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Montana Catholic Schools

St. Charles Mission Grade School in Pryor MT is just 30 minutes outside of Billings, and is part of the St. Labre Indian School network, which has successfully raised money through direct appeals and has built up a strong base of supporters nationwide. Capuchin Randolph Graczyk, the pastor has served there for 43 years.

The Capuchins have been committed to serving the seven Catholic parishes on the reservations of southeast Montana since 1926. Five years ago, the province examined all of its domestic and international commitments and decided to double down on its efforts in Montana while moving away from others.



Jerry Cornish teaches at Pretty Eagle

Graczyk lives next to the church and has built a sweat lodge out back. He is a Crow language expert, writing a dictionary and authoring pre-kindergarten and kindergarten educational materials in Crow. It is estimated that without intervention, the Crow language will die in three generations. Graczyk is working to keep the traditions of the tribe and its language alive.

Named after a local chief, Pretty Eagle Catholic Academy is another member of the St. Labre Indian School network and currently boasts two campuses — a dual-language preschool in Lodge Grass and a K-8 school in St. Xavier. The school was moved to the dormitory building a few years back when the original school burned down. Now the school is hoping for a capital campaign to build a new facility.

St. Labre is proud of its cultural education programs. Students have opportunities to study the Crow and Cheyenne languages as well as cultural expressions like beadwork, art and drumming. The school embraces Native traditions as well as Catholic identity.

(The above is excerpted from an article in the National Catholic Reporter)

Benedict Center

The Benedict Center in Milwaukee provides community-based substance abuse and mental health treatment, education and support to women in the criminal justice system so they can live safer and healthier lives for themselves, their children and our community.

In 1974, Margi Flanagan, a community activist, and Rita Martin, a Racine Dominican, teamed up with Capuchin Al Veik at St. Benedict the Moor and others committed to justice to found the Benedict Center as an educational alternative to jail for women. The new program was incorporated as the non-profit, Citizen and

Offender Programs in Education, or COPE. The following year, it became the Benedict Center for Criminal Justice, and in 1990 the name was simplified to the Benedict Center.



Jacob Schultz

On April 15th, Jacob Schultz gave a presentation to the friends of the Benedict Center in Milwaukee. His presentation compared the mission values of the Capuchins to the values of the Benedict Center and how they align with each other. He mentioned some of the key dates in the history of the Benedict Center: when it was founded, the changes in its name, and when it moved to various locations. The Benedict Center has participated in the jail chaplaincy and the Citizens Advisory Council, the Day Reporting Center and the Restorative Justice program.

Prayer and contemplation

Joseph Babcock is from Port Washington, Wisconsin. His family also spent a considerable amount of time in Belleair Beach, Florida. Joe has an older sister in North Carolina and a younger brother in Wisconsin.



Joseph Babcock

During high school, Francis of Assisi's writings were the catalyst for Joe to make the Catholic faith truly his own. His example of utter dependence upon God and intimate union with Christ crucified struck him profoundly.

Joe is a strong extrovert, and ministering with people comes more or less easily to him. He says that "it is a great privilege whenever our Franciscan life has allowed me to enter into the lives of the poor like Francis did with the lepers. Actually, before entering the community, seeing the ministry of St. Ben's Community Meal in Milwaukee left a strong impression on me."

However, it is our life of prayer and contemplation that has impacted Joe the most. "This aspect of our life began to work on me during postulancy, where I struggled with meditation in particular. The novitiate is where I began to explore the goldmine that is our life of both contemplative prayer and liturgy."

Joe doesn't see the two aspects of our fraternity (prayer and ministry) as being opposed to each other. "In the context of our Franciscan life, they are integral. There are lots of kind, warm-hearted people who work in the secular realm of social work or even volunteerism. This is good, and there is a general need for that. But what we offer as brothers is more than that. We offer ourselves to the poor as men of prayer. Especially now, there is a great need for men of integrity and of prayer. I have been touched by countless experiences of praying with and for people in ministry. At the same time, as active religious, our life of prayer is shaped by our experiences with people. Our prayer in common and even in private is always social, because we carry to God the needs, the hopes, and the burdens of the poor with us in our hearts."

Capuchin Soup Kitchen Choir Casts Its Musical Net All Over Metro Detroit.

A very busy group directed by Cynthia Lockhart, the choir provides vocal entertainment and uplifting **spiritual** harmony at dozens of events this year, including health fairs, interfaith events, prayer services and fund-raisers to support its namesake soup kitchen in Detroit.



There are 27 members of the Capuchin Soup Kitchen Choir today. In addition to benefit concerts, the choir can be found performing for patrons of the soup kitchen during special holidays and events such as Christmas, Easter, Black History Month or Thanksgiving.

We saw you at the Lenten Reflection retreat

Dan Horan, OFM, was the presenter at the recent "Lenten Reflection" held at Marytown. The event included the Capuchin, Franciscan and Conventual friars in formation.



Capuchin Soup Kitchen

Observes Good Friday Through The Neighborhood



Reconnecting



On Tuesday, 9 April, Greg Boyle, SJ, founder of Homeboy Industries in Los Angeles, spoke at Dominican University in River Forest, IL. John Scherer and Gary Wegner studied Spanish with Greg at the Maryknoll Language Institute in Cochabamba, Bolivia in 1984. Greg spoke on the theme of radical kinship with a beautiful eloquence and humor. He also brought two men from Homeboy Industries who gave witness talks.

Pictured at left: Peter Chinnappan, Greg Boyle, John Scherer and Fred Cabras.



- Debby VanErmen's granddaughter, Vivian, was born 3 weeks early due to a heart condition.
- Rita Petrie (an affiliate) was recently hospitalized and is undergoing tests.
- Lucy Lefeber (an affiliate), is growing weaker due to a brain tumor.
 - Joachim Strupp recently underwent cardiac catheterization.
- Eileen Weber, sister of Otto Bucher, is in very bad health with corticubasal syndrome.
- Dave Krizizki, former SLS staff member, recently underwent colon cancer surgery.
- I would like to thank everyone for the gracious prayers for my husband during his recent surgery. I am so grateful to work for an organization that is so full of God's love and compassion. My husband, Larry, is on the road to recovery and I know in my heart that it is due to all of the prayers that were offered for him. ~ Sally Maas



• Kenan Osborne, OFM died on 19 April. Osborne was president and dean at Franciscan School of Theology, Berkeley, and professor in philosophical and systematic theology, Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley.



- 24-25 Provincial Council, Detroit
Elroy Pesch (N)
- 25 Binoy Nedumparampil (B)
- 26 Patrick Giffer (B)
- 27 Presbyteral/diaconate Ordinations, Chicago
- 30 Nathan Linton (B)



- 1 Daniel Fox (B)
Joseph Howe (N)
Religious Brothers' Day
- 3 Philip Naessens (N)
- 5 Cinco de Mayo
- 7 Lawrence Webber (B)
- 9 Frederick Cabras (B)

May

by Franklin Price

The days of winter gone
Freakish April in the past
Flowers are still blooming
We have not seen the last

The days have balmy temperatures
The nights are sleeping cool
Hot Summer days are not yet here
The kids are still in school

May has many holidays
In abundance they abound
Can celebrate or commemorate
With silence or with sound



May Day's the first with dancing pole
Cinco de Mayo, Teacher's Day
Victory in Europe
Take your mother out and pay

For May and all the other months
Last words I say to you
Respect yourself and others
In everything you say and do

