Two of Our Brothers Celebrate Golden Anniversary

Daniel Fox, a native Detroiter, entered the Capuchin Franciscan order in 1970 and took final vows in 1974. He was ordained a priest in 1975. Dan has had a varied ministry background at parishes, retreat centers, at the Solanus Casey Center and has served as provincial minister and councilor.

“These past fifty years as a Capuchin lesser brother have been a great adventure. I grew up around the Capuchins through my Capuchin uncle. What drew me to this rendezvous with Christ and my Capuchin companions was the joy of the friars. That joy is still with us. The singular grace of my discipleship has been and continues to be the amazing array talented brothers who share the vision of Jesus through the eyes of Francis. That vision has given me life and a wonderful band of brothers.”

Francis Voris, born in Logan, Ohio took his first vows on August 18, 1970 and was perpetually professed in 1975. Francis was ordained to the priesthood in 1986. Currently the pastor at St. Agnes in Sanford, Michigan, Francis has served as pastor at parishes in Michigan and in retreat center ministry.

“My years as a Capuchin Friar could best be described as an adventure in stone and chisel. A life carved and shaped by time, and those friars who shaped me and polished my rough edges by their goodness and faith. My vocation continues to be shaped by those who surround me every day. Good souls, a blessing in my life.”
Two Brothers Invested; Four Become Postulants

Recently two of our brothers were invested with the Capuchin habit in a ceremony at Santa Ynez, California where John Celichowski assumed the position of novice director. Pictured here (L-R) is Anthony Yousef, John Celichowski and Shebin Philip. Since then, four men were received into postulancy at a ceremony held at St. Benedict the Moor Church in Milwaukee.

Jaico George and Francisco Cux are members of the St. Joseph Province. Gabriel Conlon is from the St. Mary Province, and Francisco Chavez is from the Stigmata Province.

Social distancing has become ubiquitous nationally. Sometime in the future, photos like this one (right) of the postulancy reception at St. Ben’s will become iconic!

“Virtual Walk” for the Hungry

The pandemic didn’t allow for the traditional “Walk/Run for the Hungry” event normally held every summer. But members of the St. Lawrence Community in Mt. Calvary did a virtual walk in support of the St. Ben’s ministries in Milwaukee. Kudos for their support!

Governor Appoints Provincial Affiliate to Mortuary Science Board

Michigan Governor Whitmer recently appointed our affiliate, Brian Joseph, to the state Board of Examiners in Mortuary Science. Brian of Grosse Pointe Woods is the owner and chairman of Chas Verheyden Funeral Homes Inc. and is a graduate of Wayne State University’s Mortuary Science program. He is appointed to represent funeral professionals beginning July 10, 2020 and ending June 30, 2024. re:Cap offers prayerful congratulations to our brother Brian!
Online Sexual Exploitation of Children Increased During Pandemic

Advocates for children, including Catholic sisters representing their congregations at the United Nations, are worried that the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdowns may be contributing to an uptick in the sexual exploitation of children online and in social media.

Online sexual exploitation of children is "a crime of opportunity," the Washington-based International Justice Mission said in statement discussed during a July 15 online forum sponsored by the Maryknoll Sisters.

"With increased access to children who are locked down in their homes, and with sex offenders offering easy money, criminals sexually abusing children continue to do it," the group said.

"COVID-19 lockdowns [have] created a perfect storm for the increase in online sexual abuse of children. Quarantined online child sex offenders are spending more time online and vulnerable children are also confined at home, often with their traffickers."

Marvie Misolas, representative of the Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns at the U.N., said as the panelists on the forum "gathered here, discussing children's abuse on the internet, we [can] be sure that hundreds of children are still being victimized online. In the ongoing period of pandemic, national governments have directed education programs to shift to online learning for health safety.

"As more children will be exposed through the internet, we need to protect them from the danger of being abused."

Potential courses of action include shareholders pressuring technology companies to begin to take the issue seriously, said panelist Cathy Rowan, an investment advocate for the Maryknoll Sisters. Another panelist, Jacqueline Beauchere, digital safety advocate for Microsoft, said exploitation conducted on legitimate platforms has the attention of the tech industry and that companies like hers are committed to finding a solution.

Winifred Doherty, the U.N. representative of the Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd moderated the July 15 event. In a follow-up interview with GSR, she noted that the issue of online sexual exploitation of children touches on several of the sustainable development goals, including No. 1 (ending poverty) and No. 16, which includes a call for ending violence against children.

Doherty, known in U.N. circles for her passionate advocacy for women and children, said the work of ending sexual exploitation of children has to be seen in the wider context of ending exploitation of any kind for economic gain. "All such exploitation is wrong," she said.

The above was excerpted from an article by Chris Herlinger in the National Catholic Reporter (20 July 2020)

Friars are reminded to review the province’s policy regarding social media. You can review that document here: https://www.sjpcommunications.org/images/uploads/documents/POSJ_Social_Media_Policy_updated_2020_%281%29.pdf
Perry Williams, long-time employee at the House of Peace, died recently.
The uncle of Madalai Muthu died recently. His sister has been hospitalized.
Former friar David LaPlante is being treated with chemotherapy.
MariKay Mathes, spouse of Andre Weller’s nephew, died recently.
Eric Boatman, son of affiliate Brenda Boatman, recently underwent thyroid surgery.
Binah Brundidge (provincial employee) recently had knee surgery.
Harriet Peters, sister of Isidore Herriges, died recently.

If you, or someone you know, is considering a religious vocation, contact us at:
https://www.capuchinfranciscans.org/

Songs and Stones
by Jacqueline Saphra

This head is heavy with irreconcilable weights.

These worlds: how to balance the scales, how to bear the ache.

Love stuns and buds in the bone, terrors rattle the skull.

Sleep flickers and lifts the lids. This neck is a buckled pillar.

From one eye, tears of rage; from the other, tears of blessing.

These sobs are stones, these sobs are songs.

How do I free these oppositions from my throat?

I no longer know which one is making it so hard to swallow.

Editor’s comment: These days it has become harder and harder “to swallow.”