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## “Season” Opens on September 1<sup>st</sup>; Concludes on Feast of Francis

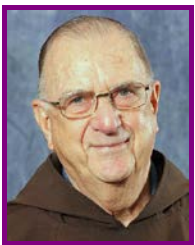
“During the month-long Season of Creation, Christians on six continents [will] work to put *Laudato Si* into practice,” says a letter released by the Vatican’s Dicastery for Integral Human Development. “They [will] participate in community events to deepen their love for Creator, creation, and each other.”

*Laudato Si*, the encyclical letter released by Pope Francis in 2015, was the first papal document dedicated exclusively to the environment, and the timing of its release was meant to influence the talks which led to the Paris Agreement on global warming, which was signed at the end of that year. Since 1989 the Orthodox have marked Sept. 1 as a day of prayer for creation, a tradition adopted by Pope Francis, while Oct. 4 marks the feast of St. Francis of Assisi.

The month-long ecumenical initiative has the theme “The web of life.” This reflects the role humanity has as stewards of creation, but also the “urgent need” to protect biodiversity. According to the United Nations, an estimated one million species are under threat of extinction, primarily due to “our way of life.”

(Excerpted from CRUX, 6/18/19)

## Brothers Set to Celebrate Religious Jubilees

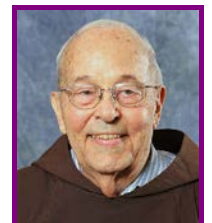


John Francis Samsa celebrates 55 years as a Capuchin friar in 2019. John Francis, a native of Kingsford MI, joined the Capuchins in 1954.

“During my formative years as a Capuchin friar, I was deeply inspired by St. Francis’ missionary spirit and love for the Church as he answered the Lord’s call; ‘*Francis, go rebuild my Church,*’” said John Francis. That missionary spirit led to four decades of service in Central America at missions in Nicaragua and Honduras from 1963-2003.

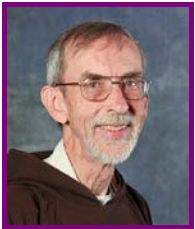
“As they say, ‘You can take the missionary out of the missions, but you can’t take the missions out of the missionary;’ so after retiring from the missions in 2003, I answered the call on several occasions to give a helping hand to our Capuchin brethren on Guam and in Saudi Arabia. At present, I reside in the Capuchin fraternity of Casa San José in Tucson AZ, attending mostly to the needs of the Hispanic community.”

Paschal Siler, born in Merrill MI, celebrates 65 years as a Capuchin friar this year. Paschal joined the Capuchins in 1954, and served in missions around the world, including the Middle



East and in Montana. In addition, Paschal served in a leadership capacity as part of the Provincial Council for the Province of St. Joseph.

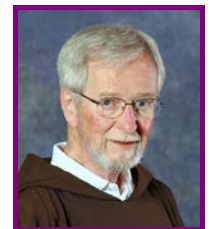
“I was originally interested in joining the Maryknoll Order and to serve in foreign ministry in China. But attending a preparatory college year at St. Lawrence Seminary attracted me to the Capuchin brotherhood and their ministry in Nicaragua,” said Paschal. “My 65 years as a Capuchin have been enriched by the example and enthusiasm of my Capuchin brothers and their ministry to people of different cultures and to the marginalized in society.”



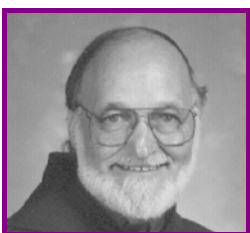
Oliver Bambenek, born in Spring Valley MN, celebrates 60 years as a professed friar this year, having joined the order in 1959. Much of Oliver’s Capuchin life has focused on education and formation, serving many years at St. Lawrence Seminary and as a pastor at St. Joseph Parish.

“It seems impossible that 60 years have elapsed since I left novitiate and began my life as a professed Capuchin,” said Oliver. “I am so grateful to God for calling me to this life, which has brought me together with so many brothers who have guided and directed me on this journey, and so many others whom I have met through the various ministries I have had over these years.”

Keith Clark celebrates 60 years as a professed friar this year. Keith joined the Capuchins in 1959 after attending high school at St. Lawrence Seminary in Mt. Calvary WI. Past ministry experience includes two terms as provincial vicar as well as past president of St. Lawrence Seminary.



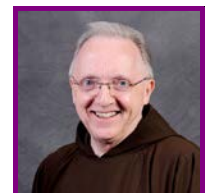
“After five years at SLS, the fearful thought that I might want to wear a brown bathrobe and open-toe shoes for the rest of my life entered my head! I had always said that I’m a Capuchin today because of a shoe salesman whom I never met and whose name I didn’t know until I had been a Capuchin for 20 years. I stopped in a shoe store in Fond du Lac, and discovered the salesman with whom I was speaking was the man who told my father about Saint Lawrence Seminary without whose casual mention of a seminary near Fond du Lac, I would not be a Capuchin today. “From that point on, the Capuchin Province of Saint Joseph educated me and found me employment for the last sixty years. And I’m very grateful.”



Ben Markwell celebrates 60 years as a Capuchin friar this year. Ben joined the Capuchins in 1959. He is a native of Middletown, Ohio. Ben has served for many years in the Middle East, and just recently took up residence in Tucson AZ.

“Having just graduated from high school at Boys Town NE in 1956, then a college student at St. Lawrence, and having never heard of the Capuchins, I was immediately impressed and inspired by the friars,” said Ben. “Their humanness, their prayerfulness, their brotherliness and care for the students — these qualities I have remembered and celebrated throughout the past 60 years. Our province is especially noted for our fraternal spirit. These qualities have inspired and supported me over these many years.”

Gerry Pehler celebrates 50 years as a Capuchin friar this year. Born in Arcadia, Wisconsin, Gerry joined the Capuchins in 1969, and has ministered as a pastor at parishes in Wisconsin, Indiana and Michigan, as well as serving in ministry at the Solanus Casey Center in Detroit. Gerry is currently pastor at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Saginaw MI. Gerry’s vocation to become a Capuchin began while attending St. Lawrence Seminary in Mt. Calvary.



“It was only after joining the Capuchins did I come to know and actualize my calling to religious life of what it meant to be a Franciscan, living out my vows in the spirit of St. Francis of Assisi, and the Gospel way of life,” said Gerry. “Serving the needs of others in various roles and ministries has brought much joy and satisfaction to my life. Being a Capuchin has always been about reassuring people that they are loved and cared for by God, and that compassion for people is truly a Franciscan charism.”

## We Saw You at the Capuchin Walk



# oremus



Our brother, Fabian Fehring, died at the age of 92 on 19 June. Fabian was born in 1926 in Jackson WI, the son of John and Alma Fehring. He was invested in 1946, perpetually professed in 1950, and ordained in 1953. He served at St. Lawrence Seminary for a year before becoming a missionary in Central America for three years. He then ministered in Milwaukee at St. Benedict Hospital, and then as chaplain at St. Joseph Boys Home in Jackson MI. Fabian ministered at St. Labre in Ashland MT for eight years, and then at St. Joseph Parish in Hardin MT for 46 years. Fabian is survived by three sisters-in-law, nieces and nephews, as well as his many Capuchin brothers with whom he lived, prayed and ministered for over 70 years.



Our affiliate, Joan Wilichowski, died on June 19 at the age of 73. She was born July 6, 1945 in Wausau, daughter of the late Carl and Margaret (Corda) Wilichowski. Joan worked as a receptionist for 42 years at St. Anthony Spirituality Center. She was strong in faith, and in that faith she was able to show unconditional love to everyone she met. She

made lifelong friends along the way and enjoyed traveling, reading, playing cards and games and gardening. She loved spending time with family, especially the younger generation of nieces and nephews. She always made time for you to listen or just to be there for you.

- Hudson Leo Hascall (brother of John Hascall) died recently.
  - Johnny Mattathil (brother of Joseph Mattathil) died recently.
- Margaret McInnis (mother of SJP employee Cheryl Heinz) was recently hospitalized for multiple fractures.
- I am overwhelmed by all the Capuchin's prayers and Masses from all over the world in the loss of our mother. She was such a kind, caring person to everyone she met. The friars and staff at Capuchin Retreat often enjoyed her baking, and she shared her recipes with them. God bless my Capuchin family!

~ Rose Ann Miller

## JULY

4 ..... Steven Kropp (B)

6 ..... Tien Dinh (B)

7 ..... David Preuss (B)

8 ..... Chris L'Esteve (B)

9 ..... Finance Commission  
Richard Merling (B)

10 ..... MJ Groark (B)

13 ..... Randolph Graczyk (B)

14 ..... Francis Solanus Fary (N)

15 ..... David Zywiec (B)  
Michael Sullivan (B)

17 ..... Provincial Council, Mt. Calvary WI

To love our enemy is impossible. The moment we understand our enemy, we feel **compassion** towards him or her, and he or she is no longer our enemy.

~ Thich Nhat Hanh

**re:Cap is grateful for a recent donation from Tim Havey.**

## Summer Night

by Jtspence



Days are lonely  
as the sun shines longer.  
But nights are cool  
while the moon shines  
down

with its silver light  
as I sit,  
watching...  
The stars are twinkling  
in the heavenly  
moonlight.