

Weekly re:Cap

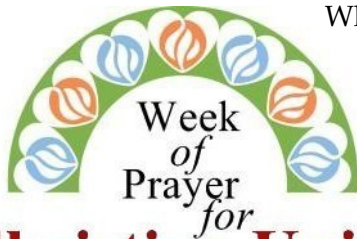


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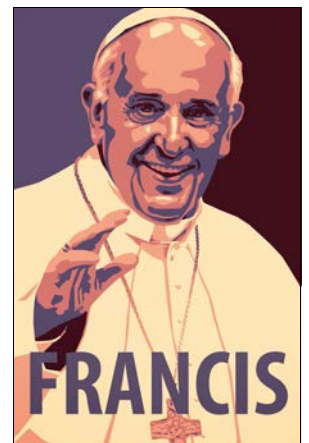
Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

When the German national planning committee met in the autumn of 2014 to discuss the theme for the 2017 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (18-25 January), it became clear for the need of two accents: on the one hand, there should be a celebration of God's love and grace, the "justification of humanity through grace alone," reflecting the main concern of the churches marked by Martin Luther's Reformation. On the other hand, the theme should also recognize the pain of the subsequent deep divisions which afflicted the church, openly name the guilt, and offer an opportunity to take steps toward reconciliation. Ultimately, it was Pope Francis' 2013 Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium* which provided the theme for this year, when it used the quote: "The love of Christ compels us" (¶ 9).

The love of Christ compels us to pray, but also to move beyond our prayers for the unity among Christians. Congregations and churches need the gift of God's reconciliation as a wellspring of life. But above all, they need for their common witness to the world "that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me" (John 17-21).

The world needs ministers of reconciliation, who will break down barriers, build bridges, make peace, and open doors to new ways of life in the name of the one who reconciled us to God, Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit leads the way on the path to reconciliation.

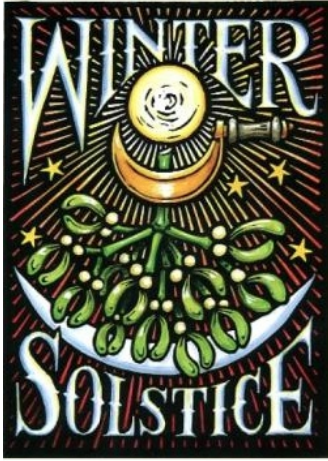
May the wellspring of God's gracious reconciliation overflow in this year's Week of Prayer, so that many people may find peace, and so that bridges may be built. May people and church be compelled by the love Christ to live reconciled lives and to break down the walls that divide.



the **LOVE** of Christ
COMPELS
us

Celebrating the Winter Solstice

The winter solstice, also known as midwinter, is an astronomical phenomenon marking the day with the shortest period of daylight and the longest night of the year. On 21 December, friars and friends gathered at the Achilles Residence in Milwaukee to enjoy holiday desserts on this evening of the Winter Solstice. Ironically, that evening was actually the *warmest* we had in several days!



Mike Crosby, Perry McDonald and Niles Kauffman



David Hirt and candidate Kenny Howard



Rob Roemer and Amy Peterson



A Winter Solstice Prayer

The dark shadow of space leans over us. . . .We are mindful that the darkness of greed, exploitation, and hatred also lengthens its shadow over our small planet Earth. As our ancestors feared death and evil and all the dark powers of winter, we fear that the darkness of war, discrimination, and selfishness may doom us and our planet to an eternal winter.

May we find hope in the lights we have kindled on this sacred night, hope in one another and in all who form the web-work of peace and justice that spans the world.

Friar honored at the House of Peace

Perry McDonald was the guest of honor at a luncheon on 28 December held at Milwaukee's House of Peace. A luncheon, attended by volunteers, employees and fellow friars included sharing of how Perry's influence and encouragement has affected their lives. He is retiring from his role as pastoral director at Capuchin Community Services at the end of this triennium.



Perry McDonald (pictured in habit) posed with guests honoring his ministry to Capuchin Community Services.

Chittister: "Dedicated to religious life"

by Richard Hart (rhart@thecapuchins.org)



Tom Roberts and Joan Chittister, OSB at a book signing event

With keen journalistic acumen Tom Roberts (editor-at-large for the *National Catholic Reporter*) describes Joan Chittister's journey in his recently published *Joan Chittister: Her Journey from Certainty to Faith*. It is a bud-to-flower woman's life story and her radical call to live the Gospel. It is a story of how her early life was shaped by domestic violence and vulnerability when her alcoholic step-father subjected her to physical abuse. He refused to pay her Catholic schooling and was opposed to her joining the Benedictines. But when Joan was ready to leave the Benedictines during the early days of Vatican II, it was her stepfather who spoke to her about the bonds of love and charity.

When Joan applied to the Benedictines, the prioress refused to accept her because she was an only child and said that she needed to take care of her mother, which actually happened later when Loretta Chittister developed Alzheimer's Disease and was invited to live with the Benedictine community.

Chittister — in a leadership role — spearheaded her community, as well as other communities, through the tumultuous times after Vatican II. She helped to revolutionize religious life and confront the church with many penetrating questions. She became a leading spiritual and prophetic voice championing the role of women in the church.

Roberts inserts many insights about Chittister: her gift of writing already in grade school, her wild boat rides on Lake Erie, how she responds to thousands of e-mails, portraying her as an admired public figure. Some might not find much new information about Chittister, but it remains a powerful story of a woman dedicated to religious life.



Human trafficking is modern slavery. It involves exploiting a person through force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of forced labor, commercial sex, or both. Victims of human trafficking include men, women, boys, girls, and transgender individuals lured by the promise of a better life in the United States and adults and children who were born and raised in the United States.

The International Labor Organization estimated, in 2012, that children represented 26 percent (or 5.5 million) of the 20.9 million victims worldwide. Both U.S. citizen and foreign national children are trafficked for sex and labor in the United States. In fact, many child victims of human trafficking are students in the American school system. School administrators and staff need to be aware that cases of child trafficking are being reported in communities throughout the nation. *No community—urban, rural, or suburban—school, socioeconomic group, or student demographic is immune.*

January is Human Trafficking Awareness Month





Dorothy Mato, mother of Solanus Center employees Lisa Steffoff and Lynn Blaze, died on 31 December.

Valine Mae Lefeber, mother of Chuck Lefeber (SLS faculty) and Lucy Lefeber (Capuchin affiliate) died on 2 January.

Former friar Hermes Kreilkamp died on 3 January.

Ben Markwell appreciates the prayers and good wishes after receiving a pacemaker. He is now scheduled for triple by-pass surgery on 30 January.

Randolph Graczyk is grateful for the prayers of friars and friends, and is feeling fine now.

Thanks to all who sent prayers for my nephew Bill. They are very much appreciated. His surgery went well and he is in rehabilitation. God bless, Robert Wheelock.



January is Human Trafficking Awareness Month

- 15 **World Day of Migrants & Refugees**
- 16 **Otto Bucher (N)**
Joseph Lee (B)
Martin Luther King Day
- 17 **Wellness Video Conf**
Paul Hanisko (B)
- 18 **OPCC Zoom Conf**
18-25 **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**
- 20 **Fabian Fehring (N)**



Sunday, 15 January: World Day of Migrants and Refugees
Pope's message to migrants and refugees



"Dear migrants and refugees! You have a special place in the heart of the church, and you help her to enlarge her heart and to manifest her motherhood towards the entire human family. Do not lose your faith and hope! Let us think of the Holy Family during the flight in Egypt: Just as the maternal heart of the Blessed Virgin and the kind heart of Saint Joseph kept alive the confidence that God would never abandon them, so in you may the same hope in the Lord never be wanting. I entrust you to their protection and I cordially impart to all of you my Apostolic Blessing.... ~Francis"