



The Franciscan Friars
of Holy Name Province

Insight & Wisdom

For those discerning a call to
our Franciscan way of life

Lent 2008

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Appreciating Lenten Disciplines

The season of Lent invites me to examine how the traditional disciplines of prayer, fasting and almsgiving affect my life as a Franciscan friar.

I often feel in solidarity with my brother friars who express the fact that, at times, they encounter challenges when praying. There is much distraction and, quite honestly, I find it difficult to quiet down and begin to pray. A glimpse of the prayer life of St. Francis helped me cope with this dilemma.

Thomas of Celano, one of the early biographers of Francis, described the saint's life as prayer; that is, all his thoughts, words and actions, even if trivial, were directed toward God in praise and thanksgiving.

Viewing prayer as an intimate relationship with God rather than vocal, repetitive words helps me understand that my faintest desire to quiet down and search for God is prayer in itself.

Prayer as relationship requires trust in the grace of God. Psalm 46:10 captures this sentiment, "Be still and know that I am God."

My relationship with God expressed in prayer compels me to be in relationship with others. As a friar, in addition to fasting from the food

required by this season, I feel called to fast from being negative and judgmental. To be a friar is to build healthy relationships where care, understanding, patience and compassion are present. Fasting from negative traits is not possible without placing an emphasis on the dignity and value of the other person.

Concern for the other person is also at the heart of the practice of almsgiving. I may not have monies for almsgiving, but going out of my way to do something special for someone or to be present to another person is, in itself, a form of almsgiving.

Concretely, this translates into driving an elderly friar to the drugstore or a doctor's appointment, picking up someone at the airport, or cooking soup or making tea for a sick friar. This may mean vol-

unteering to do a task that I normally would avoid doing. Listening and being present to someone who is depressed or mourning is as important as the money I can spare on almsgiving.

Hopefully, the Lenten disciplines of prayer, fasting and almsgiving will help me reach the goal of my life as a friar; that is, conversion of heart and mind.

— Br. Julian Jagudilla, OFM

... prayer,
fasting
and
almsgiving



Br. Julian, a native of Iloilo City, Philippines, holds a degree in literature from the University of San Augustine in the Philippines. He worked as a pastoral associate at Transfiguration Church in New York City prior to joining the friars. As a formation student, he has been involved in Hispanic youth and campus ministries, among other programs. Br. Julian lives at Holy Name College in Silver Spring, Md., where he is finishing his studies and serving as a deacon at St. John the Evangelist Church in Severna Park, Md. He will be ordained to the priesthood in May.

Franciscan
Vocation
Ministry

"O Most High, Glorious God, enlighten the darkness of my heart and give me a right faith, a certain hope and a perfect love, insight and wisdom, O Lord, that I may carry out your holy and true command."

— St. Francis of Assisi, Prayer for Discernment

Men in Formation Focus on Peacemaking

More than 20 men in various stages of initial formation to Franciscan life in Holy Name Province – postulants, novices, and simply professed friars – along with their formation directors, gathered in January at the Franciscan Spiritual Center in Aston, Pa., for their traditional intersession program.

“Over the years, the intersession program has offered a fraternal opportunity for the men in formation to come to know one another better,” said Provincial Vicar Fr. Dominic Monti, OFM, Secretary for Formation and Studies. He added that it also “provides a venue for workshops on material not covered during the academic year.”

At this year’s gathering, Russell Testa, the Province’s Animator for Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation, conducted an “Engage Franciscan Peacemaking” workshop for the participants. Testa’s workshop focused on revealing the impact of violence in society as well as developing concrete peacemaking skills for conflict situations. The general reaction among participants was that the program was both enjoyable and valuable.

“Our topic, Franciscan peacemaking, was both relevant and engaging,” said Br. Stephen Mimnaugh, OFM, of Manhattan.

“Frequently, we use terms such as peacemaking and nonviolence without giving much thought to what they mean in practical terms. Exploring the meaning of these values among my peers brought greater clarity to how we are called to incarnate peacemaking in our ministries.”

The focus of the intersession program was in keeping with the decision of Holy Name’s 2005 chapter to “commit ourselves to active Franciscan peacemaking at all levels.” This decision was re-affirmed in discussions at last year’s Chapter of Mats, a gathering at Siena College in Loudonville, N.Y., where two-thirds of the Province’s friars discussed their vision for the future of the community. A number of ministries in the Province are participating in the same “Engage Franciscan Peacemaking” process.

The Jan. 2 to 5 gathering also featured a “State of the Province” talk by Provincial Minister Fr. John O’Connor, OFM, followed by discussion.

Many of the participants stayed on at the center after the intersession for the Province’s under-55 gathering held on Jan. 5. It was the first of two events organized for this age group by Holy Name, which is putting special emphasis this year on gathering ideas from the younger members of the Province.



Pictured in photo are:

First row: Friars Ronald Pecci, Ronald Stark, John O’Connor, Dominic Monti, William Herbst, Michael Thang’wah (of the Franciscan Brothers of Hope, Kenya) and Kyle Haden.

Second row: Friars Edgardo Zea-Laura, Erick Lopez, Cidouane Joseph, Francis Di Spigno, Joseph Macaluso, Juan de la Cruz Turcios and Fadi Azar (Custody of the Holy Land); postulant Jeffery Jordan; friar Stephen Mimnaugh; postulant Bill Long; friars Tyler Piccini (Province of Christ the King, Canada), Harry Monaco and Daniel Horan.

Top row: Friars Stephen Dewitt and Paul O’Keeffe; Russell Testa; friars Mario Gomez, Hoang Linh Ngoc, Antonio Cornier, Percy Osorio-Palpan, Larry Anderson, Fred Dilger and Hugh Macsherry.

Choosing the Franciscans



Br. Fred Dilger, OFM, who has completed three years of study with the Franciscans, recently shared the reasons that he chose to become a Franciscan friar.

According to Fred, the main attractions were the friars' love of the Gospel and the many different ways they live out the Gospel. He added, "The friars' good humor and love of life provided a great example of how one could know God more intimately through the celebration of humanity." Br. Fred felt called to "a way of life that allows one to live in prayer and community without forgetting the direct connection between Christ and the active world."

Br. Fred, who was born in Jacksonville, Fla., and grew up in Raleigh, N.C., holds a degree from the Art Institute of Atlanta, Ga. He owned an architectural and interior design company when he considered religious life. His vocation journey took him to explore the Trappists and other communities before considering the friars of Holy Name Province. Fred is currently an intern at the St. Francis Inn community in Philadelphia, Pa., where he works with other friars, Franciscan sisters and lay men and women serving the needs of 300 to 500 people daily.

Come and See

*Are you being called to be a Franciscan?
Join us for a weekend to learn more about our way of life.*

Upcoming Vocation Weekends

Holy Triduum & Easter with the Franciscans

March 20-23, 2008

Holy Name College, Silver Spring, Md.



Come celebrate the life, passion, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ with the Franciscan friars. You are invited to join us at Holy Name College during this most holy time of the year for liturgy, prayer, contemplation, discernment and fraternity.

Discernment Retreat

April 25-27, 2008

Mt. Irenaeus Franciscan Mountain Retreat
West Clarksville, N.Y.



Join us to listen to what God is calling you to do with your life. Spend a weekend of quiet, contemplative prayer at beautiful Mt. Irenaeus – 228 acres of land that is home to a chapel, a common house, six miles of trails, a pond and seven hermitages.

Franciscan Experience Weekend (FEW)

April 11-13, 2008

Holy Cross Friary, Bronx, N.Y.

FEWs offer an opportunity for guests to discuss their calling with the Vocation Director and with friars residing in an urban parish setting. Participants also meet with men in their first year of discernment with the Province to learn about Holy Name's initial formation program and varied ministries. The weekend's discussions help clarify the interest level of both the candidates and friars. Generally, guests are *invited* to attend the weekend by the Vocation Director.



Guests Enjoy Boston Hospitality Weekend

As part of its Come & See series, Holy Name Province offers Hospitality Weekends to provide guests an informal setting in which to get a sense of Franciscan life. Participants spend time praying and sharing meals and conversation with the friars, as well as discerning where God's call is taking them.

Two guests, Tom and Steve, attended a Hospitality Weekend Dec. 7 to 9, 2007 at St. Anthony Shrine in Boston. Arriving on Friday night, they participated in evening prayer and ate dinner with the friars. On Saturday, after breakfast and prayer, the friars shared with Tom and Steve their vocation journeys

and experiences in initial formation. After presentations by lay ministers regarding their various ministries, the afternoon afforded some free time to explore the sites of Boston. Sunday morning featured brunch and Mass before the guests departed the Shrine.

Also attending the weekend and meeting with the guests were Fr. Brian Smail, OFM, Vocation Director for Holy Name Province, Fr. Gene Pistacchio, OFM, Regional Vocation Director for New England, Diane Monaghan, Director of Development for St. Anthony Shrine, and Dr. Jackie Stewart, Director of Evangelization.



Pictured from left to right: Tom, Steve, Diane Monaghan, Fr. Brian Smail, OFM, and Fr. Gene Pistacchio, OFM. Above: the cross at the entrance to St. Anthony Shrine on Arch Street.

Franciscan Vocation Ministry Welcomes New Staff Member

The Franciscan Vocation Ministry has welcomed a new member to its team. Carolyn Croke, a parishioner of the Province's St. Stephen of Hungary Church in Manhattan, began her position as Administrative Coordinator in early December 2007.

Carolyn works with Fr. Brian Smail, OFM, Holy Name's Vocation Director, to promote vocations to the Franciscan Friars of Holy Name Province. She joined the Franciscan Vocation Ministry after spending 12 years with Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New York helping parishes develop volunteer programs for older adults and their families.

A native of Peekskill, N.Y., Carolyn enjoys her job because "I admire and respect the Franciscans for their commitment to serving people in need, the joy they bring to their work and the way they support each other. Plus, they give excellent homilies!" she said.



Getting to Know Holy Name Province

Our Mission

Holy Name Province of the Order of Friars Minor is an evangelical and missionary fraternity called to minister in the eastern United States and abroad. Rooted in the Catholic and Franciscan tradition, we are disciples of Christ who seek to bring the Gospel into the everyday experience of all people through popular preaching, teaching, and pastoral leadership. We foster Christian discipleship by collaborating with those whom we serve and by standing in solidarity with all people especially the alienated, the immigrant, and the poor.



Below is one way we put our mission statement into action following in the footsteps of St. Francis of Assisi. Future issues of *Insight & Wisdom* will highlight other ways we do this.

St. Francis Breadline

More than 700 years ago, St. Francis of Assisi preached the importance of feeding and ministering to those in danger of falling through the cracks of a society that looks down on them. The St. Francis Breadline, at St. Francis of Assisi Church on West 31st Street in Manhattan, has been doing just that for almost 80 years.



Pictured above: Fr. Michael Carnevale, OFM, in yellow hat, Coordinator of St. Francis Breadline, Fr. Jerome Massimino, OFM, Pastor and Guardian of St. Francis of Assisi Church, and Br. Stephen Mimnaugh, OFM, student friar.

Founded by Franciscan Br. Gabriel Mehler, OFM, as a way to help hungry and homeless people during the Great Depression, the St. Francis Breadline is the oldest continuing breadline in the U.S. Every morning at 7 a.m., friars and volunteers head out to the sidewalk in front of St. Francis of Assisi Church to greet about 200 people who line up for a cup of coffee and a couple of sandwiches. Along with the food served, other substantial services are offered to visitors. Referral to a medical social service van, substance abuse rehabilitation resources and friendly conversation are among the gifts provided by this ministry.

The Breadline reassures poor men and women that, no matter how bad life gets, caring people will be there to help them start their day with a meal and a kind word – every day for as long as it takes to get back on their feet.

Did You Know?

Did you know that Holy Name Province is the largest community of Franciscans in the United States? This is true both in terms of its geographical area and number of friars.

With our Provincialate in New York City, we serve New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida. Friars also serve as missionaries in Africa, Asia and South America.

Our U.S. roots began with the arrival of Franciscan missionaries from Italy in 1855 and Germany in 1876 in the territory that was to become Holy Name Province. In 1901, these early foundations were regrouped and our Province was formally established with 113 members.

Our Province has evolved over the years to 376 members today, with 355 solemnly professed and 16 simply professed friars. We include one archbishop, nine chaplaincies, one military chaplain, 279 priests, 72 brothers and 15 missionaries.

Working together, our friars provide parish ministry, social work, education, and many other services in a variety of settings including 26 parishes, four urban ministry centers, two shrine churches, 45 community houses-residences, home missions and foreign missions (Africa, Bolivia, Brazil, Japan, Peru, Taiwan and Vietnam). We also sponsor one college, one university, eight campus ministries, three spirituality centers and three houses of formation.

Franciscan Vocation Ministry

The Franciscan Vocation Ministry is called to promote vocations to the Franciscan way of life and ministries of Holy Name Province.

We offer the following services:

- Information on our Order, the admissions process and the initial formation program
- Consultation and assistance with discernment to religious life
- Come & See Weekends for interested men
- This newsletter highlighting Vocation activities

For further information or to speak with the Vocation Director, please contact:

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Visit our Web site at
www.BeAFranciscan.org

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