

Weekly re:Cap



Published for the Friars of the Capuchin
Franciscan Province of St. Joseph
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Friars reflect on life in this province...and snow!

Robert Wotypka has been meeting with our friars involved in fraternal collaboration, and interviewed Madalai Muthu and Joseph Mattathil recently to hear how they were adjusting to life in the St. Joseph Province.



Madalai Muthu

Madalai Muthu came to our province from India a year and four months ago. He told Robert Wotypka that as soon as he selected this province to minister, He received very negative comments from the friars. They told him that he'd be a "victim"...he would be "dominated and not taken care of." These comments made him fearful and hesitant. But when he arrived, Muthu was surprised to see so many friars who came to welcome him at the airport. And when he got to St. Lawrence he said he was very much taken care of. So his biggest surprise was just the opposite of what he was told to expect!

The snow was a *real* surprise for Muthu! It was so cold, he says, but he enjoyed it and would go out and take pictures and videos and upload to Facebook so that his friends and others in his mother province would see how things are here.

Muthu likes his ministry at SLS, where he teaches religion (Christology and world religions). "Both classes are wonderful," he said, and "I find fulfillment in that I am bringing the students into faith formation."

Muthu celebrates Mass several times a week, and does spiritual direction. "This helps me to increase my faith, as well as guiding the students."

He misses the food and the language of his home province, but "The friars of this province are caring, and show great hospitality....and I'm feeling that this is my province."

Joseph Mattathil has been here for seven months. He said that this was his first trip to America, and it's been good. "Everything is new to me, and I'm learning a new culture, a new lifestyle: *everything!*"

When he was in India, he was working in the missions for about 15 years, doing parish ministry in the northeastern part of India...about 3,000 miles from his own state.

"I came to the U.S. in winter...and it was very cold — *with snow!* And that took me by surprise!"



Joseph Mattathil

Joseph works in the parishes, and is residing with the friars at St. Lawrence. He very much appreciates the prayer life of the brothers, and sometimes drives to Holy Hill for spiritual nourishment.

He said that he is discovering that our life as Capuchins is very much the same all over the world. "There may be little differences, like food or the way things are done," but, he added, "All Capuchins seem to understand each other, all over the world."

Detroit hosts NAPCC conference



David Preuss (co-director of the Solanus Center), second from left; and Michael Sullivan (provincial minister), right, were among the participants.

The province recently hosted the NAPCC's development directors in Detroit, with over 20 friars and lay staff attending, and touring the friars' local ministries. The conference featured Pam Mueller (advancement director for the School Sisters of St. Francis; and Bill Hugo who taught a morning class on Franciscan theology and stewardship. Other speakers included staff members from a variety of other religious congregations.



Participants of the NAPCC Development Conference

St. Mary Province elects new administration

We offer prayerful best wishes to our sister province on the East coast, as their recent 27th provincial chapter elected new leadership for the coming triennium!

Pictured at right: [seated l-r] Robert Abbatiello (vicar) and Michael Greco (provincial); [standing l-r] Lake Herman, Salvatore Cordaro and James Peterson (counselors).

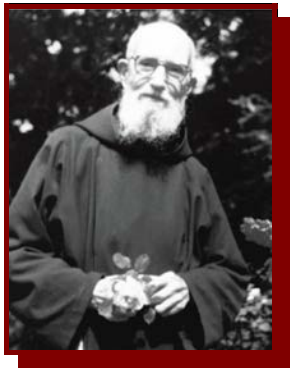


New postulants accepted

Six men were recently accepted into our province's postulancy program. Four of the new postulants are for the St. Joseph Province: Samuel Bazan, Adam Lewandowski, Francisco Javier Rodriguez and Emmanuel Yesudasan. Matt Herrman of the St. Mary Province, and Martin Ngo of the Canadian Province will also participate in the program.

Reception of the postulants, along with renewal of vows of our friars in post-novitiate formation, will take place on Sunday, 27 August, at St. Francis Capuchin Center in Milwaukee.

New York is anticipating beatification of Solanus



In an article published recently in *Catholic New York*, the archdiocesan newspaper recounted how Solanus Casey served at Sacred Heart Parish in Yonkers from 1904 to 1918, assigned as friary porter — a ministry he would carry out for the rest of his life. He went on to serve at Our Lady Queen of Angels in East Harlem, and Our Lady of Sorrows in Lower Manhattan. He also served at St. Michael's in Brooklyn.

Thomas Franks, pastor of St. John the Baptist and Holy Cross Parish in Manhattan, said that "Solanus lived a spirituality of encounter," much like Pope Francis is advocating today. "So many people met him as a porter when they came to the door. He had a compassionate ear and a willingness to help," said Tom. "Those traits exhibited by Solanus remain a key part of our ministry today as Christians and Capuchins." Tom is the representative the St. Mary Province to the advisory board of the Solanus Casey Center in Detroit, where Solanus is interred.

When Solanus' impending beatification was announced at weekend Masses, it was greeted by applause from parishioners. A statue of the friar stands at the entrance of St. John the Baptist Church on West 31st Street. There are guilds promoting the canonization of Solanus at St. John the Baptist and Sacred Heart.

A spirit of gratitude was another deeply developed aspect of Solanus' spirituality. "It puts you in a different orientation in your own life and to those you meet," Tom said.





Janie Graves (mother of Jason Graves) was scheduled for full knee replacement surgery.

Jennifer Soika (mother of former Cap Corps volunteer Rachel Soika) was scheduled for cancer surgery.

Betty Sprengler, sister of Larry Webber, will undergo breast cancer surgery.

Linda Andrews, administrator at Capuchin Retreat, was scheduled for additional surgery.

Colleen Crane and her husband, Dale, are grateful for the many prayers.

Thanks to all for prayers while I was in the ICU. It was nice to read all the emails sending prayers and kind thoughts. I'm doing well. — Jim Wegner

Please also remember in prayer the St. Joseph Province friars as they begin our provincial chapter on June 5th.

Chapter Information

The provincial chapter begins on Monday, June 5.

Friars and guests are asked to arrive on campus

between 3 and 5 pm. You must register when you arrive to pick up chapter materials and your room key.

The charter bus from Wisconsin will leave from three locations on Monday, June 5th:

Appleton: 9:45 am

Mt. Calvary: 10:45 am

Milwaukee: 12 Noon

Wi-Fi is available in the lobby of each residence halls; However, if you wish to use the Internet in your room, you will need to bring an ethernet cable with you to hook into the cable network.

Chapter ends with lunch on Friday, June 9. Transportation for friars who will be leaving from Midway airport will be available.

Capuchin Communications is helping with chapter preparations; consequently, our next issue of *Weekly re:Cap* will be published after our provincial chapter.



24 **Werner Wolf (B)**

25 **David Reichling (B)**
Bede Louzon (N)

26 **Robert Kose (B)**

27 **Brian Joseph (B)**

29 **Gerald Pehler (B)**
Joseph Wolf (B)

31 **David Hirt (B)**



4 **Joseph Babcock (B)**

5 **Truong Dinh (B)**

8 **James Andres (B)**

10 **Madalai Muthu (B)**

12 **Jason Graves (B)**