



21 March 2018

Holy Week: A challenge to humbly serve

Issue 1127

Upside Down

A poem for Holy Thursday
 by David Hirt

And everything is upside down,
 like faces mirrored in a bowl:
 an earthen vessel, roughly formed,
 that's full of water while the one
 who once was robed, incomp'nable,
 in light removes his outer robe
 to tie a tow'l, a servant's garb,
 around his waist and stoops to wash
 his foll'wer's feet of traces from
 the dusty Roman roads they've walked.
 Yes everything is upside down
 for whom in all this world would like



to think that him whose praise we sang,
 "Hosanna to King David's son,"
 should stoop to take a servant's part.
 Oh we would rather he should reign
 on high with us at his right hand.
 But Servant Lord, incomp'nable,
 you call us to remove our pride,
 an outer robe, and stoop to wash
 all others' feet: humility,
 and thrust down deep our dusty feet—
 to take the love you offer us—
 into the bowl reflecting you.

Poetry affirms our common humanity by revealing to us that individuals, everywhere in the world, share the same questions and feelings. Poetry is the mainstay of oral tradition and, over centuries, can communicate the innermost values of diverse cultures.

World Poetry Day
 21st March

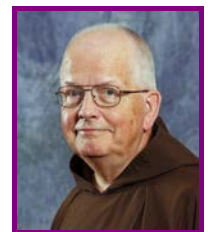
In celebrating World Poetry Day, March 21st, UNESCO recognizes the unique ability of poetry to capture the creative spirit of the human mind. One of the main objectives of the day is to support linguistic diversity through poetic expression and to offer endangered languages the opportunity to be heard within their communities. The observance of World Poetry Day is also meant to encourage a return to the oral tradition of poetry recitals, to promote the teaching of poetry, to restore a dialogue between poetry and the other arts such as theatre, dance, music and painting, and to support small publishers and create an attractive image of poetry in the media, so that the art of poetry will no longer be considered an outdated form of art, but one which enables society as a whole to regain and assert its identity.



David Hirt

David Hirt, the friar-poet featured above, lives and ministers in Milwaukee WI. He serves as a member of the postulancy formation staff, and creates poems for various occasions. His poems for Holy Week can be found at: <http://www.thecapuchins.org/spirituality/spiritual-content/holy-week-poems>.

Jerome Schroeder, another friar-poet, lives and ministers in Appleton WI, where he serves as local minister for our retired friars. His poems can be found at: <https://kaplopblog.wordpress.com/author/kaplopblog/>



Jerome Schroeder

Life in the "Big Sky" friary

By Mark Joseph Costello

(This essay was originally published in "InterConnection," the province's JPIC newsletter, February 2018)



During Catholic School Week at Pretty Eagle Catholic Academy, the St. Katharine Friars were honored with a special lunch for their contributions as religious ministering on the Crow Reservation.

L-R: Mark Joseph Costello, Jerry Cornish, Bill Frigo and Tien Dinh

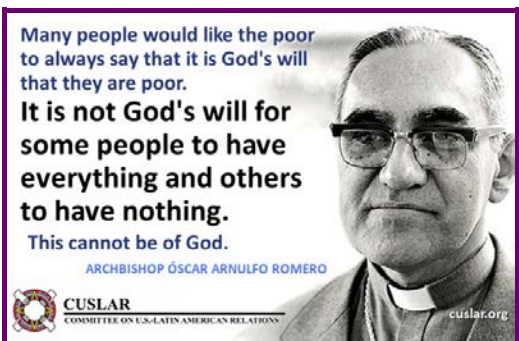
Long days with challenging ministry is a good description of our reality on the Crow reservation in southeastern Montana. Having a sense of accomplishment is rather elusive in an environment of unemployment, broken families and addiction. While the unemployment rate in the country is at an all time low, it runs to 70% here on the reservation. We try to support people through education and attending to their faith needs, but this can take a toll on a friar's mental and spiritual health.

One major source of support is what the friars do for each other living in community. Coming home to an understanding heart or two (or in our case three), and sharing a meal or prayer together, provide the balance and support that one needs in dealing with reservation culture. Keeping positive and realistic in ministry requires an honesty that often only a community

member can provide. The people we serve here are both troubled and beautiful. Native culture is both attractive and easily misunderstood. Together as friars, the mysteries and miseries of this rather unique minority can be served better by our communal presence. We friars are of different abilities, ages, cultures and personalities. We complement each other in many ways, and the people see that. The people also see us as belonging together, our own little clan *among the clans* of the Crow tribe.

Now that two of us St. Katharine friars fairly singlehandedly (no staffs) run four small parishes, teach at the Catholic school and do sacramental preparation, there is much to occupy our time. While another friar is teaching full time at the school and running children's Sunday school, our retired friar continues to do help-outs and a lot of work around the friary and home parish. The life in the friary is a major stabilizing effect and a source of joy, allowing us to face the challenges and needs of the people of God.

Assassination anniversary



Oscar Romero was archbishop of San Salvador. He was assassinated 38 years ago on Monday 24 March 1980 as he was celebrating Mass in the chapel of the Divine Providence cancer hospital where he lived. Thirty five years later, he was declared a martyr of the church, killed out of hatred of the faith, and was beatified on 23 May 2015.

"It is important to note why [the church] has been persecuted. Not any and every priest has been persecuted, not any and every institution has been attacked. That part of the church has been attacked and persecuted that put itself on the side of the people and went to the people's defense. Here again we find the same key to understanding the persecution of the church: the poor." — Romero, speech at the Université catholique de Louvain, Belgium, 2 February 1980.

The Congregation for Saints' Causes voted unanimously to recommend Pope Francis recognize Romero as a martyr. "He was killed at the altar. Through him, they wanted to strike the church that flowed from the Second Vatican Council." His assassination "was not caused by motives that were simply political, but by hatred for a faith that, imbued with charity, would not be silent in the face of the injustices that relentlessly and cruelly slaughtered the poor and their defenders."

Update: Fraternal Collaboration

We continue to welcome brothers from other countries into our fraternal collaboration program. Given the geographical reality of our province, we realize that many, if not most, of our friars may not have an opportunity to actually meet these brothers in person until our provincial chapter. The following is a listing of those brothers who are *currently* in residence with us. We encourage our brothers to offer welcoming messages to these friars who are so far away from their home provinces. Contact information can be accessed in our provincial directory. We'll update the list again as other friars arrive in our province.

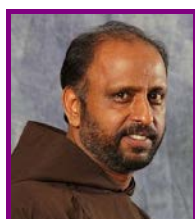
St. Lawrence Community, Mt. Calvary WI: *Pushparaj Alphonse, Biju Kochuniravat, Joseph Mattathil, Matalai Muthu Savariappan.* **St. Crispin Community, Washington MI:** *Biju Chacko Parakkalayil, Binoy Augustine Nedumparampil,* **St. Bonaventure Community, Detroit MI:** *Joseph Panakkalody Savior, George Kuriype Kooran.* **St. Conrad Community, Milwaukee WI:** *Johnson Sagay Raj Jayaraj, Roach Gaspar.* **Montana Reservation:** *Gebreyesus Amanuel Boyine.* **St. Clare Community, Chicago IL:** *Anish Cleetus Palliyil, Antony Julius Milton, Worku Yohannes Gebre, Drahomir Vojtech Dvoulety.*



Pushparaj Alphonse



Biju Kochuniravat



Joseph Mattathil



Muthu Savariappan



Biju Parakkalayil



Joseph Savior



Joseph Kooran



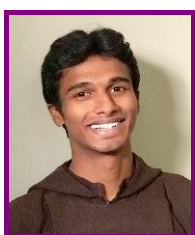
Johnson Jayaraj



Roach Gaspar



Gebreyesus Boyine



Antony Julius Milton



Anish Palliyil



Worku Gebre



Binoy Nedumparampil



Drahomir Dvoulety

On Collaboration...a poem by ryn

Collab, collab! Oh thoughtful collabs!
Amalgamation of unique minds,
Merging of dual thinking labs!
Cerebral workshop of life's diverse grinds!

Collab, collab! Reinforced true!
Melding of minds and honed crafts,
Mounted up with bolt and screw!
Assembled solid in monochromed poetic drafts.



Collab, collab! A trend that's trending!
A fad that now seems ever growing...
Each other's style we will be wearing.
Matching ensembles, yours for the liking.

Collab, collab! More of it please!
Ocean of creativity, pearls ripe for picking,
Journey for many across artistic seas.
Wonder who with next I'll be swimming...



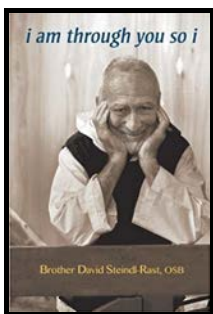
- William Siler (brother of Paschal Siler) died recently.
- Please know how grateful I am for the great out-pouring of support and care you have expressed, not just when you learned of my cancer and responded, but also when you learned about the death of my brother Tom, whose memorial mass we celebrated in Portage, Wisconsin. ~ Bob Udulutsch
- Having returned 'home' after four weeks of hospitalization and rehab after a bout with flu and pneumonia, this is a note of many thanks and appreciation for your messages, prayers, calls, emails, visits etc. With all of that support and encouragement, I had no choice except to recover rapidly and be able to be released from therapy on Wednesday, May 14th. The process of rehab continues, but I am confident that, with your continuing prayers and support, I shall be back on my feet very quickly. Many thanks! ~ Kenan Siegel



Steve Kropp recently installed MJ Groark and Fred Cabras as acolytes during a service in Chicago at Saint Clare of Montefalco Parish. Both friars are students at Catholic Theological Union.

Richard's "quick review"

by Richard Hart



David Steindl Rast's latest book entitled *I am through you so I*, is a quote from e.e. cummings whom he does not quote as much as the poet Rainer Maria Rilke.

The book is divided into nine chapters

each representing ten years of reflections on his life, and begins with his childhood in Vienna, how he became a Christian, the decision about his future to become a Benedictine monk, his encounters with various faiths like Jews, Buddhists, Hindus, Muslims, a graphic description of a hermit's life, his vast travels giving lectures, his desire for contemplation and experiences of living into the nineties. The intriguing part of the book is that after each chapter a friend of his, Johannes Kaup, dialogues with

him delving into the many layers of "through you" with you, in you, because of you, and here David reveals the wisdom he has gleaned from life, the gems of insight concerning the spiritual life, his ability to listen deeper and look farther which results in gratitude, and his instituting a worldwide *Network for Grateful Living* for 240 countries and territories. He is much concerned about our living the *Now* which unites present, past and future so we can reach the fullness of life by accepting the challenge given us by Jesus.

A Blessed Easter to all of our readers!

MARCH



- 21 Pro Council, Mt. Calvary WI
Public Relations Video/Zoom Conf
- 22 Biju Kochuniravat (B)
- 24 Oscar Romero (F)
- 26 Steve Kropp Video Conferences
- 26 HR Video Conference
- 28 Public Relations Video/Zoom Conf
- 25 Palm Sunday
- 29 Vito Martinez (B)
Michael Dorn (B)
Holy Thursday
- 29-31 Triduum Retreat, Mt. Calvary WI
- 30 Good Friday
Passover begins at sunset
- 31 César Chávez (B)

.. APRIL ..



- 1 Joseph Savior (B)
Easter (F)
- 5 Nicholas Blattner (B)