

re:Cap



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4 Brothers Celebrate 280 Combined Years of Religious Life!

Twenty of our friars will celebrate jubilees this year, 4 of whom will celebrate the 70th anniversary of their first vows. The provincial event will be held at Mt. Calvary WI in July. We'll note the other jubilarians in our next several issues.



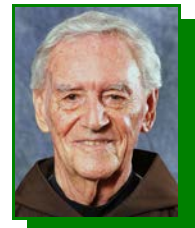
Lester Bach



Franklin Eichhorst



August Seubert



Anthony Scannell



World Interfaith Harmony Week 2-8 February 2020

World Interfaith Harmony Week (WIHW), conceived to promote a culture peace and nonviolence, was first proposed by Abdullah II of Jordan at the United Nations in 2010. This was quickly adopted by the UN General Assembly, declaring the first week of February each year as World Interfaith Harmony week, calling on governments, institutions and civil society to observe it with various programs and initiatives that would promote the aim of the WIHW objectives.

At the core of all the faith systems and traditions is the recognition that we are all in this together and that we need to love and support one another to live in harmony and peace in an environmentally sustainable world. Our world continues to be beset by conflict and intolerance, with rising number of refugees and the internally displaced in a hostile and unwelcoming world around them. We are also unfortunately witnessing messages of hate spreading discord among people. The need for spiritual guidance has never been greater. It is imperative that we double our efforts to spread the message of good neighborliness based on our common humanity, a message shared by *all* faith traditions.





February is Black History Month. 2020 is an important general election year, and a landmark year for voting rights.

2020 marks the 150th anniversary of the Fifteenth Amendment (1870) which gave the right of black men to vote following the Civil War. It also marks the centennial of the Nineteenth

Amendment and the culmination of the women's suffrage movement.

This year's theme for Black History month, "African Americans and the Vote", recognizes the struggle for voting rights among both black men *and* women throughout American history. It is an ongoing struggle for people of color that continues into the 21st century.

Even before the Civil War, free black men first petitioned state legislatures for the right to vote, but it wasn't until 1870 when the 15th Amendment was ratified providing that "the right to vote shall not be denied or abridged on the basis of race, color or previous condition of servitude."



Even so, southern state legislatures immediately began undermining the protections found in the new amendment. Years of lawsuits and protests followed, but it wasn't until the rise of the Civil Right Movement and Voting Rights Act of 1965 that the freedom to vote was enjoyed by a majority of southern blacks.

Today, these freedoms have eroded by 'gerrymandering' - or dividing voting districts to gain an unfair majority. Harsh voting restrictions by states have also been enacted to discourage voting among poor blacks.

The ongoing struggle may seem disheartening, but there is hope. The 2018 U.S. midterm election, for example, saw a surprising record number of minority and women voted into state legislative power coast to coast. The voting tallies sparked new optimism that the historic pendulum was swinging back — again — to equal voting rights for all.

We Saw You at the Advent Retreat at Marytown Retreat Center



The brothers in formation gather annually in Libertyville, Illinois for an Advent retreat. This most recent event featured Vincent Fortunato, a friar from the Stigmata Province. The theme of the gathering was "From doubt to hope: Hope is for the living."

We Saw You at the TET Celebration



2020: Year of the Rat

There is no set date for the Lunar New Year. According to the Lunar calendar, the Spring Festival is on January 1st and lasts until the 15th (the full moon). Unlike western holidays such as Thanksgiving or Christmas, when you try to calculate it with the solar (Gregorian) calendar, the date is all over the place. Chinese New Year ranges from January 21 to February 20.

Showering isn't allowed on the Lunar New Year. Sweeping and throwing out garbage isn't allowed before the 5th day of the festival in order to make sure you don't wash away the good luck! On the other hand, there's a day before the Spring Festival dedicated to cleaning. This day is to sweep the bad luck away and make room for the good.

Pastoral Director Finds Joy in Milwaukee



Muthu welcomes a guest at St. Ben's Community Meal

Muthu Savariappan, pastoral director at Capuchin Community Services in Milwaukee, has settled into the ministry, and sees Mark 2:17 as a focal point to the work he does every day at St. Ben's Community Meal:

"I'm still new to the ministry, but happy to report that I'm finding joy and fulfillment in the service of our brothers and sisters who are in need. I'm very grateful to the sponsors, volunteers and to all those who support us to continue our ministry to do good and to build the Kingdom of God here on earth. We can do nothing without you, and your gifts of time, talent and treasure are the pillars on which our ministry stands. Every day you are all remembered in our prayers."



- John Willger's mother died recently.
- Alfredo Gundrum was hospitalized recently after suffering a stroke.
- Cheryl Mueller's cousin was diagnosed with cancer.
 - John Hascall's brother died recently.

re:Cap is grateful for a recent donation from Marion Rife

Prayer changes things.

FEBRUARIE



- 1 St. Brigid Day (Imbolc)
- 1-7 Int'l Interfaith Harmony Week
- 3 Charles Robinson (B)
- 6 Mark Romanowksi (B)
- 7 Jerome Higgins (B)
- 8 Mary Ghesquiere (B)
Int'l Day of Prayer against human trafficking
- 10 Random acts of kindness week
- 12 Paul Craig (B)

A Harmony Hymn

by Laj Utreja

Harmony grows fertile valleys;
Where the collective views grow lush and tall!
Though the saplings we plant may be small;
Together they'd grow to mutual accord and understanding all.

Someone has a birthday today;
It means much more than a happy day!
Within these words are hidden many thoughts;
That humankind share everyday!

It means we are brothers/sisters;
And be thankful for all we do together.
It means we are friends;
And that we care for each other.

We all come from the same spirit;
Shouldn't that alone be the reason to celebrate?
The spiritual culture that we orchestrate on this day;
Will create a song of harmony and reverberate!



The Official UN Week

WORLD INTERFAITH
HARMONY WEEK

1st Week of February