



Week ending 24 February 2017

Issue Number 1090

## Friars share stories of Solanus

Recently, several Capuchin brothers shared with a crowd of people at the Solanus Center in Detroit their memories of Solanus Casey. The event was part of a "Remembering Solanus" series.

"Thank God ahead of time; that's what Solanus always told me," said Pius Cotter. "You thank God *ahead of time*, so you put Him on the spot!" Pius lived with Solanus while in novitiate in Huntington IN, and for a short time while in temporary vows at the monastery. "He had tremendous faith that seemed to rub off on everyone," Pius said.

Brian Braun went to see Solanus when he was in college. "I went to his room, and the medium was the message; there was pretty much nothing in his room. I was having problems in my family, with my vocation, and I was worried. I told him I'd been praying about it, but was lost. His response was, 'Oh, it will get better. Thank God ahead of time and give to the soup kitchen or the mission.' I remember being so mad, thinking, 'Darn it, I came to learn from your faith, and now you're telling me I just need to pray more.' But it ended up being exactly what I needed."

Werner Wolf heard about Solanus while a student at St. Lawrence Seminary. "He was sincere; everyone knew he was holy, even though *listening to him play the violin was a challenge*...But he healed people, listened to them, challenged them to go to mass, to give to the missions."

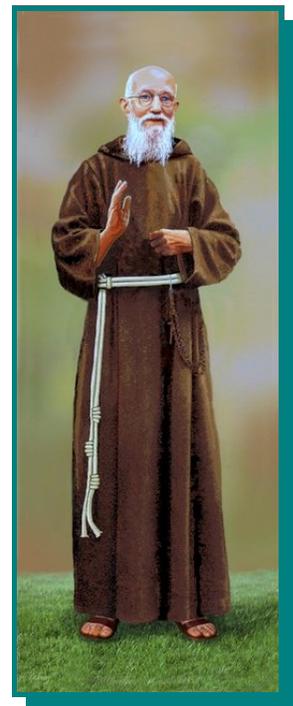


Image of Solanus by  
Michael Gaffney



L-R: Pius Cotter, Richard Merling, Dan Crosby, Werner Wolf, Dave Preuss and Brian Braun.

"During my first year in the order, it was Christmas night, and I made my way to the chapel," said Dan Crosby. "I was in the smaller chapel, but I could hear noise coming from the large chapel. I barely opened the door, and I saw Solanus playing Christmas carols to the Christ Child on his violin. He looked so at peace, spending time with the Lord in devotion."

## *ExxonMobil win is biggest since 'Joe Camel'*



*With protesters holding signs behind him, Michael Crosby stands outside the Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center in Dallas on May 25, where he would present a resolution urging ExxonMobil to appoint a climate change expert to its board of directors.*

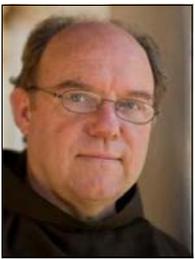
In his long battle against corporate America, Michael Crosby just won his biggest victory since Joe Camel ads stopped running 20 years ago! The world's largest publicly traded oil company has agreed to appoint a climate change expert to its board of directors. The decision comes after ExxonMobil CEO Rex Tillerson's move to the Trump administration as secretary of state, chosen by Donald Trump who has labeled global warming a hoax.

And it comes after decades of fighting by Michael who lives and works at St. Benedict the Moor Community in Milwaukee, a place best known for feeding Milwaukee's hungry and homeless.

In the late 1990s, Michael shifted his focus to climate change when Exxon's CEO was denying the scientific evidence linking fossil fuels and rising carbon dioxide emissions. He had a rocky, at times too personal, feud with Exxon CEO Lee Raymond, who during shareholder meetings belittled those with

whom he disagreed, *The Wall Street Journal* reported in 2001. But change has come. The company stopped denying the scientific evidence linking human activities to climate change at a meeting attended by Michael in 2006. But the company continued to rebuff a series of climate issues and activist shareholders, including Michael, who has attended ExxonMobil shareholder meetings nearly every year for a generation. "Not one person has any expertise on climate," Michael told shareholders at the 2016 shareholders meeting in May. "ExxonMobil has a chance to restore the public's trust; it's a time for conversion." But Michael won't have to present the resolution again this year. On Feb. 1, ExxonMobil appointed a climate change expert, Susan Avery, to its board of directors. An atmospheric scientist, she's the former president of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. "We've been at it for almost 20 years, and with ExxonMobil on this issue we really did have a breakthrough," Michael said.

## *Bill Short appointed director of Collegium S. Bonaventurae*

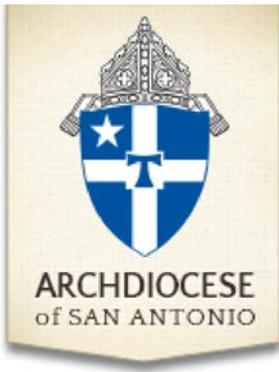


*Bill Short, OFM*

Bill Short, OFM has been appointed director of the Collegium S. Bonaventurae – International Center for Franciscan Studies and Research, the successor of Quaracchi study center in Grottaferrata and is now at St. Isidore in Rome. At the request of the board of the Collegium, which met for the first time in January, the General Definitory appointed Bill as director with the responsibility for coordinating all management tasks in close cooperation with the board itself.

Bill is friar of the Province of Santa Barbara Province in California and teaches at the Franciscan School of Theology, based at the Mission San Luis Rey de Francia in Oceanside CA. Bill is a scholar of the Franciscan Sources and is one of the three editors of the four volumes of the Franciscan Sources in English. He has held various positions in the order including that of the secretary of the 2015 general chapter and general visitor in Mexico and South Africa.

Bill Short will be the presenter at the next Franciscan Study Day, March 18<sup>th</sup>, at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago. His presentation will mark the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the beginning of the Protestant Reformation, and 500 years from the first formal division of the Franciscan Order.



## *Statement of the bishops of the border between Texas and Northern Mexico*

*Following are excerpts from the statement issued on 17 February by the bishops between Texas and Northern Mexico.*

“Over the years we have seen firsthand the suffering that is brought about by a broken immigration system caused by political structures and economic conditions that result in threats, deportations, impunity, and extreme violence. This situation occurs in relation to immigration both between Central America and Mexico and between Mexico and the United States. We have seen the pain, the fear, and the anguish suffered

by the persons who have come to us and who have to live among us in the shadows of our society. Many have been exploited in their workplace, have lived under the constant threat of deportation, and have suffered the fear of possible separation from their families and friends. This reality is made evident today as we consider the measures taken by civil authorities. We can sense the pain of the separation of families, loss of employment, persecutions, discrimination, expressions of racism, and unnecessary deportations that paralyze the development of persons in our societies and the development of our nations, leaving them empty and without hope.

The border cities consider themselves to be sister cities and friends, sharing a long history of the same land, faith, traditions, culture, and solidarity. We bishops shall continue to follow the good example of Pope Francis; we shall seek to construct bridges among peoples, bridges that help to break down the walls of exclusion and exploitation.

Through Catholic Charities USA and various houses for migrants in Mexico, we will continue to offer quality services to migrants, including spiritual, legal, material, and family assistance. Likewise, we will maintain our constant presence in detention centers and assistance centers for migrants, from the southern border of Mexico and throughout the USA. We affirm the many families in Mexico and the United States who open their hearts and their homes to migrants on their journey.”

## **JUSTICIA MIGRANTE**



## *Capuchin JPIC animators meet in Michigan*

The training for JPIC animators of NAPCC consisted of friars from the U.S., Canada, and Australia and was held at the Capuchin Retreat Center in Washington MI. Benedict, from the General Curia, also attended. At the training, the friars heard from speakers from different parts of the Franciscan family, learned about the international JPIC animation focus, spent time in fellowship, and created connections for working together in the future on JPIC.





Phil Naessens has begun therapy following hip replacement surgery.

Leopold Gleissner has received encouraging results from recent medical tests. He is grateful for the prayers received.

Mike Zelinski (nephew of Jim and Tom Zelinski) has been missing in the rural area near Pheonix.

Robert Galloway (brother-in-law) of Franklin Eichhorst, died recently.

FEBRUARIE



- 24 ..... SLS Min Council, Mt. Calvary WI
- 25 ..... **Martin Pable (B)**
- 27 ..... Diaconate Formation Video Conf
- 28 ..... JPIC Video Conf  
Liturgical Commission Video Conf  
Mardi Gras



He traveled down from Arkansas,  
To New Orleans, for Mardi Gras.  
"One evening of abandonment,"  
That's what his trusted friends say,  
"He frolicked on Fat Tuesday night,  
And repented on Ash Wednesday."

~ William Robinson

