

re:Cap



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February celebrates Black History Month. It's not an understatement to describe the events of the past year as historic, and particularly for Black Americans. The nation elected its first Black vice president, a woman and a graduate of a historically Black university, and Georgia send its first Black senator to the Capitol. (Both of these realities were possible through the tireless organizing efforts of women like Stacey Abrams of Fair Fight and LaTosha Brown of Black Voters Matter.)

This period also had Black Americans experiencing disproportionate deaths and job losses from Covid-19, police brutality and myriad race-fueled attacks. The killing of George Floyd, a Black man in police custody, ushered in a period of collective reckoning — one that prompted widespread protests, a push for racial justice and a re-examination of the education system's failure to teach the accurate history of Black and Indigenous people.

Renovation Update

Bricks from a local convent's demolition were intended to be used for the new St. Francis Parish Center in Milwaukee, but proved to be unacceptable. A creative solution was found, and the bricks from the inside of the friary (and behind plaster walls will be used instead. These photos show brick removal — one brick at a time, and the newly laid north wall of the parish center.



Workers remove bricks, one at a time, from the monastery.



North wall of the new parish center.

St. Cloud Church Celebrates Anniversary

February 5th was the 150th anniversary of the dedication of St. Cloud Church in the Mt. Calvary area. Milwaukee's auxiliary bishop, Jim Schuerman, presided at a Mass marking this notable event. The pastoral care of St. Cloud has been entrusted to our province from nearly the beginning until 1920 and since 1989 when Roger Zach became the pastor.

Steve Pauly, the great-great grandson of the founder welcomed the bishop, saying in part: "Like many of you, I am a proud descendent of German immigrants who settled in the Holyland in the mid-1800s. Nearby Catholic churches had already been established in Mt. Calvary in 1849 and in St. Joe in 1860. In 1869 the owner of Clark's sawmill in St. Cloud was promoting the construction of a Protestant church in the village. This

provided the impetus for the decision by 28 Catholic families to assemble at the Jacob Schoenborn residence to discuss a church of their own. Among those present was my great-great grandfather, Johann Pauly.

At that meeting they decided to form a parish and build a church. Johann was elected parish president. By the winter of 1869 construction began on the original church. In early 1870, 45 signatures and the deed to the new church were sent to the bishop with a request for a priest. In August 1870, after some misgivings, the bishop approved the new church, though no priest was available. The church was dedicated by Fr. Kaiser of Johnsborg on February 5th, 1871.



L-R: Larry Abler, Jim Schuerman (aux bishop), and Gary Wegner (pastor)

Recent Prayer Requests

! Patrick Giffer (affiliate) has had a recurrence of liver cancer.

! Oscar Recio, cousin of Vito Martinez, died on January 19th.

! Our brother, Alfredo Gundrum, died from COVID 19 on 16 December 2020 at the age of 79. Alfredo was born in 1941, the son of Jerome and Arsella (nee Mueller) in Allenton WI. He was invested in the Capuchin habit in 1959, perpetually professed in 1963, and ordained in 1967.

Alfredo served in pastoral ministry in Chicago IL before moving to Detroit, where he ministered at the Monastery until his death.

Alfredo is survived by two sisters: Mary Gundrum (Weston FL) and Clare McCain (Mequon WI), as well as his many Capuchin brothers with whom he lived, prayed and ministered for more than 60 years.



re:Cap is grateful for recent donations from Don and Cheryl Mueller, and Richard Hansen.

Editorial Note:

We hope that soon we will be able to resume our regular four-page newsletter. As we have stated previously, our ministries have been severely affected by the pandemic, minimizing activities.

With spring approaching, we pray for normalization. Thanks for your patience. Stay tuned!