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TL Michael Auman, Editor
1927 N. 4th St., Milwaukee WI 53212
414.803.4449; tlauman@thecapuchins.org
<http://sjpcommunications.org>

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Issue 1129

WE ARE:

ALL CONNECTED

STRONGER TOGETHER

LOVE'S HANDS IN THE WORLD

CALLED TO CREATE JUSTICE

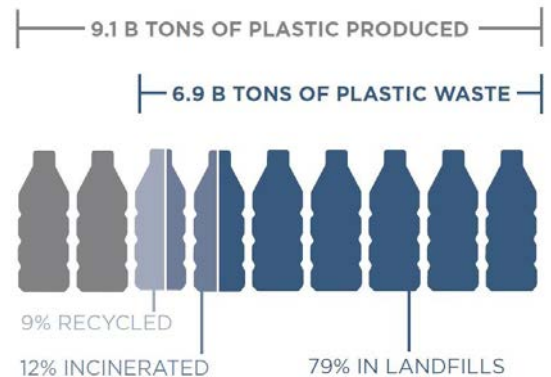
RESPONSIBLE FOR ONE
ANOTHER AND THE EARTH

Earth Day: April 22nd

From poisoning and injuring marine life to disrupting human hormones, from littering our beaches and landscapes to clogging our waste streams and landfills, the exponential growth of plastics is now threatening the survival of our planet.

In response, Earth Day 2018 is dedicated to providing the information and inspiration needed to fundamentally change human attitude and behavior about plastics. Plastic pollution is one of the most important environmental problems that we face today. It impacts the environment and our health and well being. We have all contributed to this problem – mostly unknowingly – and we must work to reduce and ultimately to end plastic pollution.

The invention of plastic in 1907 was considered a breakthrough. Plastic products soon became omnipresent in our daily lives. For many years, we only perceived the benefits of plastic and knew little of the damaging consequences for human health, natural ecosystems and the climate. Plastics are a problem mostly due to their un-biodegradable nature, the materials used for plastic production (hydrocarbon molecules—derived from the refining of oil and natural gas), and the challenges behind properly discarding them.



While recycling plastic waste is important, it is not nearly enough. You may be lulled into thinking it is ok to consume plastic products because you plan to recycle them. Unfortunately, recycling is far from perfect; many plastics can't be efficiently recycled and will end up in the landfill regardless of which bin they were put in. Some localities lack the infrastructure to sort and recycle plastics. For this reason, it is much more important to focus on reducing our own level of plastic consumption. As consumers, we can't only be responsible for what happens to products at the end of their life cycle; we have to be responsible for which products we purchase in the first place. Through reducing our plastic consumption, we will directly and actively reduce the amount of plastic that makes it into the environment.

The above is excerpted from earthdaynetwork.org



Promoting the *integrity of creation* is a Capuchin Franciscan value

Friar ordained to the presbyterate

Our brother Jason Graves was ordained a priest on 7 April during ceremonies at St. Bonaventure Monastery in Detroit, with David Zywiec (Capuchin bishop) presiding. Jason served his diaconate ministry at St. Francis Parish in Milwaukee, and will continue ministry there as associate pastor for the coming year. Masses of Thanksgiving were celebrated in Hazel Park MI and Milwaukee following the ordination.



L-R: Michael Sullivan (pro minister), Vito Martinez (deacon), David Zywiec (presider), Jason's Mother, Jason Graves, Jason's father, and Jason's sister.

Annual Triduum Retreat



The annual Triduum Retreat at St. Lawrence Friary in Mt. Calvary WI brought together friars, postulants, candidates and formators.

Religious vs Diocesan



The three Franciscan novitiates in California joined together to form the "All-Franciscan" team for a soccer game against students of St. John Seminary in Camarillo, California. St. John's won 7-2, but a great time was had by all. This is the first time all three Franciscan novitiates participated.

The photo at left includes our two novices at San Lorenzo Community in Santa Ynez CA: José Vera (standing 6th from left) and Baudry Metangmo (7th from left).

We're not sure who needed the crutches!



Capuchin friars guard Austria's imperial crypt

Few people would suspect that the order of Capuchin friars, famous for their humble imitation of St. Francis, are special guardians entrusted with the duty of caring for Austria's imperial crypt.

The Capuchin crypt lies beneath a tiny Franciscan church in Vienna. Beneath the simple wood-furnished church is a vast labyrinth of tunnels and chambers, filled with elaborate metal sarcophagi. The coffins hold the remains of 150 royal family members of the Habsburg dynasty. The Capuchins have continuously cared for the crypt and the sarcophagi, despite the collapse of the monarchy and two world wars.



Two identical figures of Empress Maria Theresa rise from her tomb, depicting her resurrection, in the crypt of the Capuchin Church in Vienna. The sarcophagus, which fills an entire room, was completed 30 years before her death. (CNS/Zita Ballinger Fletcher)

"The friars are supposed to pray for the deceased and preserve the burial place," Peter Grubits, manager of the crypt, told Catholic News Service.

Caring for the tombs became a duty of the Capuchins in 1618, when Empress Anna of Tyrol's last will asked the friars to pray for the royal family and the nation. Anna chose the Capuchins due to familiarity with them and their popularity with ordinary people. Later in the 1600s, Ferdinand III decided to bury all royal family members under the church.

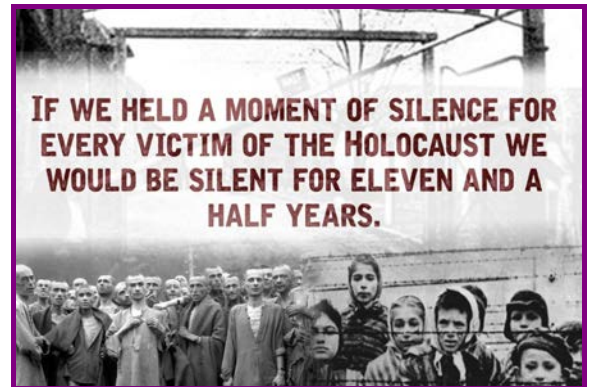
The above is from Catholic News Service

Holocaust Is Fading From Memory

New York Times, 12 April 2018

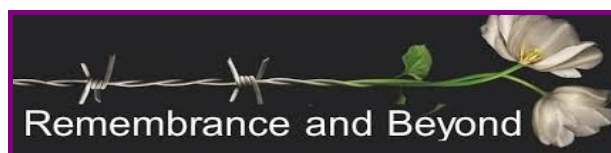
For seven decades, "never forget" has been a rallying cry of the Holocaust remembrance movement.

But a survey released on Holocaust Remembrance Day, found that many adults lack basic knowledge of what happened — and this lack of knowledge is more pronounced *among millennials*, whom the survey defined as people ages 18 to 34.



Thirty-one percent of Americans, and 41 percent of millennials, believe that two million or fewer Jews were killed in the Holocaust; the actual number is around six million. Forty-one percent of Americans, and 66 percent of millennials, cannot say what Auschwitz was. And 52 percent of Americans wrongly think Hitler came to power through force.

"As we get farther away from the actual events, 70-plus years now, it becomes less forefront of what people are talking about or thinking about, discussing or learning," said a board member of the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, which commissioned the study. "If we wait another generation before you start trying to take remedial action, I think we're really going to be behind the eight ball."





- Werner Wolf was recently hospitalized for a respiratory infection.
- Ken Sullivan (brother of Michael Sullivan) is scheduled for cancer surgery.

The Capuchins'



Friars and partners can register to run, walk, or donate at: CapuchinsRunWalkForTheHungry.org
The team name is Capuchin Crew.
If they register by June 3rd, they will receive a t-shirt and the early bird discount.

Meditation on Beauty

by J. Estanislao Lopez
(A poem for Earth Day)

There are days I think beauty has been exhausted
but then I read about the New York subway cars that,

dumped into the ocean, have become synthetic reefs.
Coral gilds the stanchions, feathered with dim Atlantic light.

Fish glisten, darting from a window into the sea grass
that bends around them like green flames —

this is human-enabled grace. So maybe there's room
in the margin of error for us to save ourselves

from the trends of self-destruction.
Or maybe such beauty is just another distraction,
stuffing our hearts with its currency, paraded for applause.
Here, in the South, you can hear applause

coming from the ground: even the buried are divided.
At the bottom of the Gulf, dark with Mississippi silt,

rests the broken derrick of an oil rig — and isn't it
also beautiful? Ancient and opaque, like an allegory

that suggests we sacrifice our most beloved. Likely
ourselves. In one photograph, a sea turtle skims its belly

across a hull, unimpressed with what's restored,
barely aware of the ocean around it growing warm.



- 18 **Social Media Video/Zoom Conference**
Human Resources Video Conference
Public Relations Video/Zoom Conference
- 17: **Finance Commission Video/Zoom Conference**
- 19 **Timon Costello (N)**
James Antoine (B)
- 20 **Human Resources Video Conference**
- 22 **Thomas Schmied (B)**
 **Earth Day**
- 23 **Joseph Mattathil (B)**
George Kooran (N)
Postulancy Video Conference
Human Resources Video Conference
- 24 **Elroy Pesch (N)**
- 25 **Binoy Nedumparampil (B)**
- 26 **Patrick Giffer (B)**
- 27 **Coretta Scott King (B)**
- 29 **International Dance Day**
- 30 **Nathan Linton (B)**



- 1 **Daniel Fox (B)**
Joseph Howe (N)
International Workers Day
Joseph the Worker (F)

