

CAPERONE

MAY 2019



**FORMATOR'S
CORNER**

**MINISTRY
IN
FOCUS**

**A
NOVICE'S
JOURNEY**



A NOVICE JUBILARIAN

FORMATOR'S CORNER

WHEN YOUR WORLD SHIFTS

By Br. Bill Talentino, OFM, Cap.

Last month I moved – well, I moved to a different room in a different building on the same 28 acres of land – that was the easy part. I'll miss some things about the first room I had – the ceiling fan, the private bathroom, the extra space, the covered walkways to every place I needed to go – all physical things. On the other hand, my new room is brighter with more windows and white walls. Then the really big blessing is the shower with great water pressure! So I am already loving my new room.

What I don't know yet is what "retirement" will feel like when July comes around. What is it like to be a "senior" friar and no longer a member of the novitiate team? As a result of the move, already I feel some diminishment in my interactions with my brothers in Marian Hall. This is the emotional dimension of transition – change in the dynamic of relationships. That will take some adjusting on my part. What I am looking forward to is spending more time praying and reading, greater involvement in sacramental ministry and spiritual direction. This is the rainbow part of this change in my life, and I am excited about that.

Now my brother novices, you also will soon be in a transitioning phase of your Capuchin journey as you move from novitiate to post-novitiate formation. In some ways your transition will require more adjustment than mine will. You will be leaving Santa Ynez, most of you will be leaving California, and some of you will be leaving the U.S. for Canada or Australia! Of course, returning to home territory will have some excitement for a time, but post-novitiate life is a huge shift from novitiate life.

Here at San Lorenzo, the program is designed to minimize the things of the world that may distract you from your decision to follow a call to Capuchin life. Next year you will have to make your own choices about keeping distractions out and keeping your heart focused on God's will in your life. When your world shifts in July, there will be new challenges before you. If you remain committed, however, you will find the rainbow in it all. Stay alert for the rainbows.

So I encourage you to keep your hearts centered on how God is forming you into being a friar dedicated to serving others. Don't spend too much energy on what you will miss from your novitiate year, but look rather with eagerness to the new fabric God has for you in the post-novitiate phase of your journey. You are growing into "friar-ness." And remember, God became human – talk about transitions! God knows all about transitions, and God will be accompanying you as your world shifts.

HAPPY RAINBOWS!



A NOVICE CELEBRATES HIS SILVER JUBILEE



He is a novice, and he is celebrating the silver jubilee of his ordination. Br. Peter Poel, from the Province of Mary the Mother of the Good Shepard (Central Canada), is in a unique category of being a priest in initial formation discerning a “call within a call” to religious life.

“As I prepare to ‘sing a new song’ as a member of the Capuchin Franciscan community, it was meaningful and good to celebrate in the midst of that community, with others who are likewise preparing to ‘sing a new song,’” said Br. Peter after celebrating 25 years as a diocesan priest of the London, Ontario, Diocese on April 28. Over 40 people came to San

Lorenzo to join Br. Peter on this special occasion, including Capuchin friars from the area, representatives of Catholic Charities Santa Maria and friends from the Santa Ynez and Solvang communities.

Br. Peter was happy and grateful to have so many people around him, especially his sister and brother-in-law, Karen and Charlie Maaskant, representing his family and friends from Canada. He added, “It was wonderful celebrating with new friends, who represented for me people I have shared life and ministry through the years.”

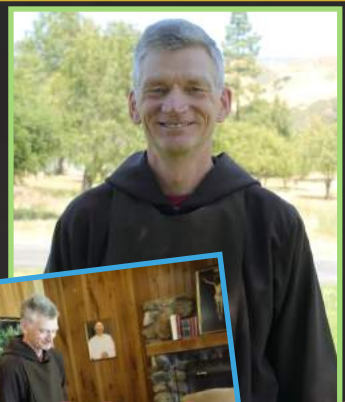
“It meant so much to me to have people from a variety of places and I am so grateful to each and every one of them for joining me in the celebration.”

This occasion has also given Br. Peter a great inspiration to continue discerning a new way of life with the Capuchins. He remarked, “it is a big transition in my life at a later stage, but I am convinced that it is happening in God’s time.”





NOVICE SPOTLIGHT



BR. PETER POEL

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

Hometown: London ("The Other London"), Ontario, Canada **Age:** 56

Name a book/movie/song that you think describes you: "Peace of Mind" by Boston

What were you doing before you entered Capuchin formation?: I was involved with diocesan priestly ministry at a hospital and college, and assisting at a L'Arche Community.

What brought you to the Capuchins?: While I was finding meaning and fulfillment as a diocesan priest, I experienced a "call within a call" to Franciscan life. The Capuchins are in my home diocese and they graciously welcomed me to live with them in a friary for a trial period of familiarization. The peace and joy I experienced with the brothers encouraged me to seek entry into Capuchin formation.

What is your ministry this year and what do you enjoy the most with it (and why?): My ministry this year is with Catholic Charities in Santa Maria. We work together to provide food, clothing, and other assistance to people in need. I most enjoy getting to know the clients and hearing their stories.

Who has influenced your life/spirituality (any person in particular?): On 7th May, Jean Vanier, the founder of the L'Arche Community died in Paris, France. L'Arche is a community of developmentally disabled people and their assistants sharing life together. At L'Arche, there is a recurring miracle of transformation of hearts - mine among them. I am also grateful to Jean for his teachings, his example and for the community he founded.

What is something that our readers probably don't know about you?: I have an offbeat sense of humor that sometimes results in other people smiling and other times results in puzzled looks.



MINISTRY IN FOCUS

WITH BR. HERSON AND BR. JAVIER

AT MARIAN REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER - SANTA MARIA

WHAT IS YOUR MINISTRY AT MARIAN HOSPITAL?

BR. HERSON: My ministry at Marian Hospital is mainly working at the Chaplaincy Service and Volunteer Service Departments of the hospital. I take Holy Communion to the sick patients and pray with them. I also help with the other volunteers in tasks such as pushing wheelchairs for patients when they are discharged, mail and flower deliveries to staff and patients, delivery of small medical equipment and other accessories to the staff, etc.

BR. JAVIER: This is a ministry of presence. Here, I provide some personal and spiritual support to the patients and their families.

HOW IS MINISTRY HELPING YOU WITH YOUR DISCERNMENT?

H: This ministry gives me a glimpse of what I would be doing in the future in the area of ministering the sacraments of the Eucharist and Anointing of the Sick and even Baptism. Also to just be with the sick and suffering - to hold their hand and pray with them and encourage them. For me, to take part in Christ's healing ministry is helping me a lot in my discernment.

J: It is giving me an opportunity to see how I can be of service to others and how this life of service fits me. It also has helped me to see and face my "leper", that which makes me uncomfortable and fearful.

HOW DO YOU SEE GOD IN THIS MINISTRY?

H: In this ministry, the words of Jesus in Matthew 25: 35-36 always echo in my heart. The deeds of mercy that we have done for the least of our neighbors we also have done to Jesus Himself (v. 40). In the sunset of our lives, our Lord will look into how much we have loved.

J: I see God in the faces of the patients seeking support and love. In the faces of the families seeking strength and sharing love. In the faces of the personnel providing services, support and love. God is all around me when I am at the hospital.



WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PART IN THIS MINISTRY?

H: This ministry has been such a tremendous blessing for me that I have a lot of favorite moments! If I have to pick, I'll choose two. One would be the gratitude I feel and the graces I receive when I give Jesus through Holy Communion to the sick, and the second one would be the joy I feel to see new life in the face of a newborn baby when I accompany the mother for discharge from the hospital. These moments are priceless.

J: My favorite part is seeing someone who regardless of all the pain and suffering he or she is going through smile and share a beautiful spiritual moment with me without having to even say a word. This is when I see the Holy Spirit working among us.



HOW DO YOU SEE THE CAPUCHIN LIFE REFLECTED IN THIS MINISTRY?

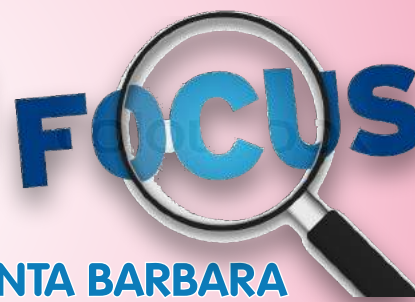
H: The Capuchins are known as the "friars of the people" and one of the aspects of our spirituality is our preferential option for the poor and suffering. My ministry at the hospital allows me to experience this part of Capuchin life and I'm grateful for the chance to do that.

J: As Capuchins, we seek people where they are. The hospital is not a choice for people, it is an unwanted destination. Being there at a vulnerable time in a place where a person doesn't want to be, is I believe what we mean by being with and for people meeting them where they are.

MINISTRY IN FOCUS

WITH BR. DUY AND BR. LUKE

AT ALPHA RESOURCE CENTER - SANTA BARBARA



WHAT IS YOUR MINISTRY AT ALPHA RESOURCE CENTER?

BR. DUY: Alpha Resource Center is a day program for the mentally and physically impaired adults. The wide variety of activities are adaptive to the severity of the impairments, but are all aimed at engaging and developing the participants. The activities include arts and crafts, learning music and singing, sensory relaxation sessions, physical activities, etc. My ministry is a ministry of presence to engage clients in conversations, to encourage and set an example in volunteering work, to assist staff in preparing lunch for clients or cleaning up the room.

BR. LUKE: To spend time with people with disabilities and to be present to them as a brother and a friend. They know and sense how much I love them. And I want to be a friend to them because, as any human being, they seek to love and be loved



HOW IS MINISTRY HELPING YOU WITH YOUR DISCERNMENT?

D: This ministry has given me a perspective on the possible service that I could be involved with back in the Australian Capuchin province. And importantly, how I should carry out the ministry work. The emphasis is on "being with" rather than "doing for". Doing tasks for and helping out is part of all the ministry work, but the more important part is being with the person where they are at. The simple joy of connecting with another human being intellectually, emotionally and spiritually.

L: I thought I was different from them. This justification often builds a wall between us. Break that wall and I can see that we are children created in the likeness of God. This ministry has been a great place to learn that all human beings have dignity no matter what our differences might be.

HOW DO YOU SEE THE CAPUCHIN LIFE REFLECTED IN THIS MINISTRY?

D: The relationships and interaction between staff and clients is quite fraternal, just like our Capuchin way of life. A deep sense of caring for one another not just the physical needs but also the emotional needs. For example, the healthy bantering and joking around in the midst of learning music.

L: Being there for them as a loving friend is the powerful spirituality of the Capuchins; sharing with each other who we are, seeing each others as equals in gratitude with God.



HOW DO YOU SEE GOD IN THIS MINISTRY?

D: When I am too focused on doing tasks helping out one client after another, sometimes, I miss God's presence in those situations. As I concentrate on spending quality time with 3 or 4 clients and being open to the moment then I can see God. Even when the clients has an emotional outburst and I don't understand why. I simply approach the matter with compassion and care just as God has for all of us.

L: Through their eyes. The eyes can say many things even though they cannot say a word at all. I can sense their souls through their eyes, as God breathes in them.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PART IN THIS MINISTRY?

D: I enjoy doing ministry at Alpha every Friday as no one session is the same. Every time, I am able to learn something new about the people I am ministering and they teach something new about myself. "To live simply in the moments with those around you."

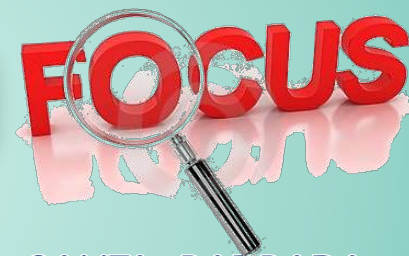


L: Art class. Working with them with color pencils. Even though they might not be able to express a clear figure or color pattern, they give me a glimpse of their souls and how their souls sing beyond the result.

MINISTRY IN FOCUS

WITH BR. JESSIE QUINTANILLA

AT ST. MARK'S UNIVERSITY PARISH - SANTA BARBARA



WHAT IS YOUR MINISTRY AT ST. MARK'S?

BR. JESSIE: My scheduled appointments at ministry consists of a book discussion group with Fr. John Love and the FOCUS (Fellowship of Catholic University Students) missionaries, then I eat lunch with students in graduate studies to share our life journey.

HOW IS MINISTRY HELPING YOU WITH YOUR DISCERNMENT?

J: It is affirming in my wanting to serve in youth/young adult ministry as a friar. It is welcoming me into the intricate lives of the Church's next leaders. It is inspiring to see students crave His love.

HOW DO YOU SEE THE CAPUCHIN LIFE REFLECTED IN THIS MINISTRY?

J: Our Capuchin Constitutions say, "Brotherhood and minority are original features of the charism given to us by the Spirit," so I take the fraternal vibe to ministry and I step back to watch God build relationships through the witness of "living a life of the gospel to the full."

HOW DO YOU SEE GOD IN THIS MINISTRY?

J: I see God in nature; UCSB's campus is on the Pacific Ocean, such beauty. Here, nature meets the beautiful intricacy of student life. It is humbling when I notice God at work with his creation in the midst of broken society. I see God with my ears as I listen to students share their lives with me.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PART IN THIS MINISTRY?

J: When a student walks up to me and asks, "What are you?" with a face that screams "you actually exist?!" The conversations usually end in her/him being fascinated in our way of life. For 3 minutes, that student was faced with a true reality of a radical way of living this life. These small moments are *aurum* scarce to me, pure gold.



Welcome

In early May, Br. Miguel Ramirez, from the Province of the Stigmata of St. Francis (New Jersey), arrived at San Lorenzo to be the new member of the formation team. Br. Miguel will take over Br. Bill Talentino's place in the team in July when the new novitiate class begins.

Br. Miguel, who was born in Cuba and migrated to the United States with his parents when he was three years old, joined the Capuchins in 1991. He professed solemn vows in 1997. Since then, Br. Miguel has served in a wide variety of ministries, including vocations, post-novitiate formation and the inter-provincial postulancy program.

He is excited to begin this new journey at the novitiate. "It's a great joy to be part of such a significant and important year of formation of young men," said Br. Miguel.

It is a blessing to have him amongst us and we pray that God continue to bless him in this new ministry.

"It's such a blessing to be in this environment surrounded by nature."



BR. MIGUEL

A NOVICE'S JOURNEY

By Br. Javier Rodriguez

Serving God



If you ask me to summarize my vocation in one word, my answer would be service. I love to be of service for others. I view service as a gift of love, which means I give the gift of God to others through service.

Here at novitiate, Fridays is ministry day which means that we all go out to different ministries around the area to serve the people of God. It is the one day that we get to serve beyond our "walls", beyond our community here in San Lorenzo. And it is my favorite day of the week.

As you might have read in the previous pages, I minister at a hospital in Santa Maria. When I arrived at novitiate, this was the last place I wanted to minister. However, God has different plans for me and I am thankful he did!

This ministry graced me with an opportunity to encounter what has been uncomfortable since childhood, being around the sick. Since I was a child, the sick have been lurking around me and trips to the hospital with my family were frequent. Probably, my worst experience was with my sister, my best friend, who died in a hospital where I could not see her for months when I was seven years old. So, I have always been uncomfortable with hospitals and any place for the sick.

This year I have had to face my "leper", as St. Francis would call it, and I cannot describe the blessing this was. Being able to accompany, even if just for a few minutes, those who are suffering physically, bringing them the love and joy of God has been an indescribable experience. As in most ministries, the reality is that the love they have shared with me has helped and healed me much more than what I have been able to do for them. I can say that they have ministered to me, not the other way around.

This is my experience at the hospital. Likewise, all my brother novices have experienced similar experiences. As they have described in the last few Caperone issues, they have received the same love, blessings and graces from the

homeless, the poor, the prisoner, the elderly, the disabled and the young. And to think this is just the beginning of our life in ministry! I hope we keep our hearts open to continue to be ministered to by those to whom we minister to as the years go by because they are God's presence in this world.

And where does all of this lead us? Back to our community life...





SAN LORENZO SCOOP

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING AT THE NOVITIATE...

BELOW ARE SNAPSHOTS OF RECENT EVENTS, ACTIVITIES, AND VISITORS.

INTER-FRANCISCAN LAUDATO SI WORSHOP WITH BR. KEITH WARNER, OFM



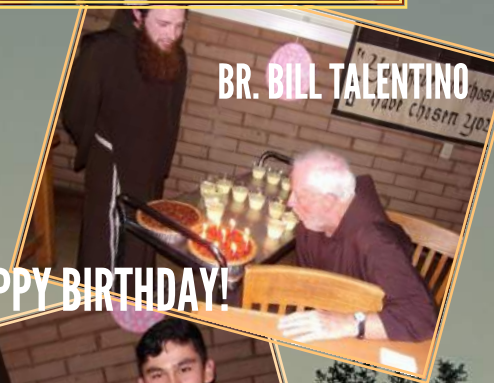
CHARLIE AND KAREN MAASKANT



BR. ROBERT WILLIAMS (SSF)



WINE BOTTLING



BR. BILL TALENTINO

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



BR. MICHAEL SULLIVAN (SJ, PROVINCIAL)



ESPERANZA AND JUAN QUINTANILLA



BR. JESSIE QUINTANILLA

UPCOMING CELEBRATIONS

JUNE

- 6 - Br. Martin Ngo (B)
- 13 - Br. Joe Slominski (B)
- 22 - Br. Robert Stewart (O)
- 27 - Br. Joe Morton (B)
- 28 - Br. Duy Tran (B)

JULY

- 13 - Br. Phil Bernier (First Vows)
- 14 - Br. Alex Rodriguez (First Vows)
- 24 - Br. Luis Vallhonrat (B)

BISHOP ROBERT BARRON'S VISIT





KEEP CALM AND FRIEDE UND ALLES GUTE

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ABOUT US

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