

The Caperone

NAPCC Interprovincial Novitiate Class 2014-2015



A Warm Welcome from the class of 2014-15 to all of our families, friends, and Capuchin brothers. We invite you to be a part of our Novitiate year as we share our life in fraternity through *The Caperone* newsletter. There are 18 of us from 9 different states, representing 4 countries. We are a diverse class with age's ranging from 19 to 50 years old. The life experiences are even more varied, from recent college and high school graduates, individuals who have left careers in professional fields and trades, and those moving from other religious communities. We bring with us many different gifts, interests and perspectives with a longing to express them within our fraternal life together. . Our liturgies benefit from the many talented musicians among our brothers. We have keyboard players, guitarists, percussionists, and many lovely voices to fill our Schola seats. This year will bring many surprises as we continue to discern and grow together. This issue contains short introductions of each of our classmates, a look at our Investiture ceremony, and pictures from our recent annual fundraiser Gala. We will, also, talk about our IPPP orientation program in St Louis prior to our move to San Lorenzo Seminary. Several of our brothers have contributed to this issue with reflections on meaningful experiences during our brief time together.

Novitiate Events

Aug. 3-6:

Franciscan Prayer Workshop
Bro. David Connolly, OFM, Cap

Aug. 11-13, 18-20

Liturgy Workshop
Bro. Bob Herrick

Aug. 25-27, Sept. 1-3

Discernment Workshop
Bro. Frank Grinko

Sept. 6

GALA Fund Raiser
An Evening in Compostela

Sept. 8-10

Biblical Foundations of Prayer
Bro. Jerry Johnson

Sept. 15-17, 22-23, 30

History of Christian Spirituality
Bro. Bobby Barbato



As we begin this new novitiate year, we once more ask for everyone's prayers, that it may be a blessed experience for our novices, our professed friars, and our friends and benefactors. As you will see in this edition of *The Caperone*, the theme for this year's gala was "A Night in Compostela: the Way of Santiago," which focused on the famous pilgrimage route in northern Spain. This could also be the theme for the beginning of a new novitiate year, as the novices, like all of us, are on a pilgrimage in this world, seeking the holy all around us as we journey toward our goal.

A lot of effort goes into putting on the gala each year. Things generally run very smoothly. Each year, however, also has its own special challenges. The same is true with each novitiate year: we begin with the same orientation sessions, the same classes, the same schedule. Yet, each year is unique, as a new group of novices brings us new gifts and new challenges. There is no such thing as a "typical novice," or even a "typical day at San Lorenzo." I have always found this as one of the great gifts of being called to live as a friar in community: encountering the variety of God's gifts in so many combinations. Of course, that's what can make community life difficult also—having to deal with so many different points of view and expectations.

As the novices and professed community of San Lorenzo continue the pilgrimage of this novitiate year, we ask once more for your prayers. May the Lord keep us safe on the journey, and also guide us on the right path. We also want to thank all our wonderful friends and benefactors. Their support and example of Christian love and commitment are one of the reasons San Lorenzo is such a wonderful location for the novitiate.

Finally, I thank Bros. David and Brenton for taking on the work of this year's *Caperone*. Like the gala and the novitiate itself, *The Caperone* is both the same and different each year. We appreciate any feedback our readers would like to give. God bless and keep you always!

-Bro. Bobby Barbato, ofm cap. & the Novitiate Team



Brother Jerry Johnson lecturing at Mass



Brother Bob Herrick preparing music for Liturgy



Brother Bobby Barbato celebrating weekday Eucharist



Brother Frank Grinko teaching a Discernment workshop

Novice Profiles

“You have not chosen me, I have chosen you”

-John 15:16

When I arrived at San Lorenzo Seminary I noticed a large tapestry in the dining room. It shows St. Francis blessing one of his followers. Underneath is a Scripture verse from the Gospel of John where Jesus tells His disciples, “It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you.” What comforting words our Lord gives us, a new class of 17 brother novices. We bring all that we are to the foot of the Cross. In the heart of the Santa Ynez Valley, we draw closer to Jesus Christ, following in the footprints of St. Francis. We may have doubts, anxieties about the unknown, nervousness of new beginnings, and home sickness, but we have heard the call of Jesus to “Come, see, and follow Me. Trust in Me as I will give you all that you need, as it was I who chose you.” It is our faith that brought us here, it is our faith that will continue to guide us this year, and it is through this faith Jesus is calling to preach the gospel with our Capuchin life.

—Brother Jordan Schmeidler



Lawrence Borja

Province: **Our Lady Star of the Sea, (Custody: Guam-Hawaii)**

Hometown: **Chalan Pago, Guam**

Novitiate Goal: *“To grow in an intimate relationship with Jesus Christ.”*



Montie Chavez

Province: **Saint Conrad (Mid-America)**

Hometown: **Los Lunas, NM**

Novitiate Goal: *“I want to grow deeper in the spirit of St. Francis.”*



Andrew Corriente

Province: **Saint Augustine (Pennsylvania)**

Hometown: **Arcadia, CA**

Novitiate Goal: *“To sit back and let God doing the driving.”*



David Domanski

Province: **Saint Augustine (Pennsylvania)**

Hometown: **Cleveland, OH**

Novitiate Goal: *“To trust in the presence and goodness of the Lord.”*



Merwyn D'Silva

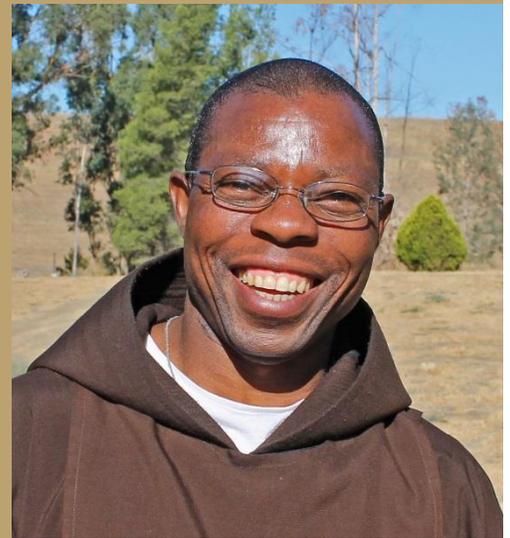
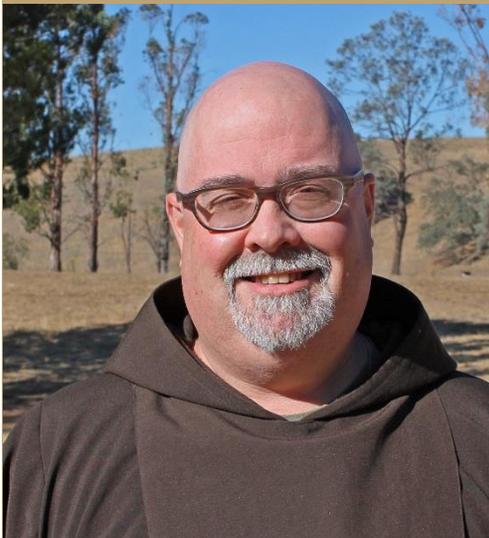
Province: **Saint Joseph (Detroit)**
Hometown: **Mangalore, India**
Novitiate Goal: *"To develop a deeper relationship to God by communal prayer and fraternity."*

Brenton Ertel

Province: **Saint Joseph (Detroit)**
Hometown: **Racine, WI**
Novitiate Goal: *"To develop a deeper interior life and a stronger fraternal identity."*

Hank Fagnant

Province: **Saint Conrad (Mid-America)**
Hometown: **Denver, CO**
Novitiate Goal: *"To gain a deeper understanding of who I am in relation to God."*



Paul Fesefeldt

Province: **Saint Mary (New York-New England)**
Hometown: **New York, NY**
Novitiate Goal: *"To grow deeper in love."*

Alex Hostoffer

Province: **Saint Augustine (Pennsylvania)**
Hometown: **Cleveland, OH**
Novitiate Goal: *"To discern the Capuchin life, specifically to take vows next year."*

Anthony Kote-Witah

Province: **Saint Joseph (Detroit)**
Hometown: **Ogoni, Nigeria**
Novitiate Goal: *"To plunge into this process in order to serve God's people better."*



Cody Lizama

Province: **Our Lady Star of the Sea, (Custody: Guam-Hawaii)**
Hometown: **Santa Rita, Guam**
Goal: *“While discerning my vocation to grow in love of God, self, and neighbor for his glory and honor.”*

Nicholas Martinez

Province: **Our Lady Star of the Sea, (Custody: Guam-Hawaii)**
Hometown: **Yoña, Guam**
Novitiate Goal: *“To build the foundation for the rest of my religious life.”*



Augusto de Moura

Province: **Saint Mary (New York-New England)**
Hometown: **Toledo, PR, Brazil**
Novitiate Goal: *“Like Augustine, I wish to look into the depths of my heart and there find and know Jesus dwelling in me.”*

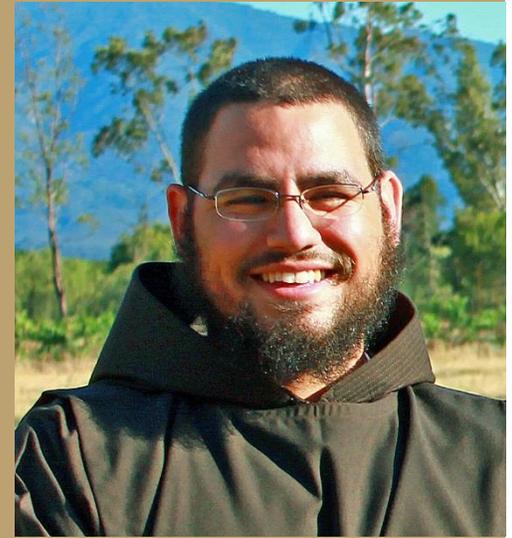
André Repucci

Province: **Saint Augustine (Pennsylvania)**
Hometown: **Youngstown, OH**
Novitiate Goal: *“To grow closer and closer to the Lord each day and experience his love and mercy while at novitiate.”*

“That he may grant you in accord with the riches of His glory to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in the inner self, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the holy ones what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.”

-Ephesians 3: 16-19





Sean Rodriguez

Province: **Our Lady Star of the Sea, (Custody Guam-Hawaii)**
Hometown: **Tamuning, Guam**
Goal: *"To come to a closer union with our Crucified Lord by the example given to us by St. Francis."*

Jordan Schmeidler

Province: **Saint Conrad (Mid-America)**
Hometown: **Victoria, KS**
Novitiate Goal: *"To fall in love with God in a deeper more intimate way. Putting all that I am in His hands."*

Carl Schultz

Province: **Saint Augustine (PA)**
Hometown: **Mullica Hill, NJ**
Goal: *"My soul is waiting for the Lord, I count on his word. My soul is longing for the Lord more than watchman for daybreak." -Ps. 130*



Julian Torres

Province: **Saint Conrad (Mid-America)**
Hometown: **Grand Island, NE**
Novitiate Goal: *"With the Lord's help, my goal is to discern with greater scrutiny the Lord's calling in my life."*

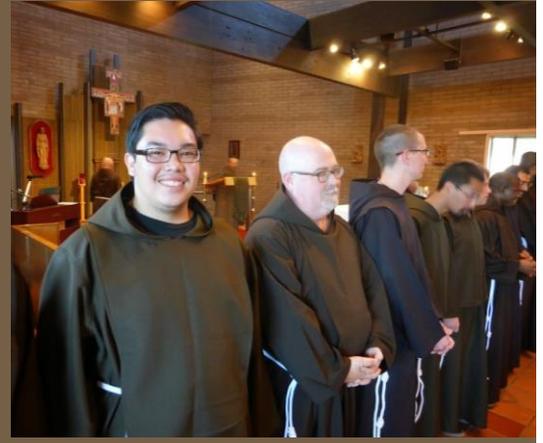


An Investiture to Remember

As I walked into the Chapel, I sat before the Blessed Sacrament knowing that God had some surprises waiting for me. I had an overwhelming feeling of anticipation that God was about to stir up in my soul what He had long planned to do. I was overwhelmed by a vast richness of joy, tears, and excitement. I could hardly believe it! As I ponder that day I realize I cannot escape God's plan and desire for me to be happy, loved, and joyful. In the many moments leading up to Investiture the depths of my soul encountered "the peace that surpasses all understanding." As I slipped my habit on I knew I would take that moment with me forever.

-Brother André Repucci





St. Conrad Province



St. Augustine Province



St. Mary Province/Our Lady Star of the Sea Custody



St. Joseph Province

St. Louis Reflection

During our pre-novitiate experience in St. Louis, MO, we were all given the choice between three different ministries. I chose *Mission St. Louis*, which is a non-profit organization who helps inner city kids obtain an accelerated education to get back to par for their age group. The organization is entirely run by volunteers including their staff which includes graduate students who complete their practicum for their masters degree. Five of us postulants including David Domanski (St. Augustine Province) Alex Hostoffer (St. Augustine Province), Nicholas Martinez (Our Lady of the Sea Custody, Guam), Montie Chavez (St. Conrad Province) and myself (St. Conrad Province) volunteered to spend our Thursdays and Fridays with these people. I chose this ministry because I knew that it would get me out of my comfort zone working with children. I don't have much experience tutoring children so it was a new experience for me in many ways. What I came to enjoy about this experience was mainly what the kids taught me. They reminded me of what it means to be a child of God: innocent, playful, full of energy, and passion. I began to see the children appreciate the most from us that we were truly brothers to them. We didn't come there to judge or belittle, but rather to be a lesser brother to them. This allowed them to be themselves and provided them a great sense of dignity. Mission St. Louis was so pleased with our participation that they hosted a farewell potluck for us in which the kids took part in. We made freshly homemade banana cream pies for the kids and staff in which they thoroughly enjoyed. They were all bummed to see us go, but we promised we would keep in touch. By the time we received our first group novitiate picture, we made sure to snail mail them a copy. They are in our prayers and in our hearts.

-Brother Hank Fagnant



The Resurrected Embrace

Br. Anthony Kote-Witah

The mirror of San Damiano Cross
The LORD'S eyes are wide open
His hands are horizontally extended
Clothed in his majesty
With a bold step advancing
To embrace **all creatures**

At its gaze Christ wedded all
Into his marvelous intimate relationship
He clinches and seals us
In his unconditional divine love of peace
Thus, we are transformed
and infused into his oceanic grace

It reflects the ever-flowing salvific blood
This becomes our umbrella, our canopy
Our celestial shield, our seal of mercy
and Freedom
This indeed, is our **Resurrected Embrace**

Thus we celebrate your glory
Our God, All-powerful, All mighty
Supreme Triumphant LORD
Emerge us into your mystical vocation
In your majestic splendor I embrace
The courage and gift of your compassion

As I gaze, you illuminate my entire being
It consumes, transforms and engulfs me
Into your heavenly tranquility
You are honor, awe-inspiring
The infinite outflows from your blood
Permeates the core of my **Whole**

To this effect, San Damiano Cross
Is indeed my resurrected encounter
It has brought me in
To Christ's community of peace
He is my light, my hope and my delight
Into his warming embrace, **I Rest!**

Prayer in the first month of novitiate



The prayer life of a Capuchin Friar is something of legend I believe. I heard about it from those around me before I entered postulancy last year. I was told that the Capuchins are a contemplative order, they are quiet, reserved, humble and prayerful at all times and so naturally I would not fit in. To be honest I looked forward to the challenge and a challenge it turned out to be during my postulancy year. The adjustment to a life based around prayer and not prayer squeezed in around my life was a difficult and also extremely rewarding change. I look back on postulancy and marvel at the growth within myself and those around me, God is good. Starting the novitiate year brought yet another change or rather it has been an intensification of the life I lived in postulancy. The prayer is more frequent and for longer periods. I believe that we have all noticed the changes in our schedules. When I look at the schedule there is little doubt that this year is focused on prayer and discernment. The fruits of the prayer are small yet but like our garden outside there must be patience and continued nurturing while staying open to the Holy Spirit (water if I am to stick with the garden analogy). In time I believe that this year will bear incredible fruit and hope that my fellow brother novices feel the same way. Perhaps we can live up to the legends told about Capuchins and become saints.

-Brother Alex Hostoffer

Gala 2014

A Night in Compostela: the Way of Santiago

One of the important things the novices experience each year is the love and devotion that so many wonderful people have for our Capuchin life. On September 6, the lawn next to Sacred Heart Hall was transformed as the San Lorenzo Foundation held its annual Gala Dinner/Auction to support the friars at the novitiate. The theme this year was "A Night in Compostela: the Way of Santiago," inspired by the famous pilgrimage route in northern Spain. It takes a lot of hard work to put on this event each year, and the novices pitched in to get the place ready for the 150 or so people who attended the event. Besides local friends and benefactors, we were joined by the members of our larger Capuchin family. Once more the sisters of our deceased Capuchin brother, Matt Tully, joined in the festivities, this year bringing one of his nieces, Elizabeth, to continue the tradition. Our live auction, led by the very personable Jim Glines, was an exciting part of the evening, especially when the bidding began for Br. Bobby's pasta dinner. The food for the evening was provided by Alfred Holzheu of El Rancho Market, and members of the San Lorenzo Foundation and other volunteers helped with decorations, parking, accounting and all the other things that go into such an event. May God bless them all!

The San Lorenzo Foundation was formed to be a support and resource for the friars, and each year donates the proceeds of the Gala for the upkeep of the novitiate. They are an example to all the friars not only of hard work and dedication, but of faithfulness and prayer, and we are grateful for their presence among us.

- Bro. Bobby Barbato, ofm cap.



