

# re:Cap



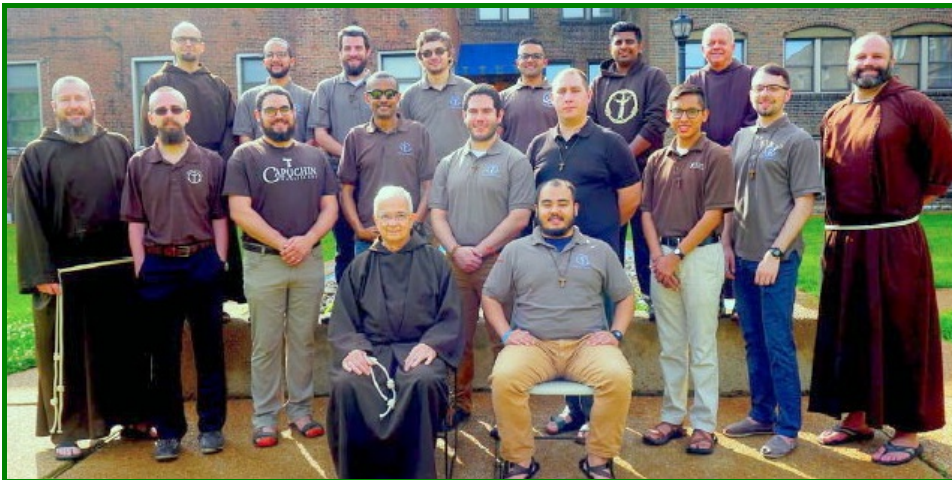
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TL Michael Auman, Capuchin (Editor)  
1927 N. Vel R. Phillips Ave., Milwaukee WI 53212  
414.803.4449; tlauman@thecapuchins.org  
sjpccommunications.org

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## On the Way to Novitiate



### NAPCC Postulancy Program Manresa Center, St. Louis MO

*Back Row (L-R):* MJ Groark (SJ), Alexander Santana (SSF), Stephen Cantwell (SA), Simon Falk (SA), Gary Rego (ABVM), Ashwin Kumar (SJ), Jim Froehlich (SA).  
*Row 2:* Brian Sullivan (SSF), Jacob Schultz (SJ), Carl Schultz (SA), Mehari Worku (SA), Sebastian Rojas (SA), Igor De Bliquy (SSF-B), José Barroso (SC), Matthew Lontz (SA), Jason Moore (SC).  
*Front Row:* Bill Gillum (SA), Anthony Rivera (SA).

## General Minister on Franciscans International

Reflecting on the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Franciscans International, Roberto Genuin (general minister) praised the work of the organization:



“Franciscans International is the only common ministry project of the Franciscan Family. It was created thirty years ago from the grassroots up, based on the vision of various sisters and brothers who were inspired by a dream of sharing our Franciscan message and values at a global level through the structures of the United Nations. In the last three decades FI has undergone various changes, but it has continued its commitment to serve peace, the poor and the planet.



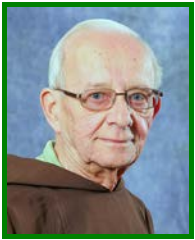
*Roberto Genuin*

“In the not-too-distant past FI passed through a difficult period and was challenged to undergo a thorough review and renewal. We are happy to report that this process has been completed. Financially, expenses are down and income has been re-directed in such a way that two-thirds of our receipts are now spent on the advocacy program. Our dedicated and competent staff is guided by a four-year strategic plan that was adopted two years ago, and which has recently been reviewed and updated for a further two years. The International Board of Directors (IBD) has been streamlined; it now consists of eight members (OFS, IFC-TOR, TOR, Anglican Franciscans, OFM Cap, OFM Conv., OFM, and the executive director of FI). The IBD works well with the staff and has a good relationship with the Conference of the Franciscan Family (CFF). You might be interested to know that recently FI received an award from UNICEF, recognizing it for best use of UN structures/processes in its work on “witch children” in Benin.

“As we celebrate this 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we are thankful for the work of so many who have made FI into an organization that is highly respected at the UN: by the UN staff, by country delegations, by other religious groups, and by fellow NGOs and other civil society organizations that work together with us. At the same time, we need to look to the future. While the current situation of FI is “balanced,” finances are still tight and challenging. We do not look to become a huge organization, but we would be able to do our work at the UN more effectively if the staff were not so pressed to find the time to request the resources needed to make our operation run.” (17 April 2019)

## Province Celebrates Jubilarians

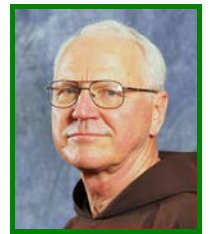
*The religious jubilees of our brothers will be celebrated in July at St. Lawrence in Mt. Calvary WI. We continue featuring short bios of our jubilarians as we near the jubilee event.*



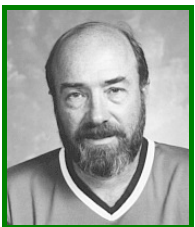
Kenan Siegel celebrates 70 years as a professed Capuchin friar this year. Born in Sheboygan, Wisconsin, Kenan joined the Capuchins in 1949. He has served in ministry at the provincialate in Detroit, and for many years at St. Lawrence Seminary in Mt. Calvary, Wisconsin.

“Celebrating a jubilee is another way to express my appreciation for my vocation to serve God and his people as a Capuchin friar of the Province of St. Joseph,” said Kenan. “Together with that appreciation is the acknowledgment of being inspired by the example of St. Francis of Assisi and the many with whom I have been associated. I have been truly blessed and thankful to be called to serve God and His people for so many years in a variety of ways.”

Jerry Smith, executive director emeritus of the Capuchin Soup Kitchen, celebrates 40 years as a professed friar. A native of Owatonna MN, Jerry joined the Capuchins in 1979 and entered pastoral ministry in 1984 in Milwaukee. His assignments included serving as chaplain at the Milwaukee County Jail, and then executive director of the Capuchin Soup Kitchen, an assignment he held through 2017. Jerry is currently residing at St. Benedict the Moor Friary in Milwaukee.



“I am overflowing with gratitude to God and to the brotherhood as I celebrate forty years as a Capuchin friar. During these years it has been my privilege to share life with the brothers and with some of the poorest of the poor. My heart and my entire life have been forever changed. There have been difficulties and setbacks along the way, but if given the chance, I would say ‘Yes’ all over again—in a minute.”

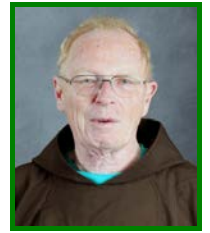


Paul Craig celebrates 60 years as a Capuchin friar this year. Paul joined the order in 1959, and served on the faculty and staff of St. Lawrence Seminary in Mt. Calvary, Wisconsin for many years, and later ministered in the Middle East. Paul is a native of Redfield, South Dakota.

“I am grateful to the Lord for the gift of having been immersed in the charism of Francis of Assisi though my membership in the Capuchin Province of St. Joseph,” said Paul. “Reflecting on the words and life of Francis — and doing my best to live by them — has given me a perspective on creation and humanity which has enabled me to minister and serve wherever I have been.”



Thomas Hill celebrates 60 years as a Capuchin friar, having completed his novitiate in Baraga, Michigan in 1959. Thomas is a native of Fond du Lac WI. He has served in ministry in a variety of ways throughout the province as well as in Newfoundland, Canada. Among his ministries as a Capuchin, Tom helped form young Catholics through campus ministry, as well as supporting and strengthening the sacrament of marriage through his work with the National Marriage Encounter movement.



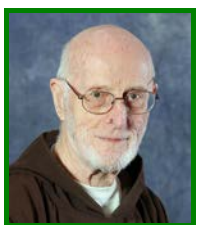
Larry LaCross, born in Alpena MI, celebrates 50 years as a Capuchin this year, having joined the order in 1969. Larry currently serves as the local minister at St. Bonaventure Monastery in Detroit. Past assignments include development director for the province, as well as a year in Australia serving at a parish.

“In my fifty years as a Capuchin, I have been blessed in so many ways,” said Larry. “The communities I have lived in have been life-giving with the basics of our way of life, community prayer, meals and recreation together. The province has always kept pace with our changing reality in many ways for which I am grateful. Most of my ministries have been internal. I have been gifted with fine people to minister with, who believe in our way of life. For me, I will always be grateful for the opportunity to care for our sick and elderly friars. Caring for one another in community is of utmost importance to me. Hopefully, my future years will be as happy and rewarding as the first fifty.”

Joseph Howe celebrates 60 years as a professed Capuchin friar this year. A native Detroiter, Joe joined the Capuchins in 1959. During his 60 years as a friar, Joe has ministered throughout the Midwest. He was called to serve at the Capuchin general curia, our headquarters, in Rome from 1970-1976. Joe currently ministers at Capuchin Retreat in Washington Township MI north of Detroit.



“I consider it an honor to have served God for over 60 years as a Capuchin friar. At 90 years of age, I have been blessed in countless ways, and I am forever thankful that my patron, St. Joseph, has always come to me,” said Joe. “Although this journey that God has commissioned me for has led me to many places, for now, I will humbly continue to serve at the Capuchin Retreat.”



Augustine “Gus” Cops celebrates his 60<sup>th</sup> jubilee year as a Capuchin friar. Gus, a native of the Netherlands, joined the Capuchins in 1959. He currently resides in the Milwaukee area. Gus has ministered at St. Lawrence Seminary, the Capuchin Soup Kitchen, as a preacher at the former Saint Clare Capuchin Retreat, as well as in pastoral ministry in Illinois, Wisconsin, Montana and Michigan.

“I’m very thankful to God for calling me to be a Capuchin Franciscan. St. Francis and many friars have been an inspiration to me,” said Gus. “It has been a privilege to serve God’s people in a variety of ministries.”



*re:Cap* offers prayerful best wishes to all of  
our 2019 jubilarians.  
We’ll have more in the next issue!







- Joan Wilichowski (affiliate), recently suffered a brain dysfunction.
- Kenneth Herr (father-in-law of Kevin Buelow, SLS faculty) died recently.
- Philip Naessens was admitted to the hospital with fluid build up around the liver.
- The aunt of newly accepted postulant Anthony Yousef who is near death.
  - Annie Schuh (sister of Gus Cops) died recently.
  - Fabian Fehring has entered hospice care.
- Agnes Janicki (mother of affiliate Rose Ann Miller) died recently.
- Debby Van Ermen thanks all those who sent kind notes and prayed for her newborn granddaughter, Vivian. Her heart condition is managed with medications for now. Doctors predict that as she grows, the condition will gradually diminish. Vivian is home and doing very well.



L-R: John Wagner, Karen Abler and Gary Wegner

Congratulations to Karen Abler, the Holyland Catholic Parishes' director of religious education. Karen was honored for 25 years of ministry in the archdiocese. Gary Wegner and John Wagner (chair of the parish finance committee) joined Karen for the event.

Karen is a friend to and well known among the friars. She is a long time volunteer at St. Benedict the Moor Meal Program. In the parishes where Karen has ministered she has worked hard to expose parishioners, especially youth, to the work of the friars and staff at St. Ben's.

### *Of the Empire* by Mary Oliver

We will be known as a culture that feared death and adored power, that tried to vanquish insecurity for the few and cared little for the penury of the many. We will be known as a culture that taught and rewarded the amassing of things, that spoke little if at all about the quality of life for people (other people), for dogs, for rivers.



All the world, in our eyes, they will say, was a commodity. And they will say that this structure was held together politically, which it was, and they will say also that our politics was no more than an apparatus to accommodate the feelings of the heart, and that heart, in those days, was small, and hard, and full of meanness.



## JUNE

17 ..... **Formation Council, Milwaukee**

26 ..... **Esther Boehnlein (B)**

29 ..... **Paul Reichling (N)**  
**Bernard Wagner (B)**

## JULY

1 ..... **Oliver Bambenek (N)**

4 ..... **Steven Kropp (B)**

### **A Prayer for Vocations**

God our Father, You made each of us to use our gifts in the Body of Christ.

We ask that You inspire young people whom You call to the priesthood and consecrated life to courageously follow Your will.

Send workers into Your great harvest so that the Gospel is preached, the poor are served with love, the suffering are comforted, and Your people are strengthened by the sacraments

We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen

***It's a frightening prediction. Let us pray — and work hard — so that it does not come to pass!***