

Weekly re:Cap



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Franciscan Province of St. Joseph
Contact: TL Michael Auman, Editor
1927 N. Fourth St., Milwaukee WI 53212
414.803.4449; Email: TLAuman@thecapuchins.org
On the web at: <http://sjpcommunications.org>

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Randolph Graczyk began ministry in Montana at Lodge Grass in 1970, and moved to St. Charles Mission School in Pryor in 1975. 41 years later, he and the mission are both going strong! This past weekend, St. Charles celebrated its 125 year history with a special liturgy, speeches, tours and a festive Native American dinner. Michael Warfel, bishop of the Diocese of Great Falls-Billings, joined the community for the celebration.

"As a seminarian I was sent out to Montana for a summer experience for a couple of weeks, and I just kind of fell in love with the reservation," said Randolph. After ordination, he asked to be assigned in Montana, and he's been there ever since.



Randolph Graczyk

When he first arrived at Pryor, everyone spoke the Crow language, and Randolph couldn't understand any of it, so in 1982 he took a sabbatical and earned a doctorate in linguistics, with a specialty in the Crow language. "Today," he says, "there are several thousand Crow speakers, while many other languages are on the verge of extinction.

In addition to being fluent in the language, Randolph also is immersed in the culture. He often invites tribal members to join him in the sweat lodge in his backyard. He's danced in powwows, and has been adopted by a Crow family, "so I'm related to half the people around here!"

At the St. Charles School, students recite the words of Chief Plenty Coups, the last traditional chief of the Crow people: *"Education is your greatest weapon. With education you are the white man's equal. Without education, you are his victim and so shall remain all of your lives. Study, learn, help one another always. Remember there is only poverty and misery in idleness and dreams. But in work there is self-respect and independence."*

If you tour the school, you will be struck by the "melding of the Crow culture and Catholicism." And there is a full Crow immersion preschool, where students learn the Crow language and culture. Randolph said that he's witnessed a significant improvement in educational expectations over the years. It used to be a "big deal" for students to make it through the eighth grade. Now, he says, "graduating from high school has become more or less the norm...more and more are going to college."





Addictions such as smoking, alcohol or drugs use, or eating disorders can have a powerful hold on us.

About 25 years ago a psychiatrist named Gerald May wrote a couple of interesting books about the spiritual side of our addictive behaviors. The following is a quote taken from his book: "In a spiritual sense, the objects of our attachments and addictions become idols. We give them our time, energy and attention whether we want to or not even when we are struggling to rid ourselves of them. We want to be free, compassionate and happy but in the face of our attachments we are clinging, grasping, and fearfully self absorbed."

He goes on to talk about these addictions as avenues of grace as St. Paul does when he recognizes that when he is weak he is strong because of God's grace working in him. The first step in any recovery is admitting we are powerless and need God in our lives.

His book *Addictions and Grace* is still available if you are interested in reading more.

Additional wellness reflections will follow in future *Weekly reCap*. Comments are welcome!

Wellness Council - Province of St. Joseph

"Life grows where life exists!"

From September 27-29, 2016, Capuchin vocation directors from the United States and Canada gathered in Quebec City, Quebec to discuss our efforts at vocation promotion and ways we might work together to promote the order and spread the word about Capuchin life and ministry. We were graciously welcomed by the friars of Saint Charles de Limoilou. Friars gathered were Steve of the Saint Joseph (Midwest) Province, John of the Stigmata (New Jersey) Province, Rafa of Saint Augustine (Pennsylvania) Province, Louis of the Mary, Mother of the Good Shepherd (Central Canada) Province, Paul of the Saint Mary (New York) Province, and Benny of the Sacred Heart (Eastern Canada) Province, who was our host. During our conversations about vocation efforts, Louis said, "life grows where life exists!"

SLS weekend



This weekend began with a visit to Chicago from nine St. Lawrence seminary seniors. Arriving on Thursday afternoon they visited Saint Joseph Seminary and Saint Clare Community to learn more about the Capuchin college program. They departed Saturday morning after breakfast prepared by the brothers. Sunday morning saw the dedication of the new St. Joseph Hall and the rededication of St. Thomas Hall at Saint Lawrence Seminary. The new Saint Joseph Hall replaces the one destroyed by fire in spring 2014.

We welcome another brother to our fraternal collaboration



At O'Hare Airport in Chicago, Gary Wegner, joined by Biju (from the Krist Jyoti Province in northern India) and Muthu (from the Amala Annai Province in Tamil Nadu) greeted Joseph Mattathil of the Saint Joseph Province in Kerala. Joseph will be joining us for Capuchin life and ministry in Mt Calvary WI. He will be living at Saint Lawrence Community and ministering in the Holyland Catholic Parishes (Saint Isidore, Saint John the Baptist and Visitation of Mary).

Pictured at left is (L-R) Biju, Joseph Mattathil and Muthu.
Welcome, brother!



SLS and St. Martin de Porres Parish



SLS Ministry Council enjoyed a dinner together and thanked Bob Stiefvater for his six years of service as a member of the SLS Ministry Council. Bob's now the pastor of St. Martin de Porres in Milwaukee. The parish was recently returned to the diocese after the transfer of David Preuss to Detroit. The parish, originally built by the Capuchins, is a central city parish for black Catholics. Several friars have pastored the parish over the years. Pictured at left is John Holly (rector, left) and Bob Stiefvater.

Novitiate visitation

On August 6, on her way to a wedding at a nearby town, Cap Corps Detroit alum Robert Orlor and Danielle Daguio (Cap Corps director) had the wonderful opportunity to visit with Bill Hugo and the newly invested novices at San Lorenzo Community. Bill Hugo gave a tour of the grounds as they learned more about the novitiate and the visual effects of California's drought. It was wonderful to see that despite these effects the community is able to maintain a garden and vineyard. In the afternoon they were able to share a meal and laugh a lot with the 16 novices.





Our brother, Kieran Hickey, died on 3 October at the age of 95.

Kieran was born in 1921 in Nortonville ND, was invested in the Capuchin habit in 1941, professed his perpetual vows in 1945, and ordained to the priesthood in 1949.

He began parish ministry in Brooklyn NY in 1950. A year later, he was transferred as a missionary to Guam where he served for the next 19 years. On returning to the States, Kieran served in a number of pastoral ministries, including chaplaincy, teaching (SLS), training of candidates for the order, and the ministry of prayer. From 1982-1996, he directed retreats at Monte Alverno Retreat Center in Applaton WI. He retired from active ministry in 1998.

Friars are asked to set aside a day on which Kieran Hickey will be remembered in their community prayers.

Former friar Carl Fehring (brother of Capuchin Fabian Fehring) died recently at the age of 88. In addition his brother, he is survived by his wife, Dolores.

Tony Haen, the son of Rebecca Haen (teacher in the Holyland Catholic Schools in Johnsburg WI) was seriously injured in a car accident recently.

Carolyn Hall, sister of Ken Smits, is currently undergoing psychiatric diagnosis and treatment.

Wally Kasuboski recently had surgery for angioplasty on one of his legs. He's recuperating well at his family home.

Barbara Jean Pelak, OP (aunt of Chris Pelak, provincial staff) died recently at the age of 66.

Sarah Bertler, FSCC died recently. She served the friars at both St. Paul Home and St. Fidelis, and was a member of the province's Wellness Ministry Council.



22 **Bettejean Ahee (B)**

23 **Joseph Monachino (B)**

24 **Finance Comm. Video Conference**

25 **Kathy Andrew (B)**



My brother Rick and his family is grateful to all for their kind notes and prayers. The kindness and thoughtfulness has overwhelmed them. Rick has gone from the stem cell treatment to a 24 hour chemo drip.

Doctors still are attempting to shrink the cancer mass. — Thanks, Bob Smith

Autumn Nights Spent Gazing
by AM Green

On an autumn night, I gazed out my window,
fixing my sight on a star stenciled abyss-
wondering if prayers flew, how high they'd go
or if they could even reach loved ones I miss.

Fixing my sight on a star stenciled abyss-
Searching night's stillness, seeking answers,
or even if they could reach loved ones I miss.
Lights sparkling, are twilight's angel dancers.

Searching night's stillness, seeking answers,
wondering if prayers flew, how high they'd go.
Lights sparkling, are twilight's angel dancers.
On an autumn night, I gazed out my window.

