

Weekly re:Cap



Published for the Friars of the Capuchin
Franciscan Province of St. Joseph

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Received and renewed...

On 27 August, the province received three men into the postulancy program, and witnessed the renewal of vows of three of our post-novitiate friars (NB: Anthony Kote-Witah renewed vows earlier in Detroit). About 70 friars and friends attended the liturgy and dinner reception held at the St. Francis Capuchin Center in Milwaukee.

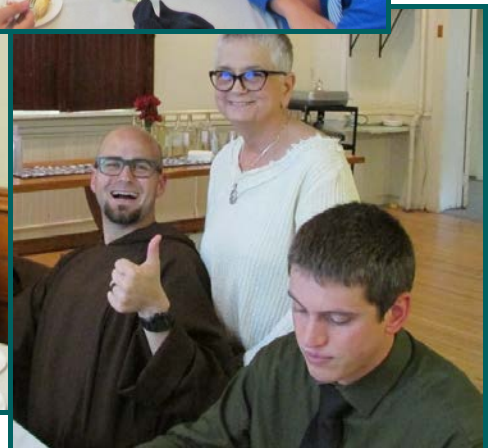
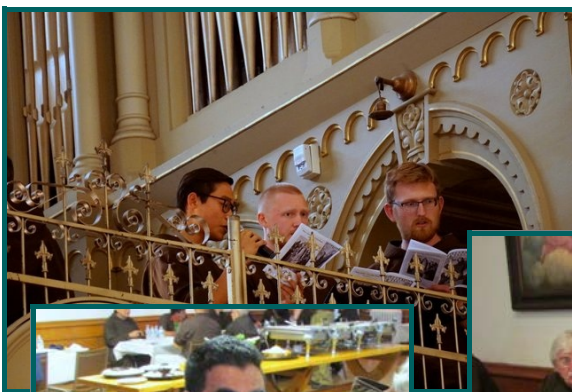


L-R: Postulants Javier Rodriguez, Martin Ngo (Canadian) and Sam Bazan



L-R: Brenton Ertel, Steve Kropp, Truong Dinh, John Scherer and Nicholas Blattner

We saw you at the celebration...



Reflecting on a legacy



A total of 252 men and women participated in the Cap Corps ministry over the past 24 years. Pictured above are the alumni who were able to attend this summer's celebration of Cap Corps, along with family members and friars. The Capuchin-Franciscan charism thrives in many places because of the ministries of those who chose to serve in this program. 77% of the volunteers served in the U.S., 23% in Latin America, and 1% served both domestically and internationally.

Six of the attendees at the summer celebration were asked to offer their reflections on the event, as well as the ministry of Cap Corps. Here's what two of them said...

Doug Scott (1998-2000, Bluefields, Nicaragua): "The Cap Corps experience for these past 24 years has been life-changing for most of us alumni. The components that worked together to make this happen include the Capuchin Friars, the Cap Corps staff, ministry sites, community living, and willing volunteers...a new arising took place to transform the rest of our lives.

"When I arrived for two weeks of orientation back in 1998, I met what I didn't expect: religious brothers (some of whom happen to be priests) inviting me into their lives and curious about mine. I was exposed to their ministries and they seemed to see a larger picture that included social ills — things that I didn't even know existed — and they were actively doing something about it. Their attempts to live in simplicity, practice hospitality, serve the poor and marginalized, and invite the laity — as partners — to share in their life was something that was a new kind of energy field.



Doug Scott

“Twenty years later, I still can say that the best decision I have ever made was joining Cap Corps — one that includes meeting and marrying my *Franciscan Volunteer Movement* wife, getting a masters in social work and pastoral ministry, and working for non-profits. And meeting the friars let me experience a church that took following Jesus very seriously: not based on orthodoxy, but rather *orthopraxy!* Remember, dear friars, that the church you live and breathe is, for many of us, non-existent in other parts of the country.”



Andrew Musgrave

Andrew Musgrave (2003-04, Milwaukee): “For so many of us, Cap Corps was one of the most, if not *the* most, formative experiences of our lives. It was both in gratitude and sadness that we gathered at St. Lawrence in July to honor the women, men, organizations and memories that built our experiences. We were surrounded by family, and the men we respect so much who live out every day the charism to which they are committed.

“The closing liturgy was uplifting and inspiring. Shelly Roder spoke powerfully and beautifully, and we publicly thanked the men and women who have led us over these 24 years. It was a great reminder of the tremendous blessing our directors have been to this powerful ministry.

“It’s hard to believe that for the first August in over two decades there aren’t new people following in our footsteps...but we are extraordinarily grateful for the opportunities that the Capuchins afforded us, welcoming us into their homes and allowing us to take part in their beautiful work. All in all, the weekend confirmed what we all hold dear: that God is good all the time.”

Ed. note: We’ll share more reflections in our next issue!

We saw you at the celebration...



