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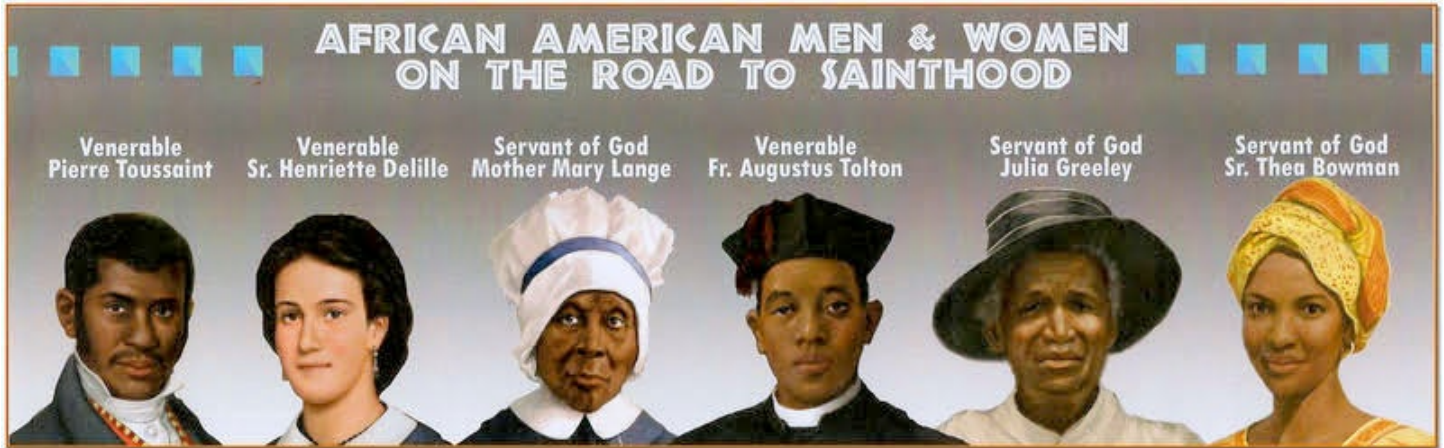
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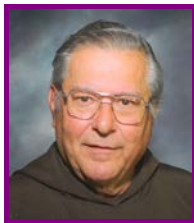
19 January 2020

Issue 1174

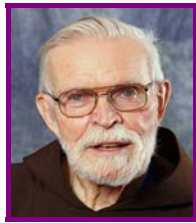
Celebrating Black History Month



Jubilarians Celebrate Combined 740 Years of Religious Life



Elroy Pesch
65 Years



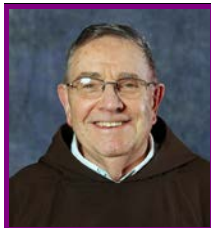
Joachim Strupp
65 Years



André Weller
65 Years



James Zelinski
65 Years



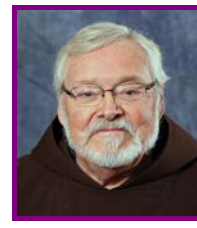
John Gau
60 Years



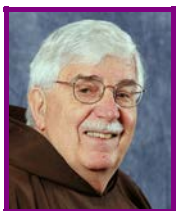
James Antoine
60 Years



John Hascall
60 Years



Alan Veik
60 Years



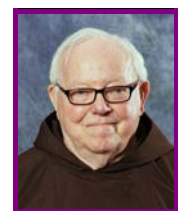
Perry McDonald
60 Years



David Reichling
60 Years



Adrian Staehler
60 Years



Lyle Gundrum
60 Years

Capuchin Friar's Artwork His Gift to God — and to Those Who Visit the Solanus Center



Michael Gaffney in front of his painting of Solanus Casey

When a young Michael Gaffney received a book from his sister about St. Francis, he knew he wanted to model his life after the Italian saint. "I read about him and I thought, 'This is the guy for me,'" Michael said.

As the resident artist for the Province of St. Joseph, Michael creates artwork for the churches, seminaries, retreat house and retirement homes where Capuchin friars live, serve and pray.

His most-viewed work is likely the altar piece he created for the beatification of Solanus Casey in 2017. The event was held at Ford Field with 60,000 people in attendance. To make the piece, Michael used one of the only color photographs that exist of Solanus, taken of him during evening prayer.

A year ago, a larger-than-life painting of Solanus Casey was unveiled in the friars' chapel at St. Bonaventure Monastery. The work was rendered on computer by Michael and transferred to canvas. It hangs above the spot where an opening once connected the monastery to the chapel and where Solanus was known to pray and play his violin. Solanus is portrayed praying and holding his breviary.

Tim Hinkle, public relations director for the province, which serves Michigan, Illinois and Wisconsin as well as the Crow and Northern Cheyenne Native American Reservations in Montana, said Michael's artwork is nearly ubiquitous throughout the Capuchin houses in those states.

"I travel throughout the province quite a bit in my role, and wherever I go, there's always artwork from Mike somewhere, and it adds an element of beauty to the houses and communities and parishes," Hinkle said. "There's always a Franciscan spirituality element in his works that ties it all together."



A sculpture by Mike Gaffney of "Sister Death" embracing St. Francis of Assisi graces the Capuchin cemetery in Mt. Calvary, Wis.

At age 76, Michael Gaffney is happy to be doing what he loves. "I don't consider myself a grand artist or a great artist, just the artist that God gifted me to be," he said. "I always find myself blessed by God that I could do exactly what I really like to do. How many people get to say that? I get to do it, even at this age, and for as long as I'm still interested."

[Ed note: The above are excerpts from an article which appeared in the "Detroit Catholic"]



Ash Wednesday: 26 February

We Saw You When You Weren't Watching the Super Bowl

Candlemas (A.k.a. Presentation of the Lord) was celebrated on the same day of the Super Bowl. Several friars and friends decided to gather and celebrate Candlemas; although it was announced that the game would be "on" in the TV room.

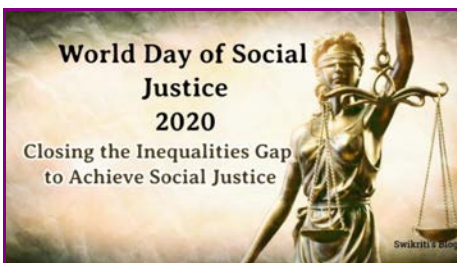


...And the Chiefs Won!

"Closing the Inequalities Gap to Achieve Social Justice"

The International Day of Social Justice is observed on 20 February world wide.

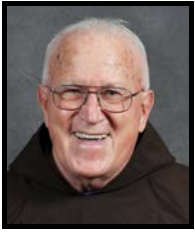
The following is excerpted from the U.N. website.



"Social justice is an underlying principle for peaceful and prosperous coexistence within and among nations. We uphold the principles of social justice when we promote gender equality, or the rights of indigenous peoples and migrants. We advance social justice when we remove barriers that people face because of gender, age, race, ethnicity, religion, culture or disability."

"One in five workers still lives in moderate or extreme poverty, geographical disparities impede access to decent work, many workers face stagnant wages, gender inequality prevails and people are not benefitting equally from economic growth. Inequalities between and among countries are weakening social cohesion, preventing people from achieving their full potential and burdening economies. It is time to reduce inequalities globally."

"For the United Nations, the pursuit of social justice for all is at the core of our global mission to promote development and human dignity. The adoption by the International Labor Organization of the Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization is just one recent example of the UN System's commitment to social justice. The declaration focuses on guaranteeing fair outcomes for all, through employment, social protection, social dialogue, and fundamental principles and rights at work."



Our brother, Lester Bach, died on 2 February, at the age of 88. Lester was born on 15 October 1931 in Sherry WI, the son of the late Frank and Amelia Bach. He was invested in the Capuchin habit in 1949, perpetually professed in 1953, and ordained in 1957.

For most of his religious life, Lester was involved in ministry to the Secular Franciscan Order. He was also involved in formation ministry in the 1960s, as well as the preaching ministry beginning in the 1970s. His ministries took him to Huntington and Crown Point IN, Saginaw MI, Madison and Marathon WI and Chicago IL. Lester would have celebrated 70 years of religious life this summer.

Lester is survived by his sister, Anna R. Gillis of Stevens Point WI, numerous nieces and nephews, as well as his many Capuchin brothers with whom he lived, prayed and ministered for more than 70 years. He was preceded in death by his siblings, Clarence (Virginia) Bach, Vernon "Jim" (Edna) Bach and Florence (Wesley) Fritz; brother-in-law, Henry Gillis.

- Bob Wheelock was admitted to AMC Hospital for bowel obstruction and urinary tract infection.
- John Hascall was recently hospitalized for serious health issues.
- Alice Ann Steiner, sister of deceased friar Lloyd Thiel, died recently.

FEBRUARIE



25 Martin Pable (B)

26 Ash Wednesday

Candidate Weekend at Mt. Calvary WI



Back Row: Anthony Yousef, Chris Woods SMP) Shebin Philip, Norman Valenzuela (SSFP), David Hirt, CJ Webb.
Front Row: John Piccone (Iowa), Nathan Linton, Francisco Cux (Chicago), Bill Hugo, Dave Carrano (Illinois), Andy McAnelly (Michigan), Jaico George (Texas).



Ash Wednesday 2020

On this Wednesday, we submit our ashen way to you —
you Easter parade of newness.

Before the sun sets, take our Wednesday and Easter us,
Easter us to joy and energy and courage and freedom;
Easter us that we may be fearless for your truth.

Come here and Easter our Wednesday with
mercy and justice and peace and generosity.

We pray as we wait for the Risen One who comes soon.

~ Walter Brueggemann



Walter Brueggemann is an American Old Testament scholar and theologian who is widely considered one of the most influential Old Testament scholars of the last several decades.