

Weekly re:Cap



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

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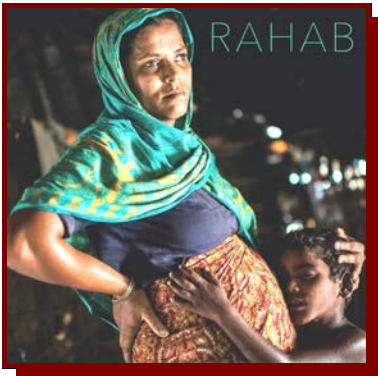
13 December 2017

Advent

*A Season of Hope
& Expectation*

Issue Number 1119

Advent reflection on human rights and women



Rahab is the epitome of a social outcast. In the Book of Joshua, Rahab is identified as a prostitute who kept a brothel in Jericho. Her occupation, however, was not the only source of her marginalization. In addition to being a prostitute, she was also a foreigner and a woman. Despite her disreputable status, Rahab played a key role in the story of the Jewish people. When Joshua sent two spies to explore the city of Jericho, Rahab risked her life to hide them and ensure their safety. When Joshua conquered Jericho, he repaid Rahab's kindness by saving her and her entire family. Rahab's prophetic declaration of faith, "the Lord, your God, is God in heaven above and on earth below" (Joshua 2:11), as well as her righteous works (her commitment to Joshua and his men), foreshadowed her position as an ancestor of Jesus. \

The story of Rahab is a call for recognizing equal rights and dignity for all women and girls. Economic, cultural, and political factors collude to make women and girls more susceptible to abuses and violence, including social exclusion. This is especially true for those who find themselves in vulnerable situations, such as migrants and refugees. Rahab also epitomizes the figure of a strong woman who, despite experiencing prejudice and marginalization, lives her life with courage and dignity. However, far too often today, women still face discrimination and experience physical, sexual and psychological violence. The effort to ensure equal rights and dignity to all women and girls by eliminating all forms of public and private violence, including trafficking, sexual violence, and social exclusion, must be championed by all regardless of their gender.

(The above was excerpted from the Advent newsletter of Franciscans International)



Friars visit Tanzania

Recently, Kent Bauer and Gary Wegner traveled to Tanzania to facilitate a workshop for the friars of the Assumption Province. It was held at the MBAGALA Spiritual Center. The participants were pastors and local ministers. Provincial minister, Kalist Tesha, is a former student at CTU in Chicago.



Friars of the Tanzania Province of Mary of the Assumption (Gary Wegner, seated second from left)



Kent Bauer (right) with the local minister and director of the childrens' program

One of the objective goals of the workshop was for the friars who are leaders to animate their own fraternities by suggestions that were presented through the Capuchin Constitutions and writings of Pope Francis. A good dialogue was mutually shared. Several Capuchin ministry sights Gary and Kent were able to visit in the following week included the Franciscan Seminary MAUA. This facility has been supported by an annual contribution from St Lawrence Seminary, Mt Calvary WI.

The province has fifteen postulants this year. The outreach and ministry of several of the postulants involves assisting children with physical challenges.



The postulancy class

International Migrants Day: 18 December



Throughout human history, migration has been a courageous expression of the individual's will to overcome adversity and to live a better life. Today, globalization, together with advances in communications and transportation, has greatly increased the number of people who have the desire and the capacity to move to other places.

This new era has created challenges and opportunities for societies throughout the world.

It also has served to underscore the clear linkage between migration and development, as well as the opportunities it provides for co-development, that is, the concerted improvement of economic and social conditions at both origin and destination.

Migration draws increasing attention in the world nowadays. Mixed with elements of unforeseeability, emergency, and complexity, the challenges and difficulties of international migration require enhanced cooperation and collective action among countries and regions. The United Nations is actively playing a catalyst role in this area, with the aim of creating more dialogues and interactions within countries and regions, as well as propelling experience exchange and collaboration opportunities.

Pope addresses friar minors

On 23 November, Pope Francis received in audience the members of the Franciscan families of the First Order and Third Order Regular. In his address, Francis emphasized the "minor" aspect of the Franciscans. Following are excerpts from his address.



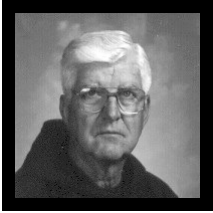
"The adjective "minor" qualifies the noun "Friar," giving to the bond of fraternity its proper and characteristic quality: it is not the same thing to say "friar" and to say "friar minor." Therefore, when referring to fraternity, it is necessary to keep in mind this typical Franciscan characteristic of fraternal relationship, which demands of you a relationship of "Friars minor."

"Minority is lived first of all in the relationship with the brothers that God has give us. How? By avoiding any behavior of superiority. This means uprooting easy judgments on others and speaking badly of our brothers behind their backs – this is in the *Admonitions!* – rejecting the temptation to use authority to suppress others; avoiding making others pay for the favors we do for them, while seeing those others do for us as owed to us; turning away from anger and unease at the sin of our brother."

"Minority must also be lived in relation with all the men and women you encounter in your travels in the world, avoiding with the greatest care any attitude of superiority that may distance you from others. Saint Francis expressed this demand clearly in two chapters of the *Regula non bullata* where he links the decision not to appropriate anything (to live *sine proprio*) with the benevolent welcome to every person, to the point of sharing life with the most despised, with those who are considered truly the least of society."

Ed note: The complete text of the pope's address can be accessed here:

<http://www.sjpcommunications.org/images/uploads/documents/pope112317.pdf>



Our brother, Vernon Wagner, died on 8 December at the age of 89. He was born in 1928, the son of Philip and Sophia Wagner (deceased). He was invested in the Capuchin habit in 1946, perpetually professed in 1950, and ordained a priest in

1953. During his religious life he was a faculty member at St. Lawrence Seminary in Mt. Calvary, Wisconsin.

He ministered at Capuchin retreat centers in Washington and Saginaw, Michigan. In 2003, he retired at St. Lawrence Friary in Mt. Calvary. He is survived by his brother Bernard (also a Capuchin Friar), his sister Rosemary Gundrum of West Bend, Wisconsin, and his sister Helen Wagner OSF from Milwaukee, as well as the many Capuchin brothers with whom he lived, prayed and ministered for over 70 years.

Brian Braun was recently hospitalized for pneumonia.

I would like to thank everyone who sent cards and condolences, and attended my sister Cecilia's funeral.

~ John Gau

The Sultan and the Saint Project



With the rise of new forms of extremism across the Middle East and North Africa, Christians and Muslims around the world are facing a media narrative that pits both communities against one another. FAN is excited to be partnering with Muslim film production company Unity Productions Foundation (UP) to bring about a film that will serve as a counter-narrative to inspire Muslims, Christians, and others to take risks for peace and greater understanding.

A film about St. Francis of Assisi that has been shown at more than 100 places around the country and will be televised nationally later this month. "The Sultan and the Saint," which relates the encounter of Francis and Sultan Al-Malik al-Kail of Egypt, will be broadcast by PBS on Dec. 26.



- 13 PR Video Conference
Pro Council Video Conference
- 14 **Juan Flores (N)**
- 16 **Diaconate Ordination, Chicago**
Worku Gebre (B)
- 18 **Mission & Ministry Video/Zoom Conference**
Intel Migrants Day
- **Winter Solstice**
- 22 **John Francis Samsa (B)**
- 23 **Thomas Hill (B)**
- 24 **Edward Hagman (N)**
Christmas Eve
- 25 **Nativity (F)**
- 27 **John Kocian (N)**

