

# THE Caperone



**MY  
LORD  
AND  
MY  
GOD!**

**ADVENT AND THE YEAR OF MERCY**



## From The Formators

**P**ease and Good! Each year, right on the heels of Thanksgiving comes the first Sunday of Advent. This is a wonderful conjunction, for Advent is the time each year we are invited to reflect deeply on the root of all thanksgiving: wonder at the marvelous fact that “God so loved the world, He sent His only Son.” The gracious mercy of God, so freely given, was a source of joy for Saint Francis of Assisi. Reflecting on it, he would sometimes break out in spontaneous song, and even pick up two branches and play this “violin” in thanks to God.

Francis taught his friars a great prayer of thanksgiving, which begins: “All-powerful, most holy, Almighty and supreme God...we thank You for Yourself...We thank You for as through Your Son You created us, so through Your holy love You brought about His birth as true God and true man by the glorious, ever-virgin, most blessed holy Mary and You willed to redeem us captives.”

Advent is the time to quiet down. It is a time to listen to God. For the novices especially, it is a time to reflect on the spirit that led Mary to proclaim: “Behold the handmaid of the Lord; let it be done to me according to your word.” It is this openness to the Spirit of God, this generous acceptance of God’s will that we hope the novices will encounter in themselves, whatever God may be asking of them. All of us Capuchin friars try to wake up each morning and live out this same spirit. We ask for your prayers and assure you of ours.

May the Lord bless you during Advent and give you a most Joyous and Hope-filled Christmas!

- **Br. Bobby**

### Calendar Of Events

**December 1-2:**  
*Presentation on the Vow of Obedience*  
(Br. Frank)

**December 7-9:**  
*History of Franciscan Movement*  
(Br. Bobby)

**December 14-16:**  
*Presentation on the Vow of Poverty*  
(Br. Bobby)

**December 21-23 and 28-30:**  
*Capuchin History* (Br. Frank)

## The Caperone

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### Comments and Questions

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## Advent and The Year of Mercy

The rhythm of novitiate life is meant to create an atmosphere and a space where novices have the opportunity to discern their vocation well. One of the unintended results of a rigid daily routine however, is that it lends itself to making the days go by in a flash. It's been a little over four months since investiture, and Advent is already upon us. Soon Christmas will come along with a new year: 2016. There is an air of excitement in the novitiate as the holiday season comes closer. It is a time to prepare for the coming of Christ.

We have begun to assemble our large "Belen," a tradition of Guam to recreate the manger scene in the town of Bethlehem (Belen), which was started by some of our novices from Guam several years ago. Our "Bethlehem" is currently empty, but as we move through the advent season the little town will slowly



grow in population. Our own liturgist Br. Bob led us into the preparations for Advent with a liturgical overview of the season to prepare for some the upcoming changes in our liturgy and music. Our Schola has also been diligently preparing to intone the Advent season with hymns of praise to await the coming of our Lord.

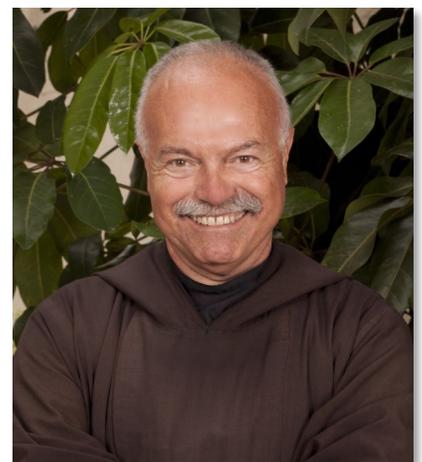
Along with the beginning of Advent, we also enter into a new liturgical year, and this one is quite special. This year Pope Francis has announced as an Extraordinary Jubilee Year, a Year of Mercy. For all of us, it will be an opportunity to once again encounter the unfathomable mercy of God in powerful new ways. It's a lot to look forward to.



## Day of Recollection

Just as Thanksgiving came around the corner, the novices took some much needed time for silent reflection and recollection, a day to rest in the Lord and prepare for the coming season of Advent. Fr. Harold Snider OFM Cap., the provincial for our California province, graciously accepted to facilitate the recollection day with several presentations throughout. His talks were simple, brief, and to the point, a style which the brothers much appreciated. He spoke about vocation, and how Mary can be our model for all vocations. He spoke about authentic Capuchin life, and what it means to truly be a follower of St.

Francis with no reservations. A call to serve God must be a wholehearted yes, or not at all. There is no room for debate: either you live the Capuchin charism or you don't. The day was a good chance to have some respite from our usual daily schedule, to take extra time for active discernment under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.





## Gala Appreciation Luncheon

**B**ack in September San Lorenzo hosted a large fundraising Gala in support of our novitiate community. This Gala was put together not so much from our own resources and efforts, but through the generosity and hard work of San Lorenzo community, all those who have supported us so much in the past. To show our appreciation for all that they do, we invited them to join us for a luncheon after Sunday mass, the whole meal prepared by none other than the novices. Our best cooks went forward to create a wonderful variety of food, including some delicious Asian cuisine. It was quite a feast, but rightly so; there were many mouths to feed. We were glad to see so many of our brothers and sisters join us for the meal. It was a great opportunity for our community to join together, for us novices to learn more about the people who support our way of life so generously. It was a great display of how we can come together as a community of faith to break bread and share one another's stories, and in my opinion, that is the best way to show appreciation.





## General Novitiate Life

There's no weather quite like California weather. From a low of 40 to a high of 80, some of us are starting to get confused as to what exactly we're supposed to be wearing each day. We begin morning prayer with coats on and come out after mass changing into t-shirts and shorts. For those of us used to a colder climate, this just doesn't feel right. Late November? More like late April... Being away from home for the holiday season will be both a challenge and a blessing in the months ahead.

Sadly, we must announce the departure of our brother Brian Dorrian, whose discernment brought him to the decision to withdraw from the novitiate towards the beginning of November. His departure marked the 3rd departure within a span of four weeks, an event which stirred up the community very much. It raised the question of discernment to new heights, and opened up the novices to encounter the vocational call on a more profound level. Amidst the multiple departures of our dearly esteemed brothers, our community has found a way to come together as a fraternity and continue to move forward in Christ.

Alongside the buzz of excitement for the upcoming holidays, and the emotions raised up in seeing some brothers depart, our novitiate class has been entering more deeply into discernment. Fr. Bobby has begun a class with us on the beginning of the Franciscan order and the first half-century of history as the early friars began establishing themselves in the church. Going back to that early history of our order helps us to better grasp not only the ideals that we are to strive for, but also the reality of what it really means to be part of the Franciscan movement, including the struggles. We are also in the midst of continuing our classes on the three vows, with Fr. Frank giving a class on the vow of obedience. These classes have helped us immerse ourselves in the meaning of Capuchin life, and will continue to help us in the discernment process in the months to come.





Happy Thanksgiving From

THE  
**Caperone**





## Ministries This Year

**A**t the end of the day at my ministry, I always stop by one particular lady to say goodbye. She always asks, “When are you coming back?” When I tell her that I am coming back next Friday, she says with her little smile, “I’m going to miss you,” to which I always reply, “I’m going to miss you too.” Then I kneel down since she is in her wheelchair, and give her a warm hug.

I volunteer at Alpha Resource Center (ARC), a daycare center for the mentally handicapped, in Santa Barbara every Friday. Usually, most of the participants at ARC, accompanied by a staff member, volunteer at places such as thrift stores and the public zoo on Mondays through Thursdays, but they get a day-off on Fridays. Therefore, every Friday, we watch a movie, do puzzles, read some books, draw, or color (we colored our turkeys for Thanksgiving). On that same day, some groups will drive out to a beach, Carl’s Jr., or a park. Moreover, usually in the afternoon, we have a karaoke party in the lobby.

Overall, as I have spent time with the participants, I have been able to build relationships with them despite the differences. Furthermore, since I had volunteered at the Special Olympics in a bowling alley in Wisconsin in high school, it has been a great opportunity to bring up my passion and spirit again. Hence I have enjoyed so much working with the participants and compassionate staff members at ARC.

*- Br. Hahm Gahng*

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**I** have been serving as a “Religious Services” volunteer at the Lompoc Federal Correctional Center for around three months, and what a fantastic experience it has been! When we were given the opportunity to apply for our top three ministry choices, the prison ministry was very high on my list because it seemed to offer the biggest challenge to love. I thought that the inmates represented the unlovable, or so my societal upbringing had taught me... I couldn’t have been more wrong. During these past months, the men at the Lompoc FCC have helped me to broaden my understanding of love and they have challenged me to deepen my faith. Many have been actively studying different aspects of Catholicism since they arrived, and some even have degrees in theology and philosophy so our faith sharing sessions are a time of growth for all of us who attend. They live in a harsh environment that often contradicts the values and faith they are trying to live out, yet they manage to continue on with a passionate zeal for God that, to me, is another proof for God’s existence. I pray that they have the strength to persevere on their journey because they are a powerful source of prayer and evangelization in the Church.

*- Br. Niko Barth*



## Friars' FYI



### Creative Capuchins

Rosary

*Design and Assembly  
by Br. Matthew Timonera*



"Kingfisher"

*Illustration and Watercolor  
by Br. Luke Jordan*

