

re:Cap



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Capuchin Friar Travels the World on Foot



Marcelo Monti, OFM Cap.

The Franciscan charism of itinerancy and humility is on display as Capuchin priest Marcelo Monti from Brazil is determined to walk over the entire world! The friar averages 18 miles a day, and spends a good deal of his time talking to folks about the values of the Capuchins as well as HIV/AIDS, which took the life of his sister almost ten years ago. He doesn't carry any money, and relies on the hospitality of those with whom he meets. "Only three times was I not welcomed," he said; "unfortunately, those three were priests!" But he's been encouraged by the generosity of so many, who even gave up their beds so that he could rest comfortably.

Last year his journey took him through six countries. To date, he's walked over 3,600 miles. Now and then he's accompanied by one of his Capuchin brothers, but generally he's walking alone. "Perhaps due to the Franciscan charism, I feel integrated with the environment when I'm alone."

Marcelo doesn't wear the Capuchin habit during his sojourn. He said that for St. Francis, his habit was the "garment of a destitute man. Being a religious, I didn't want to be treated differently from the other people." Wearing civilian clothes, he wants to avoid any possible semblance of privilege.

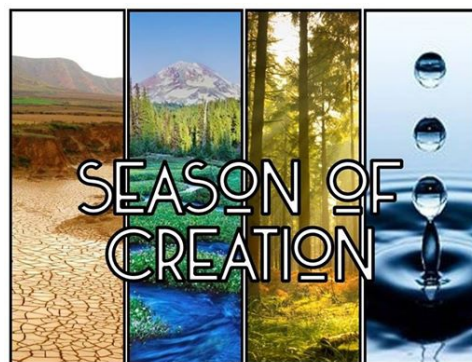
He often gives interviews with local newspapers and TV programs, and talks about the stigmatization that HIV+ individuals face on a regular basis. "I'm doing this in a very ordinary way, just walking. I think people can find out other simple ways of thinking about solutions, and giving people hope."

(You can read an article about Marcelo Monti and his walk in "Crux," 8/7/19. The above photo is from that article.)

Season of Creation

September 1st, the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, was proclaimed by the Patriarch Dimitrius I for the Orthodox in 1989, and endorsed by Pope Francis in 2015. The season that begins on that date and lasts until October 4th (Feast of St. Francis), is widely embraced.

The Vatican is extending an invitation to join the ecumenical family in celebrating the Season of Creation so that Christians can be united in praying and acting together to care for our common home.



Wisconsin Partners-in-Ministry Visit Michigan



On July 30-August 1, 22 staff members from St. Fidelis Friary in Appleton and St. Lawrence Seminary in Mount Calvary embarked on a pilgrimage to Detroit to visit Capuchin ministries in the area. The goal of the trip is to have a broader understanding and a greater appreciation for the mission of the province. While in Detroit, they visited the Capuchin Soup Kitchen on Conner, the Capuchin Service Center, St. Joseph Center, the Solanus Casey Center., and On The Rise Café. A special packed lunch was provided for them on Wednesday courtesy of the latter. The group stayed at Cap Retreat in Washington, MI. The group is grateful to Tom Zelinski, Jerry Johnson, David Preuss, and Ray Stadmeyer for hosting them.

Two Friars Are Invested

Among the summer provincial celebrations was the investiture of two of our brothers in a ceremony at our international novitiate in Santa Ynez CA. Pictured at right (L-R) are MJ Groark, novices Ashwin Kumar and Jacob Schultz, and John Celichowski.

re:Cap offers prayerful best wishes to our newest members of the province as they continue their vocational discernment during the next year!



What Does It Matter?



Last month marked the 5th anniversary of the homicide of Eric Garner, as ruled by the New York chief medical examiner on August 1, 2014. It was also the week when it was announced by the Justice Department that there would be no federal charges against the officer, Daniel Pantaleo, who used the choke hold that led to Garner's death, as it could not prove that the officer "acted willfully."

What does it matter? As Capuchin Franciscans, the repairing and rebuilding of relationships is critical to our charism. We have the example of St. Francis of Assisi crossing enemy lines during the Crusades and meeting with Sultan Malik al-Kamil in 1219. In 2019, this story opens doors for us all who too often live as if they're forever closed. The dialogue between the two men of faith did not end the Crusades. However, the encounter and their mutual respect of the other is both timeless as well as timely. As *Gaudium et Spes* reminds us, "Respect and love ought to be extended also to those who think or act differently than we do in social, political and even religious matters. In fact, the more deeply we come to understand their ways of thinking through such courtesy and love, the more easily will we be able to enter into dialogue with them." Being able to recognize God in the other, realizing that one does not have the full story, nor will we ever in this life, are all critical lessons we need to recover in these times of polarization and racial demonizing of "the other" in society.

(The above is excerpted from Michael Dorn's JPIC blog)

Manatí Native Professes First Vows as Capuchin Franciscan Friar



Javier Rodriguez and family members

Francisco Javier Rodriguez professed his first vows at St. Lawrence Seminary. Javier, a native of Manatí, Puerto Rico, joined the Capuchins following a career serving others, most recently as an attorney helping formerly incarcerated citizens with Legal Action of Wisconsin.

“With every job that I had, there was always a sense like there's something more, something different for me that I haven't found yet,” said Javier. “Once I started discerning, that thought and that feeling kind of went away... The more I thought about it, the more at ease I felt, the more free I felt.”

Javier was introduced to the Capuchins while a parishioner at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Milwaukee. Prior to joining the Capuchins, Javier worked in public broadcasting in Puerto Rico and at the Administration of Vocational Rehabilitation working with people with disabilities. He earned his law degree from New England Law in Boston and a dual bachelor's degree in journalism and political science from Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio. Javier will begin studies this fall for his Masters of Divinity degree at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago.

Brothers Attend Workshop on Emotional Intelligence

Our brothers in ministry formation (those perpetually professed but still in studies in preparation for ministry) and the mentoring program (those within five years of beginning full-time ministry) gathered at Siena Center in Racine for a few days of fraternal sharing, prayer and input from Dale Bospalec on Emotional Intelligence. Dale Bospalec is a partner-in-ministry who counsels our friars on behavioral health issues. His office is located at the St. Francis Capuchin Center in Milwaukee.



Ten friars attended the workshop in Racine



...and there was time for a little relaxation!

Women's Equality Day is August 26



If we don't speed up the pace of change, it will take 208 years to reach gender equality in the U.S., according to the World Economic Forum. That's 208 years in which women's opportunities will be limited and the U.S. will be robbed of the full benefit of women's talent and ingenuity. Every one of those years is one year too many. The U.S. ranks 59th in women's labor force participation overall, and only 6.6% of our Fortune 500 companies have a woman CEO. Moreover, the progress we are making is slow: in the last 13 years, 16 countries, including Namibia, Cameroon, and Botswana, have surpassed the U.S. in women's labor force participation.



- Colette (María) Hartman, CSA, missionary in Nicaragua since 1962, died the evening of 8 August at her home in Managua.
- Michael Bertram is recovering from a serious car accident.
 - Rae Paula Schimke (sister of Franklin Eichhorst) was hospitalized recently.

Mercy Pedalers

Libby Fernandez, a Sister of Mercy of the Americas, has created an innovative ministry made up of volunteers who are full of passion and desire to connect with the most vulnerable men and women experiencing homelessness in Sacramento CA. They use bicycles to reach out to those they encounter on the streets, alleys and parks. It is a ministry of presence and action based on the “Works of Mercy,” emphasizing “Welcoming the Stranger.”

Henry Nouwen once said that “Welcoming a stranger is not to change the person, but to offer the person space where change can happen.” It takes time and commitment to build a sense of trust between a “Mercy Pedaler” and the person experiencing homelessness.

Every morning as the sun rises, Sr. Libby pedals down K Street and approaches someone just waking up, packing their bags and getting ready to move on from where they slept that night — usually under a business doorway or on the sidewalk next to an office. She carries nutritional bars, toothpaste and toothbrushes, soap, socks, hats and gloves.

Although it’s a new ministry, begun in 2017, there are now more than 75 Mercy Pedalers. You can learn more about them here:

www.mercypedalers.com

Crickets that chirp all day and all night
 Looking for love in their season
 Fields once green now rife with golden rod
 The same as they are every year
 Earlier sunsets we notice at mid-month
 (Wonder where the summer went)
 Cool mornings with fog
 Still air with familiar scents



August Up North

by John Niederbuhl



16	Robert Bichler (B)
17	Pascal Siler (B) Affiliation of Henry & Peggy Bowles, Milwaukee
18	David Funk (B)
19	Jerome Schroeder (B)
20	Ronald Rieder (N)
21	Walter Balduck (B)
24	Reception of Postulants, Milwaukee
26	John Holly (B)
28	Augustine Cops (N) John Celichowski (B)
29	José Vera (B)
30	David Schwab (B)
31	Raymond Meier (N)

Bats from behind shutters
 Pursue their flights at dusk
 (If only we could fly with them)
 Apples fall from trees, soft, little thuds,
 Remind us of other late summers, and of gravity
 Migrating birds eat honeysuckle berries
 While a monarch spreads her wings
 On white phlox.