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CTU Graduates



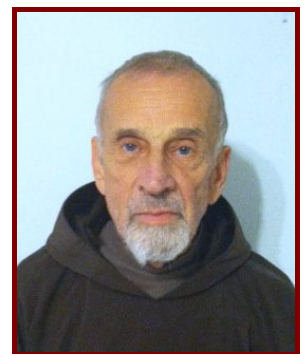
L-R: Faris Najor, MG Groark,
Brenton Ertel and Fred Cabras

Thursday, 23 May was the 51st commencement for Catholic Theological Union at the K.A.M. Isaiah Israel Congregation in Hyde Park. There were six Capuchins who graduated: MJ Groark, Fred Cabras and Brenton Ertel received a Master of Divinity; Faris Najor received a Master of Arts in pastoral studies; Anish Cleetus Palliyil received a Master of Arts in inter-cultural studies and ministry, and Worku Yohannes Gebre received a Doctor of Ministry. MJ is working in the Inter-provincial postulancy program in St. Louis for two months before going to Ashland, MT where he will minister as deacon. Fred Cabras will be working full-time as a social worker at the Northwestern Memorial Hospital in Chicago, and working at St. Gabriel and Nativity of the Lord as a deacon. Brenton Ertel will be working as the campus minister at St. Lawrence Seminary High School. Anish will return to the St. Francis Province in Kerala, India and Worku will return to the Ethiopian province. Worku's dissertation was "The Educational Challenges of School Principals: A Study of Capuchin Friars Working as School Principals in Ethiopia."

75 Years a Capuchin!

Alexis Luzi celebrates 75 years as a professed friar this year. A native of Manitowoc, Wisconsin, Alexis joined the Capuchins in 1944 as a novice in Huntington, Indiana. He was ordained a priest in September 1951. During his years as a Capuchin, Alexis has ministered as a teacher and pastor in Wisconsin. For many years, Alexis was a familiar sight at parishes throughout the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, where he would help out when a priest was needed to fill in for a weekend Mass.

"My life with the Capuchins brings to mind heartfelt gratitude for the opportunity to serve the fraternity and the church with my particular gifts. Being called to teach during the profound transformation of the church with Vatican II shaped my life with hope and joy.



Alex Luzi

"My years in Milwaukee at St. Ben's serving among the poor, and later the freedom I enjoyed preaching and writing, stand out as wonderful gifts. I give special thanks to my Capuchin brothers, my family and my friends, who walked with me in faith and love. Finally, I thank the Spirit of Christ for being my friend and guide through the pains and joys of my grace-filled life."

Postulant Reflects on the Year



Ashwin Kumar

Ashwin Anil Kumar came to the Capuchins from United Arab Emirates, born and raised from an Indian descent family, and is a Catholic convert from Hinduism, and in 2012 his sister and he were baptized. Since 2012, he has been discerning with the Capuchins in the Middle East. "I was greatly inspired by Francis of Assisi and his charism through a movie that I watched called *Clare and Francis*. This movie really changed my idea about Franciscans and their origin. I eventually started researching more about Francis, read books on his life, miracles, watching documentaries of Francis and talking to friars. I kept that going till 2017, when Paul Hinder and Paul Koenig decided to send me to the Capuchin Province of St. Joseph. As I was only 17, the province sent me to St. Joseph's College Seminary at Loyola University, Chicago as part of the Candidate College Program, after which I joined the postulancy class."

Ashwin ministered at St. Martin de Porres Church and at the House of Peace. At the parish, he was an acolyte, a eucharistic minister, catechist for children, RCIA leader, helper in the food pantry and most importantly a *family member*. "I have experience working in parishes in my home, but those parishes are full of international communities, and so working in a local parish will have its own boundaries as it has its own culture and traditions," he said. "I could surely affirm that these two places have changed me a lot. I had issues with stereotypes and so the whole time my aim was to overcome that. When I needed role models real badly, I had friars who worked in these institutions whom I could ask and get help from. After doing these ministries one thing that I learned from people who helped me, and also from whom I helped, was to find the image of Christ in them; eventually they will see Christ in me!"

Ashwin is currently in St. Louis where he is participating in the Inter-provincial Postulancy Program before going to California to be invested as a novice.

Duns Scotus Lecture

Asian Slavery in the Americas: Franciscanism, Race and Identity in the Asian American Experience

The movement of Asian slaves between the 16th and 19th century is not well known. Examining this history brings to mind new questions about the earliest presence of Asians in North America, the Franciscan's struggle with colonialism, and the effects of race on theological discourse.

Answering these questions will also provide a better understanding of the Asian American Catholic experience. This presentation will use a "theology of place" in order to provide a background to discuss these intersecting elements.



Linh Hoang, OFM

Linh Hoang is an associate professor of religious studies at Siena College in NY. He is a Franciscan priest with the Holy Name Province, and has published articles in the areas of Asian American Catholics, race, migration and theology, historical theology, religious, and inter-generational religious experience. He is currently serving as a consultant to the USCCB on Asian and Pacific Islander Catholic affairs for whom he was the principle author of *Encouraging Christ in Harmony*. He is currently working on a monograph on Asian American Religious Experience and Racism.

Catholic Theological Union, Rm 221, 5416 S. Cornell Ave., Chicago
Free to the public. Reception & refreshments following lecture.
Complimentary parking in the CTU garage.
For more info, contact Edward Foley, Duns Scotus Professor of
Spirituality: Foley@ctu.edu

Book Launch Webinar!

Tuesday, June 11, 2019 - 1:00pm

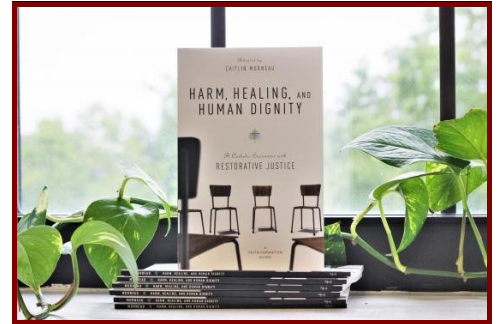
Webinar hosted by Catholic Apostolate Center

Harm, Healing, and Human Dignity: A Catholic Encounter with Restorative Justice

Register Here:

<https://catholicmobilizing.org/event/book-launch-webinar?eType=EmailBlastContent&eId=7a491d0e-d420-4170-bb08-5e752093d462>

Now available for purchase, Catholic Mobilizing Network's newly released faith formation guide invites groups and individuals to reflect upon the Catholic call to restorative justice. *Harm, Healing, and Human Dignity** invites readers to explore ways of responding to harm and violence that foster a culture of encounter and become missionary disciples in transforming the broken criminal justice system.



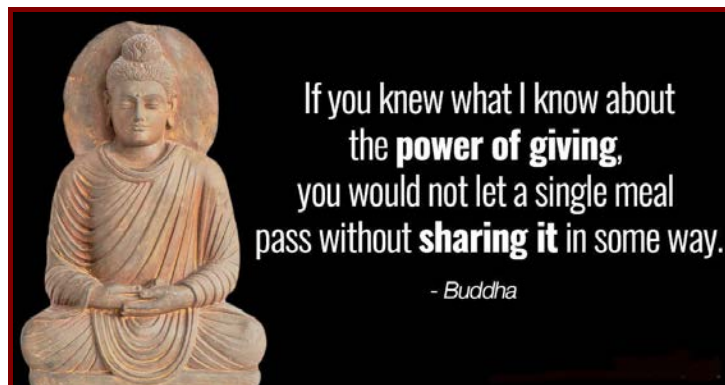
Join CMN's director of restorative justice, Caitlin Morneau, for a dialogue with Catholic restorative justice practitioners about ways that Catholic individuals and institutions can integrate restorative practices to strengthen ministry, foster healing, and advance Gospel-centered justice.

Chris Castillo's 52-year-old mother, Pilar, was murdered in 1991. After becoming involved in prison ministry – specifically Bridges to Life almost 20 years ago – he learned to forgive the men who killed his mother. He has worked as a reporter and a marketing specialist before taking a job with Murder Victim's Families for Reconciliation, where he created a dialogue with homicide survivors who were against the death penalty and showed an interest in speaking out against capital punishment. Chris is currently the coordinator of chaplain volunteers for the Diocese of Beaumont's office of Criminal Justice Ministry.

David Kelly, C.P.P.S. is the founder and executive director of Precious Blood Ministry of Reconciliation (PBMR) in Chicago IL. In 2000, he, along with other members of his religious congregation, began PBMR to create a place for those who have been impacted by violence and conflict. PBMR reaches out to the one who has been harmed, to the one who has done harm, and to the community. They also strive to be a resource to other groups and communities who seek reconciliation.

Published by Liturgical Press, *Harm, Healing, and Human Dignity: A Catholic Encounter with Restorative Justice*, is available for purchase at litpress.org. Use promotional code "Justice" to receive 20% off and free shipping when you order by June 15th!

*Adapted from CMN's 2017 book, *Redemption and Restoration: A Catholic Perspective on Restorative Justice*

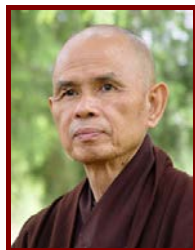




- Carolyn Hall (sister of Ken Smits) has been diagnosed with terminal cancer.
- Dan Schwab (brother of Dave Schwab) had bypass surgery recently.
- AJ Mathew, provincial minister of Amala Annai province (one of our collaboration provinces) was hospitalized recently after a car accident.
- Tillie Dziedziejko (mother of deceased friar Ed Dziedziejko) died recently.
- Helen Wagner, SSSF (sister of Bernard Wagner) died recently.
- Leopold Gleissner is grateful to all who prayed for his health.
- Rita Petrie has had a number of health issues in recent weeks.
 - Dave Krizizke had successful colon cancer surgery and is recovering from that. However, they found one lymph node with cancer (out of 30) so he is now dealing with three months of chemotherapy. He has a very positive attitude and is grateful for the outpouring of prayers from the friars. He is amazed at the many relationships that he still enjoys from his days at St Lawrence.
- Dan Schwab had 5-way cardiac bypass surgery on May 24. He is in a fair amount of pain, but should be released from the hospital tomorrow or Friday. The recovery will take several weeks, but the end result is very positive. The friars and partners have been outstanding in their promise of prayers and support. My brother is over-whelmed by the avalanche of emails. Thanks ahead of time for all of the prayers.

— Dave Schwab
- Thank you for your thoughts and prayers over my mother’s passing. It is an honor to be part of a community where caring for others is so prominent. As a family, we are looking upon my mother’s passing as a time to celebrate life. Thank you for helping my family do that. — Dave Bartel

Thich Nhat Hanh



Now 92 and suffering the effects of a major stroke, Thich Nhat Hanh has quietly returned home to the city of Hue in central Vietnam to live out his final days at the monastery where he was a novice monk.

HELLO JUNE

- 5 Truong Dien (B)
- 8 James Andres (B)
- 12-13..... Prov. Council, Montana
- 12 Jason Graves (B)
- 13 Anthony Scannell (N)
Larry LaCross (B)
- 17 Madalai Muthu Savariappan (B)

Song of June

by Rema Prasanaa

June sings for me, a song
of a rain cloud, which has
lost its way in a desert storm,
haunted and chased
by the conspiring rays of
of a burnt up sun
but found its way back
to a green hill to sing
again a song for me...



**We fear that this moment will end,
that we won't get what we need,
that we will lose what we love, or
that we will not be safe. Often,
our biggest fear is the knowledge
that one day our bodies will cease
functioning. So even when we are
surrounded by all the conditions
for happiness, our joy is not
complete.**

- Thich Nhat Hanh