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## Capuchin Bishop Creates Oasis of Peace



Capuchin Friar David Zywiec was sent to Nicaragua in 1975. 27 years later, David was ordained a bishop. In 2017, the pope chose David to lead the newest diocese in Central America. David's 44 years of ministry in Central America was the topic of a recent article in *Crux*, an online Catholic news source. Following are some excerpts from that article.

As one of the men working with the bishop told *Crux*, Zywiec has had to learn to make his peace with the government, knowing that "who's up today could be down tomorrow and vice-versa." Instead of fostering division, Zywiec focuses on being a minister to his people, what Pope Francis would call a "shepherd with the smell of his sheep."

Speaking of his early years in Nicaragua, David recounted "how the Somoza regime hunted down Sandinistas in the jungle in which he was trying to minister. A lot of people were killed or disappeared," he said. He doesn't say it, but according to many the same thing is happening today. Siuna, however, remains a stronghold of the Ortega regime, and the relationship between the bishop and the mayor, a member of the ruling party, are good. As a matter of fact, the mayor helped the church secure a lot on which a 10,000 square foot cathedral can be built.

Zywiec told *Crux* he never had problems with the people, though he did have some with the American embassy. Back then, the U.S. was using missionaries to gather intelligence, and he refused to provide it, at a moment in which the area he was working in was being bombed by American forces. "I told them that my parents were tax-paying Americans, and that it would be ironic if they ended up paying for the bombs that killed their son when he was working as a missionary in the Nicaraguan jungle," he recalls telling the embassy.

With a humble, handmade wooden cross tied with a blue string, Zywiec is far from your usual bishop. He's seen it all, both as a local and a foreigner. He's earned the respect of the flock he leads, including the priests who call him by his given name, David, but who are quick to do as he asks.

You can read the full article at:

<https://cruxnow.com/crux-in-nicaragua/2018/12/17/american-bishop-in-nicaragua-creates-oasis-of-peace-in-nation-of-turmoil/>

# The Statues at the Solanus Casey Center

By Nancy Sylvester, IHM

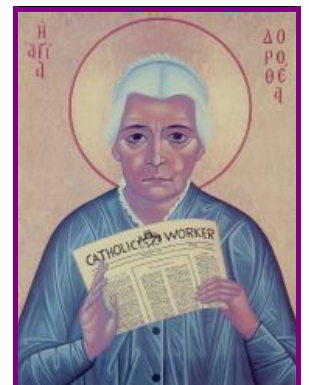


Nancy Sylvester, IHM

I realize there is much to be grateful for: men and women who have lived the Incarnation in ways that give us hope and that have been transformational. Some of them greeted me at the center where we were meeting. The Solanus Casey Center in Detroit has a group of statues that welcomes you when you come in. They represent persons who lived the Gospel. Some may be more familiar to you than others, but they all lived out of that authentic self; they all lived out of Christ consciousness; they all had "put on the mind of Christ."

I offer this meditation adapted from this Franciscan expression of the Beatitudes written by Capuchin Br. John Francis Samsa, "The Beatitudes of Christ: Embrace the Challenge." I encourage you to take some time as the old year ends and reflect on these lives as well as others for whom you are grateful. Reflect on those people or situations that gratuitously offer you hope and whose lives made our world a better place.

Blessed are the poor in spirit. Theirs is the reign of God. Dorothy Day — a Catholic with communist ideals; preached socialism and women's rights; pacifist; journalist challenging church and government policies.



Dorothy Day



Takashi Nagai

Blessed are the non-violent. They will possess the Earth. Takashi Nagai — exposed to radiation from the bomb that fell on Nagasaki; preached forgiveness and reconciliation until his death; amid the destruction he spoke only of the love of Christ; spoke of disarmament as moral obligation.

Blessed are those who mourn. They will be comforted. Jean Donovan — fun loving; loyal Republican; engaged to be married; Ursuline volunteer in El Salvador; murdered for distributing clothes and food to those most in need in that war-torn country.



Clement Kern

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for justice. They will be satisfied. Clement Kern — Catholic priest; conscience of Detroit; opened his church to alcoholics, illegal immigrants, gays, and social protesters; supported labor unions and lived Catholic social teaching.

Blessed are the merciful. They will receive mercy. Teresa of Calcutta — fed, clothed, cleaned and comforted the sick and dying on the streets of Calcutta (Kolkata); founded a religious community dedicated to this same work.



Theresa of Calcutta

Blessed are the pure of heart. They will see God. Catherine de Hueck — pioneer among North American Catholic laity in implementing social doctrine; insisted that action be rooted in prayer; advocated making faith an integral part of ordinary life; bridged Eastern and Western Christian traditions.



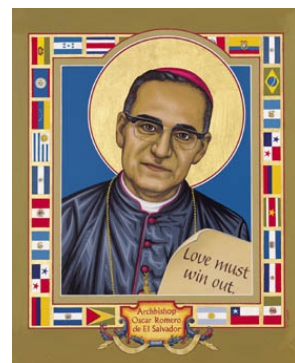
Martin Luther King, Jr.

Blessed are the peacemakers. They will be called children of God. Martin Luther King — rooted in faith, gave hope to oppressed people; saw achieving racial equality as a duty for each person; courage to stand undefended when attacked; jailed and beaten; advocated non-violent strategies in opposing injustices.



Catherine de Hueck

Blessed are those who suffer persecution for justice's sake. Theirs is the reign of heaven. Óscar Romero — priest of El Salvador; allowed himself to experience the suffering of his people and the indifference of the political leaders; spoke of a revolution of conscience, of love and justice; shot down while presiding at the Eucharist.

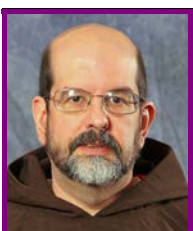


Oscar Romero

As this year draws to a close, let us be grateful for all those who live the Gospel. May the new year invite us to go ever deeper, encountering the divine within so that we have the courage to act out of our authentic selves. May your new year be filled with gratitude, love and outrageous acts of courage. *Happy New Year!*

*[Nancy Sylvoester is founder and director of the Institute for Communal Contemplation and Dialogue. She served in leadership of her own religious community, the Sister Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Monroe, Michigan, as well as in the presidency of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious. Prior to that, she was National Coordinator of Network, the national Catholic social justice lobby.]*

## Milwaukee passes plan to fund warming shelters for homeless



A month ago, a Milwaukee alderman called for a solution to the homeless encampments throughout the city. After holding a public hearing, they came up with a plan to give \$75,000 to emergency warming centers. The plan just passed a common council committee, and Alderman Michael Murphy says he thinks it will easily pass the full council. "It's a huge deal for us here at Capuchin Community Services," Rob Roemer, CCS ministry director said. "This will help us raise the bar, and be open more at nights."



- Janet Yousef Habbo, the mother of Capuchin candidate Anthony Yousef, was admitted to the hospital following a heart attack.
- Doris Busha (sister of Timon Costello) died recently.
- Thanks to all for the many prayers for my sister-inlaw Virginia. She has been on dialysis, and will be getting a heart monitor. — Paschal Siler
- Terry LaCross (brother of Larry LaCross) was hospitalized after a fall.



*Priests for Justice for Immigrants in the annual "13<sup>th</sup> Annual Posadas March for Immigrants" in Chicago. Several Franciscan friars participated in the event.*

## JANUARY

- 6-9 . . . . . Pro Council, Marytown Retreat, Chicago
- 6 . . . . . Albert Sandor (B)
- 9 . . . . . Gary Keegstra (B)  
Larry Groeschel (B)  
Gerald Kessel (B)
- 10 . . . . . Betty L'Esteve (B)
- 11 . . . . . Carl Schaefer (B)
- 14 . . . . . Formation Council, Milwaukee
- 15 . . . . . Finance Commission Video Conference
- 16 . . . . . Otto Bucher (B)

**Hate no one, no matter how much they've wronged you. Live humbly, no matter how wealthy you become. Think positively, no matter how hard life is. Give much, even if you've been given little. Forgive all, especially yourself. And never stop praying for the best for everyone!**

*Capuchin Communications wishes all of our readers a Happy and Blessed New Year!*

### *From: "For the Time Being; A Christmas Oratorio"*

*W.H. Auden*

***First Wise Man:***

To discover how to be truthful now,  
Is the reason I follow this star.

***Second Wise Man:***

With envy, terror, rage, regret,  
We anticipate, or remember,  
But never are.

To discover how to be living now,  
Is the reason I follow this star.

***Third Wise Man:***

To discover how to be loving now,  
Is the reason I follow this star.

***All Three:***

The weather has been awful,  
The countryside is dreary,



Marsh, jungle, rock, and echoes mock  
Calling our hope unlawful;

But a silly song can help along  
Yours ever and sincerely:  
At last we know for certain  
That we are three old sinners,  
That this journey is much too long,  
That we want our dinners,  
And miss our wives, our books, our dogs,  
But have only the vaguest idea  
Why we are what we are.

To discover how to be human now  
Is the reason we follow this star.