

Weekly re:Cap



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A legacy of learning

by Toni Cashnelli

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Ed Foley (left) with Bill Short

And you thought it was just a lecture.

The goal of the Duns Scotus Spirituality program is “to bring in great speakers and give people a fine experience of hospitality and prayer,” says Ed Foley. As the third person to occupy CTU’s Duns Scotus Chair of Spirituality, Ed aims to showcase the Franciscan intellectual tradition — a tradition sometimes ignored by the schools that educate friars.

On March 18th, five SJB friars experienced that hospitality and prayer during a Franciscan Study Day organized by Ed at CTU in Chicago. Led by Bill Short of St. Barbara Province, it focused on the first formal division of the Franciscan Order in 1517 – a subject that resonates with American friars as they discuss revitalization and reconfiguration. Besides professed friars, the program drew women religious, OFM novices, Conventual and Capuchin postulants and their formation directors. “It’s much bigger than simply the students at CTU,” Ed says.

All of this was made possible by a forward-thinking provincial council. Twenty years ago St. John the Baptist Province gave away funds from the sale of Duns Scotus College in Southfield MI. Among the recipients were sponsored ministries and causes earmarked by individual friars. One endowment seemed an especially appropriate legacy for a college. According to CTU, “*The Duns Scotus Chair in Franciscan Spirituality was endowed in 1997 through a generous gift of the St. John the Baptist Province of the Orders of Friars Minor, Cincinnati, Ohio, in order to promote the rich spirituality of the Franciscan tradition as well as the other great spiritual resources of the Catholic heritage.*”

Zachary Hayes, the first chair (1997- 2005), was a Bonaventure scholar. His successor, Dianne Bergant of the Congregation of St. Agnes (2006-2009), is known for biblical studies. As for Ed, who is also a professor of liturgy and music at CTU, “I’m actually not a Scotus scholar. The holder of the chair is not one who necessarily is a specialist” on the life and works of John Duns Scotus, the 13th century philosopher/theologian whose complex, nuanced thought earned him the nickname, “The Subtle Doctor.” There is one similarity, Ed says: “I think of myself as a practical theologian, and Scotus was.” For the first 12 years of the CTU program, it was all about scholarship. When Ed assumed the chair in 2009, “There was no program, no advisory board, no job description. There was nothing in place. Over time I talked to the administration about establishing an

advisory board. There were a lot of different Franciscans affiliated with CTU," students, faculty, formators. Ed wondered, "How could we resource these different groups?" SJB's Francis Tebbe was among those asked to serve on an advisory board. The first couple of years we did a lecture," Ed says. The inaugural program in 2011 featured John Corriveau, former general minister of the Capuchins, and the second was offered by Daniel Sulmasy, a professor of medicine. The following year, "The advisory board in consultation with formation directors suggested that the next event not simply be a public lecture but a 'study day.'" On March 23, 2013, about 100 people gathered for a daylong presentation on "Beauty in the Franciscan Tradition" by Mary Beth Ingham, CSJ. The expanded format was a hit. The program recruited Paul Moses, a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and author of *The Sultan and the Saint*, for the 2013 lecture. They mounted a second Franciscan Study Day in 2015 on St. Bonaventure with friar-preacher Andre Cirino. For the 2015 lecture, popular author Ilia Delio, OSF, drew an overflow crowd when she presented, "Evolution and the Primacy of Christ: from Scotus to Teilhard." This fall, the Scotus lecture will focus on Clare of Assisi, with Catherine Mooney of Boston College. With the chair of spirituality firmly established, where do they go from here?

We're looking at having our first symposium" next year, Ed says. There's still a wealth of material to mine. "Through all of my training I never had a course that gave virtually any attention to the Franciscan tradition. I think the Franciscan intellectual tradition is not something that has been exploited or attended to very well. In postulancy in my own province, they get a lot of writings on Francis and Clare, but in theological studies there's very little. How can we bring this into the discussion today?" For those who host and those who attend the Scotus programs, "Having world-class folks like Bill Short or Ilia Delio or Mary Beth Ingham is eye-opening," Ed says. Beyond the Franciscan gifts of poverty and inclusivity, "The Franciscan intellectual tradition has a lot to contribute – a particular way of looking at the world."

The above was reprinted, with permission, from SJB News Notes, newsletter of the Franciscan Province of St. John the Baptist.

"I am not an expert in our complicated Franciscan history. But when I attended a talk by Franciscan historian Bill Short, OFM, at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago (organized by our province-funded Duns Scotus Chair of Spirituality), I was reminded that this year we are remembering the 500th anniversary of Leo X's papal bull, *Ite Vos*.



"This declaration, issued on May 29, 1517, both separated and unified movements in the Franciscan family: The Conventual Franciscans were recognized as a group, and the many reform movements were unified in the Observant branch as Friars Minor of the Regular Observance. I like to say that our charism is so rich that no one group can adequately express it, but it may be more true that we are broken people just struggling to get along. Sound familiar?"

"Our general ministers are reminding us, as we remember our history, that we are still members of one family. There are many signs of greater cooperation these days, including the joining of our universities in Rome and the joint preparation program for missionaries in Brussels. There may be some other local opportunities to celebrate the richness of our Franciscan family and charism.

–Jeff Scheeler, OFM



DUN SCOTUS



Jubilee year comes to a close

On the Feast of St. Joseph, the year-long jubilee celebration of St. Joseph Parish in Appleton WI came to a triumphant end! Hundreds of parishioners and friends of the parish gathered together in the crowded church to celebrate the 150th anniversary. It was also a time to recognize the presence of the Capuchins for the past 140 years. Michael Sullivan (provincial minister) offered congratulatory comments to the parishioners, and thanked them for their support of the Capuchins.



David Ricken (bishop of Green Bay), along with Pius Cotter, Bob Udulutsch, Larry Abler, Michael Sullivan, Joseph Diermeier, Michael Wild, Mark Farrell and C. F. Dedman, and Jim Leary (pastor) led the celebration.



Gospel workshop hosted again

St. Francis Parish in Milwaukee hosted its 7th Annual Gospel Music Workshop on Saturday, March 11th. Thomas W. Jefferson of Chicago was the featured clinician who led 130 people present through a variety of music pieces for use in churches and schools. The event was very well received and is eagerly anticipated each year by many central city musicians who look to the workshop for new music. The setting of St. Francis is perfect for the event, as the altar is dismantled to make room for the grand piano. Singers and musicians encircle the clinician, and the church is filled with the great sounds of Gospel music!

Healing a city

St. Clare of Montefalco Parish in Chicago has begun a public ritual to offer a moment of prayer and blessing with several Franciscan relics. The idea was

inspired by the healing services that take place in Detroit and Milwaukee, and involve relics of the true cross. The parish recently inherited several relics with the appropriate documentation, and rather than keep them private, decided that the best way to use this generous gift would be to share it with the church community. It has been a great success thus far.

After presenting this idea to the parish council, and to Alfredo Gundrum (pastor), it was decided to offer the blessing with a simple prayer following the Friday morning masses during Lent. If all goes well, and the people find a sense of prayer and devotion, the friars will consider creating a larger ritual after Easter. One of the focuses of this initiative was that the saints would intercede for the city of Chicago, which continues to confront rampant violence. A prayer written by John Scherer to accompany this ritual has a specific focus on peace and non-violence.



The parish is only three weeks into this devotional practice, but the response has been overwhelming. People look forward to a personal encounter with friars, and the Holy Ones who are praying with and for them during the Lenten journey.



Former friar Peter Wolf recently suffered a “slight stroke.”

Suzanne Sullivan (sister-in-law of Michael Sullivan) recently underwent gall bladder surgery.

Michael Gaffney was recently hospitalized for heart and breathing issues.

Annual Lenten “Undie Sunday”



Rob Roemer (right) with Brian Holbus, pastor of St. Charles Parish

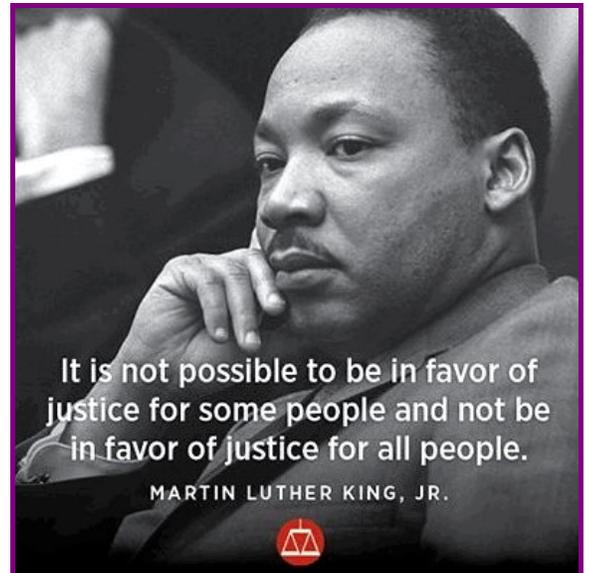
Each Lent Capuchin Community Services (CCS) in Milwaukee hold a collection drive for donations of new underwear and socks to be distributed to Milwaukee’s poor and homeless. Rob Roemer (director of CCS) spoke at St. Charles Borromeo Parish for the event.

Remembering Martin Luther King, Jr.

Martin Luther King was shot to death at a hotel in Memphis TN on 4 April 1968. A single shot, fired by James Earl Ray from over 200 feet away at a nearby motel, struck King in the neck. He died an hour later at St. Joseph’s Hospital. The death of America’s leading civil rights advocate sparked a wave of rioting in the black communities of several cities around the country.

Ray, who had escaped from a Missouri prison almost a year earlier, had used the aliases Eric Galt and John Willard to register in several motels in the Memphis area. He fired a Remington rifle from a bathroom window that looked out onto the hotel balcony where King was standing.

Ray pleaded guilty before his scheduled trial began in March 1969 and was sentenced to 99 years in prison. Ray recanted his confession a few months later and insisted on his innocence for years. However, his efforts to secure a new trial were futile, despite the support of members of the King family who were eager to determine if others were involved. Ray died on April 23, 1998.



MARCH



29 **Vito Martinez (B)**
Michael Dorn (B)

APRIL



3 **Cap Corps Zoom/Video Conference**

4 **Baudry Metangmo (B)**
Treasurer’s Office Zoom Conference
Assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. (1968)

5 **Nicholas Blattner (B)**
Public Relations Video Conference

