

CAPERONE

JUNE/JULY 2018

VOL. IX ISSUE NO. 6

FINAL ISSUE!



FAREWELL
BR. BILL HUGO



NOVICE
REFLECTIONS



PICTURES AND
MORE....

FORMATORS CORNER

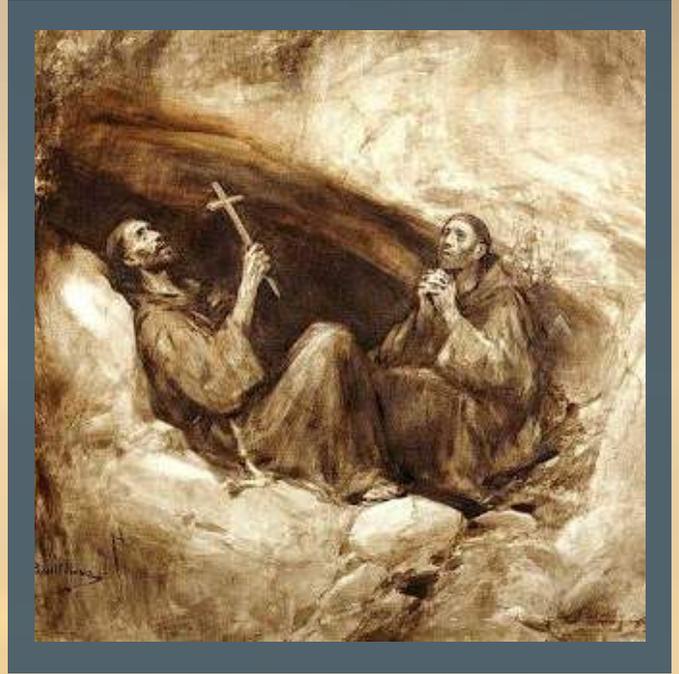
"The Liminal Cave"

By Br. Phil Bernier, OFM, Cap.

Two years ago, these early July days found me saying good-bye to a parish community I had helped to establish and loved dearly to pack what I could into my car for a long journey west. Passing over and through the boundaries created by mountains, prairies, rivers and nine states, the transition from the vitality of a tightly-packed, urban Cleveland community to the silent, wide-open vistas of San Lorenzo was disorientating at best, a disorientation punctuated by the clatter of crossing the final threshold of that journey, the metal cattle guards that help to define the limits of our cave, this "liminal" cave that we know as the novitiate.

Francis knew nothing of what Victor Turner and others call liminal, "in-between" places or moments or times, but he did know the power of a cave. Often his caves were small, tight fissures on a hillside, enough room for him to hunker down for a time to confront his demons and doubts with God's grace. For Chesterton, this crossing in and out and back and forth over the threshold of the cave created a new man; somehow the Francis who emerged from the cave was a different man from the one who entered it. And so it is with our novices.

Almost a year ago, we welcomed them to this liminal cave with two weeks of orientation to ease their disorientation, for they, too, had crossed the cattle guards. Some came fearing the silence while others sought to lock themselves away in it. Truthfully, not one of them knew what to expect. In the end, through prayer, work, ministry, spiritual guidance, fraternity and the power of the Holy Spirit, this liminal experience on our twenty-some acre



cave has done for our novices what the caves of Umbria did for St. Francis: they leave here different men from the ones who arrived last July. This time of probation complete, they are ready...eager...to be re-incorporated into the lives of their Provinces to continue the good work God has begun in them by following more closely *the Gospel and the footprints of our Lord Jesus Christ*.

In the coming days, our vans will cross the threshold leading out from San Lorenzo, the cattle guards sounding one last time to mark the end of this liminal experience. Lives cannot be lived in a "liminal cave" like the novitiate but they are changed forever because of it. And again, the cattle guards will soon sound for a first time, the vans filled with more young...and not so young...men, now eager to enter into the cave. And for those of us who remain to guide this journey, we are blessed, humbled and transformed all at the same time. God is so good!

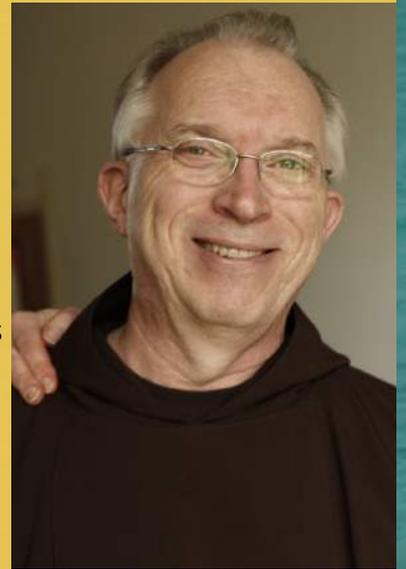
Our thanks to Br. Paul Rahn, OFM Cap, whose creativity and energy has made this year's edition of the *Caperone* a blessing for all who have read it.

FAREWELL BR. BILL HUGO!

WITH GRATITUDE...

Our brother Bill Hugo arrived at San Lorenzo in the spring of 2016 and returned to his beloved St. Joseph Province a few weeks ago but his influence on the novitiate program will be long felt. Frank Grinko and his formation team did the heavy lifting that brought the program from Allison Park and worked through the challenges of re-establishing a novitiate fraternity at San Lorenzo. With this foundation to build upon, Bill seized the opportunity to incorporate systemic change in the novitiate's administrative processes and compensation for both staff and visiting instructors. He worked closely with the annual Gala committee, encouraging their efforts to address quality of life concerns for everyone at San Lorenzo, but especially for our novices. Ever the historian, Bill's years at San Lorenzo offered him a chance to craft a fresh understanding of St. Clare and her relationship to the Church, the friars and the Poor Clares themselves. A new workbook, the fruits of these labors, will hopefully be available to the public in the near future. Bill also worked hard to update the processes to make counseling services available to those in need of this resource, incorporating new protocols stressing accountability for both the counselor and our novices. On the lighter side, Bill led us to a greater appreciation for the tannic intensity of a lovely Sangiovese while fearing the gastronomic terror lurking in a corky bottle of chardonnay. Transitions are never easy, even to places that are familiar to us. Only the Holy Spirit knows what lies in store for Bill in the years to come, but we all know that his creativity and gracious hospitality will continue to bless the Capuchin Order and St. Joseph Province. Vaya con Dios, Guillermo!

By Br. Phil Bernier, OFM, Cap.



AT YEAR'S END-->NOVICE REFLECTIONS



BR. BAUDRY METANGMO
ST. JOSEPH'S PROVINCE

DESTINATION: CHICAGO, IL

"Thank God ahead of time." -Bl. Solanus Casey



BR. AUSTIN CAMBON
OUR LADY OF ANGELS PROVINCE

DESTINATION: BERKLEY, CA

"THE NOVITIATE YEAR HAS BEEN A GRACEFUL AND HUMBLING EXPERIENCE BECAUSE IT HAS ALLOWED ME TO DEEPEN MY RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD BY LOOKING DEEP WITHIN, ACKNOWLEDGING THE LIGHT AND DARKNESS IN MY HEART, AND BY GOD'S GRACE, OVERLOOKING ALL I WOULD PREFER TO NOT SEE, KNOW, OR SHARE ABOUT MYSELF, SO I CAN SEE IN THE DEEPEST PART OF MYSELF THE GIFT AND THE GOODNESS INSIDE THAT GOD MADE BECAUSE OF HIS GRACE AND BECAUSE HE SIMPLY LOVES."

AT YEAR'S END-->NOVICE REFLECTIONS

BR. COLLIN KOURTZ

ST. AUGUSTINE PROVINCE

DESTINATION: WASHINGTON, D.C.

"This year has been a time of renewal, a time of peace and challenge, a time of loss and growth in love of God."



BR. COLLIN MARY BROWN
ST. CONRAD'S PROVINCE

DESTINATION: DENVER, CO

**"Glory in the cross."
Galatians 6:14**



AT YEAR'S END-->NOVICE REFLECTIONS

BR. PAUL RAHN

ST. AUGUSTINE PROVINCE

DESTINATION: WASHINGTON, D.C.

"TRUST GOD, LIVE IN THE
MOMENT AND REMAIN OPEN
TO JOURNEY ALONG THE
WAY."



BR. MIKE HERLIHEY

ST. AUGUSTINE PROVINCE

DESTINATION: WASHINGTON, D.C.

"My most important lesson and experience of Novitiate is that the contemplative dimension of the Capuchin life makes me more aware of God's presence in the active dimension of the Capuchin life and vice versa."



AT YEAR'S END-->NOVICE REFLECTIONS

BR. RICARDO TARDI HERNANDEZ CUSTODY OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

DESTINATION: PONCE, PUERTO RICO

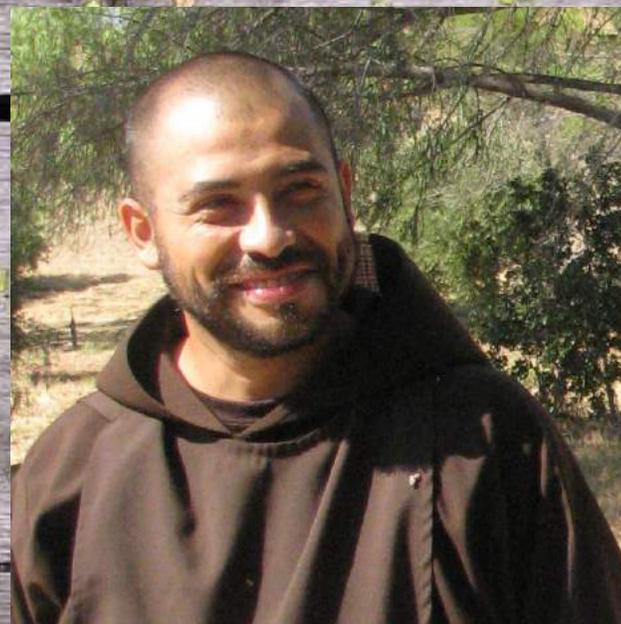
"For me, this experience has been one of re-discovering blessings, of looking back and seeing how God has been leading me up to this point, of embracing with trust the Capuchin way of life, of encountering Christ in the phrase 'Jesus in You I trust.' "



BR. JOSE VERA ST. JOSEPH'S PROVINCE

DESTINATION: CHICAGO, IL

"A humble soul does not trust itself, but places all its confidence in God. "



A WISE WORD WITH BROTHER RICARDO

CONSIDERING A YEAR



This year of Novitiate has been one of beautiful struggles. Time has gone by really fast. I still can't get over the fact that just a year ago we arrived at Santa Ynez, California. The sun was setting down over the beautiful Santa Ynez mountains, so many colors marvelously being crafted with every shadow contrasting with the little light that was left from the day. We were so excited by the fact that at last, after a whole week of traveling from St. Louis, Missouri, to California, we were arriving to the place we would call "home:" San Lorenzo Seminary.

In my own personal journey I've had several struggles, and it is no surprise, since we have entered into a desert-like dry region, not only in the physical sense, but in the spiritual sense also. It has been a spiritual desert in a similar way San Lorenzo Seminary has areas of brown (or gold as I have come to understand) and areas of green. This desert has helped me take a closer look at the inside, in the secret of the heart, and to keep discovering the answer to the question St. Francis of Assisi asked in prayer: "Who are You, Lord my God, and who am I?" If I have arrived to this point, it has not been by my own strength, for I am small and weak, but by the strength and the grace of God. Therefore, I can only be thankful to the Lord for this opportunity, this privilege to come all the way from my very loved island of Puerto Rico to share the Capuchin life with these great brothers from all over the world. There have been so many beautiful moments during this year of Novitiate where God has manifested his great love through the brothers, during silent moments of prayer, contemplating an incredibly beautiful sunset, and through so many good people, people thirsty for God.

Interestingly enough, the things that I most take from this Novitiate experience are the "shadows" at dusk, in other words, the struggles, the challenges, the moments of

dryness. This is because through these struggles, God has led me to look for Him, who is the light that illumines my darkness, the living water that refreshes my thirst, the food that satisfies my hunger, the Savior who redeems me from all my sins, the strength that supports in my weakness, the flame that burns within my dryness to give way to new terrain. During this year I have learned above all to depend more on Him, through prayer, through the brothers and through His Providence. I have learned to say and believe more and more: "Jesus, I Trust in You." It has been a sensational adventure where I have fallen so many times only to confirm that I am not made to stay in the ground crawling, but to stand up, walk, and follow Christ. Jesus said to his disciples: "If anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me." This passage has resonated with me with evermore strength and this year has helped me open my ears to such a strong calling, to wake up from sleep and respond to his calling with more energy. Personally I feel excited to give the next step, still enjoying the beautiful colors of the "sunset" of this amazing Novitiate year.

TRIBUTE TO BR. JOSE FOR BEING OUR BARBER

As a Novitiate class we are extremely grateful for the dedication and service that our brother Jose provided us with throughout this year as our barber.



VOW RETREAT- SERRA RETREAT, MALIBU, CALIFORNIA



END OF THE YEAR PICTURES



END OF THE YEAR PICTURES



Picture of the Franciscan Novices of all three branches at our goodbye party!!!



Dinner with Bishop Barron!!!



Pax Et Bonum

ABOUT US

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

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