

re:Cap



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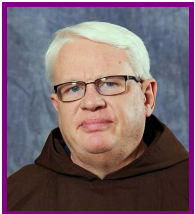
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Issue 1177



In our last issue we shared with you reflections from many of our local ministers and how their communities are coping with the pandemic. In this issue, we want to share with you the reflections of some of our brothers who do not live in a Capuchin friary.



Gary Wegner

Gary Wegner, Mt. Calvary WI: First week or two I think I was in need of a vacation as I found myself spending much of the day watching TV, particularly old episodes of Star Trek: Deep Space Nine. I found myself going to bed early and getting up late. In the second week I think I also had more anxiety. One night I woke up twice having had nightmares which is not something I experience too often. They were very vivid, and one guy with an ax was breaking down my front door as I read a book. I woke up when he came in. And on the second one, I was up on the “Hill” when the fire broke out. I seemed to have been trapped going into the building and then woke up. I was somewhat concerned about these dreams; fortunately I read an article in the *New York Times* “Is Coronavirus Making You Have Weird Dreams?” Actually, Yes. Needless to say, I was reassured after reading the article that while I was experiencing some anxiety and stress I wasn’t uniquely crazy.

I have been fortunate in that so far my sheltering in place has included lunch, evening prayer and dinner at the friary. I am grateful that the community made the decision to continue to allow me and the brothers from St. Felix to join them for dinner. While I enjoy time and space alone, I am definitely not hermit material. Every day before lunch I try to celebrate Mass for the intentions in the parish. My congregation is Mitch Frantz. I am shining a blue light on my side porch as part of a movement in St. Cloud to show that we are St. Cloud Strong.

Zoom meetings and teleconferences have been a significant part of some days. On Sundays I celebrate Mass in one of the Holyland (Mt. Calvary area) Parishes. This is live streamed and seems to have been appreciated. One of our parishes’ organists plays, and another parishioner plays the trumpet; and Mark Joseph Costello’s niece Sarah is our cantor. This is a substitute while we are unable to celebrate as a community, but it is not a replacement.

There are also parishioners who have contacted me and offered or given significant money to go to families who may be in need as a result of this pandemic. This reflects the generosity of our communities. I am grateful to our provincial minister and vicar who supported my request to cut my salary in half at least until July. This led Sister Jenada and her community of Sisters of Divine Savior to do the same. I have recorded myself on video reading or telling a story to the children of our school and putting it in our schools Facebook page. One of the stories I read was “The Monks’ Daily Bread.” It is a sweet story about how the monks in a monastery

trust that Christ will provide them their daily bread. It comes through the generosity of others. It is this faith that inspired members of the parishes to sew masks for the friars who are providing for the hungry in Milwaukee and the healthcare staff at Appleton. As the pandemic drags on I can only hope that this generosity will find other ways to express itself.

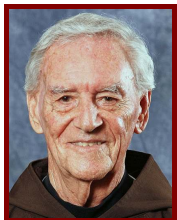
Myron Kowalsky, Wilton Manors FL: I enjoyed reading about what is being done for and by the brothers in the last issue of *re:Cap*. I'm alive and well in Wilton Manors, Florida. Temperature has been between 85 and 95. *Weekly Wilton Manors* paper last week published the number of COVID-19 cases rose to 62 compared to 39 cases the week before in our Zip code area. The rise in numbers due mainly to a nursing home.



Myron Kowalsky

I have been quarantined since the beginning of March. I stay in the house most of the time. I take refuge in my yard to relax or work. Groceries are delivered by a parishioner of St. Anthony's parish where I ministered, and by one of my neighbors. My time is spent in prayer, watching TV (I love the creativeness of people and so many wonderful stories of people's lives) working on puzzles, cleaning and cooking, reading, phone calls, etc. The only one who has been in this house since this started was an insurance inspector who wore gloves and a mask.

The governor is opening parts of Florida with the exception of Miami and Broward County where I live. Being quarantined reminds me of when we were kids. My sister had scarlet fever and was quarantined from the rest of the family. So be it! *Stay well and keep safe!*



Anthony Scannell

Anthony Scannell, La Canada CA: Living in the time of the Coronavirus is liking living in an alternate universe. Our school has been closed, so I look across an empty quad that should be filled with young men; the athletic fields are quiet and deserted. The nearby freeway has half the traffic and half the noise. I can look across the valley and see the spire of St. Andrew church in Pasadena two miles away, where I used to "go with the throngs..." on Sundays, but now hollow and soundless. Our community of seven has been shut down for a month. We have grown closer together; up till now we were lucky to have everyone at dinner, because of meeting and commitments. Now we eat and stay and talk, even though our conversations are growing shorter now. Our cook comes in or sends in food most evenings; but people have been very good to us, bringing or sending us meals or telling us to order off a menu of certain restaurants and they will deliver it. The evening meal is community time. We have really been blessed and humbled when we realize how many go hungry. We live stream Mass every day, and those associated with the school are online with classes and spiritual exercises. I am now experiencing what it is to be retired. But I feel helpless when I hear the news and see so much suffering. Here we do not lack work or food or community. We do some Zooming with other Capuchins, or with old friends, or call people who need company. But it is still unreal; and I try to live with a "new normal"...and uncertainty...and wonder if I should do more.

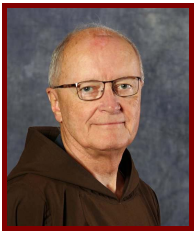
Randall Knauf, Webster WI: When the news about a Coronavirus first started to circulate in March very little of it seemed to be a local topic of conversation. Washington State is far away, cruise ships don't dock near here, and New York or New Jersey are like places half way around the world. Being the only priest living in this county made up of only three or four small villages, many marshes and small lakes, pine trees and the St. Croix River, the news about a virus was just one more thing somewhere in the world. When the governor announced staying at home instructions it seemed within our reach. Most years the month of March often keeps us at home either because of cold or snow, which is how the local community and I approached it. We have experience in what to do, how to shop, and stay at home in the event of winter



Randall Knauf

weather. It all seemed within our reach. The bishop then sent instructions on closing our offices, canceling public gatherings and working from home. That is when I realized that this was something new.

What you have heard about limited internet access in rural America is very real here in Burnett County, Wisconsin. Only a few government buildings, schools, and the couple of small clinics have real high speed internet. DSL through home phone lines supply some people, but many use the limited access they can get on their cell phones, and some still use dial-up in their homes. Working from home took significant planning. Internet access for online services and meetings has not been practical. Fortunately many have email in some form, and we spend much time talking on the phone to each other. Most people are accustomed to being separated by distance and many are retired here in the Northwoods, so being home is already a part of local life. The growing challenge has been the length of time. In the beginning we talked like it would be a couple of weeks, as though it were a long snow storm. But even now we do not yet have a plan to open churches. As we move toward two months and warmer weather, people are outside; but staying home is not far from normal life. Getting supplies is a growing challenge; more and more people are starting to make the hour drive to the bigger cities, like Rice Lake and Cumberland. As summer lake residents begin to move north I hear people talking about their fear — not only about the stocking of local grocery stores — but for a potential strain on our already very small health care. COVID-19 has not yet been detected by tests here, it may still be coming.



James Leary

James Leary, Appleton WI: Like most, St. Joseph Church shut down its normal operations as of March 15th. No public Masses, even though we keep the church open from 8:00 - 4:00 pm. It is impressive to see the number of people that come and pay a visit before the Blessed Sacrament during the week. We do record the Sunday Mass and put it on our website.

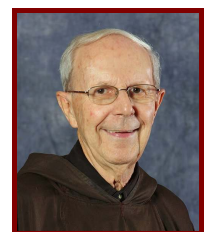
Our office doors are closed, but people can call to gain access to the building. Our staff has been coming in to do what's necessary. Some wear facemasks and others don't. We are able to keep the distancing when we eat lunch together. We have been fortunate to continue paying our staff their usual salaries.

My life has become very simple. I have time on my hands since there are no meetings, no hospital visits, no nursing home contact. Weddings have been postponed and funerals consist of prayer services in the funeral home or at the grave site. The staff and I have spent time calling parishioners just to say hello and ask if we can do anything for them.

I manage to take a daily walk down College Avenue (the main drag in Appleton). It's amazing to see almost all the stores closed. I do get in the car and go to one of two places: the gas station or the grocery store. Of course, I wear a face mask.

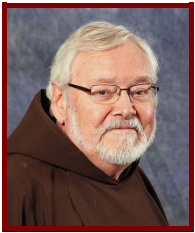
I'm anxious to see how we will transition out of all this; how quickly will parishioners return? With so much uncertainty, how do we regulate who can come to Mass and what other events can be held? We'll need a lot of patience and compliance in the months ahead!

Robert Kose, Solvang CA: I'm surviving the "shelter in place order" these days. Even though California has been hit extremely hard with the virus, here at Mission Santa Inés all of us remain healthy. Since three of us are over 70 years of age, the two younger friars have been doing the shopping and tasks for the community. We find these days of enclosure have given us more time for reflective prayer and the opportunity to spend more community time together, especially at evening meals, Sunday evening pizza parties, and Netflix movies. Instead of seven parish weekend masses, we are live streaming one English and one Spanish



Robert Kose

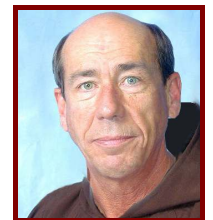
mass each Sunday. So far, the Santa Inez Valley has only five reported cases of the virus with no deaths. We certainly are more fortunate than other areas of California, and so continually ask for the Lord's blessings and protection for our community, nation and world.



Alan Veik

Alan Veik, Milwaukee WI: I live on the campus of Capuchin Community Services - House of Peace. This is not "safer-at-home." I developed a routine that I am finding safe and healthy physically, emotionally, and spiritually. The community that regularly gathers for morning prayer and Mass is suspended from gathering at this time, so I leave the HOP early enough before the staff and guests arrive to hand out food at the curb each day. I have been going to the Mary Mother of the Church Pastoral Center ("Cousins Center") every day where I have an office serving persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities and as minister to priests for the archdiocese. I lease a wing which is equipped with technology for every kind of electronic communication, and looks over an expansive park-like atmosphere which is safer than at home. The staff of the pastoral center is working mostly from home, and programs to gather anyone are on hold. This facilitates the ability to continue service to the church safely. I come back to the House of Peace at 4:00 pm as the staff, friars and postulants are leaving after ministering there. I go to my space trying not to touch anything, sanitize myself, and celebrate a private Mass, connecting spiritually with especially the communities close to me, the priests of the archdiocese, and the many intentions folks are asking for prayer and support. I am finding myself in solidarity with so many of us in experiencing the need to learn a new reliance on things of the spirit rather than the physical.

TL Michael Auman, Milwaukee WI: Since the St. Francis Capuchin Center is being renovated as a friary, our offices had to relocate. My office and the Office of Pastoral Care and Conciliation (OPCC) were moved to the Achilles Residence, where I live in the first floor apartment; the two offices are now located upstairs in what used to be a guest quarters for visiting friars and employees. Amy Peterson (director of OPCC) and I alternate half days in the office so that we practice social distancing. It's a bit awkward, but what isn't these days?



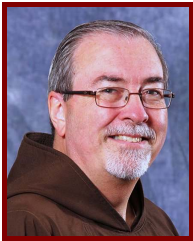
TL Michael Auman

The relocation of our offices has been difficult, most especially in the area of technology. Both of us have had very real issues, but we've been able to continue our day-to-day tasks.

Since I live alone, I am especially grateful to the brothers at St. Conrad Friary. Well before the pandemic, the community at St. Conrad was always supportive, and I so enjoyed being with them on a regular basis for prayer and meals. But the "shelter at home" requirement has made that impossible. My age is, of course, a factor which makes me vulnerable; but in addition, I'm still dealing with cancer, so that makes me even more a target of this virus. So the brothers of St. Conrad check in with me on a regular basis to make sure I have what I need and to offer prayerful and emotional support. What more could I ask for?

I've been having teleconference appointments with both my primary care doctor and my oncologist. It's hard to imagine living through this pandemic without high-end technology!

I'm very grateful to the many brothers who have called or emailed me just to "check in," and make sure I'm doing okey. Fraternity has never meant more to me than it does these days. And there are a number of good friends who also check in with me regularly. I'm so thankful for their support and concern. This surreal epidemic has prompted much more personal and prayerful reflection, and I continue to wake up each morning grateful for another day of life, and another chance to creatively reach out and relate to others.



Larry Webber

Larry Webber, Ashland MT: We brothers at St. Labre in Ashland have been busy with the local community as the school closed down and classes and encounters are now virtual, including our daily Mass which is posted thanks to the hard work of Michael Joseph Groark. We have been getting a lot of feed back from that, and people are coming to church on line who have not been to church in years. We've never had this many people attending daily Mass.

We have been avoiding Hardin and Billings, as especially Billings is the focus of the virus. Our part of the state has been preserved from the virus — thanks be to God, and our rural reality. Not heading west means we have not seen the other friars in Crow, Billings and Prior. It's a strange reality, as it is for all the country and world.

Masses began again on Sunday two weeks ago, but with many protocols and cares taken. Most people are still afraid to come, and we have encouraged them not to, especially the elderly. It's amazing how busy we have maintained ourselves, but there is more down time than previously, and the time to get things done that have been on our “to do” list for a long time.

'This is exactly what we want to be doing'

Brendan Buckley (St. Mary Province) had never heard of Zoom before this past March and the onset of the coronavirus pandemic. After his home in the Diocese of Brooklyn became a center of COVID-19 illness in the United States, he learned! With the help of two parish employees, he has now shifted much of his parish ministry online, caring for his flock at the parish of St. Michael-St. Malachy despite the outbreak. "They've got something [streaming] every day of the week," he said. This includes fitness programming for children, meetings of the parish's young adult group, First Communion classes, all in addition to live-streams of Masses.

On April 24, his parish staged a pop-up food distribution with Catholic Charities of Brooklyn and Queens. Opened in addition to the existing 34 food pantries operated by Catholic Charities of Brooklyn and Queens, the parish event saw a total of 9,360 meals distributed to 1,040 families in need, with an additional \$2,500 in grocery vouchers given to 100 families.

Buckley told CNA that as a Capuchin Franciscan friar, his work ministering in Brooklyn during the COVID-19 pandemic is following in the tradition of his religious order. The boroughs of Brooklyn and Queens contain about 60% of the COVID-19 cases in New York City, which has more cases than anywhere else in the country.

"From my perspective as a Capuchin Franciscan, this is exactly what we want to be doing: directly helping people in need," he said. "Throughout the difficult times in Europe, the Capuchins were right there on the front lines. When leadership in different cities fled to the hills during plagues, the Capuchins stayed, and ministered, and died."

Despite everything, Buckley insists that his parish has been blessed; blessed with a small, yet smart and capable staff who moved programming online, and blessed with the outpouring of assistance from others.



Catholic Charities distributes food at St. Michael - St. Malachy Parish, Brooklyn.

NB: The above was excerpted from an article by the Catholic News Agency. The full article can be found at:

<https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/this-is-exactly-what-we-want-to-be-doing-a-friars-life-in-brooklyn-during-coronavirus-20182>

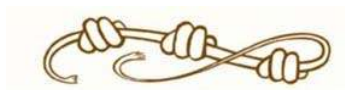
A "Community" Ministry

St. Clare Friary in Chicago is home to 13 of our brothers, most of whom are either in post-novitiate formation or in academic programs. The brothers make 200 sandwiches each month for the bread truck of Port Ministries in the "Back of the Yards" neighborhood, situated in a heavily industrialized location, populated by successive generations of immigrants. MJ Groark worked there and organized the various parishes and groups to have a fixed day of the month to make sandwiches. But as there are some of the groups are not gathering to make sandwiches, we have taken on a second day. Sandwiches, juice boxes and fruit are distributed around the neighborhood.



Our other project was initiated by Fred Cabras who works as a social worker at Northwestern Hospital downtown. He brought home a sample of a care bag given to nurses at the hospital to show them appreciation for the work they are doing. Steve Kropp offered bags from the vocation office which we filled with coloring pages, colored pencils, crayons and markers, pens, pencils and note pads and some treats.

We are also supporting a Mexican restaurant that opened earlier in the year in our neighborhood by ordering take out lunches from them on Saturdays. They have been very grateful for the business as they were not well known before the shutdown began.



Brenda Boatman's Desk!

The provincialate recently had deep-cleaning done. People with offices there had to tidy things up before the cleaning. Many friars commented that it was the first time they saw the top of Brenda Boatman's desk! Brenda is a staff member of the HR Department, and is an affiliate of the province.



Lockdown

by Richard Hendrich, Capuchin

Yes there is fear.
Yes there is isolation.
Yes there is panic buying.
Yes there is sickness.
Yes there is even death.

But,
They say that in Wuhan after so
many years of noise
You can hear the birds again.
They say that after just a few
weeks of quiet.

The sky is no longer thick with fumes
But blue and grey and clear.
They say that in the streets of Assisi
People are singing to each other
across the empty squares,
keeping their windows open
so that those who are alone
may hear the sounds of
family around them.

They say that a hotel in
the West of Ireland
Is offering free meals and
delivery to the homebound.
Today a young woman I know
is busy spreading fliers
with her number
through the neighborhood
So that the elders may have
someone to call on.

Today Churches, Synagogues,
Mosques and Temples are
preparing to welcome
and shelter the homeless,
the sick, the weary.

All over the world people are
slowing down and reflecting.



*Richard Hendrick, a
Capuchin Franciscan living
in Ireland, penned this
touching poem about
coronavirus.*



All over the world people are looking at
their neighbors in a new way.
All over the world people are
waking up to a new reality
To how big we really are.
To how little control we really have.
To what really matters.
To Love.

So we pray and we remember that
Yes there is fear.
But there does not have to be hate.
Yes there is isolation.
But there does not have to be loneliness.
Yes there is panic buying.
But there does not have to be meanness.

Yes there is sickness.
But there does not have to be
disease of the soul
Yes there is even death.
But there can always be a rebirth of love.

Wake to the choices you make
as to how to live now.
Today, breathe.

Listen, behind the factory
noises of your panic
The birds are singing again
The sky is clearing,
Spring is coming,
And we are always encompassed by
Love.

Open the windows of your soul
And though you may not be able
to touch across the empty square,
Sing





Our brother, Juan Florez, died on May 8 at the age of 92. He was born in 1927, the son of Florentino and Timotea (née Gardenas) Florez in Fond du Lac WI.

Juan was invested in the Capuchin habit in 1945, perpetually professed in 1949, and ordained in 1953. He was a member of the teaching faculty at St. Felix Friary in Huntington, as well as at St. Mary Friary in Crown Point IN. He was a chaplain in the military ordinariate from 1968-1988.

Following his service in the military, he did pastoral ministry in California. He is survived by a nephew, Filemon Monjara, as well as his many Capuchin brothers.

! Pierre Viau, provincial vicar of Sacred Heart Province (Canada) died recently.

! Susana Maftinex, mother of Joe Martinez (affiliate) died recently.

! The grandfather of Junia Yassenov (provincial employee) died recently.

! Pat and Amy Bertram, brother and sister-in-law of Michael Bertram, were injured in a car accident recently.

! Dinah Brundidge, and employee of the province, recently underwent surgery for complications from knee replacement.

! Daisy Howard, mother of Kenny Howard (provincial employee) was hospitalized recently for COVID-19 and other health related issues.

! Mary Poole, former secretary for the Sec. Franciscans in Detroit, is recuperating from various health issues.

! Brenda Boatman (provincial employee) is suffering with shingles.

! Alex Luzi has become weaker, and has fallen several times.

! Former friar Pete Stierman was recently hospitalized.

! Gavin Celichowski (John Celichowski's nephew) was hospitalized for COVID-19 symptoms.

! We can't begin to tell you how overwhelmed we felt with all of your messages of sympathy and prayers for our mother's illness and finally her death. Not being able to be with her in her final days was very difficult and sad for us. Your prayers were of great comfort and peace. Thank you! Warmly, Joe Martinez and Family



Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have a rich heritage thousands of years old and have both shaped the history

of the United States and had their lives dramatically influenced by moments in its history. The month of May was chosen to commemorate the immigration of the first Japanese to the United States on May 7, 1843, and to mark the anniversary of the completion of the transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869. The majority of the workers who laid the tracks were Chinese immigrants.



Asian Pacific American Heritage Month

- 1 Daniel Fox (B)
Joseph Howe (N)
- 3 Philip Naessens (N)
- 7 Lawrence Webber (B)
- 9 Frederick Cabras (B)
- 12 Alfredo Gundrum (B)
Leopold Gleissner (N)
- 13 Michael Gaffney (B)
- 15 Isidore Herriges (N)
Anthony Kote-Witah (B)
- 16 Myron Kowalsky (B)
- 19 Mitchell Frantz (B)
- 29 Robert Wotypka (B)
- 22 Jozef Timmers (B)
- 23 Kenneth Smits (B)
John Hascall (B)
- 24 Werner Wolf (B)
- 25 David Reichling (B)
Bede Louzon (N)
- 26 Robert Kose (B)
- 27 Brian Joseph (B)
- 28 Gebreyesus Boyine (B)
- 29 Gerald Pehler (B)
Joseph Wolf (B)
- 31 David Hirt (B)