

Weekly re:Cap



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Franciscan Province of St. Joseph

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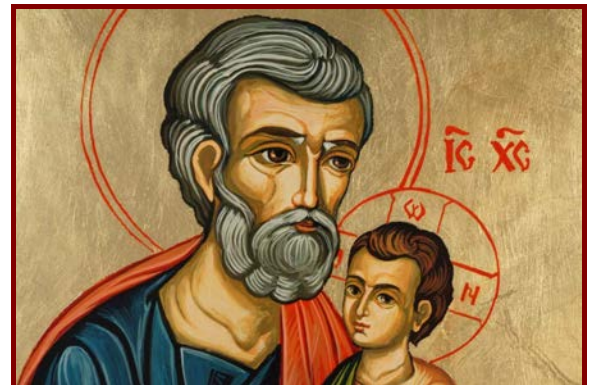
Two days in March



“In a land that has been rent asunder by the memory of ancient crimes and injustices, it should be remembered that St. Patrick was himself the victim of Irish injustice before he ever became the symbol of Irish pride. His extraordinary return to the site of his oppression — not to wreak his vengeance, but to implant the reconciling seeds of his own hard-won faith — deserves appropriate commemoration. The gospel drove Patrick to return to his oppressors that he might devote his life to their peaceful conversion and the cause of their salvation. But the spiritual conquest of Ireland followed the prior victory of love over the anger and bitterness in his own heart. If the memory of

this dimension of St. Patrick’s life had long ago become a feature of his feast day celebration, it might be truly said that there are no serpents left in Ireland.” (*All Saints: Daily Reflections on Saints, Prophets, and Witnesses for Our Time*, by Robert Ellsberg) St. Patrick’s Day is 17 March.

On 6 February 1873, friars gathered for their first chapter in Mt. Calvary, Wisconsin. The very first decision of the friars was to proclaim St. Joseph as the patron of the province: “Considering the greatness of the task that has been allotted to our province, to cultivate with apostolic labor such a vast and unusual field, mindful also of the many dangers that might be laid in its path or cause the ruin of its members, the province anxiously raises its eyes on high to implore the help of Almighty God, of the Immaculate Virgin, our fair protectress, and proclaims and pronounces St. Joseph, the foster-father of Jesus and the pure spouse of the Immaculate Virgin and Mother of God, patron of the province, and it decides that it shall always be called by his name and that its seal bear the representation of this glorious saint.” (*The Rise and Progress of the Province of St. Joseph of the Capuchin Order in the United States 1857-1907*). The province’s patronal feast is 19 March. The symbol for St. Joseph is a white lily.

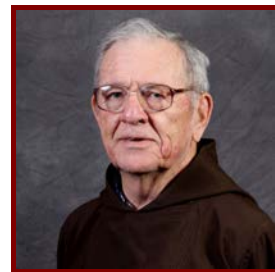


Celebrate well!



Friars attend classes on the most misunderstood book of the New Testament

Gus Seubert has taught a course on the Book of Revelation over 50 times in Spanish — and in several countries besides Nicaragua. He comes into his class not only with an abundant knowledge, but with careful and skilled preparation. During Lent, Gus is teaching the course again at St. Fidelis Community in Appleton, Wisconsin. The classes are held each Saturday, and over half of the community has been attending. The most misunderstood book of the New Testament is getting to be less so, thanks to Gus!



Gus Seubert

A story of conversion



MJ Groark

The “Substance Addiction Ministry” at St. Francis Borgia Parish in Cedarburg, Wisconsin recently featured a presentation by MJ Groark, who shared his powerful story of conversion, mercy and hope. His story is a witness to God’s patience and power that a strong family can play in the salvation of their children. MJ professed his perpetual vows in 2014, and is currently a student at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, pursuing his masters degree in preparation for ordination.

“Say yes!” says provincial minister

Brian Joseph, longtime benefactor and affiliate of the province, and his girlfriend Gerarda Tobin are regulars at St. Bonaventure Monastery in Detroit, attending the 4:30 afternoon Saturday liturgy, as well as helping Larry LaCross with the community social and dinner. Brian can always be seen at the dishwasher as soon as dinner plates are picked up and dessert is ready to be served. On Saturday, March 4th, things took a different turn. After dishes were brought to the kitchen and Brian began washing, Larry announced it was time for the reading of the necrologies. Instead of reading the necrologies, however, Larry presented Gerarda with a beautiful teak wood jewelry box (pre-arranged by Brian) and told her that it was a belated birthday gift. Upon opening the box, a note inside read, “Gerarda, I stand before God and in the presence of our Capuchin brothers and ask, will you marry me? I love you!” Gerarda, trembling and in shock, closed the box, reopened it and closed it again, and tears of joy followed after seeing her beautiful engagement ring along with a Solanus badge. Gerarda commented to the friars: “I don’t know what to say.” Mike Sullivan was quick to respond: “Say, Yes!” which she promptly did. The friars gave Gerarda and Brian a standing ovation, a special dessert was served and the couple was presented with a bouquet of red roses from the community. Shortly thereafter, Brian and Gerarda were back at the dishes. We offer prayerful congratulations to Gerarda and Brian! (NB: Gerarda is the sister of Joseph William Tobin, C.Ss.R., cardinal archbishop of Newark NJ)



Brian Joseph and Gerarda Tobin



*Hold on...
Spring is on its way...
Really!*



OPCC director named to National Advisory Council



Amy Peterson with her grandson, Emerson

Amy Peterson, director of our Office of Pastoral Care & Conciliation, has been appointed to the National Advisory Council, an arm of the Conference of Major Superiors of Men. In a letter dated 28 February, Brian Terry (CMSM president) and John Pavlik (CMSM executive director) wrote: "On behalf of the Conference of Major Superiors of Men in the United States, allow us to express our gratitude to you for your generosity in accepting the invitation to serve the cause of the protection of minors and children, and to assist our members in reviewing and renewing their vigilance in the persons of the leadership and membership of institutes of men. Members of the national board

studied your *curriculum vitae*, and found much to commend in your life and experience that will serve the work of the National Advisory Council to CMSM."

Amy will attend her first meeting with the council in Linthicum MD on 31 March.

Pope Francis: 'the protection of migrants is a moral duty'



Pope Francis has taken 12 Syrian migrants back with him to the Vatican after visiting a camp on the Greek island of Lesbos. The three families, including six children, are all Muslim and had their homes bombed during the Syrian war. The Vatican said in a statement that Pope Francis wanted to "make a gesture of welcome" to the refugees.

Speaking to participants of an International Forum on Migration and Peace, whom he received in the Vatican, the pope said the political community, civil society *and the church* must offer a shared response to the complexities of the phenomenon of migration today. "Our shared response may be articulated by four verbs: to welcome, to protect, to promote and to integrate. Rejection is an attitude we all share; it makes us see our neighbor not as a brother or sister to be accepted, but as unworthy of our attention, a rival, or someone to be bent to our will. Faced with this kind of rejection, rooted ultimately in self-centeredness and amplified by populist rhetoric, what is needed is a change of attitude, to overcome indifference and to counter fears with a generous approach of welcoming those who knock at our doors. For those who flee conflicts and terrible persecutions, often trapped within the grip of criminal organizations who have no scruples, we need to open accessible

and secure humanitarian channels. A responsible and dignified welcome of our brothers and sisters begins by offering them decent and appropriate shelter. The enormous gathering together of persons seeking asylum and of refugees has not produced positive results. Instead these gatherings have created new situations of vulnerability and hardship. More widespread programs of welcome, already initiated in different places, seem to favor a personal encounter and allow for greater quality of service and increased guarantees of success."





Kathy Mulvey, sister of Jim and Tom Zelinski,
died on 7 March.

Joe Babcock's father was readmitted to the hospital recently and had successful surgery to replace a heart valve. Joe and his mother thank everyone for their prayers and support during this journey.

Poetry's most powerful lines...

"By paying tribute to the men and women whose only instrument is free speech, who imagine and act, UNESCO recognizes in poetry its value as a symbol of the human spirit's creativity. By giving form and words to that which has none – such as the unfathomable beauty that surrounds us, the immense suffering and misery of the world – poetry contributes to the expansion of our common humanity, helping to increase its strength, solidarity and self-awareness." ~ Irina Bokova, director-general of UNESCO, on International Poetry day, 21 March.

Because I could not stop for Death, / He kindly stopped for me; / The carriage held but just ourselves / And Immortality ~ Emily Dickinson

And when wind and winter harden / All the loveless land, / It will whisper of the garden, / You will understand ~ Oscar Wilde

Bent double, like old beggars under sacks, / Knock-kneed, coughing like hags, we cursed through sludge, / Till on the haunting flares we turned our backs / And towards our distant rest began to trudge. ~ Wilfred Owen

The weight of the world / is love / Under the burden / of solitude, / under the burden / of dissatisfaction / the weight, / the weight we carry / is love ~ Allen Ginsberg

You may write me down in history / With your bitter, twisted lies, / You may trod me in the very dirt / But still, like dust, I'll rise ~ Maya Angelou

you are much more than simply dead/ I am a dish for your ashes / I am a fist for your vanished air / the most terrible thing about life/ is finding it gone ~ Charles Bukowski

I am the poor white, fooled and pushed apart / I am the Negro bearing slavery's scars / I am the red man driven from the land, / I am the immigrant clutching the hope I seek - / And finding only the same old stupid plan / Of dog eat dog, of mighty crush the weak ~ Langston Huges

And finally...



The shamrock is a symbol of Ireland; a four-leaf clover is *not* a shamrock, and has nothing to do with St. Patrick's Day.
It's just a plant!



Happy St.Patrick's Day !

MARCH



15 Int'l Day Against Police Brutality

16 **Kent Bauer (B)**

17 **St. Patrick (F)**

18 **National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence**

19 **Brenton Ertel (B)**
St. Joseph (Prov Feast Day)

22 **OPCC Zoom Conference**
Liturgical Commission Zoom/Video Conference