

Weekly re:Cap



Published for the Friars of the Capuchin
Franciscan Province of St. Joseph
Contact: TL Michael Auman, Editor
1927 N. Fourth St., Milwaukee WI 53212
414.803.4449; Email: TLAuman@thecapuchins.org
On the web at: <http://sjpcommunications.org>

11 October 2017

Issue Number 1111



Franciscans in California made history on the feast of St. Francis. For the first known time, the USA novitiates of the three branches gathered for a common observance of the feast at the San Lorenzo Capuchin Novitiate in Santa Ynez CA. Twenty-eight novices and a total of 45 friars.

8th Day Center for Justice enters final year

by David Hirt



After more than 40 years of being a force for structural justice in the USA and in the church, 8th Day Center for Justice is closing their “brick and mortar” presence in Chicago. On Sept. 30th Mike Dorn and David Hirt attended their “Gathering of Gratitude,” the first of several events celebrating 8th Day and the communities who have supported their ministry. The event took place at the Unitarian Church of Evanston, outside of Chicago. Close to 200 people were in attendance, mostly from women’s communities who have been the backbone of 8th Day’s ministry from the beginning. The St. Joseph Province supported 8th Day for many years, and Jim Zelinski sat on their leadership council for a good number of those. Mike Dorn had dealings with 8th Day some years ago when he was in a Catholic Worker House and David Hirt did a post-novitiate year of ministry with them to stretch himself, and attributes much of his interest in justice ministry to his work with the center.



David Hirt and his 8th day mentor
Mary Kay Flanigan, OSF

While 8th Day is closing their offices in a year, they will continue to do work as individuals and as a group. They will again be present at the School Of the Americas Watch, held this year in Nogales, Arizona. Marcia Lee, Fred Cabras, and David Hirt will also be headed to Nogales this November for that protest. Over the next year they will be giving what resources they have in ways that honor their history and mission. The “Year of Gratitude” will end in the summer of 2018 with a celebration for sponsors and partners. For more information you can go to the 8th Day website at <http://8thdaycenter.org>, and read the official announcement of their closing at <http://8thdaycenter.org/news-from-8th-day/>. Any friar interested in going to Nogales should contact Marcia Lee for information.

A decade later

by Javier Rodriguez



Javier Rodriguez

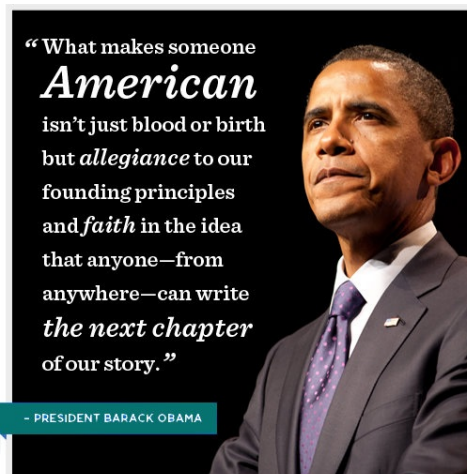
The New Sanctuary Movement (NSM) of Voces de la Frontera in Milwaukee is partying, celebrating 10 years since its foundation. Just three days after beginning my ministry at Voces, on September 9 over 50 friends gathered together to mark the 10th anniversary of the movement.



It's beautiful to see how people from different countries, cultures and religious beliefs unite to defend and protect the rights of immigrants. This deserves to be celebrated and recognized at this time when the rights of these people are being greatly affected. And what better way to celebrate this than with a table at the banquet.

In the mix of delicious food and great music, NSM recognized the contribution of its members and volunteers that have made it possible for the movement's continued service to Wisconsin's immigrants for the past decade. Among those recognized were the Cap Corp members, who have helped to build this program in the last 10 years, including Sam Singleton-Freeman who is still part of Voces' staff.

A lot of immigrants have benefitted from the movement throughout the past decade. And our province should be proud of its influence within the movement, through the participation of Cap Corps, friars and postulants. I have been in this ministry for only a month now; however, I see how much the Capuchin family is appreciated and loved in NSM and Voces. So, this should be an occasion for us to celebrate as well.



I just hope and pray that God may bless me with the wisdom to continue that legacy the Capuchins have cultivated in Voces and among the amazing immigrants it serves. I pray for God's guidance on how to contribute and support those who are persecuted only because they were born outside of the United States. I would like to invite you to also meditate on how you can contribute and support a solution for this issue within our communities and our country.

[Ed. note: Javier Rodriguez is a postulant for the St. Joseph Province]





A reflection on the legacy of Vatican II

October 11th will mark the 55th anniversary of one of the most important events in the modern history of the Catholic Church. On that date, in 1962, John XXIII opened the Second Vatican Council, trusting that the Holy Spirit would “blow through it with a fresh breeze of renewal.”

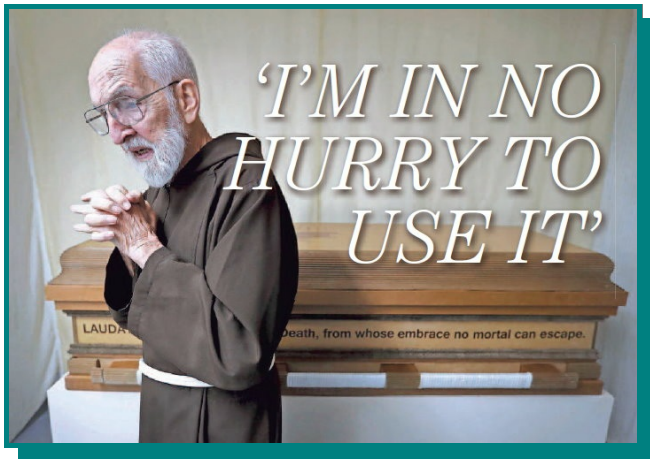
Over 2500 bishops approved documents meant to enrich our spirituality and make the church ever more relevant. The “Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World” mandated that the church (read = “we”) must work to meet the needs of all of our brothers and sisters throughout the world, most especially those who suffer from poverty and racism. The phrase “reading the signs of the times” was commonly heard as a result of the council.

“God intended the earth and all that it contains for use of every human being and people. ... Since there are so many people in this world afflicted with hunger, this sacred Council urges all, both individuals and governments, to remember the saying of the Fathers: ‘Feed the man dying of hunger, because if you have not fed him you have killed him’ ” (No. 69).

“It is our clear duty, then, to strain every muscle as we work for the time when all war can be completely outlawed by international consent” (No. 82).

Over the past 54 years, the world has been the beneficiary of Vatican II. The laity, religious men and women, and the clergy have seriously read the signs of the times in order to discern how we must act as Christians. It behooves us to take another look at the council documents, for we *still* need to read the signs of the times.

“Laudato Sí, my Lord for Sister Death”



In 2010, Bob Udulutsch buried his brother, Irvin, in a casket Bob constructed initially for himself. Since that time, he’s been back at it preparing for his own demise. His latest creation is made from corrugated cardboard from a local grocery store. The interior features burlap and Capuchin habit material. “It’s about 99% biodegradable,” he says, indicating that the only metal used were 6 nails and 24 screws used to hold open the lid! Bob has received requests from others to make caskets, but he thinks this will be the last one. “All the way through, I had a deep sense of joy and peace and calmness,” he said. “Did it help me face my own mortality? I think so.”

[Ed. note: The above was culled from an article by Duke Behnke of the “USA Today Network,” published in the Appleton Post-Crescent]

*“Praised be You, my Lord through Sister Death,
from whom no one living can escape.”*



Our brother, Nicholas Widhammer, died on 3 October at the age of 81 in Tucson AZ after suffering a stroke.

Nick was born in 1935, invested in 1954, and perpetually professed in 1958. He was ordained in 1963.

Nick was on staff at St. Lawrence Seminary, Mt. Calvary WI, from 1964-1979 as a recruiter for the school.

Following those years at SLS, he served as vocation director for the province for one year, before joining the pastoral staff at St. Francis Parish in Milwaukee (1980-85). He spent 8 years in Saudi Arabia (1985-93), then served on the parish staff at St. Patrick Church in St. Paul MN (1993-94) before returning to Saudi Arabia for another 10 years.

In 2004, he began pastoral ministry in Tucson AZ.

Nick is survived by his sister, Rita Crabtree, as well as his Capuchin brothers with whom he lived, ministered and prayed for the past 63 years.

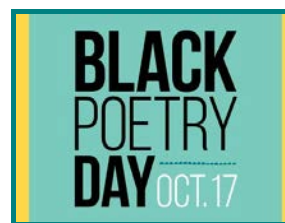
Janice Funk, CSA (sister of David Funk) suffered a slight stroke recently.

Thanks to all who prayed for my brother Robert. He has more radiation ahead and the side effects are difficult.
~ Art Cooney

I want to thank everyone very sincerely for prayers for my family. Your prayers I really brought peace, unity and hope. My mother is recovering gradually.
~ Anthony Kote-Witah



- 11 Opening session of Vatican II, 1962
- 12 Zoy Garibay (B)
- 15 Lester Bach (B)
- 16 Edward Foley (B)
World Food Day
- 17 Black Poetry Day



Let America Be America Again

Let America be America again.
Let it be the dream it used to be.
Let it be the pioneer on the plain
Seeking a home where he himself is free.

Let America be the dream the dreamers dreamed—
Let it be that great strong land of love
Where never kings connive nor tyrants scheme
That any man be crushed by one above.

Out of the rack and ruin of our gangster death,
The rape and rot of graft, and stealth, and lies,
We, the people, must redeem
The land, the mines, the plants, the rivers.
The mountains and the endless plain—
All, all the stretch of these great green states—
And make America again!

[Excerpted from Langston Hughes' poem]

