

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>

3 January 2018

Issue Number 1121



It helps, now and then, to step back and take a long view.

The kingdom is not only beyond our efforts, it is even beyond our vision.
We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work.
Nothing we do is complete, which is a way of saying that the Kingdom always lies beyond us.

No statement says all that could be said.

No prayer fully expresses our faith.

No confession brings perfection.

No pastoral visit brings wholeness.

No program accomplishes the church's mission.

No set of goals and objectives includes everything.

This is what we are about.

We plant the seeds that one day will grow.

We water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise.

We lay foundations that will need further development.

We provide yeast that produces far beyond our capabilities.

We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that.

This enables us to do something, and to do it very well.

It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way,
an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest.

We may never see the end results,

but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker.

We are workers, not master builders; ministers, not messiahs.

We are prophets of a future not our own.



This prayer was composed by +Ken Untener (bishop of Saginaw), drafted for a homily by +John Dearden (cardinal archbishop of Detroit) in Nov. 1979 for a celebration of departed priests. As a reflection on the anniversary of the martyrdom of +Oscar Romero (assassinated archbishop of San Salvador), Untener included in a reflection book a passage titled "The mystery of the Romero Prayer." The mystery is that the words of the prayer are attributed to Oscar Romero, but they were never spoken by him.

Happy New Year!





World Day of Peace: 1 January 2018

In his 2018 *World Day of Peace Message*, Pope Francis addresses those who are on difficult journeys, those who are looking desperately for somewhere they can experience security and live in dignity. The pope focuses on the more than 250 million migrants and refugees who are trying to escape from conflict, violence, discrimination, poverty and hunger, and from the effects of climate change.

The pope's message begins with a call to hope, one that encourages us to practice "hope," so that we can become empowered to work out the challenging problems of our time. You and I are called to respect this hope, and to answer the pope's call by committing ourselves to practice hope and be guided by the wisdom the pope offers us.

The pope offers a perspective on the ongoing global migration, and asks that we address migration *not as a threat, but as a responsibility to offer new ways of peace*, and he challenges us to journey with these "children of God:"

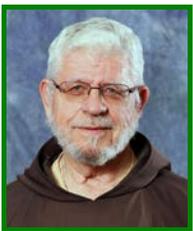
"When we turn [the contemplative] gaze to migrants and refugees, we discover that they do not arrive empty-handed. They bring their courage, skills, energy and aspirations, as well as the treasures of their own cultures; and in this way, they enrich the lives of the nations that receive them. We also come to see the creativity, tenacity and spirit of sacrifice of the countless individuals, families and communities around the world who open their doors and hearts to migrants and refugees, even where resources are scarce."

The pope proposes that providing refugees, migrants and victims of human trafficking an opportunity "to find the peace they seek" requires of us to welcome, protect, promote and integrate. He reminds us these actions are rooted in our Catholic tradition:

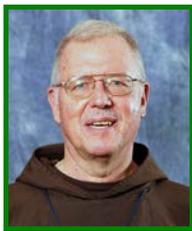
"Welcoming" calls for expanding legal pathways for entry and no longer pushing migrants and displaced people towards countries where they face persecution and violence. It also demands balancing our concerns about national security with concern for fundamental human rights. Scripture reminds us: 'Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.'" (Hebrews 13:2).

As we begin 2018, the pope is asking us to consider a spirituality of solidarity, to experience the peace of the goodness of God, and to practice the peace, hope and compassion that will motivate us to act with joy, knowing that we are blessed by this call.

Capuchin bishops to be installed



Paul Schmitz



David Zywiec

Paul Schmitz and David Zywiec are both currently ministering as bishops in Nicaragua. Two new dioceses have been created: David will be installed as bishop of Siuna on 13 January; Paul will be installed as bishop of Bluefields on 20 January.

Weekly re:Cap offers prayerful good wishes to our brothers as they continue their episcopal ministries to the people of Nicaragua.



Friar ordained

On 16 December, Vito Martinez was ordained to the diaconate at St. Clare de Montefalco Church in Chicago. The ordaining prelate was our brother, Paul Schmitz. The parish is staffed by Capuchin friars of the San José Community. Vito is pictured at left with his mother, Guadalupe.

Prayerful best wishes to Vito as he begins this new ministry!

Gerarda Tobin affiliated

A liturgical celebration was held at St. Bonaventure Monastery on 28 December to affiliate Gerarda Tobin. Her brother, Joseph Tobin (cardinal archbishop of Newark) presided at the ceremony. Gerarda is the spouse of Brian Anthony Joseph, also an affiliate of the province.



Gerarda Tobin

Voices of justice



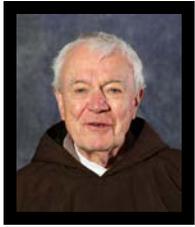
Bryan Massingale

Bryan Massingale, professor of theology at Fordham University and priest of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, was interviewed recently by Bill McCormick of the Ignation Solidarity Network. The following are excerpts from that interview.

I have recently begun thinking about racism as a soul sickness. We can talk about racism as a political issue, as a sociological phenomenon, but for me, as a faith-based scholar and activist, I understand racism as a soul sickness. It's that profound warping of the human spirit that enables us to create communities that favor one racial group, white people, over darker skinned people. By creating an inner spirit that's indifferent. So even if white people aren't deliberately racist, they're not using the "N" word, they're not actively discriminating. We become complacent or indifferent to what's going on in our society. We don't know, and we don't want to know. And that's a shriveling of the human spirit. So if racism at its core is a soul sickness, then we need to provide a remedy that can reach the inner reaches of the human spirit.

[Racism] tries to form an identity. And I think racism in America forms us into false identities. So it's not a matter of things that we do that are wrong; we're formed in a way of looking at the world, which in some cases keeps us from seeing the injustice that's there. And so we need not just change policies, but we change policies without changing a malformed identity, that malformed identity's going to find new ways of expression and that's where spiritual concepts like the Magis can be very helpful. Not in terms of dictating public policy, but in terms of forming, correcting our malformed identities so we can be open, then, to the more creative public policies that need to be in place.

The narrative we can get trapped in is to think, "it can never change." Or it's going to be hopeless, or there's no way out. And I don't believe that. I believe that every generation has its own challenges, and so, our hope is to pass the baton on and have you guys do it. I'm not on social media at all. But you're using it, you're creating this platform by which the message of Gospel can reach other people in different ways. And that gives me a great deal of hope.



Our brother, Brian Braun, died on 29 December at the age of 83. Brian was born in 1934, the son of Oscar and Alice Braun (née Meade), in Eden, Wisconsin. He was invested in the Capuchin habit in 1953, perpetually professed in 1957, and ordained a

priest in 1960. He served in parochial ministry positions in Detroit MI and Crown Point IN. From 1966-70, he was pastor in Saginaw MI. From 1970-72 he ministered at the House of Peace, and did parish work at St. Benedict Church in Milwaukee. From 1972-1983, he served on the faculty at St. Lawrence Seminary in Mt. Calvary WI. In 1983 he was assigned as pastor at St. Justin Martyr Parish in Chicago, and in 1989 he served as pastor of Our Lady Gate of Heaven in Chicago.

In 1995, Brian was appointed co-director of the Cap Corps Volunteer Program, and served in that capacity until 2004. He then served as pastor of St. Martin de Porres Parish in Milwaukee until his retirement in 2011. Still in "retirement," he served as chaplain at St. Francis Home in Fond du Lac WI until 2016. Brian is survived by his sister Kathryn of Minoqua WI, as well as his many Capuchin brothers with whom he lived, prayed and ministered for over 64 years.



The Three Kings
by Ruben Dario

I am Gaspar. I have brought frankincense,
and I have come here to say that life is good.
That God exists. That love is everything.
I know it is so because of the heavenly star.



- 6 Epiphany: El día de los tres reyes
Albert Sandor (B)
- 9 **Gary Keegstra (B)**
Lawrence Groeschel (B)
Gerald Kessel (B)
- 10 **Betty L'Esteve (B)**
- 11 **Carl Schaefer (B)**

The Word

by Ella Wheeler Wilcox

Oh, a word is a gem, or a stone, or a song,
Or a flame, or a two-edged sword;
Or a rose in bloom, or a sweet perfume,
Or a drop of gall is a word.

You may choose your word like a connoisseur,
And polish it up with art,
But the word that sways, and stirs, and stays,
Is the word that comes from the heart.

You may work on your word a thousand weeks,
But it will not glow like one
That all unsought, leaps forth white hot,
When the fountains of feeling run.

"I am Melchior. I have brought fragrant myrrh.
Yes, God exists. He is the light of day.
The whitest flowers is rooted in the mud,
and all delights are tinged with melancholy."

I am Balthasar. I have brought gold.
I assure you, God exists. He is great and strong.
I know it is so because of the perfect star
that shines so brightly in Death's diadem.

"Gaspar, Melchior, Balthasar: be still.
Love has triumphed, and bids you to its feast.
Christ, reborn, turns chaos into light,
and on His brows He wears the crown of life."

