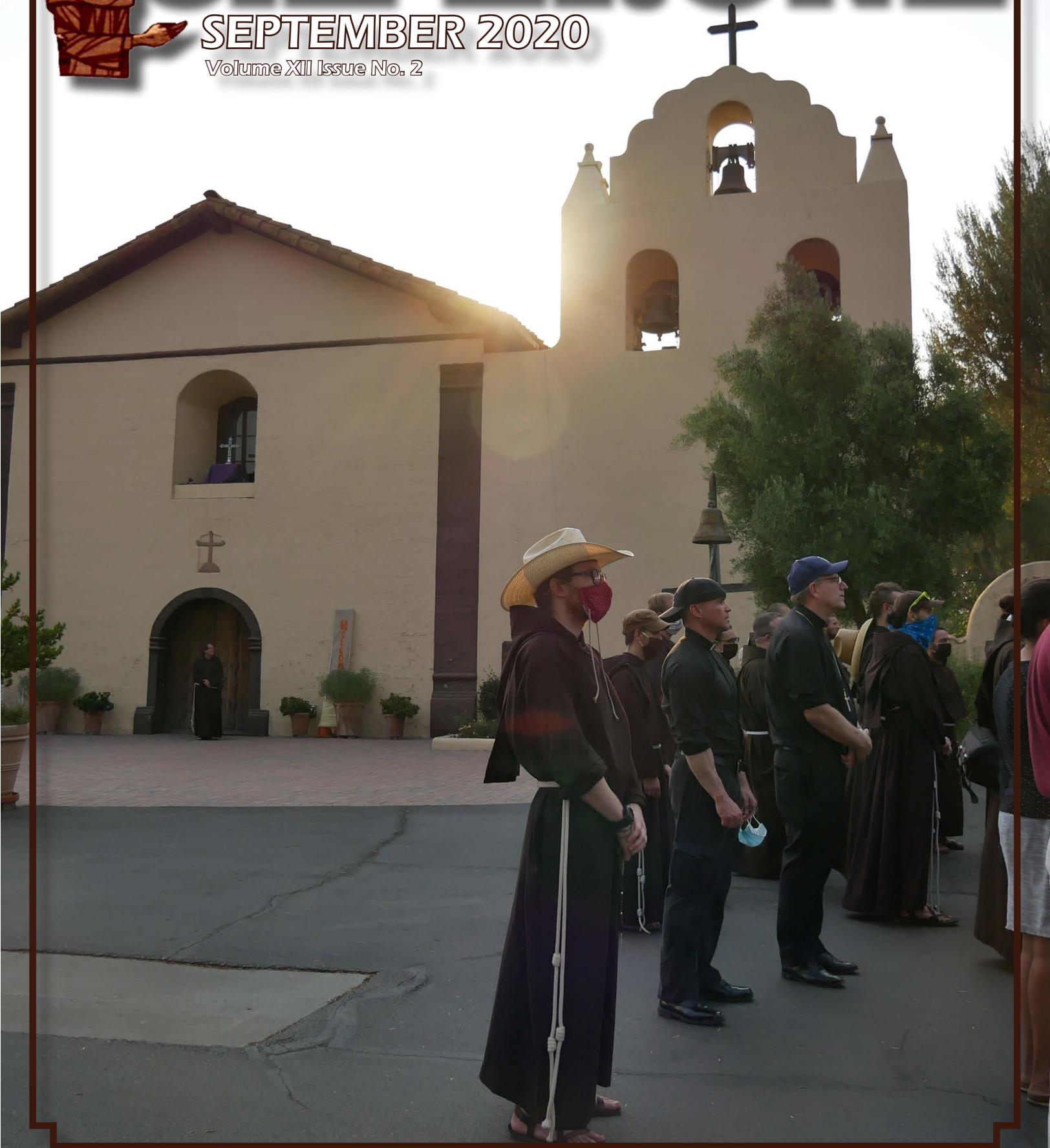




# CAPERONE

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## A Novice Ponders

### The Hood's Vow

When one puts his hood on he says nonverbally:

"I am reserved for the Lord. I am entirely his and he is mine."

However, not wanting to leave men in the dark, he reveals his face so as to say: "I am here for you. I am here to cry with you, to speak with you, to look into your eyes and say that I love you. For while I am reserved for him, just as he has done - so must I do. He has called me and whispered to me saying: 'My dearly beloved, my time on earth has passed, but still desiring to be with my people I send you in place of me. Please, care for them, for their pain pricks deeper than my wounds.'"

This is what one says when he wears the hood.



# Formator's Corner



## Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

Br. Miguel Ramirez, OFM Cap.

The 1967 song by Sebastian Temple, "Prayer of St. Francis" begins with these words. My generation and older will remember when new and popular, it would be sung often at Mass and Catholic School settings. It is still published in annual Music Issues and used fifty three years later. Moving words and familiar phrases make it easy for some people to sing it almost entirely by heart. It is precisely there, in the heart where this song and its vital message belongs.

On Saturday, August 22 the novices and professed friars travelled a short distance to the Mission of Santa Ines in Solvang to offer a "prayerful witness" and support to the faith community there. Ninety-five degree temperatures were the forecasted high and so we packed a cooler of water to stay hydrated and to share with others there. A group of people were planning to protest the presence on the mission grounds of a statue of St. Junipero Serra, Franciscan Missionary and founder of the California Missions. We did not know what to expect but were set on being a peaceful presence.

On arrival, we were met with other parishioners and people in attendance just as Mass was beginning presided by Bishop Robert Barron. Celebrating the Eucharist and receiving Christ in Word and Sacrament, the air was one of serenity and tranquility. After a short period, various prayers and a Rosary were offered for the cause of peace and safety to all present, both protestors and non-protestors. The day ended with songs and prayers lifted up to the Prince of Peace in gratitude that there was no physical violence or harm to any person or property.

Yet, what was happening inward, in our hearts, minds and attitudes? After all, we as Capuchin Franciscans aspire to proclaim peace and good to the world as St. Francis of Assisi did and modeled for us. How did we see the people (protestors) exercising their legal right to protest and make their voices heard? Were they our enemies and therefore a problem, or were they fellow human beings, brothers and sisters by virtue of our common creation who for reasons of their own felt compelled to speak out regardless of our own feelings, opinions or the facts? People indeed, and not enemies. Others can certainly consider us enemies and we have no control over that, however, we can say that as peacemakers and bridgebuilders, we can never consider another person to be our enemy. Others may not like us, disagree with us and even hate us for whatever reason, yet we can never think that way about another person if we claim to be Christ-like and Franciscan. If we are burdened with anger, a pursuit of revenge, rage, verbal and physical violence, we are then shackled, held bound by our hatred and pursuit of "what our enemies deserve." We are truly free and alive when it is inner peace that directs our minds, hearts, and actions. Inner true peace has no enemies to fight against, insults to throw, or revenge to seek. Then there is only a desire to love every person and consider others as human beings. People are not problems, there are problems and issues to solve in our world. People are to be loved and considered as worthy of being loved. Problems are issues to be tackled together. Even when others are problematic, they remain people and in need of reconciliation with others. St. Francis of Assisi lived this and lived it to the fullest. There was no room left in his heart for anything other than peace. Christ lived it best of all when on the cross at Calvary and pressed to his death only poured out love and forgiveness.

In the Prologue to St. Bonaventure's *The Journey of the Mind to God*, it says, "Give light to the eyes of our mind, guide our feet into the way of peace: that peace which surpasses all understanding: that peace announced and given to us by our Lord Jesus Christ, and preached again by our father Francis. For he proclaimed peace at the beginning and at the end of every sermon; he offered his wish of peace in every greeting; he longed for ecstatic peace in every contemplation, as a dweller of that Jerusalem of which the man of peace says, he who was peaceable with them that hated peace; Pray for the peace of Jerusalem."

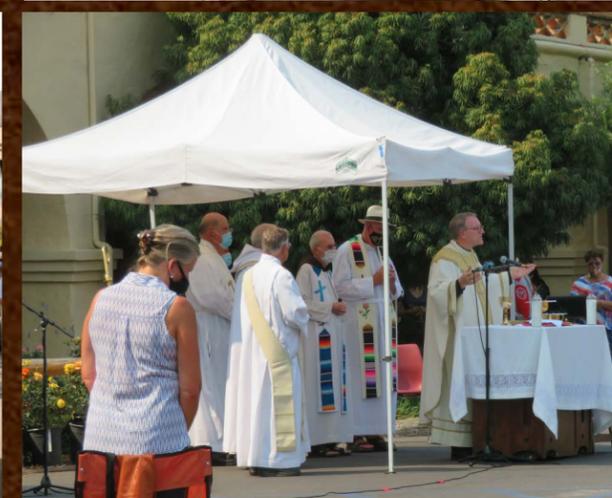
Another song entitled "Let There be Peace on Earth" ends with this one line: "Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me." Each of us can decide and make a commitment to let our hearts be filled to the brim with peace and thus live fully and freely.

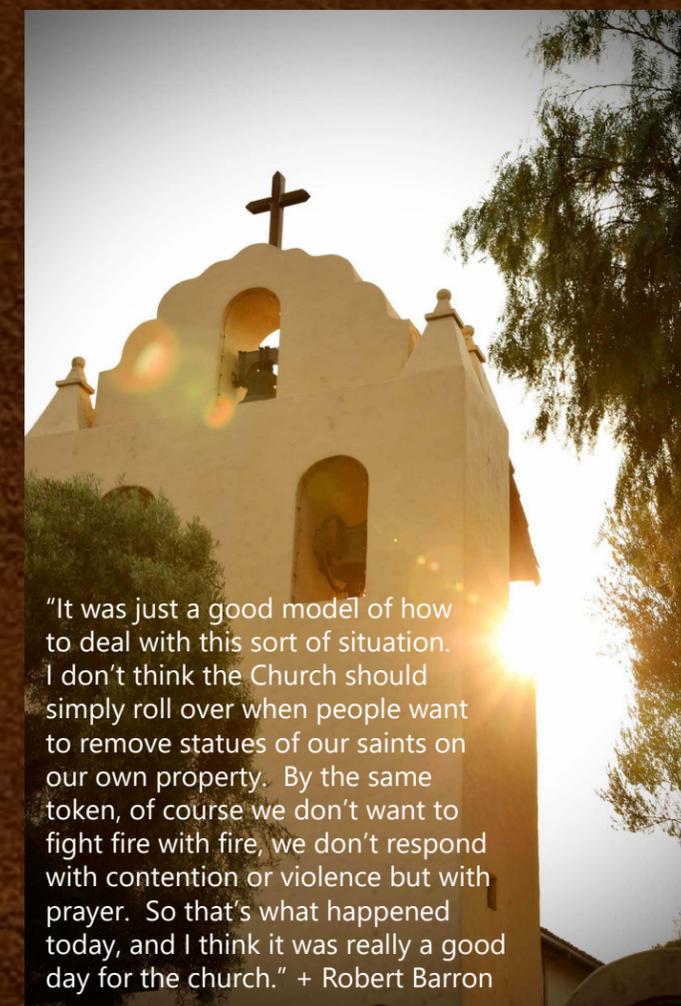
# St. Junípero Serra, Pray for us!



# Standing up for our Saints

From our Shepherd, Bishop Barron: Friends, I spent the weekend at Old Mission Santa Inés offering Mass, praying the Rosary, and defending the legacy of St. Junípero Serra from protesters demanding the removal of his statue from our church property. Yes, the Church is concerned about racism, oppression, and righting social wrongs—and we're also concerned when the wider culture besmirches the reputation and memory of one of God's great saints. The day ended peacefully. Please pray for the Friars and parishioners of Mission Santa Inés and even for these protesters.





"It was just a good model of how to deal with this sort of situation. I don't think the Church should simply roll over when people want to remove statues of our saints on our own property. By the same token, of course we don't want to fight fire with fire, we don't respond with contention or violence but with prayer. So that's what happened today, and I think it was really a good day for the church." + Robert Barron



**“Ask and it will be given to you;  
... knock and the door will be opened to you.” Mt 7:7**

Being in religious formation has its blessings and challenges. As Capuchin brothers we live by three vows in which we center our lives to give ourselves fully to the Divine One. These vows are poverty, chastity and obedience. Following these, countercultural for modern society, we need to fully embrace not having cellphones and credit cards through this year.

Our bishop Robert Barron is a successful and fruitful pastor who shares our faith, utilizing his talents of rhetoric through the web and books impacting Catholics and non-Catholics in the United States and throughout the world. One of his latest publications caught my attention. Brother Charbel suggested to me, jokingly, to call the Bishop and ask if he had his books for sale in his office. One morning, I accepted Charbel's challenge to call his office. A sweet and humble Argentinian secretary answered; replying to my question she told me that she will try to find the latest publication in the office but without a promise. After two weeks the mail arrived and there was a box, with the book inside; it was inscribed and dedicated by Bishop Robert. I was dumbfounded, beyond words. Feeling a little abashed, and being raised in the Caribbean, at least a thank you gift needed to be given. One day, with three bottles of wine made in our seminary in hand, I rang the doorbell. Silvia, the secretary, opened the door and welcomed this Capuchin

brother. She was surprised to see me. The Bishop was having his monthly reunion on the terrace so Silvia and I went to the dining hall and had some coffee and lunch. The conversation lasted longer than expected. We talked and shared our faith in Christ. Silvia went into the receiving room, gave me a relic of Mother Teresa and some books to share with the brothers. While praying in the house chapel the Bishop walked through the door. We talked, the book was blessed by him and unexpectedly he imposed his hand and gave me an episcopal blessing. It was a superb day, full of unexpected moments and grace.

Thanks to God for having wonderful and saintly people working to build our church in our Pastoral Region of Santa Barbara. May the Holy Trinity continue to bless them.

In Christ and Mary,  
Br. Josean

# Mass Under the Pines

We continue to be grateful to be able to celebrate Sunday Mass with our local community each Sunday under the pines!





# Brewing with the Capuchins



"Today's work project will be off-site."  
-Bro Kip



# Labor Day "Work Project"





**Labor Day Cookout  
at Old Mission Santa Inés**

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### **ABOUT US**

CAPERONE is a newsletter produced and edited by the novices of the North American Pacific Capuchin Conference.

### **SAN LORENZO NOVIATE**

1802 Sky Drive  
PO Box 247  
Santa Ynez, CA 93460  
805.688.5630  
[TheCaperone@gmail.com](mailto:TheCaperone@gmail.com)

### **EDITORIAL DIRECTOR**

Br. Kip Ledger, OFM Cap.

### **NOVICE CO-EDITORS**

Br. Daniel Sullivan, OFM Cap.

Br. Christopher Woods, OFM Cap.