with the formators went out early to our vineyard to pick some of the grapes. We have several different varieties, and to my untrained eye they all looked ready for harvest. Fortunately, our good friend Mr. Louis Lucas knows a lot better. He came to test the grapes to see which varieties were ready to be picked, and which needed to be left on the vines for a while longer. Each one becomes mature in its own time.

Our work with the novices is similar. Each year we get the same questions: "What is this class like? Are they more outgoing, or less? Are they musical?" Even though they've been here over a month, it is not easy to say what this class of 23 novices is like, partly because they are still finding out themselves. Also, though they experience the novitiate as a "class," each one of them brings unique experiences, gifts, and challenges. That is why each novice receives a member of the novitiate team to be his "Formation Advisor." Giving classes to the group is important, but so is individual reflection and guidance. It is the Holy Spirit who is each novice's primary formator, but the advisors (and the whole team) try to work as faithful assistants to the Spirit.

We are also preparing for our annual San Lorenzo Foundation Gala, September 12, honoring Bl. Junípero Serra, who will be canonized by Pope Francis on September 23. Please pray for the success of this fundraiser and for all the wonderful people who make it happen.

At this time, I would like to thank once again the brothers who worked on the *Caperone* last year, Brothers David, Brenton and Jordan. I also welcome Brothers Stephen and Victor to this ministry. As always, we hope you enjoy the little slice of our life here at San Lorenzo which we share each month in the *Caperone*, and as always we appreciate any comments or feedback you'd like to send us.

May the Lord bless and give you peace!

- **Br. Bobby**

Calendar Of Events

August 31-September 2:
Class on Discernment (Br. Frank)

September 7-9: *Biblical Foundations of Prayer (Br. Jerry)*

September 12: *San Lorenzo Foundation GALA at San Lorenzo*

September 14: *History of Christian Spirituality (Br. Bobby, 3 weeks)*

September 17: *Feast of the Stigmata of St. Francis*

September 23: *Day of Recollection (Br. David Nestler); Canonization of Bl. Junipero Serra*

The Caperone

Newsletter of the North American Pacific Capuchin Conference Novitiate

Founded 2009

Comments and Questions

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Investiture

The hot California sun spilled through the towering glass doors of the chapel as the drone of electric fans filled the air. The atmosphere hung heavy with the anticipation of 23 postulants, along with dozens of friars from each of the provinces, awaiting the start of the investiture ceremony, the beginning of the 2015-2016 Interprovincial Novitiate. Friars have come from all over the country, east coast to west coast, and even from Canada and Australia, all for this one important step in their postulant brothers' lives.

The ceremony began with the traditional Evening Prayer of the friars, the recitation of psalms and canticles from Scripture. The novice formators read reflections from Sacred Scripture and the Capuchin Constitutions, preparing the postulants to take on the habit of Saint Francis. Finally, Fr. Frank Grinko rose and announced the name of each postulant. All stood, and Fr. Frank questioned them saying "What do you ask of us?" With one voice they replied: "We wish to share your life in the brotherhood of the Order of Friars Minor Capuchin. We earnestly ask to be clothed with the habit of probation." Each postulant was then clothed by their fellow friars in the garb of St. Francis of Assisi signifying their desire to be brothers to each other and the world.

The investing of a postulant is the official start of their year of Novitiate. This time dedicated to intense prayer and silence is seen by many friars as the most important year of religious life, when the foundations are laid for a life lived for God. Novices wear the rectangular Caperone over the habit to signify that they have not taken any vows yet.

"Let them receive the habit of probation..."



One could say that the goal of Novitiate is the profession of vows at the end of the year, but it is much more than that. It is truly a year to grow in relationship with Jesus Christ and discern more fully His call for each one of us. With the support and prayers of so many, we are ready to embark on that walk of faith.

I approached Investiture with a great deal of excitement. To be clothed in the Habit of St. Francis is to be clothed in the clothing of one of the greatest saints of Mother Church. What a blessing to finally enter the Order Friars Minor Capuchin as a novice. I made a holy hour before investiture along with a rosary and litany of Capuchin saints; it was a prayerful, but emotional time for me. My goal for this year, aside from the obvious one of doing the will of the Father and deepening my relationship with His only begotten Son, is to enter into the authentic Capuchin charism as best I can in order to discern if God is calling me to make profession. During the Office of Readings, I was struck by the passage in Gal. 6:7-10 which speaks of the reality that all reap what they sow, thus the field in which you sow is of the utmost importance. I want my field to be the Sacred Heart of Jesus. May His holy will be done."

- Br. Brian Dorrian



Meet The Novices



Br. Vince Thomas

Province: Mary, Mother of the Good Shepherd (Central Canada)

Novitiate Goal: To be open and accepting of what God desires from me this year.



Br. Akram Esho

Province: Mary, Mother of the Good Shepherd (Central Canada)

Novitiate Goal: To learn how to give my life to God and follow him.



Br. William Cisneros

Province: Our Lady of Angels (California)

Novitiate Goal: To better understand God's love for myself.



Br. Niko Barth

Province: Our Lady of Angels (California)

Novitiate Goal: To be transformed by the truth of God's presence in my life.



Br. Christopher Maher

Province: Our Lady of the Assumption (Australia)

Novitiate Goal: To let the Lord.



Br. Matthew Timonera

Province: Our Lady of the Assumption (Australia)

Novitiate Goal: To journey through prayer to closeness with the Lord.



Meet The Novices



Br. Theo Simatupang

Province: Saint Augustine
(Pennsylvania)

Novitiate Goal: To be a brother
among the brothers and God.



Br. Rigobel Azanwi

Province: Saint Augustine
(Pennsylvania)

Novitiate Goal: To leave an
openness to be surprised by God.



Br. Stephen Wright

Province: Saint Augustine
(Pennsylvania)

Novitiate Goal: To learn how
to better live in community.



Br. Luke (Eric) Jordan

Province: Saint Conrad (Colorado)

Novitiate Goal: To fall more
deeply in love with Christ.



Br. Joseph Ignowski

Province: Saint Conrad (Colorado)

Novitiate Goal: To grow absurdly
close to God in charity and prayer.



Br. Jude Quinto

Province: Saint Conrad (Colorado)

Novitiate Goal: To seek and strive
to be a saint in God's way for me.



Meet The Novices



Br. Alejandro Diaz

Province: Saint Conrad (Colorado)

Novitiate Goal: To deepen my relationship with God and to listen to His voice.



Br. Nicholas Dillon

Province: Saint Conrad (Colorado)

Novitiate Goal: To do and be all God desires.



Br. Michael Coco

Province: Saint Conrad (Colorado)

Novitiate Goal: Fiat mihi secundum verbum tuum



Br. Matthew Tiritilli

Province: Saint Joseph (Michigan)

Novitiate Goal: To watch, listen, and learn as much as I possibly can.



Br. Hahm Gahng

Province: Saint Joseph (Michigan)

Novitiate Goal: Going deeper into religious life - Capuchin life - and continuing my journey with God.



Br. Clint Evrard

Province: Saint Joseph (Michigan)

Novitiate Goal: To take things one day at a time with no pretext, no expectations, and just to live in joy.



Meet The Novices



Br. Nick Blattner

Province: Saint Joseph (Michigan)

Novitiate Goal: To discern what it truly means to follow in the footsteps of Christ and St. Francis.



Br. Joseph Anderson

Province: Saint Mary
(New York-New England)

Novitiate Goal: To reflect even more on how I've experienced love from others and discern how I am called to respond.



Br. Brian Dorrian

Province: Saint Mary
(New York-New England)

Novitiate Goal: Dying to myself, totally.



Br. Kevin Camilo

Province: Saint Mary
(New York-New England)

Novitiate Goal: To draw closer to our Blessed Lord, to discover what and who He is calling me to be.



Br. Victor Russak

Province: Saint Mary
(New York-New England)

Novitiate Goal: To come to a deeper knowledge of self and of the Christ that dwells in me.





About San Lorenzo



Santa Barbara, St. Mark's University Parish at UCSB, the Santa INEZ Mission, and Lompoc Correctional Facility. All these ministries offer a chance for the novices to encounter Christ in their fellow person, in the poor and marginalized. It is this service to the "minors" of society that Francis wanted for his Friars Minor.

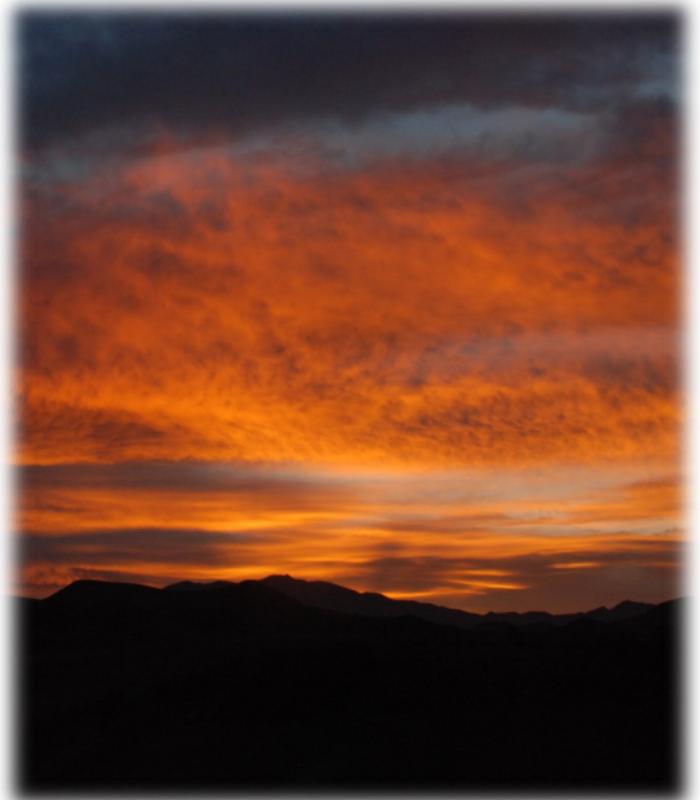
The San Lorenzo grounds also give plenty opportunity for manual labor. The friary maintains a vineyard and a large garden for growing much of our food. Jesus' many parables of vineyards and growers will open up new fruit for contemplation as we work the earth.

Novitiate is one of the key foundational years in a friar's life, and having the resources and environment to make it a successful year is essential. San Lorenzo Seminary is a perfect place for spiritual growth to occur; this will surely be a year of deepening our relationship with the Lord.

Settling In To Our New Home

The Santa Ynez valley is the perfect place for a year of spiritual growth and a deepening relationship with God. The Franciscan spirituality of finding God through His creation is certainly cultivated by the surrounding wildlife, rolling hills, red sunsets, and the nearby Pacific Ocean. Just as Francis went to the cave in the wilderness to pray, so do we disconnect from the fast pace of the outside world to enter our "wilderness" here in San Lorenzo Seminary. The sprawling acreage of the novitiate grounds provides ample space to "come away... to a secluded place and rest a while." (Mk 6:31)

Our Capuchin Constitutions tell us that the Novitiate should be a time for a "special experience of faith, contemplative prayer, fraternal life, contact with the poor, and work." San Lorenzo offers opportunity for all these aspects of our Capuchin life. The seclusion of the countryside gives us the environment we need for prayer. Our communal liturgy and recreation develop our life as brothers. As for contact with the poor, the county of Santa Barbara offers many places where our friars can be of service to God's people. This year we will be serving all across the county at Catholic Charities, The Catholic Worker of Guadalupe, Marian Hospital of Santa Maria, Atterdag Village of Solvang, Alpha Resource Center of





Friars' FYI

Brother Ignatius Visits



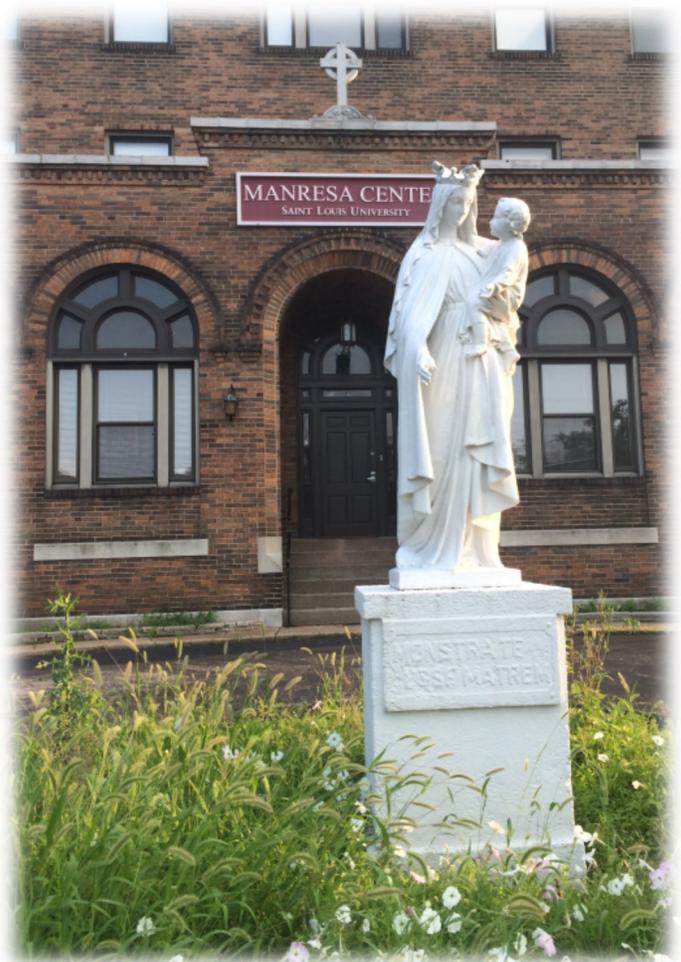
The week of August 2nd, three weeks into the novitiate, one of our friars came from the province of Mary Mother of the Good Shepherd in Central Canada to lead a series of classes on prayer, and directed a day of recollection for the novices on “The Soul’s Journey into God” by St. Bonaventure. Br. Ignatius Feaver covered 3 methods of prayer in his class: praying with Scripture, praying with Bonaventure’s “Tree of Life,” and praying St. Clare’s meditation on Christ Crucified. Over a period of two days we were able to engage with all three forms of prayer, and gained many insights into Franciscan prayer and contemplation. Br. Ignatius began our day of recollection by challenging us to be open to the movement of the Holy Spirit within us, and with “The Soul’s Journey into God” we delved into the spiritual journey laid out by St. Bonaventure, a journey we can apply to our own journey of discernment. Br. Ignatius has given us a powerful approach to prayer and meditation for our year of novitiate.

The Interprovincial Postulancy: Where We Came From

The novices of San Lorenzo come from all over the many provinces of the Capuchin Order. This year our novices cover the majority of the United States, Canada, and Australia. Before coming to the Novitiate program in San Lorenzo we, the soon to be novices, came together in St. Louis, MO, for a two month Pre-Novitiate program designed to create a deeper sense of community and fellowship among the brothers, a place to begin building those fraternal bonds that last a lifetime.

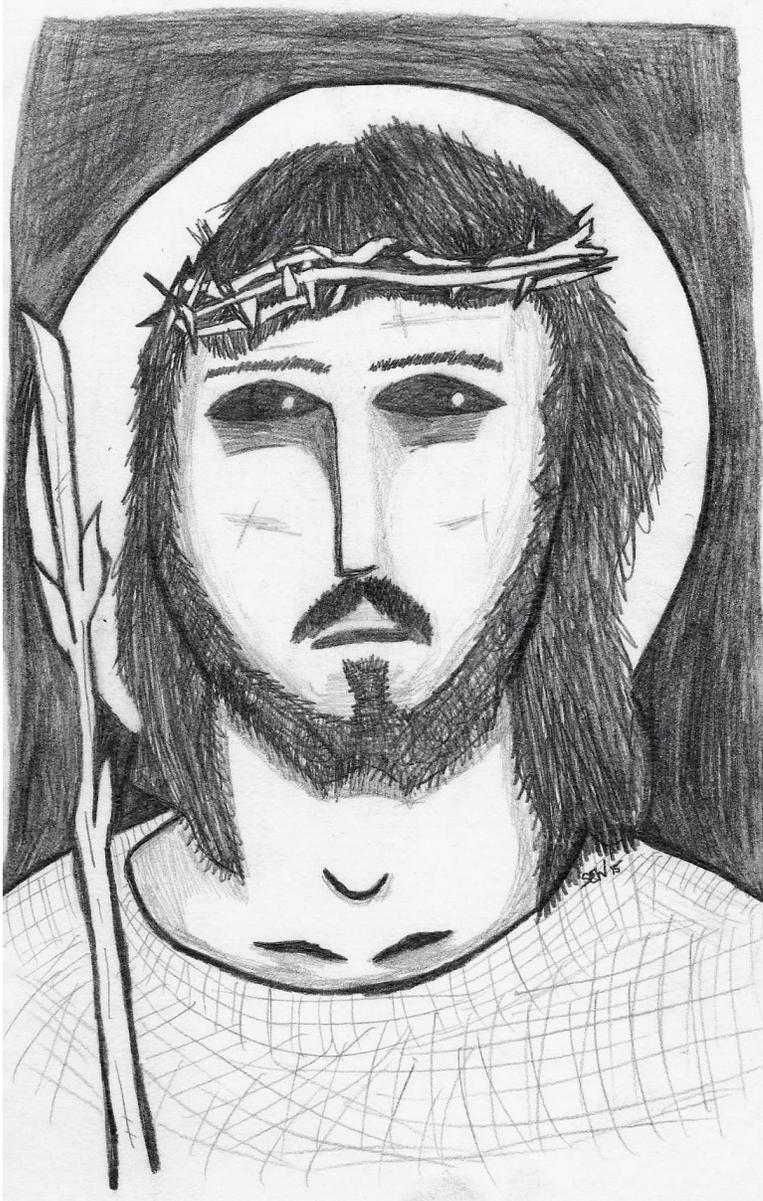
We spent those two months in various ministries throughout the St. Louis area, serving children of disadvantaged families, visiting the elderly, and working in local community gardens. We also participated in various workshops for self-development and growth. Most notable was the workshop on Conflict Resolution given by Dr. Kathy Gallaher, a beloved friend of the Capuchins nationwide.

Being able to spend this time in community living together, working together, and having fun together, the class was able to form that sense of community necessary to enter more fully into the Novitiate year.





Creative Capuchins



"Jesus Condemned"

Illustration by Br. Stephen Wright



The Novitiate So Far

"As I reflect on my first weeks of being at San Lorenzo, I think the moment of realizing where God is inviting me to be now was a great learning moment for me. I enjoy being in quiet, and I enjoy praying and meditating. However, I have not always settled into prayer and quiet very well when I am told that I have to be quiet for a long period of time. After taking this challenge into prayer and reflection, I realized the great gift in being in a place in my life where it is expected of me to take long periods of silence and private prayer. I thought of the many people outside of San Lorenzo who long for even a few minutes of silence during their work day. After realizing the gift of being told to sit in silence, to sit with the God of silence, I became very grateful for the gift of San Lorenzo and for those who share their resources to make this year possible for us."

- Br. Joseph Anderson
