



capbook

the caperone vol. v, issue 3 – october 2013

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About

Perpetual Novice at North American and Pacific Capuchin Conference – Interprovincial Novitiate

Lives in Santa Ynez, California

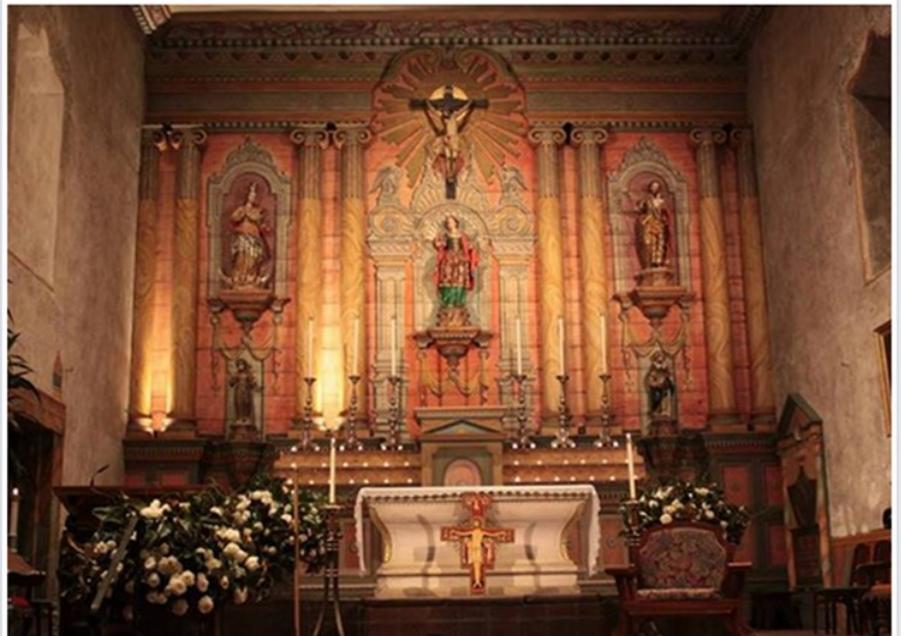


“Cappy”

October 23 at 6:00pm · Edited

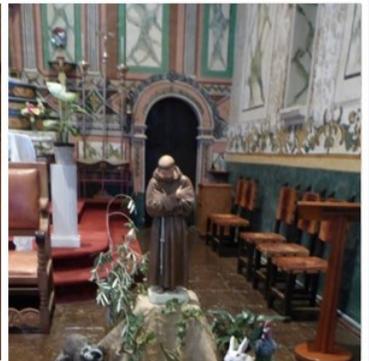
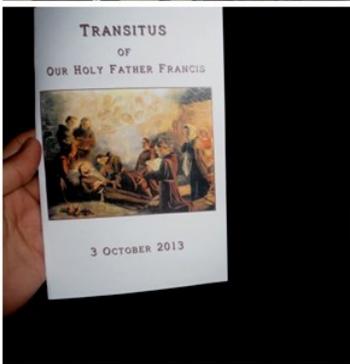
Vespers at Old Mission Santa Barbara with the local community of Franciscan Friars Minor and the California Province of Friars Minor Capuchin. — at Old Mission Santa Barbara, Established 1786.

Photos ·





Photos - Transitus and Feast of St. Francis / All Souls of the Franciscan Order





Departure of Logan Christopher

October 12th

After a period of discernment, our brother Logan decided to depart from the Novitiate on Saturday, October 12th. The novices celebrated his presence among us on the eve before he headed out, recalling many of the memories from our time together in Kansas and at San Lorenzo. God bless you Logan, you are in our



Oktoberfest at San Lorenzo

October 6th

In an effort to remain faithful to the German cultural heritage of many of the Capuchin provinces in North America, the novices celebrated Oktoberfest by preparing pretzels, wursts, potato salads and cider. Bro. Joachim blessed the beer and Bro. Bob danced a polka. Prost !



Cowboy Novices

October 10th

Audrey Griffin, a member of both the San Lorenzo community and the National Cowgirl Hall of Fame, hosted the novices for an afternoon of horseback riding on her nearby ranch. This was not their first equestrian experience as Gloria's family, who attend Sunday mass at San Lorenzo, also invited the novices for some giddy up earlier in the year. There were lots of laughs and in the days that followed, many sore derrieres. Yee haw !



Cow-POO-rone

September & October

The most talked about work project recently has been the collection of "cow chips" from the surrounding fields to fertilize our garden. The jokes and wordplays went on for days, even making it into a homily one morning.





Visit to Lake Cachuma and Mission Santa Ynez Barbecue

September 26th

On September 26th, the Capuchin Vocation Office of the Our Lady of Angels Province treated the novices to a guided boat tour of Lake Cachuma, a treasure trove of wildlife near the novitiate. After the friars lounged on the lake, the Mission Santa Ines parish fed them with delicious chili and hotdogs in the lakeside park.



Day of Recollection with Bro. Christopher Popravak

September 25th

Bro. Christopher, the provincial minister of the Mid-America province, led a day of recollection for the novices on September 25th. He grabbed our attention by jestfully calling us "Wretched Novices" in his opening talk, a term used prior to Vatican II to describe the lowly state of the novice. After many laughs, he got us to see that we are indeed "wretched," each of us with our own brokenness, addictions and struggles. He urged us to face these difficulties during our time in novitiate under the guidance of our formators. In addition to Christopher's talks, the day also included Eucharistic adoration and prayerful silence in the friary.



Patty and Jim Atwater's Farewell Barbecue

September 26th

To celebrate the twenty years that they have been a part of the San Lorenzo community, Pat and Jim Atwater invited the novices for an evening of food and fun at their house just over the hill from the novitiate. At Patty's request, the novices brought their guitars and songs. At the novicemaster's request, the fun ended at 8pm before it carried on too late. Patty and Jim moved at the end of September. May God bless you both in your new home !



"Review of Life" groups begin

September 20th

Every Friday evening, the novices get together in small groups of five or six and discuss the upcoming Sunday's Gospel passage. The sharing is more personal than theological, with each novice being given a chance to talk about how the particular passage applies to his life. On September 20th, a complimentary activity called Review of Life began for this novitiate class. The novices get together in small groups and share about their lives — their experiences in novitiate, prayer, ministries, discernment, etc. This activity encourages openness between the friars and a deepening of fraternity.



Cappy

What drew you to the Capuchins ?

Like · Comment · Share · October 8 near San Lorenzo Seminary, CA



21 Novices prayed about this question



Bro. Michael Fraternity. I visited a Capuchin house and meals were filled with joking, laughter and friars poking fun at each other. I was sold.



Bro. Lance The prayer life and example of the brothers was awesome. The simplicity of the Gospel message in love and service to God and neighbor was very attractive. Also, when I looked at Francis, I said, "Everybody likes this guy. He's totally universal !" Just like this great message we try to pass on



Bro. Saul The closeness to the people, the holiness and joy of Francis, the Gospel of the Lord, the witness of great brothers.



Bro. Diogo At one point I was attracted to three different orders—Capuchins, Discalced Carmelites, and Jesuits. I have to say that what drew me and still draws me to the Capuchins is the Holy Spirit.



Bro. Keon Their sacrificial and down-to-earth service to the poor and underprivileged. Their genuine heart to follow Jesus.



Bro. Luis Their simplicity, humility and warm welcome kindled a fire in the depths of my heart that made me say "Yes" to God.



Bro. Brian The Capuchins are simple men that love Jesus Christ. I was attracted to the joy with which they share that love with others.



Bro. Joseph The community interaction.



Bro. Ross The witness of the joyful and humble spirit of the friars while serving the poor.

Sponsored

Friar-Baked Soft Pretzels



A taste of Germany, homemade by our novices.

Guten Appetit!

La Verna Cahon Drum



Handmade by our own Bro. Ross and played by Bro.

Tommy. Turn the beat around !

Pooper Scoopers



Need fertilizer? Let our experienced team of 21 novices

harvest your cow pies. Each pie is handpicked !

Handmade Rosaries



Check out our metal-chained and string rosaries made by

our Bros. "Rosary Hands" Will and Lance.

Birkenstocks



Friar fashion since 1209 !

Learn Chinese Calligraphy



Bro. Keon teaches the art of Chinese writing. Educa-

tional and contemplative.



Bro. Will Simple. Christ called and I followed.



Bro. Victor I was drawn to the mix of the Capuchin's active and contemplative lifestyle, as well as their wide variety of ministries, strong fraternity, and the humbleness and humanness of the friars.



Bro. George Their life interested me—a prayerful contemplative life coupled with active ministry—but the fraternity sold me. I remember the dinner table as a candidate: laughter, jokes, brotherhood and honesty with each other.



Bro. Fernando I liked the mix of ministry and the life brotherhood, especially the idea of being a brother to all people. I also liked the teachings of Saint Francis.



Bro. Joshua The Capuchins inspired me with their simplicity, joy, and their love of those least loved by society. Their life of fraternity and fellowship compelled me to join and have kept me here.



Bro. Jacob The Capuchin brothers I met, their witness of prayer and hard work and the prophetic witness of Saint Francis.



Bro. Michael Facial hair and hoodies.



Bro. Jordan The laughter



Bro. Andrew A balance of contemplative prayer and active ministry. An authentic love and joy in fraternity



Bro. Francisco The joyful cross of the crucified together with fraternity.



Bro. Jason The Capuchin Franciscans, like other Franciscan groups and other religious communities, aim to live the Gospel life in a spirit of fraternity, ministry, and prayer.



Bro. Tommy The Gospel of Jesus Christ, the vision of Francis, the theology of Bonaventure, the guidance of Msgr. Frank Lane, the writings of Benedict XVI, the teachings of Fr. Wayne Hellman OFM Conv.

Recommended Pages

Roxy



The world's laziest novice dog.

Bro. Mike L likes her a lot



Rapping Friar



Bro Victor busts Christian rhymes with Bro. Lance on guitar and Bro. Tommy on beat box.



Bro. Johnny Cash



Bro. Jacob sings "Ring of Fire" and other Cash hits.

He also does a good George W. Bush.



Charactercher Artist



Bro. Luis pokes fun at his fellow friars with his pencil, exaggerating their features and inventing new ones.



Following Saint Joseph



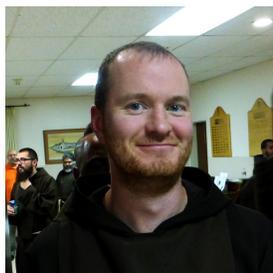
Bro. Mike L creates kneelers and other wood pieces in the workshop.





Ministry Reflection : Catholic Worker

Bro. Michael Culhane



One of the quirky activities I enjoy is walking around a grocery store and reading the labels to find out where different products come from. In the grocery stores in Quebec, I've noticed that much of the fresh produce comes from California. Ditto for New York. I couldn't grasp how so much produce could come from a single place until arriving in Guadalupe, California for the first day of my ministry -- fields of broccoli, strawberries and lettuce as far as the eye can see. What struck me even more were the groups of men and women covered in hooded sweatshirts and long pants, repeatedly bending over in the scorching sun to pick the produce and put it in boxes.



Watching from an air-conditioned car, the injustice did not escape me.

The Catholic Worker house in Guadalupe serves the community of people that work in the fields and their families. They offer a free medical clinic, food bank, clothing distribution, medical/legal advocacy, and hospitality. The house is part of a lay movement started by Dorothy Day in the 1930's to live out the Gospel in simplicity and service to the poor. The house in Guadalupe is staffed by a married couple Dennis and Tensie, their two children Thomas and Rozella, and a single man, Jorge, all of whom work on a purely voluntary basis.



Catholic Worker House, Guadalupe

Much like the Franciscan movement, the Catholic Worker leaves a lot of room for the Holy Spirit (it is intentionally not very organized) and so my job there on Fridays varies a lot. We start with silent group meditation followed by sharing on the Gospel passage of the day. I then help out in a variety of tasks : setting up the clothing distribution (clothes are laid out on a giant tarp in the yard), playing with the children as the parents pick out clothes (we often play restaurant where I get served delicious meals of sand and twigs), making home visits to the sick and elderly, and helping pickup and deliver donated furniture. No two days there are alike.

The most enriching part of this ministry experience has been in the people I have met. I once complimented a home-bound elderly woman on the scarf she was wearing, telling her that blue was her color. Without missing a beat she replied "Well, you look great in brown." Another time I was walking down the street in my habit and a gang of kids riding their bikes stopped in front of me. One of them looked up at me in awe and asked "Are you God?" One afternoon I went to a very modest apartment to pick up donated furniture. The donors were two men who, after having worked in the fields picking fruit all morning, came home on their lunch hour to carry two couches out into our pickup truck. Such is the powerful witness of the people there.

My understanding of Catholic social teaching has been deepened by the witness of the Catholic Workers (the volunteers) with whom I have the privilege of serving. They live out the Gospel in a radical way both on a personal level with the works of mercy and on the political level in combatting structures of sin, especially in protesting nuclear weapons. In the past, I had been very skeptical of Catholic "activism" on political issues, particularly those concerning social justice and peace. The Catholic Worker has really opened my eyes and helped me to grow in this area.



Dennis and Jorge protest nuclear weapons

Thanks be to God for guiding me to this ministry during the novitiate year ! Please pray me, for the Catholic Worker and the people of Guadalupe.



Vocation Spotlight

Bro. Saul Soriano



My vocation story starts with the death of my Father. I was raised by my grandmother in El Salvador. I was six months old when my father got into a fatal car accident. My mother immigrated to the United States when I was five years old in order to give me and my sisters better opportunities growing up. Not having a biological father, my godfather played an important role in my faith. When I was 7 years old, he became the director of the choir in my home parish, and my sisters and I sang in that choir for the next 10 years.

My grandmother was diagnosed with cancer, and I remember locking myself in my room, praying to the Sacred Heart of Jesus for her healing. This was one of the hardest times for my family as one of my aunts had just died of cancer, leaving seven children behind. Thanks to God, my grandmother's surgery was a success. God knew we needed her as a maternal figure in our

lives.

In my early childhood I was very angry and short tempered at home. While in high school, I started to drift away from my faith; I started smoking and drinking with my friends and missing school to go out to parties. I sought happiness in popularity and pleasure. However, in the midst of my sinfulness, God reached out to me. My best friends and I went to our first retreat with the Charismatic Renewal. I believe God showed me his love and support through my parish Community.

When I was 17 years-old, I came to United States. I went through a deep depression. Months later, I ran away from my faith again; I did not want to be involved in any church activity. Going to high school in Alexandria, VA, I started to socialize with people from different cultures. Soon, my seeking happiness in pleasures led me to falling back into my bad habits. I rarely went to Mass and I lost interest of my faith. I started to realize how empty I felt each time I had "so much fun" with friends.

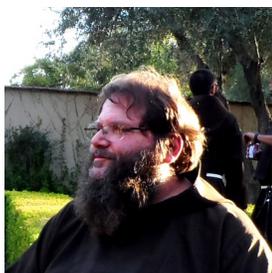
One time, a youth group from my parish invited me to join a week-long silent retreat called Spiritual Exercises. There, I had a strong conversion experience. My soul longed for God's grace and I was filled with much peace. God's healing hand manifested itself strongly in my life through the example of brothers and the prayers and support of the people I met.

Later, I went to college and I entered the minor seminary in Cleveland, OH. I fell in love with the Gospel of Christ and those who had lived it. I learned more about a deeper devotion to Mary, Padre Pio and other Saints. St. Francis's conversion story was particularly inspiring to me and it encouraged me to place all my desires in God's will. I became passionate for social justice and worked for COAR (Community of Oscar Arnulfo Romero), a home for about 67 children in El Salvador. One of the most touching experiences of my life was praying with the kids in residence at COAR during a mission trip. I remembered the words of Romero to "become the voice of the voiceless."

I longed to live in community, so I entered the Capuchin Postulancy in Philadelphia. I experienced a strong sense of community life rooted in prayer and reaching out to the poor. This encouraged me to take the next step in formation which is where I am now.

Formator's Corner

Bro. Bobby Barbato



Peace and Good! St. Francis says in the *Rule* that the ministers, as servants of the brothers, should "visit and admonish the friars, and humbly and charitably correct them." (Chapter 10) As we once again work on helping the novices in their discernment through evaluations, we as formators face the challenge of how to balance encouragement and challenge. How do we help the novices to accept their gifts and at the same time face their faults and limitations? It is the basic challenge of Franciscan life: how to be lesser brothers (friars minor). We need to be humble and avoid judgment, and yet be true brothers who speak the truth in love, even though at times the truth may sting. As

formators, we are aware of our own limitations, and yet would fail the brothers if we only pointed out their gifts and strengths, and not their areas of challenge. So again, we ask the prayers of all those who read the *Caperone*, that we may serve our novice brothers in charity and clarity. With God's grace, we hope that we may all advance in the one thing that matters: God's love. Br. Bobby



Novices at Lake Cachuma with parishioners from Mission Santa Ines

MOST HIGH, ALL-POWERFUL, ALL GOOD LORD

GIVE US THE GRACE THIS NOVITIATE YEAR
A TIME OF SILENCE, SOLITUDE, AND PRAYER
TO LISTEN WITH THE EAR OF OUR HEARTS
FOR THE WHISPER OF YOUR VOICE,
WHO SPEAKS ONLY LOVE.

THROUGH THE CONSTANT INTERCESSION
OF OUR SERAPHIC FATHER FRANCIS
AND MARY, QUEEN OF ANGELS,

HELP US TO EMPTY OURSELVES OF ALL
THAT IS NOT OF YOU, SO TO BE FILLED
WITH THE FIRE OF YOUR SPIRIT WHO WILL PURIFY
US, HEAL US, AND GUIDE
OUR DISCERNMENT WITHING THE
ORDER OF FRIARS MINOR CAPUCHIN.

AMEN.

Novitiate Class of 2013-14

The Caperone

FOUNDED 2009

NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTH AMERICAN PACIFIC CAPUCHIN CONFERENCE NOVITIATE

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