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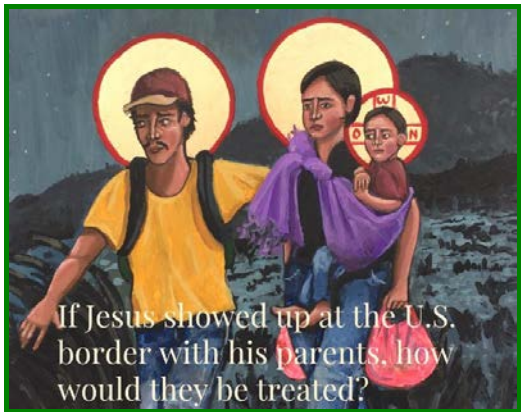


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International Migrants Day is observed annually on 18 December. Throughout human history, migration has been a courageous expression of the individual's will to overcome adversity and to live a better life. Today, globalization, together with advances in communications and transportation, has greatly increased the number of people who have the desire and the capacity to move to other places.

This new era has created challenges and opportunities for societies throughout the world. It also has served to underscore the clear linkage between migration and development, as well as the opportunities it provides for co-development, that is, the concerted

improvement of economic and social conditions at both origin and destination.

Migration draws increasing attention in the world nowadays. Mixed with elements of unforeseeability, emergency, and complexity, the challenges and difficulties of international migration require enhanced cooperation and collective action among countries and regions. The United Nations is actively playing a catalyst role in this area, with the aim of creating more dialogues and interactions within countries and regions, as well as propelling experience exchange and collaboration opportunities.

On September 19, 2016 the United Nations General Assembly adopted a set of commitments during its first ever summit on large movements of refugees and migrants to enhance the protection of refugees and migrants. These commitments are known as the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants. That declaration reaffirms the importance of the international protection regime and represents a commitment to strengthen and enhance mechanisms to protect people on the move. It paved the way for the adoption of two new global compacts in 2018: the global compact on refugees and the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration



More than 3,400 migrants and refugees have lost their lives worldwide this year. Treating every migrant with dignity is one of fundamental requirements we face before anything else we attempt on migration. Migration is the great issue of our era, and a force for dignity because it allows people to choose to save themselves, letting them choose participation over isolation.

We must dignify those choices by paying them respect, and we respect them by treating those who make such choices with dignity. As we celebrate this day, our call is for migration to be safe, regular and dignified for all.

Affiliates Visit the Friars

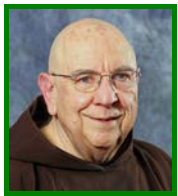


L-R: Chris L'Esteve, Paschal Siler, John Francis Samsa, Betty L'Esteve and Ralph Fellenz. Seated: Reynold Rynda.

Our affiliates, Chris and Betty L'Esteve, recently visited St. Fidelis Friary in Appleton. The L'Esteves lived in Saudi Arabia for many years, during which they were great friends of many of the Capuchins. During much of this time, they lived in Rahima, near Ras Tanura. Chris eventually was employed by the Dhahran Academy as a facilities manager. They moved to Dhahran and made their home on the campus next to the U.S. Consulate. Their son Ronald is a graduate of St. Lawrence Seminary.

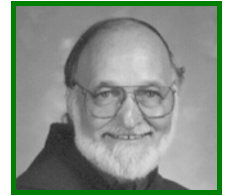
Most friars who have ministered in Saudi Arabia, or helped out there, know Chris and Betty and were always recipients of their hospitality. Their home was a place friars could go and relax and enjoy a good meal and interesting conversation. Several friars have also been hosted by Chris and Betty at their home in Hyderabad, India.

21 Years in Tucson Ends

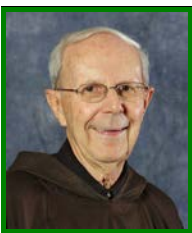


André Weller

In 1998, the province opened a community in Tucson AZ with the intention of providing a "warm weather state" for senior friars to continue ministry past retirement. Michael Graf, one of the "founding members" of the Casa San José Community, died there in 2013. The other friars who lived and ministered in Tucson have since moved on and continue their ministries, albeit part-time in most cases. The Tucson community officially closed this past fall.

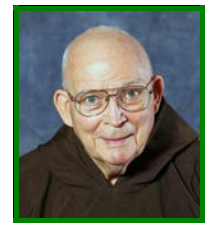


Ben Markwell

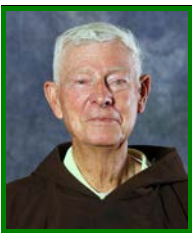


Bob Kose

Bob Kose, who served as the most recent local minister at Casa San José, has been transferred to Old Mission Santa Ines in Solvang CA to continue his "retirement ministry." Ben Markwell, who resided in Tucson for one year, has moved to Florida to live with his twin brother, a member of the Missionaries of Africa. John Francis Samsa now resides at St. Fidelis Community in Appleton WI, and serves there as local vicar. André Weller ministers in Chicago at St. Clare of Montefalco Parish. Wally Balduck returned to Detroit and is a member of the St. Bonaventure Monastery community. Franklin Eichhorst has retired to Mt. Calvary WI, a member of St. Felix Community. Nick Widhammer ministered in Tucson from 2014 until his death in 2017.

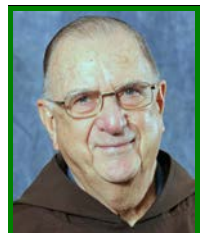


Wally Balduck



Franklin Eichhorst

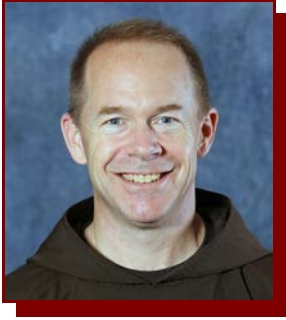
In an interview with *The Catholic Outlook*, diocesan newspaper in Arizona, Bob Kose said that it was "very hard to leave [Tucson]. There are so many attachments here to the community. The people here have become important to our lives...I've gotten more from them than they have gotten from me. They have helped me grow in my own faith."



John Francis Samsa

Breaking Bread

by Jerome Johnson



During this 90th year of the Capuchin Soup Kitchen, I've been writing about the Franciscan tradition and some of the key components of the soup kitchen history. In the winter edition of *Breaking Bread*, I spoke about how the soup kitchen is really a natural part of the Franciscan vision. Living in 13th century Italy, Francis was deeply moved by the humility of God which was made manifest in Jesus. Jesus shared our humanity by being placed in a manger, walking with people through their pain and joy, and loving people to the end, right up to crucifixion.

But God shows that love is more powerful than even death itself. The belief of St. Francis that we are all sisters and brothers, along with the idea that love conquers death, forms the heart of the soup kitchen today. The other main trait of Francis is that he believed in the unique and precious human dignity of each person. As Br. Ray Stadmeyer says so well, "to not see folks just as people we have to take care of, or cases to be solved, but as our brothers and sisters." Every person has a name, and every person has a unique story held precious by God.

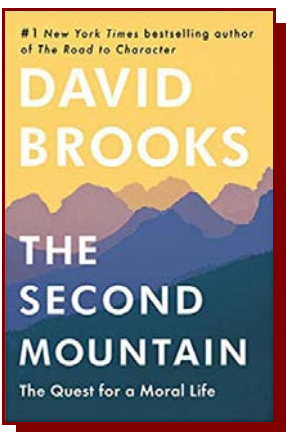
These values have shown themselves repeatedly as the soup kitchen evolved to meet the needs of the times. In the summer edition of *Breaking Bread*, I spoke about the beginnings of our Jefferson House program in 1976. Following that, we continued to find creative new approaches to alleviate human suffering in our communities. I'll ask to be forgiven if I might be off a bit with some of these dates. There are many volunteers, donors, staff, and soup kitchen guests who know these dates better than I. 1994 saw the beginning of our Capuchin Services Center. The Services Center was renovated in 2015 with a more dignified design where people could choose the types of canned goods they receive. 1997 saw the beginnings of our second soup kitchen meal site on Conner Street, along with our Rosa Parks Children's program as part of that building. In 1996, our Earthworks Urban Farm began. Our On The Rise Bakery opened in 2006 and added the wonderful retail café in 2014.

[Jerome Johnson is executive director of the Capuchin Soup Kitchen ministries in Detroit]



Quick Review: "The Second Mountain, The Quest for a Moral Life"

by Richard Hart



David Brooks, columnist for the *New York Times*, and best-selling author, vividly describes his faith journey in *Second Mountain*. The first mountain focuses on power, success, self-gratification which leads to loneliness, insecurity and addiction. Brooks chronicles what became his first mountain: uncommunicative, aloof, ego-obsessed, priority of time rather than people which he felt led to his marriage of 27 years dissolving and his desire to write about people who commit themselves well.

The second mountain focuses on gratitude, kindness, and service to others. He had to transform his life by a deeper commitment and outpouring of himself which led to real joy in his life. Brooks admits his failure as a husband and devotes a lengthy but enlightening section of the book to marriage. He had an epiphany experience while hiking in Aspen which led him to a conversion to Christianity. The book is steeped in quotations from C. S. Lewis, Victor Frankl, Carl Jung, William James and others.



- Gerarda Tobin, an affiliate of the province, is suffering with shingles.
- Periyamayamma, mother of Madalai Muthu, is very ill and in declining health.
- Alfredo Gundrum recently underwent successful heart valve replacement surgery. He is very grateful for the concern and prayers.
- Mildred Wolf, sister-in-law of Werner Wolf, died recently.
 - My brother was diagnosed with a rare bacterial pneumonia. He's home now recuperating and feeling much better. I'm grateful to so many of you for your prayers and concern. Thank you! ~ TL Michael Auman



- 4 **Paul Schmitz (B)**
- 5-6 **Pro Council, Milwaukee**
- 6 **Nicholas (F)**
- 7 **Ordinations, Milwaukee**
Jerome Campbell (B)
- 11 **Thomas Nguyen (B)**
- 14 **Juan Flores (N)**
- 15 **Norman Valenzuela (B)**
- 18 **International Day of Migrants**



Zacchaeus

(By Rita A. Simmonds)



I was too short
to see the Lord,
so He provided me
with a sycamore tree
that grew from a seed until
it was strong enough
for me to climb.
But I was a grown man by then,
an extorter,
full of sin.
All this He knew, but even more
how much I wanted to see Him
that day when He passed by.
He stopped and saw me
hanging on
the tree He'd placed for me
so long ago
in Jerico
before I was a seed.



A Blessed Advent!

