



7 November 2018

Issue 1143



## *Franciscans Gather at CTU*

For three days 40+ Franciscan brothers assisted by two OSF sisters gathered for a symposium on lifelong formation for Franciscan men at Catholic Theological Union (CTU) in Chicago, Illinois. The gathering was sponsored by the Duns Scotus Chair in Spirituality at CTU. Over the past two decades the chair, endowed by the John the Baptist Province of OFM friars in 1997, has sponsored scholarship and educational initiatives in support of the Franciscan charism. These efforts have included lectures by renowned scholars such as Ilia Delia OSF of Villanova University and study days by leading Franciscan thinkers such as Bill Short OFM of the Franciscan School of Theology.

This first of its kind symposium was designed to expand the conversation by inviting first and third order brothers from a variety of communities and jurisdictions to ponder the promise and demands of forming Franciscan men for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Participants included Atonement Friars, Franciscan Brothers of Brooklyn, TORs, OFM, OFM Conventual and OFM Capuchin friars from across the U.S. and some brothers from Europe. Invitations had been extended to multiple other communities as well.



Michael Perry

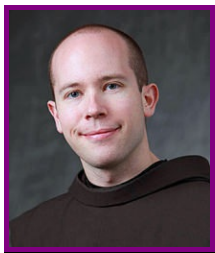
The symposium was structured around a series of presentations, two of which were open to the public. Michael Perry OFM, the current general minister of the Order of Friars Minor, offered an opening lecture on Thursday evening entitled “*You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased:*” Musings from the Margins.” Taking his cue from the Gospel of Mark (1:9-15), Michael explored that text as one that presents necessary elements for the lifelong journey of religious life and discipleship. His presentation, live-streamed on CTU Facebook and soon to be posted on CTU’s website, was attended by a large group of Franciscans,

including men in initial formation from the OFM, Conventual and Capuchin communities. The following day, three participants in the symposium offered responses to Michael's presentation, which spurred the morning discussion.

A second presentation was offered on Friday morning by Meg Guider OSF, associate professor of missiology and chair of the ecclesiastical faculty at Boston College's School of Theology and Ministry, and member of the Duns Scotus advisory board. In her "Stewarding the Grace of Fraternity: Living out the Franciscan Charism of 'Being Brothers' in Service of God's Mission." Meg reminded the group that it was only after the Lord gave Francis brothers that the Poverello focused on the Gospel form of life. Then, employing Matthew's parable of the talents (25:14-30) she invited the brothers to consider what kind of stewards of the grace of *fraternitas* have we, are we and will we become. These challenges were the focus of discussion for the rest of the morning.



Meg Guider



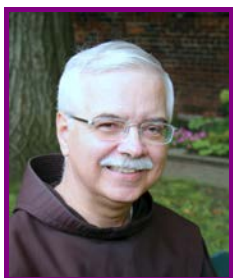
Dan Horan

On Friday afternoon Dan Horan OFM, assistant professor of systematic theology at CTU, offered a presentation on "Liquidity and the Abyss: Lifelong Theological Formation for U.S. Franciscans." Dan focused on contemporary theological trends, challenges and hopes that need attention in forming Franciscan men today. In this "liquid" era in which there are powerful forces attempting the decolonialization of standards of knowing and experience, Dan proposed that two theological areas that needed attention by Franciscans was a theology of authenticity and the meaning of the human person. Small group discussion and interaction with the presenter occupied the participants for this first afternoon session.

The final session on Friday afternoon was designed as a "grass roots" moment in which participants were asked to brainstorm about what issues were not being addressed and needed to be raised up, as well as what issues or ideas really resonated with them and needed to be remembered. This discussion, like the whole of the symposium, was facilitated by Margaret Carney, OSF. The former director of the Franciscan Institute at St. Bonaventure University, and then president of that university, Margaret brought not only formidable facilitation skills but also a vast knowledge of Franciscan theology and spirituality to the task. Her ability to weave Franciscan sources, stories and poetry into the process contributed to the forward momentum of the symposium and the lively engagement of its participants. This grass roots session yielded affirmations and particularly unaddressed issues that covered seven large post-it sheets.



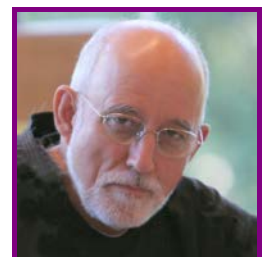
Margaret Carney



Pat McCloskey

Pat McCloskey OFM, the editor of *St. Anthony Messenger* magazine, volunteered to serve as secretary for the symposium and assisted Margaret in compiling and recording these comments.

Friday evening was the second public presentation, this time by John Corriveau OFM Cap., former general minister of the Capuchin Order and recently retired bishop of Nelson, British Columbia. His topic was "A Brotherhood of Missionary Disciples." In his presentation John noted that in a unique turn Francis chose to model his form of religious life on the life of Jesus' missionary disciples. From this flowed his two main points: 1) the embrace of Franciscan brotherhood is the embrace of Jesus Christ, and 2) that embrace leads to Franciscan brotherhood.



John Corriveau



John's impassioned presentation was again attended by a large group of friars, including many brothers in initial formation from the various Franciscan communities in and around Chicago. The presentation was video-taped and will be available in the near future on the CTU website. On Saturday morning, three symposium participants responded to John's talk, which sparked the morning conversation in the symposium. In final session of the symposium, facilitator Margaret asked the group to consider "What is your new mandatum after this symposium" and "What is our mutual mandatum from this symposium?" The participants offered many suggestions for what they and their individual obediences could do in light of this gathering, as well as suggestions for further work of the Duns Scotus Chair.



## World Day of the Poor

When we hear the word "poverty," we can think of many things: poverty of spirit, lack of love, isolation, etc. On World Day of the Poor (Nov 18), Pope Francis invites us to focus on material poverty in which individuals, families, and communities lack access to the basic things they need to live and thrive: nutritious food, adequate housing, safe neighborhoods, good education, healthcare, and decent jobs with fair pay, for example.

Too many people in our country find themselves living in poverty, and the barriers to breaking this cycle can sometimes feel impossibly large. But when people join together to work for more just communities, change can happen. Our faith calls us to walk with our brothers and sisters who find themselves on the margins of society and empower them to create change in their communities.



Pope Francis writes in his World Day of the Poor message: "For the poor to overcome their oppressive situation, they need to sense the presence of brothers and sisters who are concerned for them and, by opening the doors of their hearts and lives, make them feel like friends and family. Only in this way can the poor discover 'the saving power at work in their lives' and 'put them at the center of the Church's pilgrim way' (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 198) . . . I would like this year's, and all future World Days, to be celebrated in a spirit of joy at the rediscovery of our capacity for togetherness" (no. 6).

"God's answer to the poor is always a saving act that heals wounds of body and soul, restores justice and helps to live life anew in dignity. God's answer is also a summons to those who believe in him to do likewise, within the limits of what is humanly possible. The World Day of the Poor wishes to be a small answer that the Church throughout the world gives to the poor of every kind and in every land, lest they think that their cry has gone unheard" (no. 3).

## Nonagenarian

Our brother, Tony Scannell (pictured at right) recently celebrated his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday with his community in California. Tony's has had an illustrious religious life...and he's still going strong! *Ad multos annos, Tony!*





Our brother, Bertin Samsa, died on October 24 at the age of 88. Bert was born in 1930, the son of John Patrick and Leona (née ) Delores Samsa, in Kingsford MI. He was invested in the Capuchin habit in 1948, perpetually professed in 1952, and ordained a priest in 1956.

Bert served in pastoral ministry in Appleton WI and Ashland MT prior to being assigned to the Middle East (1963-1970), after which he served as a military chaplain in a variety of locations, including the U.S., Vietnam, Germany, and Italy. In 1995, he served as pastor in Weyauwega WI until his retirement in 2017.

Bert is survived by his brother John Francis Samsa (also a Capuchin friar), and his sister Margaret Lynn of Santa Cruz CA, as well as his many Capuchin brothers with whom he lived, prayed and ministered for over 70 years.

- Jim Maloney, twin brother of Joe Maloney, underwent heart surgery.
  - Sam Naessens, brother of Phil Naessens, died recently.
- Werner Wolf was recently hospitalized and released after tests indicated nothing serious.

*And we offer prayerful condolences to our Jewish sisters and brothers after the deadliest attack on Jews in American history*



## November

- 7 ..... Javier Rodriguez (B)
- 8 ..... Dorothy Day (B, 1897)
- 14 ..... Wilbert Lanser (B)
- 16 ..... Int'l Day for Tolerance
- 18 ..... World Day of the Poor
- 20 ..... Investment Commission Teleconference
- 26 ..... Formation Council, Chicago
- 27 ..... Liturgical Commission Video Conference

