

# Weekly re:Cap



Published for the Friars of the Capuchin  
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>

Week ending 16 December 2016

Issue Number 1083



William Mattes

## No stranger to Franciscans

William Mattes has been around Franciscans all his life. His parish church in Ashland, Wisconsin was staffed by Franciscans, and after grade school, he decided to go to St. Lawrence Seminary. He graduated from SLS in 2010, and then it was off to Collegeville, Minnesota where he did his undergraduate work at St. John University. "That gave me a different experience of religious life," he said of the Benedictines.

Following his college years at St. John's, William was offered a faculty position at St. Lawrence Seminary. In addition to teaching religion classes, he also coached soccer and supervised one of the resident halls. His community experience at St. Lawrence was formative, he says. He specifically mentions Gary Wegner and Keith Clark as being influential in his vocational choice (Gary was on the faculty at the time, and Keith taught leadership classes as a guest instructor). He also mentioned former Capuchin Quan Minh as one of the younger friars who inspired him to think seriously about joining the Capuchins.

William actually applied to both the OFMs and the Capuchins. Curiously, the OFMs never responded to his application, but Bill Hugo did! And so now he's living at St. Conrad as a postulant.

The "New Sanctuary Movement" in Milwaukee is where William currently ministers. The project, sponsored by Voces de la Frontera, bills its mission as uniting "a growing number of faith groups behind a stand of conscience — to defend families from being torn apart by deportation." The province has partnered with Voces for many years by virtue of our postulants and Cap Corps volunteers. William says he loves working with the New Sanctuary Movement, and just last week helped to organize a vigil for immigrant justice held at St. John the Evangelist Cathedral in Milwaukee (co-sponsored by the cathedral's outreach ministry directed by Shelly Roder, former director of Cap Corps and the JPIC Office for the province). Approximately 80 individuals, including many Milwaukee friars, attended the vigil, presided by Jeff Haines, cathedral rector.

Please join the New Sanctuary Movement Milwaukee at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist for an Interfaith vigil for immigrant justice.

*No importa de dónde eres, estamos contentos que seas nuestro vecino.*

No matter where you are from, we're glad you're our neighbor.

لا يهم أين ولدتم، و لكننا سعداء انكم جيراننا.

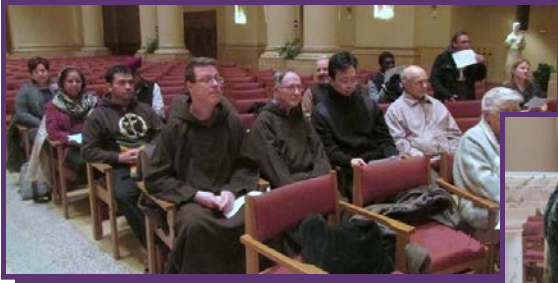
**Tuesday, December 6, 2016  
6:30PM**

*Dessert and hot cider to follow in honor of St. Nicholas, patron of children.*

As William thinks about his future, he says he might want to return to St. Lawrence Seminary, but is also interested in ministry to Native Americans on the Montana reservations.



## And we saw you at the New Sanctuary Vigil on Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>



13 Milwaukee friars were among the 80 who attended the vigil



Janan Najeeb  
Milw Muslim Women's  
Coalition



Jeff Haines  
Cathedral Rector



Joanne Lange  
St. Ben's Parishioner



Daniel Gutierrez  
Pius X H.S. Student



Nimmi Arora  
Sikh Religious Society



L-R: Stephi Demek (former Cap Corps volunteer);  
Sue Effinger, BVM; and Helen Gourlay, BVM  
(St. Ben's Parishioners)

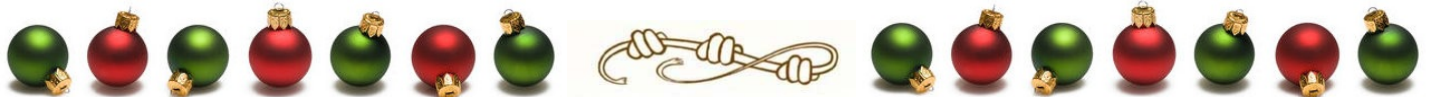
## Move mountains with Human Concerns

*"The (person) who moves a mountain begins by carrying away small stones."* (Confucius)

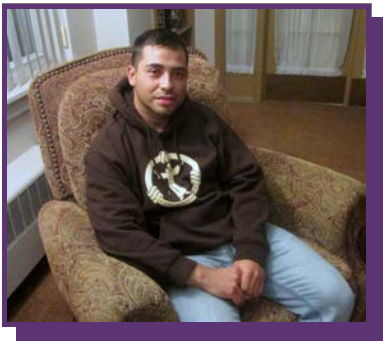
Human Concerns (an outreach project of St. John Cathedral in Milwaukee) invites you to take a deeper look at how racial oppression and privilege affect us, and how we can "move mountains" to interrupt and heal racism by recognizing the small stones that keep it in place, and learning how each of us can start carrying those stones away.

Join us on Sundays in January for group study of Jim Wallis' book: *America's Original Sin: Racism, White Privilege, and the Bridge to New America*. This book, written by a white evangelical minister who has been at the forefront of civil rights advocacy since the 1960s, will be a jumping-off point for our discussion issues of race, religion and community. The discussion will extend over the Sundays in January after the 11 am Mass. Copies of the book are available for purchase at the parish office. The group will use a discussion guide from *Sojourners*: <https://sojo.net/sites/default/files/americas-original-sin-study-guide.pdf>

Jim Wallis will be the keynote speaker on 7 February at Marquette's Mission Week, along with Bryan Massingale, author of *Racial Justice and the Catholic Church*, which will be the Human Concern's book study during Lent. (RSVP to Shelly Roder at 414.238.2710)



## From gangs to God



*José Vera*

At age 14, José Vera starting getting into trouble. “I started hanging around with the wrong people,” he says. “I started drinking, smoking and using drugs. I felt like I didn’t fit anywhere. My friends all drank and did drugs, and I felt that doing those things was the only way to be accepted.

Two years later, José and his family moved from Mexico to Green Bay. Eventually, José was ready to make a change, and in his early 20s, he confessed his “bad behavior” to his parents. He completed a rehabilitation program and enrolled at Northeast Wisconsin Technical College, earning a diploma, and was offered a five-year union apprenticeship. “I was doing really well,” he says, “but still feeling empty.”

José toyed for a bit with the idea of diocesan priesthood. José was influenced by what he read about Solanus Casey on the Internet, not realizing at the time that Solanus was a Capuchin in the St. Joseph Province. During a trip to Denver to attend a friend’s wedding, he met a Capuchin friar who presided at the ceremony. After the wedding, he met with the friar, and was impressed with what he heard about Capuchin ministry. After that experience, he contacted Bill Hugo, and visited ministries in Detroit and Milwaukee. By this time, the postulancy program in Milwaukee had already begun, so José moved into the San José Community in Chicago as a candidate.

Visiting St. Fidelis Community in Appleton, Wisconsin, José met and talked with Gus Seubert. During the conversation, Gus offered José some books, in Spanish, and José told him he already had those books that one of the nuns in Green Bay had given him. The books were, in fact, written by Gus! “It’s a small world,” José said of that encounter.

Today, as a postulant in Milwaukee, José ministers at St. Ben’s. “People come in asking for clothing. We have a shower program. We help them with I.D.s and birth certificates, and we invite them to the Community Meal where we serve around 300 each evening...Sometimes people come in because they just want someone to listen to them...They feel rejected, alone...It can be a bit overwhelming to me because you’re dealing with so much emotion.”

José is very open about his past, and readily shares with those he meets through ministry. “Through my experience, I hope that they see that God doesn’t give up on us,” he said. “God is always trying to bring us back to him.”

## International Migrants’ Day: December 18<sup>th</sup>

Fleeing from Herod, Mary and Joseph took the child Jesus on a difficult journey to a foreign land.

To Jesus we entrust the mothers, the fathers, the children who today are holy families, migrating in hope, in fear, in longing, for peace, for some security, for something like a home.

May they find their journey’s end as we open ourselves to their stories, their needs, their hopes.

We ask for mercy for all migrants, and for our communities who are challenged to welcome them, to offer compassion and a place at the table where God’s abundance nourishes us all.





Ginny Wolf, niece of Joe Wolf; Bill Reno, long-time benefactor of the province; and the father of Melissa Fernandez, receptionist at St. Francis Parish, Milwaukee, died recently.

Biju Parakkalayil's mother, Mariam, died recently. Friars are asked to set aside a day on which Mariam will be remembered in their community prayers.

Brothers and re:Cap readers: Your prayerful support by e-mail, conventional mail and appearance at my father's funeral had such a profound impact on myself and my family. This loving tribute shall not be forgotten. We are all humbly grateful. God's love is all around us. Thank you for being the face of love when it was most needed. — Dave Heffron

## Christmas Bells

I heard the bells on Christmas Day  
Their old, familiar carols play,  
And wild and sweet  
The words repeat  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

And thought how, as the day had come,  
The belfries of all Christendom  
Had rolled along  
The unbroken song  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

Till ringing, singing on its way,  
The world revolved from night to day,  
A voice, a chime,  
A chant sublime  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

Then from each black, accursed mouth  
The cannon thundered in the South,  
And with the sound  
The carols drowned  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

It was as if an earthquake rent  
The hearth-stones of a continent,  
And made forlorn  
The households born  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!



- 16 ..... **Worku Gebre (B)**
- 20 ..... **Cont. Formation Video Conference**
- 21 ..... **Mission Video Conference**
- 22 ..... **John Francis Samsa (B)**
- 23 ..... **Thomas Hill (B)**  
**Hanukkah begins at sunset**
- 24 ..... **Edward Hagman (N)**
- 25 ..... **Nativity (F)**
- 27 ..... **John Kocian (N)**
- 29 ..... **Focus Group Video Conference**



- 1 ..... **World Day of Peace**
- 4 ..... **JPIC Video Conference**
- 6 ..... **El día de los tres reyes (F)**  
**Solanus Center Min. Council**  
**Albert Sandor (B)**

And in despair I bowed my head;  
"There is no peace on earth," I said;  
"For hate is strong,  
And mocks the song  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!"

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:  
"God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;  
The Wrong shall fail,  
The Right prevail,  
With peace on earth, good-will to men."  
~ Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

*A blessed and peaceful Christmas  
to all our readers!*

