

The Triennium

June 2020 - May 2023



CAPUCHIN FRANCISCAN PROVINCE OF ST. JOSEPH

(Calvary Province)

Mark Joseph Costello, Provincial Minister

Steven Kropp, Provincial Vicar

William Hugo, Councilor

Zoilo Garibay, Councilor

Tien Dinh, Councilor

John Celichowski,

Secretary for Religious Affairs

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Contents

Provincial Minister's Report	3
Archives	20
Capuchin Communications.....	21
Capuchin Community Services.....	24
Capuchin Retreat Center.....	26
Capuchin Soup Kitchen.....	30
Capuchin Vocations Office.....	34
Cause of Blessed Solanus Casey	38
Corporate Responsibility	45
Development.....	48
Finance	51
Formation	54
Fraternal Collaboration.....	59
Investment Commission	66
Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation Commission.....	70
Human Resources & Provincial Ministries.....	72
Information Technology	74
Liturgical Commission.....	76
Pastoral Care and Conciliation.....	77
Preaching and Evangelization Commission	78
Provincial Review Board	79
Public Relations	81
Solanus Casey Center	85
St. Benedict the Moor	88
St. Francis of Assisi Parish	89
St. Lawrence Seminary.....	91
Wellness Office.....	96

Regional Reports

Central Wisconsin.....	100
Montana Region	101
Michigan Region.....	103
Milwaukee/Chicago Region	104

Provincial Minister's Report

Mark Joseph Costello, Provincial Minister

INTRODUCTION AND GENERAL PROVINCE OBSERVATIONS

The province is changing. Perhaps that has always been true, but as I look over my last forty years as a member, even in just these last three years it seems to me to be a bit of the “passing of the guard”. I think of the much sought after and seemingly unachievable quest for diversity of cultures among our membership when I joined. Looking around the average friary, this has certainly been achieved – probably in ways unimaginable back then. Many of the friar funerals I celebrated are of the “movers and shakers” of the province that received me. In filling in the Curia’s form on the number of friars living alone, as I wrote 10 - I thought this is a very different reality than the 49 noted on the form not that many years ago.

In recent years, some might say there has been a “retreat” from our province pushing boundaries - we styled ourselves “cutting edge” in the 1970’s. Whether in the church or in our society, ours was the province loved or distained for something that did not look like the status quo. There was plenty of conflict. Tensions continue today in a number of arenas between newer and older members of the province, perhaps from seemingly opposite positions than the conflicts between the older and younger friars of the 1960’s. Conflicts are not confined to age differences alone, ecclesiological, political and cultural difference seem to influence conversations (or lack of them) in our friaries.

Ours is a changing world – again, probably it is always the case. However, the changing reality of church, or more startling in this country, the changing reality of our society and its relationship to organized religion has us more uncertain of the future of our presence in the world. I do gain energy, though by what I am experiencing in the province. Friars may both attend to the traditions and practices we inherited, yet we also seem to be looking forward to how we can be present to realities of today in meaningful ways.

Newer members are moving into positions of leadership in the province. Maybe in small numbers, but we continue to attract vocations to our way of life. Our membership now more nearly reflects the diversity of the human family. It is clear that collaboration is an integral, evolving part of our province’s life at this time as well. Each collaborating friar is an individual, some choosing to stay for a short time and others choosing to stay for much longer. Some may come for school and return, while others may stay to minister in our various places. We are blessed and very grateful for all the collaborating friars with us, they along with all our newer members of the province have enlivened our communities and enriched our ministries. Our

collaboration with friars from other provinces that began small a number of years ago is projected to number 21-23 friars by the end of the year. A number of collaborator friars' arrivals were delayed because of COVID-19 precautions. The process is now mostly opening up, though visas remain a challenge. We do live out challenges in our now more diverse communities, whether it be a question of culture, of age or understandings of church. It is important that every friar exhibit the hospitality that we are known for – not just for persons outside of the friary, but to all the friars inside our community as well. I feel this hospitality is being put to the test currently in light of some friars' attitudes towards the younger or older generation, and in light of cultural and ecclesial differences.

We note that, as many religious communities of men and women, our numbers are declining – as of this writing we have 128 friars, counting those in initial formation. With them and given our age demographic, we will have 78 capitulars at the chapter. Forty years ago, it was a rarity for a friar to reach the age of 90, now 12 friars are or will be in their 90s in 2023. With another 30 friars in their 80s, it is no secret that we will become smaller in very short time.

While we need places and people to care for our elderly right now, this trend will not continue for long. 32 friars have died since June 2020. For now, we need rooms to accommodate our elderly friars, eventually, our more flexible friaries including the newly renovated St. Francis in Milwaukee, should be able to accommodate friars of all ages. We should be able to sell our free-standing St. Fidelis Senior Friary when such a facility is no longer needed. Fortuitously, it was built with an exit plan in mind. The St. Felix Friary building is being placed on the market and is for sale. We are in the process of selling the St. Francis former convent to house a Jesuit program for returning men from incarceration. It is hoped that the sale of properties no longer needed will not only repay for costs to upgrade our current buildings, but will also reduce the time, money and energy needed to maintain these buildings.

FRATERNAL LIFE - PRAYER

Community prayer (the hours, mass, devotions) is routine in our friaries. The communal practice of mental prayer is less so, though friars can be observed engaged in this practice somewhat regularly. Our houses of formation have scheduled times of silent prayer as well as communal devotions. As a province we have recently begun a program to increase our awareness and need to pray for our donors. Through the newly designed Solanus Mission Association, most of the friaries are being sent the prayer intentions received from donors and others who ask us to pray for them. These cards are placed in the chapels as a reminder of our promise to pray for the people. We have also provided prayers for donor prayer cards for personal and communal

use. When visiting a number of friaries, I have been heartened to experience the practice of the prayer leader reading a few of the prayer requests. Sometimes the prayer requests are so filled with emotion that our being reminded of the sufferings of others can only increase in us the compassion this world so desperately needs.

During visitations, I became more aware of the challenges faced by the friars for taking an annual retreat. In writing to the friars, earlier this year, I shared my thoughts and plans in this regard in a letter to the province.

While we are each responsible for our lives of prayer, the Constitutions note that there may be outside forces that make something like an annual retreat a challenge. Certainly, it goes without saying, that our communities, ministries and ministry directors must provide time for an annual retreat for all the brothers. What I have experienced and have heard from some brothers is a different kind of obstacle. Finding a directed retreat, or a director or even a suitable location for a private retreat can pose a challenge. Gone are the days of our own (or other religious communities') retreat houses located nearby that offer numerous programs that may relate to our needs. While taking time off for a personal retreat is possible, a steady diet over the years of personal retreats, without any sort of guidance or challenge may not be the healthiest for us. Some have confessed that these "days away", or private retreats resemble vacation time more than periods of deepening one's life in the Spirit.

It also strikes me that the province no longer offers "Provincial Retreats", which were counted on in years past as both a retreat and the opportunity for reconnection with other friars. Friars in charge of these retreats worked hard to bring quality presenters with engaging themes for friars, making them desirable. I remember a few specifically and miss the ability to gather with other friars for input from competent retreat directors with space for individual reflection and Informal sharing.

I think in our current situation, we also have to take into consideration that more of our working friars are in ministries where they minister with a number of other friars. This makes it difficult for all the friars of a ministry to go on retreat at the same time, thus wiping out the ministry force for a week. This might be possible for the staff of St. Lawrence, depending on the date, but less so for the friars ministering in a place like the Solanus Center.

I am in the process of reinvigorating Provincial Retreats in a new mode of offering five retreats for small groups – two in Michigan, two in Wisconsin and one in Montana, spread throughout the year. By using our own facilities and technology, meaning recorded input from a competent presenter, we hope to reach more of the friars – especially those engaged in full time ministry. Smaller groups can gather and not only pray and socialize together, but engage in group sharing as a part of the retreat experience. This “Provincial Retreat” is meant to be a resource and certainly not the only option for the friars who may have found retreat directors and patterns/places that work for them.

EVANGELICAL COUNSELS

Living in the United States, it is difficult to claim material poverty in light of the manner of living here. For the most part, practicing detachment, frugality and stewardship are present in the province. However, the challenge of being mindful in this regard is sometimes met with indifference. The older generation could be quite frugal to a fault and many of our buildings have suffered from it. There is less of a “possessing” attitude (“my car”) among the newer members, though they along with the rest of us might do well to examine our consciences regarding the place of evangelical poverty in our personal and communal lives.

The vow of Obedience has been difficult to observe, especially with some of the friars in their older years. Ours has been a province of rugged individualism. Transfers and changes not initiated by the individual friar are often fiercely resisted. I have been taken aback more than a few times at the responses of friars when they are asked to consider a move. I also should point out that some friars are very open and understanding when they are asked to do something not expected. I do feel our newer members seem prepared to respond positively to what might be asked of them. My goal has been to try to match needs and abilities in the hopes of finding right fits – whether in ministry or in retirement.

Over the last years we have given much input during initial formation on human sexuality and individual attention to friars regarding chastity. Reducing the number of friars living alone and working on community building within our friaries are, I believe, good movements in the province. Perhaps in our smaller retreats, faith sharing or conversations with other friars opening up to one another in “safe” conversations, might help each of us to more fully integrate the reality of chastity in our lives.

In regards to the protection of minors and vulnerable adults, I believe the province has had a strong record in this regard. We maintain an Office of Pastoral Care and Conciliation (OPCC). We as a province, with the hard work of Amy Peterson, the director of OPCC have created a new program that is specific to the province including elements in religious life, our formation system and collaborating friars' realities, not found in many programs. The program was developed using outside experts and best practices to fulfill the USCCB's Charter for the Protection of Minors and Youth. At the request of other provinces in the conference, we have shared this program with others, whose feedback has been very positive.

VOCATION MINISTRY, ONGOING AND INITIAL FORMATION

The Province of St. Joseph currently has one friar assigned to vocation ministry full-time. However, he collaborates with several friars throughout the province for support. One student friar has helped him as a part-time assistant. The goal is to encourage a "culture of vocations" and vocation awareness throughout the province. Major ministry sites have displays for vocation recruitment literature and contact information. The director has also updated our vocation website to make it more attractive and easier to navigate.

Our vocation office collaborates with communities throughout our province. Communities host candidates for discernment weekends and for ministry and fraternal experiences. Many communities pray a vocation prayer at the end of morning office as a daily reminder to pray for vocations.

Our vocation director uses social media and digital technologies to promote our way of life for broader audiences. He takes part in several major in-person events throughout the country for vocation promotion and friar visibility. Since the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions, there is an uptick in participants visiting the friars. Over the past several years there has been a steady flow of inquirers, and about 2-4 candidates make application to the postulancy program annually.

The province houses a postulancy program in Milwaukee, WI. It is a collaboration with four North American provinces. The program is also pursuing some shared programming with other postulant programs in the conference. There is also shared programming with other religious orders, both of men and women. The postulancy program is eleven months. The postulancy directors are currently finding new ways to incorporate the Ratio and are working on how it changes the program. We're adding more human development input: emotional intelligence, communication skills, access to a counsellor, stress management, etc.

We participate in the NAPCC novitiate in Santa Inez, California. As members of the Conference the province has consistently supplied staff and community members to

support this collaborative endeavor. The only "problem" I can think of is really more of an ongoing challenge to any collaboration in initial formation is how to help the postulants and novices stay in touch with and feel the support of their home provinces.

The St. Joseph Province has its own post-novitiate and ministry formation within the province in Chicago, IL. The Post-novitiate formation plan follows: The Capuchin Constitutions, the *Ratio Formationis* of the Order and the curriculum outline in the Provincial Initial Formation Handbook.

The various programs of study at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, IL provide academic training for priesthood candidates and are utilized by non-ordained friars for degree or non-degree programs to fulfill our post novitiate theological requirements. Lay brothers also may complete other degree programs in preparation for ministry. Within in the post-novitiate friary, Capuchin formation includes rotating elements of house chapter, review of life sharing, input, training sessions and theological reflection.

Tools used in formation include monthly interviews with each brother, yearly evaluations, days of reflection, yearly retreats, yearly integration seminars around a theme with a speaker, sexuality workshops, shared prayer leadership, cooking and house jobs.

As of this writing we have:

- One Postulant
- No novices
- Five brothers in post-novitiate formation
- Six brothers in ministry formation
- This year we anticipate three brothers being ordained to the presbyterate.
- This year we anticipate two brothers professing Perpetual Vows.

In light of some of the General Minister's comments in his letter to the province, some exploration of how friars in post novitiate formation stay connected with their postulant and novitiate brothers may need to take place in the future.

MINISTRY

The Province is engaged in a wide variety of ministries. Unlike many provinces, we staff a very small number of parishes. The largest concentration (six) of parishes are in Montana ministering among indigenous people on the reservations. The friars ministering there live in the two Capuchin Communities, each with three friars. We also staff a single rural parish formed from six individual parishes, mostly established

by our pioneer friars near our founding place in Mount Calvary Wisconsin. In Milwaukee, our historic and province owned parishes – St. Benedict and St. Francis are served by one pastor. Four parishes, St. Joseph, Appleton WI, St. Bernard, Billings MT, Our Lady of Grace, Stafford MI and St. Joseph, Saginaw MI are staffed by individual friars who live alone. Full time parish ministry is served by a total of nine friars. Many retired and semi-retired friars minister as help-out priests throughout the province. Many friars engaged in full time ministry also serve as help-out priests throughout the province. One friar serves in the Curia in Rome.

The largest number of our working friars are ministering in our Soup Kitchens and Social Service Centers in Milwaukee and Detroit. Meals, clothing, furnishings, vouchers, social work and counseling services, addiction group work, and legal services are the types of activities in which our friars are engaged. From physically sorting clothes to operating as professionally trained counselors, the friars perform a wide variety of tasks to keep these services operational in two cities with five sites.

We staff and own two spirituality centers including the shrine where Blessed Solanus Casey is buried. The shrine is open daily for prayer and is the site for multiple confessions for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. It is amazing to think that confessions are around 25,000 this past year and that hundreds of thousands of people have been coming over the last few years to the Solanus Casey Center. The numbers are a staggering reminder of the needs that people find met at the Center. The staff has weathered the COVID-19 Restriction Storm and is now responding to pre-Covid numbers of visitors. Currently, the finishing touches are being worked on in the gardens and new entrance to the center. The expanded reconciliation chapels are well used and have been proven necessary. Through the major gifts received this 20,000,000+ project has transformed the block. The outdoor space will add much to the experience of visitors to the Center. The new artwork, reflective of the many cultures that come to the Center will soon be ready. Plans are underway to update and replace the now twenty years old museum displays. Programming has expanded in the Center. The Capuchin Retreat Center is also experiencing a rebirth following COVID-19 limitations. Soliciting new groups, parish visits and fundraising events are adding new life to the retreat house. Some joint programming and the sharing of staff with the Solanus Center seems to be strengthening this ministry and solidifying our Capuchin presence in this area.

We operate and own St. Lawrence High School boarding school, centered on the hill of our first foundation. Friars serve in administration, teaching, spiritual direction and as supervisors. Recently newer friars have been assigned and are committed to creating a renewed environment for vocations. The school has weathered many storms and is currently engaged in efforts to increase enrolment. The school's standards, from

academics to its facilities are high and to be commended. Planning is underway to further improve senior housing as well as guest housing.

OUR DOMESTIC MISSION

Our mission to Native Americans on the two reservations in Montana has a very long history stretching back more than 90 years. Eight years ago, a new model of communal living was introduced with friars (7-8) living together in two buildings, one on either Reservation. The ministry there is a challenge with issues of poverty, violence, abuse of substances and each other quite prevalent on the Reservations. Responding to COVID-19 was a significant challenge as well. As friar personnel has changed due to transfers and retirement, the difficulty of staffing and determining a realistic approach to the ministry looms large at this time. The facilities in the parishes and community houses have been rebuilt or renovated recently, the next steps will include pastoral planning for the ministry. This could be greatly affected by the possibility of these communities becoming San Lorenzo type communities, composed with other friars in our conference (see the NAPCC section below). A further development of our community living into a Conference community and walking with people on the margins in perhaps new ways is the hoped-for result of a process that may take some time in dealing with NAPCC.

RECENT CHANGES IN OUR MINISTRIES

In response to the large workloads associated with directors of some ministries, in this last Triennium, we have introduced a number of Assistant Directors of Ministry. This in many ways is beneficial as it provides more of a “team” approach, utilizing potentially different skills and abilities not found in one individual. It also provides better oversight when the director is not present. It proves as a training/mentoring ground for newer members to the ministry. It seems a part of the trend of friars more interested in working together.

We are also in the process of promoting the idea of our different ministries working more closely together, with cross-over events, projects and sharing of sites. Examples of this are found in the Solanus Center, the Capuchin Retreat House and the Soup Kitchen in Detroit. There is sharing and cross-over of lay staff and friars, the ROPE program’s café is now located in the Center, and the friars working in the various ministries are continuing to work on new collaborative projects. What used to be called silo ministries are giving way to a more unified presence. In Milwaukee, the already combined ministries from House of Peace and St. Bens continue to be places

where friars can work together and perhaps utilize the St. Francis site to expand on spiritual offerings to the region.

In the spirit of sharing our resources and services, some provincial ministries instituted partnerships with outside groups. This is currently seen as very positive in Detroit where the Soup Kitchen is working with Deo Gratias Ministries run by the Felician Sisters. We are now, however, in a quandary as to the future of our partnership with Heartland Housing at St. Anthony Apartments in Milwaukee. This was a very strong organization when we entered into an agreement in 2017. It is now reporting major financial issues. While at this writing, we do not know the future of that situation, it seems important that in the near future we reexamine our approach to establishing partnerships with outside agencies.

During this Triennium, the Provincial Council considered changes to the Seraphic Mass Association. As I wrote in a letter to the friars in June 2021, there were concerns for the costs of the program. There also were concerns from friars and staff regarding how the friars fulfill their promise to pray for donors – in general and, specifically, those enrolled in the Seraphic Mass Association. The Provincial Council took our time to study the situation and to address what we have come to believe as long term shortcomings in the manner in which the SMA was advertised and administered. We addressed the questions “What underpins the connections enrollments make to our friars, the missions and the people (donors) who make them?” and “Is what we promise donors a lived reality among the friars in the province?”

Knowing that Solanus Casey was a great promoter of the SMA in his day, we were guided by the vice postulator for Solanus' canonization cause. He researched Solanus' writings on Mission and the SMA. Set into a wider context, the vice postulator wrote a White Paper entitled *Some Theological Frameworks for Mission, 2022*. Blessed Solanus Casey was a great promoter of the Seraphic Mass Association. He truly believed and promoted the idea of ordinary people's participation as “becoming indirect missionaries”. This being done by those who supported the missions through the Seraphic Mass Association. Having studied the practicalities as well as the theological issues, a number of changes went into effect.

In order to highlight the role of Mission Activity throughout the world and to highlight the participatory nature of those who enroll, we renamed the Seraphic Mass Association. It is now known as the Solanus Mission Association.

We have also appointed a friar as Secretary of Missions. The Provincial Council decided that oversight was needed to enhance the integrity of what we promise to people (in terms of our prayers for them) and to promote stronger ties to supporting missionary activity throughout the world by the donors to the SMA. The Secretary has already helped organize how we administer and streamline this aspect of

development for the missions. Importantly, the role of animator in the province regarding mission, our integrity of prayer and commitment to our donors has, I believe been re-established.

CULTURAL GOODS

As the oldest establishment to become a province in North America, we have a rich (by American standards) history contained in our archives in Detroit, with many artifacts and books throughout the province. We had a full time professionally trained certified archivist who maintained our records and digitized many documents and photos. She maintained a database of artifacts in the archives and throughout the province. These are marked and periodically the archivist performed on site visits to maintain correct locations. Numerous paintings have been restored and cleaned in the last 10-15 years. We have also restored the historic friaries in Detroit (2000) and Milwaukee (2022). Currently upon the former archivist's resignation, a friar now serves in this capacity. He is in the process of training for the role.

ECONOMIC AND ADMINISTRATIVE ASPECTS

The province uses centralized banking. Community and friary accounts are in the name of the Province of St. Joseph, with the treasurer of the province as signatory, with access to the account. Individual and community budgets are a part of the larger provincial budget. Communities and friars who live alone submit an annual budget to be approved by the Provincial Council. Some guardians have reported that our system, especially regarding friar centralized credit cards, makes budgeting and accountability more difficult.

The province does enjoy a healthy financial position, the friars that went before us made wise investments and maintained prudent spending strategies over the long haul. The hard work of our Finance and our Investment commissions over our history have benefited us greatly. Our donor support is crucial to the large budgets our corporate ministries need. While the friars work hard and we are generally supported by the ministries in which we serve, the costs are large as well to educate friars, provide healthcare to all our members and to maintain our friaries.

We "tithe" on the income of our friars (members and collaborators) using this money to form our annual Gifts and Grants Fund. This income has increased, with more friars serving in our province ministries. We had thought to pull back from the previous approach which simply responded to requests – limiting the pool to those who had some connection or knowledge that we did give out sums of money. Some of the

continuing requests were from groups that on closer inspection were no longer aligned with our province's values. During these past two and a half years, we began a process of exploring higher impact giving from this fund in the areas that the Provincial Council and the Justice, Peace and Care of Creation Commission could identify and vet. Consistent with our values, we gave larger gifts to a number of organizations. We provided clean water to villages with no running water, support for anti-racism efforts and paths for immigrants for citizenship. We gave the St. Conrad building to a not-for-profit group working with women. This gift to the Bakhita House was an especially a high impact one, as it allowed them to start their mission. The Ministry is to follow the example of Dorothy Day and the Catholic Worker movement, and in partnership with Franciscan Peacemakers Clare Community, to help provide supportive community housing for women who are survivors of sexual exploitation.

Managing the process for these gifts has taken time that we have not always had to vet and verify the needs presented to us. We were approached recently by the Solidarity Office in Rome. With a rapidly shrinking number of friars and provinces in Italy and Western Europe, the income of the General Order and International Solidarity has diminished greatly each year. Because our province's grant to the solidarity fund was tied to our mission fund raising efforts, there was a great deal of fluctuation on what we were contributing, in the last few years it was very little. In light of this, the Provincial Council decided to make an annual gift of approximately half the fund to be given to our International Solidarity Fund who vets and distributes to needy provinces throughout the world.

ADMINISTRATION AND ANIMATION

I was appointed Provincial Minister in November of 2020. The planned Provincial Chapter of 2020 was postponed until November of 2021 because of the ongoing pandemic. During the last Triennium our Pastoral Plan was updated and its implementation is continuing. I am recommending that the next Provincial Council review the plan early in their Triennium of service.

It has been a priority to place more friars in our provincial ministries. Since the start of this administration, we have increased the number of friars working in our Soup Kitchens from five to twelve friars. In our Solanus Center we have added more confessors and friars to be present to the people. We have placed a friar in development. We have increased the friars ministering in our Retreat House by two and are now working more closely with the Solanus Center on programming and staff sharing. Initially we left two parishes as was envisioned by the Pastoral Plan in light of having no one willing to minister there. The thought of leaving St. Joseph's Parish in Appleton was very difficult for many friars and for the parish itself due to our long

service there. Eventually, I was able to place a friar in that role after a few months of a temporary administrator from the diocese. While the parish has expressed gratitude for us returning to the parish, and we are happy to be able to do it, our placement there is no longer a provincial commitment and the parish was told that in future we may not have a friar to minister there.

We are maintaining six friars on the Crow and Cheyenne Reservation in Montana. They minister to 6 parishes and two schools. We would like to open up the possibility of collaboration with other province in this domestic mission. Our Mission Office raised funds so that we could build a new parish center on the Crow Reservation which was completed this year.

We have completed in May 2022 a major renovation of our historic Monastery in Milwaukee and have built a Capuchin (parish) center there. The goal is to unite all the Milwaukee friars in this friary which also houses the postulancy program. Milwaukee is home to a number of Capuchin Social Service ministries. The goal of creating a more visible presence of the *friars* is being achieved by this move away from smaller houses in the city. We also hope to develop programming for the Capuchin Center and St. Francis Church that offers greater spiritual assistance, the sacraments and input. We are planning to collaborate with the Solanus Center in Detroit and the Preaching and Evangelization Commission of the province in developing programs and events. We intend to establish open doors with friars available during the day for confessions, prayer and spiritual assistance.

The response of the friars seems generally upbeat. Though we experience many funerals as a province, there certainly is loss, but I see a new vitality in the younger friars working, living and praying together. We have less friars living alone and the larger communities are filling up. I write a letter to the friars every six weeks or so, usually to elaborate on Provincial Council note or to update the friars on province projects; these too, have been well received. We gather guardians annually to meet. Regional meetings are held twice yearly. We have a number of commissions and ministry councils.

The Provincial Council has made a proposal for this Chapter to identify and formalize a ministry direction, already evident in areas like the Solanus Center in Detroit when it comes to Pastoral Planning. The proposal states "As the Province adds, hands over, abandons, sustains, or changes ministries in the future, it will give preference to ministries that offer additional opportunities to Catholics, Christians, and others which are not typically available in parishes." Very practically, the hope is to make the Capuchin Center at St. Francis Parish in Milwaukee, a center that complements the parish, but also reaches out beyond the parish, especially to the underserved or those seeking what parishes may not be able to provide.

COMMUNICATIONS – PUBLIC RELATIONS

The reimagined Sandel Prints magazine has just published its fourth issue this past month. Larger in format and content, this publication serves to communicate to our donors, friars and friends the life and ministry of the Province of St. Joseph. It is being sent to other provinces in the conference and to our collaborating provinces. It will also serve as archival material in the future with its copy and many identified photos.

A House Chronicle project was also initiated in this past Triennium. Digital in form and inclusive of photos, it is hoped that this more contemporary version of the Chronicles will help document Capuchin Fraternal life at this time.

ISSUES BEYOND THE PROVINCE

PAN AM International Meeting

This meeting, postponed by COVID-19 realities, was held in May 1-8 2022. It was a first of a kind gathering of friars from North, Central and South America. After a long period of preparation, all the ministers were finally able to come together and meet in São Pedro, São Paulo, Brazil, with most of the General Council present.

There were five official sessions: the opening session and four work sessions—each dealing with one of the main themes of the conference: mission, formation, structures and collaboration. Additionally, virtual meetings were held for groups of brothers involved with different ministries, such as: (i) those who work with JPIC, (ii) those brothers who are in formation, (iii) brothers who are formators, (iv) brothers who are in pastoral work (i.e., pastoralists) and, finally, (v) the young brothers who made perpetual vows since 2010.

We received 19 pages of “proposals” on these topics when we arrived. We began to meet in small language groups to sift through what was collected in the process so far. Though this turned out to be a very good, fraternal gathering with wonderful liturgies throughout, it seemed a strange way to go about meeting as there were so many proposals and no idea as to whether there was widespread support among friars for some of them or if they were the opinion of one participant.

It is clear that one agenda item that ran through the presentations and the materials collected is a concern about what is being called “provincialism”. In general, there seems to be a push for and a recognition of some types of collaboration – our NAPCC novitiate and even our four province postulancy program in Milwaukee were both

positively mentioned. Reduced numbers and mutual needs are seen as reasons for provinces to work together.

There were proposals to form International “mission” communities as has been done recently in the Amazon. Called Saint Lawrence communities, groups of at least four friars from different provinces and countries form a community of presence and mission in a periphery, border or “frontier” new location. The two communities that were established on either side of a river dividing Brazil from Columbia includes friars from Brazil, Columbia and Peru. One community member from Peru, Br. Hector Bueno, lived in our province and studied at CTU in Chicago a few years ago. This international community of presence is something that has been done in Europe and is being discussed throughout the order, though in Europe there have been problems with this movement. Subsequently in the Minister General’s Report on the Meeting – “A Breath of Life” the following appears as one of the directives following the meeting:

#7. At least one St. Lawrence of Brindisi international fraternity must be established in each conference. This fraternity must take into account the closeness to the poor, the indigenous and the immigrants. Additionally, this fraternity must be open to all the circumscriptions of the Americas.

Structures with which we are familiar like provinces and custodies were discussed and questioned. This is an example of one of the questions being discussed/presented: “Do these borders and structures from the past make sense now in light of numbers and ministries of today?” It is unclear to me even at this point as to whether there is an agenda to combine provinces or form federations, but examples of this happening in South America and Europe were mentioned

Clericalism was on the agenda, as well as a number of folks questioning the compatibility of pastoring parishes and the Capuchin way of life. Unlike our own province, it seems many provinces represented at the meeting are mostly parish based. Along with these themes, a presentation on the role of lay brothers was also included.

By the end of the meeting a series of proposals were presented and we were told they would be refined and form a document for the “new” OFM Cap Pan America Conference. This means we as NAPCC will also join the other conferences of the Americas for some types of meetings and potential projects. Part of the whole of the Americas working and meeting together was to help us better prepare for general chapters – as other conferences in the world do.

In the end, I was expecting the final document (probably through US colored glasses) to edit, combine and reduce the proposals into a more manageable document. The

document produced contains many repetitions and an impossible list of what should be happening as a result of the meeting.

During the meeting a few of us got nervous of extolling the virtues of the San Lorenzo communities that began developing in France and have been talked about a lot in Europe. At the Pan America meeting, there was not a lot of distinction being made between the Amazon frontier friaries established this year and the San Lorenzo friaries of Europe. Some friars at the meeting including the General were seeing these as the same movement. My one intervention at a public discussion was to this point. The new friaries in the Amazon were not a development of the European model and their purpose is to be an international presence in an underserved/marginal area of the countries - with indigenous people. I was in support of creating this kind of friary in conscriptions in the Pan American Conference and questioned the appropriateness of adopting the San Lorenzo language for our conference. In informal conversations, our community(s) on the Crow and Northern Cheyenne were talked about as possible international/conference friaries of Capuchin presence and ministry in a place on the margins.

NAPCC

The North American and Pacific Capuchin Conference was meeting remotely when I was appointed. We have since, in fall 2022 and Spring 2023 met in person at the Franciscan Renewal Center in Arizona. In fall of 2022 I was asked to head a sub committee to study the possibility of creating a San Lorenzo type community in our conference. This was one of the direct responses to implement some of the recommendations of the PANAM meeting as relayed in the Letter of the General Minister's Document "A Breath of Life". Along with friars from other provinces we met with a goal of identifying locations for a possible community. Recommendations from NAPCC members and this committee included our domestic mission on the Crow and Cheyenne reservations. It was also deemed important to have some choices, though in trying to identify something "new" at first it was difficult to know where to both look and how to come up with a location, facility and ministry. Leads were vague and no one really wanted to pursue places. So, at the Spring 2023 meeting of NAPCC, after explaining some of the considered places, and our difficulty with trying to vet them, I present Montana as an option so that we could get started without a lot of delay. Br. Mariosvaldo (Rome Mission Secretary) had visited our Montana ministries before the NAPCC meeting and at the meeting supported the idea of starting this project there with an openness to another community in the future. Reasons given were that our mission fits all the criteria set by the project and that community space and possible financial support is also in place. There was support for this and a hesitancy to commit by a number of the smaller provinces and a strong voice asking

again for choices. Mariosvaldo reminded the hesitant provincials that they will not be required to supply a friar for this mission, but in light of the constitutions, they cannot stand in the way of a friar (who is deemed fit) to serve in one. As it stands, the project will be considered again at the fall of 2023 meeting. Three documents will be prepared and reviewed by the subcommittee: a general description of the type of community envisioned, a description of the Montana situation with current and possible ministries, and a description of a possible new ministry on/near the Texas/Mexican border. Hopefully these materials will answer questions and lead to a decision.

Further Conference Considerations

As the friar numbers decrease in the province, so too is this the reality in the other provinces in our Conference. In the Minister General's letter to the province a number of challenging statements were made. His letter was sent to all the friars and reflected on in their community gatherings this year. The General Minister seems to encourage the breakdown of provincial identity and transition to a worldwide Capuchin identity. He has also suggested we respond to the challenge to assist Quebec and other (smaller) Capuchin jurisdictions. Along with the identification of us as a rich province, he also seems to suggest that we take on some sort of leadership within the conference. While friars have discussed these points made in the General's letter, I also directed an inquiry to Br. Celestine Arias, our General Definitor to see if there are plans or directives in this regard. Perhaps at this Chapter, some further direction will be given. I am still left with the General's question - "What role is the Calvary Province, first in North America, willing to take to help your sister provinces?" This question, suggesting somehow that we take some sort of "lead" is a bit daunting along with the fact that I wonder what the other provinces would think about his question. The General's letter includes the disclaimer "Trust me, I am not throwing this out there with a ready-set proposal with clear objectives and goals."

So, I guess we must do a little trusting in the providence of God to take us into the future.

All things considered, perhaps now is our time to do a little listening in this time of Synodality. As we discuss provincial plans and ministries, proposals and priorities it is time to listen. In light of the Franciscan OFMs becoming one province, perhaps our ears may be directed outside the confines of the province as well. Listening to one another, to our leadership and I believe, most importantly, listening to those we serve or might serve are potentially our best next steps. Our Pope Francis said in this regard, that learning to listen was "a slow and perhaps tiring exercise" and while he directed this to bishops, priests, religious, and laity, perhaps we need direct it to our

Capuchin selves. Rather than conversations based purely on practicalities, or finances, or intellectual perspectives, I again harken to Pope Francis* who said “Let us not soundproof our hearts; let us not remain barricaded in our certainties. Certainties often close us off. Let us listen to one another.”

**remarks at the opening the worldwide synodal path, Oct. 10, 2021*

GRATITUDE

As this Triennium comes to a close, I offer my deepest gratitude to the outgoing Provincial Council, especially noting Steven Kropp whom I have respectfully referred to as my Emotional Support Vicar. He has been that. He is the diligent, often behind the scenes force who has helped me in so many ways that I cannot begin to recount them.

Everyone on the Provincial Council brought something important and precious to the table. From Bill Hugo there came much communication – and much wisdom and clarity of thought. From Tinh there was a younger, perhaps different perspective – and sage follow throughs. From Zoilo a provincial loyalty and diligence – with understanding and compassion.

St. Francis said “The Lord gave me Brothers”. I guess it was the General in Rome who two and a half years ago gave me *these* brothers. I cannot think of a finer gift, or better men.

Deo Gratias,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark Joseph Costello". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mark Joseph Costello, OFM Cap.

May 3 2023

Archives

Jose Pannakolody, Director

First of all, I thank Fr. Provincial Mark Joseph and the councilors for appointing me as the provincial archivist. I am glad because I like the work. Right now, I do not have any particular plan or ambition in mind to achieve other than to start from the point where the former archivist stopped. However, I am bit scared since I don't have any formal education, training and experience in this field. I need formal training in this field to do my job in its fullness. Though it is entirely a new job for me I am determined to learn it and do as best as I can. I will be responsible and faithful in my work. November 01, 2022 is the first day I went to the office. On that day, Debi (Provincial Assistant) gave me a sort of orientation on the archive and its functions. Since I am new to this office, I don't have much to submit as a triennial report.

Junia was a professional archivist with good education, training and experience in this field. She has done a marvelous job but in her own words, "not yet completed". She has had many other goals and plans in her mind.

Whenever time permits me, I am researching on the website, read available literature and ask friends about the operation of *Axiell Collections/ AdLib* program. I wanted to learn this program to start from where Junia stopped. Upon my research and studies on this program, I learned it is not a complicated database to work with, but requires training from an expert. Without any formal training I could learn something about this database however, it is not enough to work in our archive. I tried to create files for a few deceased friars in the system but succeeded on partially.

We (Ryan from I.T., Debi and myself) had an hour formal training by the company personnel a few weeks back but it helped none of us at that point because the database was not known to us. Now when I started to open the database many questions arise. The company who sold us the program *Axiell Collections/AdLib* tells us that they will give us a one-day training, yet the date is not fixed. I am glad to tell that Debi is contacting the area archives like archdiocesan and the Felician Sisters' archive and so on to plan a tour of their archives with the intention of learning something from them.

Junia, the former archivist of the province was a qualified, efficient archivist. Undoubtedly, she did a marvelous job re-shaping and arranging our archive. A good number of documents, photos, cassettes, slides and films are digitalized and archived in the clouds. However, if we cannot access it and use it for our purpose, it is equal to she has done nothing. So, I would suggest that we get good training in the *Axiell/AdLib* database. Also, Debi helped me to register my name in the *Society of American Archivists*.

Capuchin Communications

Vito Martinez, Director

The office of Capuchin Communication exists as a mode of communication within the Province of St. Joseph, allowing information from the provincial leadership and other parts of the province to be circulated to the friars. Similarly, the office curates and updates information regarding friars' ministries and residencies. Much of this work is now done through online databases and software.

FOCUSING ON INTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS

In June of 2021, Vito Martinez was appointed as director to follow TL. At this time of transition, the provincial minister expressed his vision for the future of the Office. This vision, in tandem with the Pastoral Plan and the previous triennial report from the Communications Office, was to manage this ministry as a half-time commitment. Now that the province has offices dedicated to Public Relations and Information Technology, some of the previous tasks could be fulfilled by other offices.

One example is that *Re:Cap* ended as a publication in 2021. This was done to allow the Public Relations department to make way for *SandalPrints*, a reboot of a previous publication that highlights the ministries, friars, and events of the province. This has been made available and online at sandalprints.online. A weekly newsletter was created to keep friars informed of important events and information. This newsletter includes overall news as well as internal communications such as RSVPs, voting results, information that is intended for friars only. The "weekly" publication has not always been honored due to conflicts in ministries (which will be discussed later). The goal, however, is to provide friars with one weekly update rather than numerous emails throughout the week.

The Office continues to send out Prayer Requests, Death Notices, and other information *ad hoc*.

BEHIND THE SCENES

In September of 2021, the updated www.sjpcommunications.org website was launched. This change made it easier to upload, display, and curate information; it provides greater security to share privileged information to the friars; it allowed for an online directory, the "blog" format (which is used for the messages from Ukraine at this time); and it adds an interactive calendar of events.

In July of 2021, the Provincial Policy Handbook was revised. It was redone to be more accessible, remove outdated policies and documents (at the discretion of the

Provincial Council), and amend other documents. This task is ongoing, and Igor DeBliquy and Bill Hugo have been generous in their help with this extensive project.

In the same timeframe, the Office took responsibility for the “table necrology” book. The goal was to redo the necrologies in order to correct errors, to provide more data where needed or redact, and to create a living document as friars are continually added to the necrology. As of now, the pages have been reformatted and the text has been edited with the help of Ed Hagman and Dave Schwab. This new table necrology will be available after Chapter. It is hoped that this will provide a solution that can also operate without printing out the many pages that fill the necrology book.

In August of 2022, the office began to update the provincial database. This database contains all information of the friars, their ministries, their families, and other important data. The goal is to provide this information to all pertinent provincial staff, making it easier to keep and access data on the friars. Currently, this work is being done in collaboration with (Ms.) Debi Pionkowski to update friars’ records and check for accuracy. This project will continue through the rest of 2023.

COMMUNICATIONS AS MINISTRY

While a lot of the current work of the Communications Office is focused on data, information, and emails, this office is first and foremost a ministry to the friars. This ministry takes on many forms, such as preparing obituaries for deceased friars, assisting friars with issues of technology (e.g., passwords, livestream information, finding or sharing lost communiques, etc), sharing important events in the lives of the friars with the entire province, and even providing a space where open discussion can happen. Accurate information about friars and their lives is not only important for personnel records, but it allows the province to tell a friar’s story and where they served.

The past triennium was difficult to keep up with the number of friars who have died. The process of writing an obituary that is charitable to the friar and his family requires information that is not always available. As a result, some obituaries were published without accurate family information, incomplete or erroneous ministry information, or the office had to rely on Google searches to learn about a friar. This is an issue that will continue as the province continues to age.

FUTURE CHALLENGES AND PROJECTS

Change and progress is an important part of this office, but it can also be a challenge. On May 1, 2023, the role of Director will again change as Igor De Bliquy will become the director. His gifts, talents, and experience as a minister give him the skillset to fit into this role. And since this is his first ministry, he will not be tied down with another director role as Vito. At the same time, the office requires a good knowledge of the

friars in the province. This will require time and some visitations to get to know everyone. Vito will stay on to help the Communications Office as Chapter preparations are made.

Capuchin Community Services

Michael Bertram, Director

Capuchin Community Services covers the Milwaukee ministries at St. Benedict the Moor [exclusive of the parish] and at the House of Peace. The site coordinators are Kenny Howard and Linda Barnes respectively. They are wonderful leaders in their own right and have shown themselves to be invaluable partners in ministry for me in the short time that I have served as Ministry Director for Capuchin Community Services. I am deeply grateful for their service to the province and to me personally.

The ministry and I are also very blessed with the presence of friars: Henryk Cisowski, Carl Schaefer, Brenton Ertl, and Jerry Smith. They are good, hard workers who are very much appreciated and loved by the staff, volunteers and guests. All have job descriptions and are faithful in the service that has been asked of them. They lend a very Capuchin flavor to the ministries of Capuchin Community Services.

A “newcomer” like myself has the luxury of making fresh observations. The ministry continues to work at familiarizing people (even employees and volunteers) with what Capuchin Community Services is and means. Many know of St. Ben’s Meal and ministries. Many know of the House of Peace and its services. But name recognition continues to be a work-in-progress both within the organization and outside of it.

CCS has entered into ministry development, restoring the birth certificate program, re-connecting with the cosmetology school of Milwaukee Area Technical College for guests’ haircuts, and beginning conversation about the possibility of establishing an after-school program for improving reading and math skills in central city youth. This year, the City of Milwaukee made significant investment in St. Ben’s for winter overnight shelter. Over 50 men and some 15 women were given nightly shelter during the winter months from early December through March 31. Consequently, St. Ben’s served as the largest seasonal shelter program in the city of Milwaukee.

Investment in buildings is important, and facilities’ improvement was made, such as new flooring for the clothing department at the House of Peace, better parking lot lighting at St. Benedict, and new HVAC equipment at the House of Peace. Despite the windows’ non-compliance with the city’s historic designation guidelines, Kenny Howard and I successfully lobbied the city’s Historic Preservation Commission for permission to install new energy-efficient windows in the St. Ben’s Meal Hall – a project that will be completed in the new fiscal year.

Future planning is necessary for key positions, my own for one. At the age of 70, it is only realistic to plan already for my successor. I very much enjoy my ministry at CCS and I look forward to years of service at CCS (God willing). But a future replacement needs to be considered and planned for now. Likewise, Linda Barnes is now in her

34th year of service and will be the first to say that she will not be around forever! Kenny, Linda, and I will be entering into serious conversations about filling these and other key positions.

In my time in Milwaukee, I have always been proud of Capuchin ministry at both St. Ben's and the House of Peace. Now as director and seeing things "from the inside", I am even prouder of the good works that go out from these sites. As one donor told me, "Your service to the poor is what Capuchins are known for." I don't think we can be any prouder of such public recognition.

Capuchin Retreat Center

Vito Martinez, Director

Anthony Julius Milton, Associate Director

Since the previous triennium, Cap Retreat has traversed the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, a trend of decreased attendance, and a significant change of administration/friar personnel. Despite these challenges, Cap Retreat emerged in 2022 with optimism that is reflected in the staff, guests, and benefactors. This report will explain the effects on overall retreat centers, the vision of collaboration that has transformed the ministry, and the plans for the next triennium.

THE FUTURE OF RETREAT MINISTRY

The pandemic was significantly difficult for retreat centers as they experienced struggles that affected the overall service/hospitality industry. Building closures, event cancellations, social distancing, and COVID-19 protocols were critical obstacles. Aware of these struggles and considering the spiritual needs of the community, Cap Retreat adjusted its normal ministry by offering live-stream masses, hosting masses and other events outdoors, and implementing protocols to ensure the safety and security of all who entered the building.

From a cursory view, it would seem that the pandemic was a mortal blow to this ministry, especially for *congregational retreat centers*, or centers run by religious groups/churches for the sake of ministry. At the same time, the overall retreat industry, which has been termed *wellness tourism*, continues to grow globally. A simple internet search will reveal all manner of retreat formats, e.g., travel, yoga/wellness, mindful cooking, sound vibration therapy, life coaching, corporate team-building, etc. Consequently, congregational retreat centers now compete with for-profit agents who offer similar benefits, e.g., silence, healing, self-development, meditation, counseling, career navigation, etc.

I have included this industry information in the triennial report because these trends directly affect our ministry. The previous triennial report references this trend in its desire to “reimagine how retreats can be restructured in order to shift with the changing of the society and world.” As one of the only remaining Capuchin retreat centers in the NAPCC, our future lies in our charism of preaching and contemplative prayer. Rather than chase trends that focus on amenities, profits, and popularity, we are “marketing” ourselves by our Capuchin identity, that is: *a personal and contextual proclamation of the Gospel that invites our guests to share in the joy and humility of Christ.*

CHANGES, IN ADMINISTRATION AND BEYOND

On November 1, 2021, Vito Martinez was appointed to the role of Director. Binoy worked extremely hard to serve the community and maintain the ministry during the pandemic. However, the shift in leadership was made due to communication conflicts with the provincial staff and leadership. The transition was difficult; however, we wish to praise the Provincial staff and the staff at Cap Retreat for their charity, their willingness to adapt, and their ongoing support of the friars amid the turmoil.

Since the change of directors, Cap Retreat has also seen significant changes in friars. Jim Andres and Tom Zelinski (previous directors) left the community, as well as Tom Nguyen and Jim Hast. In January 2022, Anthony Julius Milton joined the staff as Associate Director. Bob Malloy also serves in a semi-retired role as of October 2022. Despite these changes, the retreatants and friends of Cap Retreat have been extraordinarily supportive and optimistic.

Of specific note has been the energy and support for the younger friars. Cap Retreat has intentionally reached out to younger friars to provide opportunities and introductions to retreat ministry. In 2021 and 2022, Cap Retreat hosted Javier Rodriguez and José Vera for their summer ministry. Both were well-received by the community and participated in several events. 10 friars of our province were invited, for the first time, to preach on the weekend retreats and mornings/evenings of reflections in 2022-23. Thus, Cap Retreat has also become the locus of preaching for the friars of our province to hone their skills. This also ensures that Cap Retreat will not lack directors or preachers in the future.

Despite the numerous shifts in personnel, the guests and benefactors of Cap Retreat see these changes as a reinvestment into the ministry.

COLLABORATION AS THE VISION FOR THE FUTURE

Following the recommendations in the Triennial Report of 2020, we have begun a strategy of visiting parishes and local groups/organizations in an effort to rebrand ourselves as a ministry of the Province of St. Joseph. The goal was to share resources and support, to show unity through our Capuchin identity, and to increase our awareness of others who support the Capuchins. Based on this vision, Cap Retreat has focused solely on mission-based programming and events.

The first intentional collaboration is with the Solanus Casey Center, for which we wish to thank Steve Kropp. Many people have come to learn about the retreat center through our collaboration with the Center. Similarly, this relationship allowed Cap Retreat to begin a monthly Healing Mass with the relic blessing. Our collaboration has allowed long-time patrons and friends of the Capuchins to experience the retreat

center for the first time. “I didn’t know you had a retreat center!” is a common phrase we hear, and it’s wonderful to welcome new visitors.

The second level of collaboration is with the three other Capuchin ministry sites in Detroit, namely, the soup kitchen on Meldrum, the soup kitchen on Connor, and the service center on Medbury. We thank Gary Wagner and Tien Dinh for their support and encouragement. As part of this collaboration, they advertise events and programs where the staff, the volunteers, and the guests can see them. We hope that as this collaboration continues, it will continue to bring more people. We help CSK by collecting donations for them at our location and taking them downtown.

While collaboration with the Province has provided Cap Retreat with further resources and opportunities, a key aspect of our programming and preaching has also been our collaboration with local parishes. The Family of Parishes within the Archdiocese of Detroit has increased the need for sacramental ministers, and the friars of St. Crispin friary are often called upon for help. From June 1, 2022 through January 1, 2023, the friars helped in 37 different parishes within the archdiocese. Through this, friars have brought in new retreatants and groups, including the Knights of Columbus (both at the parish and the district level), the Spanish-speaking community and the Chaldean community, local Catholic schools, and more.

Through these partnerships, Cap Retreat now uses various methods for promotion, has increased exposure, and continues to grow. As a special note of gratitude, we wish to thank the Steve Kropp, Gary Wagner, and the entire Provincial staff for their hard work and support.

DEVELOPMENT AND CAPITAL PROJECTS

In June 2022, Cap Retreat inaugurated its newest fund-raiser on Cap Retreat grounds: *A Gouda Evening*. Mr. Michael Schodowski of Shelving Inc. sponsors this “wine & cheese mixer.” In the first year, the retreat center raised over \$30,000 with a guest list of 200. This will be an annual fundraiser and plans are already underway for June 11, 2023.

Several large gifts have made it possible to upgrade aspects of the facility, e.g., fixing the pond and bridge, religious art, reverse-osmosis water fountains to replace bottled water, a pergola, etc. Collaboration with the Province helped to replace equipment that otherwise would be purchased, e.g., industrial freezer, chapel items from St. Bonaventure Chapel, etc. By increasing our awareness, unrestricted gifts have also increased.

Moving into the new triennium, Cap Retreat plans to utilize this increase to complete maintenance and update the current facility. In 2022, the provincial council approved the addition of a public, handicap-accessible bathroom and the conversion of two

rooms into handicapped rooms. The repair of the flat roof will begin in March of 2023. Within the next five years, the center will seek to update the HVAC system, remodel the second conference room and hallway, as well as restore the chapel to its original design.

These projects are meant to increase efficiency and space, while also lowering operating costs. The goal is to update the retreat center for the next generation of retreatants.

OPTIMISM AND CAUTION

In spite of the pandemic and decline in the overall Church, the future of Cap Retreat is very optimistic. The fiscal year of 2021-22 ended with a positive net income. We have hired an administrative assistant to help with the influx of business, our social media and online presence have grown exponentially, and we are working with pastors to supplement their ministries through our own programming. All of this points to an increased number of people who come to us.

However, the next two trienniums will be crucial. Washington Township continues to develop the surrounding area with subdivisions, inflation affects the operating expenses (especially for food and heating), and the pastoral needs of the Archdiocese of Detroit continue to rely on the Capuchins. If our province wishes to maintain our remaining retreat center, we must continually choose the Mission of the Church over trends and profits. We cannot compete with for-profit businesses. Therefore, we commit to remaining a Franciscan Home where people can encounter Christ.

Capuchin Soup Kitchen

Gary Wegner, Executive Director

Tien Dinh, Assistant Executive Director

PANDEMIC ERA RESPONSE

During the last triennium, the Capuchin Soup Kitchen experienced many challenges and changes. Under the leadership of Jerry Johnson, the Soup Kitchen met the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. Keeping faith with a tradition of meeting the needs of those struggling with various economic, social, and emotional issues, the Soup Kitchen did not close its doors during this time. Jerry and his staff worked tirelessly to develop and implement plans to maintain services. Thus, protective wear was purchased for staff and guests. Both the Meldrum and Conner Kitchens served for about nine months “to-go” meals to our guests before resuming serving breakfast and lunch in the dining rooms. Plexiglass dividers that permitted no more than three guests to a table were put in place, the wearing of masks was established and a company was hired to do regular deep cleaning of our facilities.

During the peak period of the pandemic, the Soup Kitchen discontinued the use of volunteers. The Rosa Parks Children & Youth Program, On the Rise Café, and Sunday sales of baked goods at parishes were all suspended. Other measures taken during this period included the purchase and placement of mobile showers at the Meldrum site. At the Jefferson House and ROPE House the number of residents was reduced by half so as to have no one sharing a room and/or to provide more space. I am grateful to Jerry for all that he and his staff did to maintain the Capuchin Soup Kitchen’s services to the people of Detroit. In some cases, this meant Jerry was putting in very long days. Meanwhile, other significant personnel issues surfaced that required Jerry to take on a more hands-on role at the Services Center. Without Jerry’s dedication and tireless efforts, the ability of the Capuchin Soup Kitchen to maintain its important services would have been seriously compromised.

CHANGE OF LEADERSHIP & STAFF CHANGES

In the summer of 2021, the Capuchin Soup Kitchen underwent a change of leadership as Gary Wegner succeeded Jerry Johnson as Executive Director and Tien Dinh took on the role of Assistant Executive Director. The hope was that it would be more reasonable and helpful to have two friars in these roles. Jerry was very helpful in the transition. Several other friars took on ministry at the Capuchin Soup Kitchen, including Rob Roemer as Director of Capuchin Services Center, Fred Cabras as Director of Social Services, and Robert Wotypka as Director of Pastoral Services.

Robert succeeded Bob Malloy, who served in the Soup Kitchen for 21 years. Bob was a beloved presence in the lives of guests, volunteers, and staff because of his gentle and compassionate ministry. Robert serves as the chaplain at the Conner site, which makes for the first time in many years that we have a regular Capuchin presence at the Conner site. Dijan Michael, serves as chaplain at the Services Center.

Staff turnover has been an ongoing concern for us. In the aftermath of the pandemic, it has been difficult to recruit and retain employees for several positions, including assistant manager roles. Hannah Costello, from Human Resources continues to do the best that can be done in this area. We are fortunate that after an absence of nearly two years, we have been able to welcome volunteers back to the Soup Kitchen. Max Morrison and the Volunteer Coordinators have worked hard to recruit new volunteers as well as bring back longtime volunteers. Without the volunteers, we could not fully serve our guests.

There have been several other significant personnel changes in the past two years. Patrick Crouch, the longtime Manager of the Earthworks Urban Farm resigned to take on a new role in another organization. Wendy Casey, who began her association with Earthworks as part of the EAT program is now the Director. We are grateful that Patrick agreed to offer contracted services as a technical consultant. All three employees in the Earthworks program are now individuals who were trained by Earthworks. During this triennium, the Soup Kitchen also formalized our rental from Gleaners of one- and one-half acres of land for \$1.00 a year.

ON THE RISE BAKERY CAFÉ

In the summer of 2022, On the Rise Bakery Café moved from its previous location to the new addition of the Solanus Casey Center. Although there was some dismay from patrons of the Café at the previous location, the move has been a great success. We have brought together in a real way the spiritual and social aspects of Blessed Solanus Casey's ministry. Sales at this location have seen an increase of 40%, which means more work for the men working at the Bakehouse. This past autumn, we also resumed sales at churches on Sundays. Tien Dinh has taken a lead role both at the café and in the Sunday sales.

PARTNERSHIPS

The Felician Sisters recently established a new ministry, Deo Gratias Ministries, in the old convent of St. Jude Parish between 7- & 8-Mile roads. The Capuchin Soup Kitchen has entered into a partnership with them. The Soup Kitchen has partnered with the Deo Gratias as a way of extending our outreach on the east side of Detroit but not our footprint. The Soup Kitchen has provided them with a full-time social worker who is a

Soup Kitchen employee. We have offered them access to the Volunteer Hub. When needed, we have welcomed the Sisters to seek supplies from the Services Center. The relationship with the Felician Sisters has proven to be a positive endeavor thus far.

The Soup Kitchen entered into an agreement with Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan to furnish 47 apartments for low-income individuals. This St. Matthew Project is located in the old schools of St. Matthew Parish on the northeast side of the city. The cost to the Soup Kitchen will be about \$250,000. St. Matthew Parish and St. Jude Parish are about 2.8 miles apart. These neighborhoods are experiencing significant economic distress.

While not specifically partnerships, the Soup Kitchen continues to maintain relationships with various other organizations. New members appointed to the Ministry Council to replace members who retire include Gerry Brisson, the President and CEO of Gleaners, Luther Keith, Director of ARISE Detroit, a coalition of neighborhood groups, and Donna Givens Davidson, Director of the Eastside Community Network. These relationships have proved helpful to us.

RENOVATIONS AND/OR CONSTRUCTION

A major renovation of the Meldrum site began in the winter of 2023. When completed there will be a completely new shower area for our guests. Earthworks Urban Farm will have its own prefabricated building next to the greenhouse with offices, a work area, and storage. The Community Room and Dining Room will have been renovated and a second floor with three offices, an employee break room, and a conference room will be built. The outside of the building will be made more attractive and the parking lot will be repaved. Also, the roof of the building will be replaced. During construction, office staff has to relocate to other areas of the Soup Kitchen.

Preliminary architectural drawings of the Conner site have been made. The hope is to reroute traffic onto Canfield Street, where there is an electric light. We will also repave the parking lot and a shower program will be added. The Dining Room will be completely renovated with the possibility of outdoor patio dining. We had hoped to purchase a house next to the Soup Kitchen in order to build a completely new building for Rosa Parks Children & Youth Program but unfortunately, it was sold to a buyer who planned to renovate it.

A task force headed by Tien Dinh is exploring the possibility of building a new bakehouse nearer to the café. We would then need to either build or purchase a new residence for the men in the ROPE Program that would be close to the bakery and café.

ODDS & ENDS

The Soup Kitchen currently has about 70 employees and 6 friars working in the various ministries. The annual operating budget for the Soup Kitchen is \$18.4 million. This number includes the estimated cost of capital projects. The number of guests at the dining rooms has not returned to pre-pandemic levels. One unfortunate theory is that more of our guests died than we imagined. The Soup Kitchen Choir, made up of guests, had about 24 members prior to the pandemic. We know of 8 who died. This may be at least a partial explanation of the decrease in numbers.

In the September of 2022 Governor Gretchen Whitmer of Michigan visited and volunteered at lunch. There was some negative response on the part of a few over her having been welcome. In November of 2022, Mayor Mike Duggan of Detroit and members of the City Council came to the Soup Kitchen. The Mayor announced a new employment initiative and held a press conference at the Meldrum site. At the end of the press conference, the Capuchin Soup Kitchen was presented with the Spirit of Detroit Award. Joe Tate, Speaker of the Michigan House of Representatives volunteered at the Meldrum site on Martin Luther King Day.

After an absence of two years due to COVID-19, the SOCK Dinner and other fundraising events that had been suspended returned to being live events. The Radiothon that had replaced the SOCK Dinner was discontinued.

A new brochure for the Soup Kitchen was designed by our Provincial Public Relations Office and printed. We trademarked the "Soup Bowl" logo. This was done in response to two situations that negatively impacted the Soup Kitchen.

Overall, the Capuchin Soup Kitchen remains a beacon of hope on Detroit's east side. It is an honor to minister in this now 94-year-old ministry to those who face significant struggles on the east side of Detroit.

Capuchin Vocations Office

Michael Joseph Groark, Director

During the last triennium, the Capuchin vocation office has seen significant changes. Many of these changes were due to a change in director, staffing of the office at large, and the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In May of 2020, as the pandemic was kicking off, I was asked to take charge of the vocation office. The first decision made was to retire Ms. Joanne Mendez who served as the secretary for many years. The reality was and still is, that there was not much in the way of clerical work to be done, and we did not see a need to keep her on any further. There is however value in having another friar to assist the vocation office with other needs: social media, assistance at come-and-see events, assistance at vocational events, etc. I have tried my best to piecemeal some of this to student friars over the last three years which has been a great help. Yet, I still see value in having another friar to assist the office in a more stable and focused way, and I have brought these needs to the provincial council. I was offered an assistant who was reassigned just a couple of months later. I continue to rely as much as possible on student friars for help where possible, and I will continue to adjust my personal expectations of the office based on what I can realistically accomplish.

The pandemic changed the landscape for vocation recruitment. Most of the large vocational events were put on pause for two years, and some of the larger events (FOCUS/SEEK/NCYC) have just returned to full steam recently. The silver lining was the emergence of Zoom as a way that the world stays connected. The vocation office is no exception. Having this platform has been a godsend during the pandemic and continues to be a viable way to connect regularly with candidates without physically traveling. The world seems to be stabilizing for the moment, and there are a number of large events on the horizon that the CVO will participate in going forward, including sending a delegation to World Youth Day this summer.

There have been some significant areas of reimagining the vocation office in an effort to update our branding and to streamline the office at large. I have worked with a graphic artist to create several new items for promotion and have worked to get this material out to all of our ministry sites. We shifted the production of our clothing to the Precious Blood Ministry of Reconciliation located here in Chicago. There is a slightly higher cost per item, but it is local and it supports at-risk youth in the neighborhood. Additionally, I have created a new website and redeveloped the database. There is significantly less paper documentation involved with record retention for the office.

We put a lot of effort into creating content for social media, and I rely on student friars when they have the time. We could be doing more, but this could be an entire ministry within itself, so we do what we can. That being said, in the last 3 years I have only had one candidate reference social media (Instagram). Pretty much every inquirer has searched us out on Google. My hunch is that social media, similar to attending large vocational events, has value insofar as letting the wider church know we're alive and present, but there has been little-to-no real engagement with discernment resulting from these avenues.

The come-and-see weekends continue to be a good experience. We have consistently recruited between 5-10 men for each retreat, and we have been experimenting with the locations and content of these retreats. One of the opportunities facing the CVO is to reimagine a pathway for students graduating from St. Lawrence to transition into Capuchin life. We lost our previous college program in Chicago several years ago. Since then, several attempts were made to invite students to live at St. Clare friary and attend local city colleges, but these efforts never quite worked for a variety of reasons. If St. Lawrence is going to produce candidates for the order in today's day and age, I suspect we need to have a tangible option to present to students for immediate post-graduation study, life, and discernment. It seems to me that we ought to consider other options that may include some of the following criteria:

- A collaboration with a catholic university to provide a program of undergraduate classes for our candidates
- A community of 2-3 friars who would serve as formators for the candidates
- A community and university that is in another part of our provincial territory, thus not only serving as a location for a college program but also giving us exposure to a new geographic location, and possible ministry, with the potential of attracting more vocations.
- A scholarship program for other Catholic universities that may not be in our provincial jurisdiction

During the last triennium, the following men have applied to or joined formation:

- 2020: Two men were accepted to postulancy, and one discerned out during the novitiate.
- 2021: Two men applied and were accepted to postulancy. One left during postulancy, and one left during novitiate.
- 2022: Three men applied for postulancy, one was rejected, and two were accepted. Of those two, one left the postulancy program, and one remains.

OBSERVATIONS AND FUTURE SPECULATIONS

The rise of secularization is undeniable, and it is having an obvious effect on the overall number of men thinking about a religious vocation, and perhaps explains some viewpoints of those still discerning. Yet, we still have a fair amount of interest, which is good! However, there are clear theological and ecclesiological trends in nearly every inquirer I have interacted with for the last three years:

- There is a strong desire for intense community life
- A clear expression of communal charism and mission
- A clear external sign of our identity (habit)
- A sense of theological and liturgical/rubrical “orthodoxy” (say the black, do the red)
- A very clear desire for devotional practices, specifically Eucharistic adoration.

To make this concrete, two very regular concerns from candidates, and even men who have been accepted into postulancy, have to do with our practices of forbidding kneeling during the mass and our practice of passing the paten around for distribution of holy communion in some of our houses. Again, these are just two common issues that I have to navigate on a regular basis. While I personally understand the reasons we tell ourselves for such internal practices, it is exhausting trying to explain and rationalize these complex and touchy issues with men who are brand new to the discernment process, and sometimes new to the faith. Issues such as these continue to be brought to my attention as vocation director and can often be non-starters for men discerning religious life nowadays. This reminds me of our conversation and subsequent conversion back to the 4-volume breviary several years ago. Again, these are just a couple of examples that come easily to mind. I hope we can reflect and have discussions about some of our communal practices, especially in the first few years of formation and initiation which are so critical. Liturgical action is a big concern for most new candidates. I wonder if we can do more to have better liturgical continuity between what the candidate will experience through postulancy, novitiate, and post-novitiate. Whatever the roots of these concerns may be, I anticipate that these theological trends will continue in this direction with candidates going forward.

For more information about current trends at large see the 2020 CARA study:

<https://nrv.net/publication/download/9180/2020-nrv-study-on-recent-vocations-final-march-2020.pdf?view=true>

I have great hope for the future in regard to vocations. There is still a good amount of interest and engagement with our way of life. I trust that the Holy Spirit is the main vocation director, and with the help of the brothers, I am confident that we will attract solid vocations going forward, but we have to be honest about the mindset of men still considering this way of life, and whether or not we are going to make real, meaningful space for them.

Cause of Blessed Solanus Casey

Ed Foley, Vice-Postulator

INTRODUCTION

This document continues a practice initiated in the fall of 2019, of creating an annual report regarding the Cause for beatification of Blessed Solanus Casey. That report, complete with financial records, is submitted to the office of the Postulator General of the Capuchin Order. Edited versions of the report are shared with the Minister Provincial and his Council and the Province of St. Joseph, the latter ordinarily as part of the triennial reporting procedures that anticipate our provincial chapters.

OPERATIONS OF THE OFFICE

The office of the vice-postulator operates with two part time staff: the vice-postulator Edward Foley, and the assistant to the Cause Dennis Till, who is a full-time employee of the Solanus Center with multiple other responsibilities. The vice-postulator does most of his work remotely. This is facilitated by the excellent assistance of Mr. Till, and the use of a secure iCloud Z drive created by the Province of St. Joseph that the vice-postulator shares with the assistant, but which no others can access. All favor reports, medical consultations, relic trackers, prayer trackers and other pertinent documentation are posted on that site. The vice-postulator and assistant to the Cause are also in constant email and phone contact, and the vice-postulator tries to make a physical visit to the office in Detroit approximately once a month, though that has been difficult in the fall of 2022.

REPORTED FAVORS

The number of favor reports documenting healings or other gifts granted through the intercession of Blessed Solanus continue to arrive in increasing numbers. In order to report these more effectively, we employ a favor report, available digitally on various websites including the website of the Solanus Casey Guild (<https://solanusc Casey.org/report-a-favor>), the provincial website (<https://www.thecapuchins.org/ministries/father-solanus>), and the personal website of the vice-postulator (<https://www.edwardfoleycapuchin.org/vice-postulator-for-blessed-solanus-casey.html>), though it is yet to be posted on the website of the Solanus Casey Center and the website for the Cause itself is yet to be developed sufficiently.

Since the last report sent on 28 October 2021, until 1 November 2022:

- 64 Favor reports have been received, showing a notable increase over the number of these received during the last reporting period (i.e., 50).

Sometimes these are reporting favors that occurred before the recognition of the miracle and announcement of the beatification of Blessed Solanus by Pope Francis in May of 2017;

- Of these, 18 have been sent to our very generous and competent pro-bono medical consults;
 - We are privileged to have associated with the Cause 14 consultants in brain and spine, dermatology, genetics, hematology, neurology, oncology, pediatrics, psychiatry, and vascular medicine;
 - They are very generous in consulting with other specialists beyond this range.
- Of these 18 reports forwarded to medical consultants, 10 remain under review;
 - We have requested full medical records for these 10;
 - 4 sets of full medical records have been received, digitized, and forwarded back to physicians for further review;
 - Some of these have been, at the request of the Postulator General, been forwarded to Rome for consultation regarding whether or not a further investigation might be instigated.
- While the Cause has always offered to help with any expenses in acquiring these medical records, acquiring such records remains as one of the challenges in this process:
 - Some of this is due to the surprising enduring effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, which has overwhelmed many medical facilities who have understandably placed the assembling of medical records as a low priority;
 - Some of this, however, is because those who have initially reported a favor that our physicians have deemed worthy of review with full medical records, have either:
 - Never responded;
 - Or never produced the records they have indicated they are willing to acquire;
 - Persistence is the strategy here.
- Since the last report, the Cause has developed a medical release form, reviewed by our attorneys, which allows those reporting favors to permit the Cause to pursue the medical records on their behalf, which might expedite this process.
 - We are employing this process in 3 current cases and are presuming that it will be deployed with increasing frequency, as it lifts the burden off of those reporting favors for pursuing medical records and puts the Cause in a more pro-active position for monitoring the processing of such records.

Besides these favor reports that ordinarily deal with medical issues, there continue to be a consistent reporting of stories from the faithful about folk finding a job, experiencing family reconciliation and other grace filled events attributed to the intercession of Blessed Solanus.

Every favor report is treated with the utmost respect, confidentiality, and gratitude. Some of the reports are unusual – e.g., healing of pets, apparitions, moving statues, etc. Each report receives a response marked by appreciation and recognition that the intercession of Blessed Solanus continues to touch the faithful in a myriad of ways. Individual letters from the vice-postulator are written to each individual who submits report. Our intent is to make every person who reports, whatever their experience of a Solanus intervention, to feel special and that their communication to us contributes to the canonization Cause of Solanus.

RELICS

Request for relics from around the world continue to come into the office, but with decreased regularity than in the previous year. The office follows the guidelines provided by the Postulator General that the distribution of a first-class relic requires evidence that it will be used for public devotion, accompanied by a posted letter from the pastor or rector of the church and the appropriate ordinary [bishop, provincial, abbot, etc.]. All such documents are secured in the office of the vice-postulator before a first-class relic is distributed. Once the relic is distributed, through a traceable and insured carrier with a return receipt of delivery with signature, those documents are digitized and maintained on our secure server. We have also developed a database that tracks these relic requests, documentation, and distribution.

Relic requests to date have come from 16 countries (Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Columbia, France, Germany, India, Ireland, Italy, Mexico, Panama, Philippines, and the UK) and 21 U.S. states (California, Connecticut, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, New York, New Jersey, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin). There continue to be multiple requests for relics from seminarians, especially those living in the Philippines and Brazil, to whom we send third class relics. Second class relics are ordinarily only sent to clerics or verifiable religious communities who request a first-class relic but cannot obtain the requisite letters, e.g., from their ordinary. We also have one large reliquary which is available for short term usage by appropriate groups, which was loaned out once last year.

Since our last report we have sent relics to an Oratory in Cincinnati, a High School in Mississippi, the Mission of Santa Inez in California, a parish in California, and the Archdiocese of St. Paul-Minneapolis. Three other requests are currently awaiting the appropriate documentation.

PRAYER REQUESTS, VISITORS AND LIVE-STREAMING

Since January of 2019 we have been tracking the number of prayer requests that have come into the Solanus Casey Center. These include notes placed at his tomb, notebook entries at the tomb, telephone calls or internet requests, and mailers or

requests that come through the development office. In our last report these totaled 516,262. As of 7 October 2022, the number was 735,372. This is a dramatic increase by any standard. As previously noted, the interest in seeking the intercession of Blessed Solanus seems unabated.

The number of visitors to the Solanus Casey Center during the previous reporting period (November 1, 2020 through October 2021), totaled 88,643. During the current reporting season (November 2021 until October 2022) the number is 113,092. Obviously, some of that is the lifting of COVID restrictions and people feeling more comfortable in traveling in 2022. On the other hand, the 32+% increase in visitors is also a strong commentary on the sustained and increased fervor surrounding the devotion to Solanus

The height of the COVID outbreak was a boon to livestreaming worship from the St. Bonaventure Chapel. Given the cost of that venture, including supplying sufficient music ministers to enliven that broadcast, the Solanus Center has cut back on livestreaming. The Province and Solanus Center continue to exploit other digital venues, which remain compelling. According to the provincial director of public relations, during the reporting period of 1 November 2021 to 22 October 2022, digital engagement included

- 216,354 video views on Facebook
- 435,028 engagements (likes/reactions, comments, retweets/shares) on Facebook and Twitter
- 3,185,067 impressions of all content (text, photo, video) on Facebook and Twitter
- 34,633 followers on Facebook and Twitter.

LITURGY, DEVOTION, AND MISSION

While previously engaged in the liturgical planning of the Solanus Center, new challenges have led to the withdrawal of this office from participating in the liturgical committee for that Center, a committee which this office instigated 2 years ago. Nonetheless, we continue to move forward on other fronts:

- 1) At the invitation of the Provincial Minister, the Cause has helped reshape the Seraphic Mass Association (SMA) of the Province as the newly christened "Solanus Mission Association" (still SMA). A "white paper" on mission and Solanus was provided to the provincial administration and the provincial mission office offering both theological and historical bases for such a move which is now implemented in the province. Happily, the charism of Solanus in this venture is more closely tied to his passion for mission.
- 2) Previously the vice-postulator had raised questions with the provincial administration about how our promises to pray for people who join the SMA or leave petitions with us [physically or digitally] were being respected. The

provincial administration has responded admirably and has inaugurated a provincial strategy so that those who come to us for prayer – including those who come to the tomb of Solanus – will have their wishes respectfully embraced not only by the local St. Bonaventure community, but the entire province.

- 3) The office of vice-postulator, at the request of the provincial minister, has crafted a prayer for the friars in the spirit of Solanus to pray for our benefactors [attached].

THE WRITINGS OF BLESSED SOLANUS

The vice-postulator continues his work on indexing all the writings of Blessed Solanus in an accessible index. While somewhat delayed by his recent academic posting [at the University of Notre Dame] the work continues. Currently the first three volumes of Solanus' writings are indexed, and work on the 4th has begun. To date the index comprises 1306 entries and their subcategories, plus a scriptural index, encompassing 54 pages [a pdf of the work is attached]. This long-term project is designed for publication on the redesigned website as a guide to the already digitized writings of Solanus, which need to be made available to scholars and devotees in a free and accessible manner. The original design of the Solanus Center was to include access to his writings on terminals in that building; this is still an unrealized project. This endeavor extends that intent, so that anyone interested in plumbing the thoughts of Solanus can access the breadth of his writings.

TELEVISION, MEDIA, PODCASTS, PUBLICATIONS

- As previously reported, the Cause partnered with Michael O'Neill who produces the program "They Might Be Saints" for the Eternal Word Television Network (EWTN). While the program did not appear as scheduled on 25 November 2021 (Solanus' birthday and the U.S. holiday of Thanksgiving), it did finally premiere on 10 December 2021 to a major international audience. As part of this ongoing series, the segment on Solanus has been broadcast across their multiple networks (domestic, Canadian, Pacific Rim) dozens of times. One has to believe that this international exposure is nothing but good news for elevating Solanus from a regional to a universal image of holiness.
- The Barbatius podcast, which has taken Solanus as their patron, broadcast a podcast with the vice-postulator on 22 March 2022 [<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/e56-solanus-road-to-sainthood-ft-fred-foley/id1549746278?i=1000554847946>]
- St. Michael's parish in Brooklyn has begun to publish podcasts on memories of Solanus' ministry in New York [<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yz6d7dAk8u8>]
- The vice-postulator was involved in the 20th anniversary republication of the life of Solanus by the former vice-postulator, Leo Wollenwebber, providing an introduction to this newly released edition of *Meet Solanus Casey* retitled as *Gratitude and Grit: The Life of Blessed Solanus Casey* [<https://www.amazon.com/Gratitude-Grit-Blessed-Solanus->

Casey/dp/1632534053?asin=B09ZF6BXL&revisionId=e4b8231e&format=1&depth=1]

- The vice-postulator has also been engaged in reviewing other potential publications about Solanus, mostly soliciting some informal imprimatur. We have largely refused such invitations, mostly because they require some affirmation of a project in which the Cause has little input and often shapes the charism of Solanus in a direction we deem inappropriate. Protecting the charism of Solanus is a continuing mission of the Cause.

ADVISORY BOARD

Over the past year we explored, with the affirmation of the Postulator General, the possible establishment of an advisory board for the Cause. We held a few meetings [in person and digital], and in light of those launched a survey to key folk, and then created a rationale for this proposed advisory board. There seemed little interest in creating such an advisory board beyond the regional devotion to Solanus, and so that project has been suspended. It is the vice-postulator's contention that such a group with a national reach is essential for extending the charism of Solanus broadly across English speaking North America. It seems important that such a group is in place if and when any canonization process for Solanus moves forward. We will continue to explore how to move forward such a group.

OTHER MINISTRIES AND PROJECTS

Multiple requests for information or collaboration come into the Cause regularly each year. This might include a request from another Capuchin province or other entity for information about starting or supporting a cause for canonization. We also receive various requests for information about documenting healings or reporting favors, usually because some have accessed our forms and processes and want to replicate them.

One ongoing project has been excavating the materials from a previous vice-postulator, Br. Leo Wollenwebber (d. 2012). The materials from Br. Leo were relocated into two separate facilities in the Solanus Center. The current vice-postulator – in collaboration with Br Leo's co-vice-postulator Br. Richard Merling – has spent many hours excavating these resources. In the process we have found innumerable treasures: the contents of Solanus' desk, his clothing, his glasses, original photographs documenting otherwise hidden facets of his life. All such artifacts have been delivered to the provincial archives where they can be catalogued and properly preserved. We also found dozens of first-class relics of other saints and blessed, often with their official document. The Capuchin relics were distributed to appropriate houses in the province, e.g., the relic of Lawrence of Brindisi to St. Lawrence Seminary. The other relics were distributed to their appropriate religious

communities (e.g., Jesuit, OFM, Dominican, Benedictine, etc.). This project of excavating the files of Br. Leo is approximately 70% complete. While much of the remaining materials are not worth preserving, caution needs to be exercised so that any important Solanus artifact is properly preserved.

THE TOMB

The Cause has repeatedly expressed its concern about the easy access to the tomb of Blessed Solanus by visitors. If and when Solanus is canonized, much more needs to be done to protect this precious relic.

FINANCES

The Cause is generously funded by the Solanus Casey Center each year as well as by individual donors. Attached is a printout of the income and expenses for the 2021-2022 year as well as the balance of funds in our accounts. The balance sheet for the Cause is strong. Expenditures are kept at a modest level.

ONGOING TASKS

There is much work yet to be done in promoting the Cause of Blessed Solanus. The major concern, as noted above, is creating a national profile for Solanus. His charism speaks broadly, but the devotion is regionally centered. The Cause is committed to expanding not simply his devotion but the power of his charism nationally and internationally.

As we work and pray daily for the canonization of Blessed Solanus, we also strive to reflect his spirituality and charism in the ongoing ministry of this office.

Corporate Responsibility

Robert Wotypka

2023 marks my sixth year ministering in the province's CR office. This ministry was founded by Michael Crosby and handed to me upon his passing. For FY 2023-2024 I have requested a budget of \$5000. Three-fifths of the budget is dedicated to dues to the Seventh Generation Coalition for Responsible Investment (SGI), of which Michael was a founder. The balance is used for travel to the twice-yearly meetings held by SGI and the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility (ICCR), and for expenses incurred filing shareholder resolutions. The province enjoys access to the services of ICCR through its SGI membership; dues for ICCR are substantially higher than for SGI. SGI also receives financial support from the Capuchin generalate.

The CR agent now attends meetings of the Investment Commission (IC) as a non-voting member, and the work of the CR office is shared with the IC and coordinated with the Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) Commission. The CR office benefits greatly from the knowledge, wisdom and experience of John Celichowski, who serves on both commissions, on the board of SGI, and who is a past CR agent.

SGI has successfully transitioned to new leadership upon the retirement of Francis Sherman, who succeeded Michael as Executive Director. Chris Cox is the new ED, and he has one full time and one part time staff member. Its membership has begun to drop due to the inability of some women religious congregations, long the most numerous with the SGI ranks, to carry on CR work. Recruitment of new members is bearing fruit, and SGI is dynamic, effective, and from a provincial perspective, provides indispensable support and guidance. In the years 2020-2022 full-time ministry commitments and/or my inability to balance workloads made meaningful contributions to CR work acutely challenging. The SGI staff carried more than their share of the workload during this time. With a new assignment given in 2022 I expect to be able to participate in CR work more regularly and meaningfully.

The CR office stewards a small investment fund that invests in publicly held companies and uses its right as a shareholder to engage companies on issues of human rights, worker rights, and care for creation. Recent stock purchases include taking shares in DTE, with the goal of moving this Michigan utility to remove greenhouse gases from its energy production operations; Techtronic, the parent company of Milwaukee Tool, with the goal of engaging the company to audit their operations to insure that human rights of the workers in their supply chain are protected; and Marathon Oil, which operates a refinery in Detroit configured to process oil extracted from tar sands in Alberta, Canada, which is the "dirtiest" and most ecologically harmful oil extraction method currently in use.

With the support of the JPIC Commission and the cooperation of the IC, the province has taken steps to manage its investments with more intentionality – please see the triennial report of the IC for details. I wait in hope for the day when all the province’s investment holdings can be “activated” in the work of faith-based investing.

Awareness for faith- and values-centered investing has gone mainstream through the widening use of the terms “ESG (Environment, Social and [corporate] Governance) investing” and “woke capitalism.” The latter is a pejorative created to pre-empt or limit open and honest discussion of the challenges and harms concomitant with economic activities and corporate policies and choices. The former term comes out of the growing awareness among investors in publicly held companies of the need to assess company decisions in the light of their impacts on all stakeholders: shareholders, workers, consumers, the communities where companies do business, and the external costs of their operations, to name some. Numerous pension funds, state-owned funds and other large investors have committed to analyzing their investments through an ESG lens, asking that companies be accountable for issues including:

- How does the company operate with regard to its impact on the environment?
 - o For example, what plans if any have auto companies made for disposing of electric vehicle batteries which reach the end of their service life?
- How do compensation practices impact the workforce?
 - o Ex.: Does the company pay a living wage and provide medical benefits?
- How is management structured?
 - o Ex.: Is the Chief Executive Officer also the Chairman of the Board?
 - o Who sits on their board? For how long? How much are they paid?

Publicly traded companies in the US are regulated by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). Its view of ESG issues and the rights and ability of investors to engage companies on these and other topics vary based on its leadership, with the commissioner appointed by the POTUS. In European Union the regulatory regime is both more stable and more dynamic: regulations are formed to account for a wide range of stakeholders, and outcomes (companies conducting their enterprises in more equitable and sustainable ways) are being transformed as a result. In short, the US has fallen behind, but there is an opportunity for betterment.

The mode of operation for CR work is to engage companies in dialogues. These dialogues include other shareholders, organizations who bring expertise to the issue

being raised, and company representatives. When dialogues do not lead to desired outcomes, shareholder resolutions are filed, subject to votes at the annual general meeting (AGM) of the company. Resolutions can and often are withdrawn if a consensus is reached with the company, for example, the company may decide to separate the role of board chairman and CEO, leading to the resolution calling for this to be withdrawn.

Michael Crosby was a pioneer in this work, and this mode reflects Franciscan values of maintaining relationships and meeting people where they are. The alternatives – boycotts, divestment, shaming in the court of public opinion – have their time and place, but the engagement approach has transformed the business and social landscape time and again the last half-century.

The POSJ is nearly always the only Catholic congregation of men at ICCR meetings and present for dialogues. Some Jesuit provinces do this work, but appear not to benefit from the “force multiplier” effect the POSJ achieves through its membership in SGI. The face of the values-based investor community is changing. Religious congregations are starting to withdraw, and their ranks are being replaced by non-government organizations (NGO), unions, and other values-based actors. The faith-based voice in activist investing is potentially at risk. Thanks to the support of SGI and ICCR I believe that the work of our CR office can be upscaled, and I ask that the Provincial Council to consider the possibility of drawing in other provinces to the work of faith-based investing, perhaps beginning with NAPCC.

The number of publicly traded companies has been falling for the last two decades, and new ownership structures have and are being invented to allow asset holders to gather profits without being publicly accountable. The green transition needed to limit the worst outcomes of climate change will transform the business landscape and, literally, the earth: the minerals and metals needed to “electrify everything” will lead to a 500% increase in mining by 2050. Major changes require major resources, and multinationals will be at the forefront of these changes, for good if we will it, and for ill if they are not monitored and held accountable. I am grateful for the opportunity to work in this field, and implore the friars to engage in and support it. Thank you.

Development

Ms. Kristi Hassouna, Director

In reflecting upon this most recent triennial period, the impact of COVID is undeniable. From office functions and staffing to ministry revenue, our need to respond and adapt took precedence to best meet the needs of our ministries and our donors.

COVID

When the Detroit offices were first shut down in March 2020 due to COVID, I quickly developed a plan to ensure that Development Operations could continue. It was apparent early on that there was a need to outfit the donor services staff with the ability to post gifts from home. Due to the high demand during the lockdown, it took about two months for the entire team to have the computers, printers, and monitors they needed. The rest of the team already had laptops, so they were able to continue working without pause.

A week after the shutdown, I began coming to the office weekly with another staff person to open all mail, deposit it at the bank, or forward it to Chase Lockbox for processing. It was vital that the flow of revenue continues to the ministries and that we were able to both thank donors and make contact with them regarding the status of some annual events (Buddy's Slice for Life, Bonanza Barrel, Ahee, SOCK). In May 2020, the fuller team could return to the office in a limited capacity and then entirely in May 2021.

REVENUE IMPACT

All ministries of the Province experienced an unprecedented increase in donations during COVID. Many factors contributed to this, including a strong donor connection to our ministries and that most ministries adapted to ensure our guests continued receiving support. We also were able to adjust the direct mail program and work with ministry directors to share real-time updates with donors. Looking ahead, we are currently forecasting that revenue numbers will continue to resettle and be more in line with our pre-COVID numbers through the end of this fiscal year and beyond.

Fiscal Year	Total Revenue (excluding estates)	Total Number of Gifts
FY2019	\$15,535,733	162,797
FY2020	\$17,388,328	176,455
FY2021	\$20,413,067	203,579
FY2022	\$19,932,573	170,916
FY2023 (through January 2023)	\$12,950,376	83,502

COLLABORATION

In November 2020, we embraced leadership changes within the newly elected Provincial Council and, subsequently, each of the ministries we partner with. Engaging with this new group of friars in our fundraising work has been an informative and exciting time. Additionally, CSK leadership, in particular, has made a concerted effort to encourage our team to reengage with the ministry on a personal level, which has been deeply appreciated.

ST. FRANCIS CAPUCHIN CENTER CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

In January 2021, the Provincial Council decided to move forward with a fundraising campaign for the St. Francis Capuchin Center project. We were assigned a consultant who managed and executed the campaign in tandem with a select group of friars. This working relationship proved to be difficult, as they were unable to truly adapt plans for the campaign to address the concerns brought forth by friars and development staff. Fundraising began in May 2021 and ended in December 2021. 275 gifts and pledges were received totaling \$1,021,175, far short of initial projections of \$4-6million.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Our core team of five data entry staff and Team Lead Maria Perez continue to do a tremendous job of managing the increased daily volume of mail and donations we

receive. We continue to cage donations in-house and through a Chase lockbox for cash and check donations.

DEPARTURES:

- Erica Sanders, Event Manager, left her position in August 2021.
- Dana Brendecke-Carrier, Development Operations Manager, left her position in November 2021.

Both of these departures left significant holes in a department that needs to be more staffed with professional fundraisers. After attempting to repost the Events Manager position several times, the position was redeveloped as Corporate Relations Manager and posted in August 2022.

ADDITIONS

Lindsey Difazio-Meyer was hired as Corporate Relations Manager in September 2022. Lindsey comes from Oakland University and Georgetown Law fundraising teams and is an exciting addition to our department.

POSITION CHANGES

Jessie Grochowski has officially accepted the position of Assistant Director of Development. Jessie is excelling in her new role, and I'm pleased to work with her to support the needs of our ministries and development staff. She will continue to travel to Detroit every other month.

FUTURE PLANNING

To best provide future sustainability for the Province, it is important to diversify our current fundraising model. This will mean changing how we communicate with donors and slowly transitioning away from a primarily direct mail and special events program to focusing on cultivating individual and major gifts. This will require additional professional fundraising staff who are entirely dedicated to this work. I have identified several short and long-term key positions to help achieve this goal.

Finance

Ms. Diane Simpkins, CFO/Treasurer

The Provincial Finance Office spent time and energy this triennium developing systems and establishing services that will provide for the needs of the Province as it evolves through the changing demographics of its membership.

In addition to keeping track of the finances of the Provincialate, the Finance Office staff provides bookkeeping, bill paying, and accounting services to some of our ministries and friaries. The office now provides those financial services to the Capuchin Soup Kitchen, the Solanus Casey Center, the Capuchin Missions Office, the Michigan Development Office, Capuchin Retreat Center and St. Bonaventure Monastery. In total, the finance office annually tracks and processes in excess of \$37.6 million in operating income and expenses and another \$288.3 million in assets. Additionally, the payroll office processes payrolls for all but one province sponsored ministries. The finance office realizes that other ministries and friaries may need its services in time and it is ready to respond to those needs.

The Provincial Office's annual expenses have averaged \$18.9 million over the last three years.

- 32% has been used to support the Capuchin fraternity including health care of the friars, the formation program, remittances to friars and communities, etc.
- 23% provided administrative services in the form of employee compensation, provincial office budgets, maintaining St. Francis Capuchin Center and St. Joseph Center, gifts and grants, auditing services, etc.
- 42% was spent on capital improvements to St. Francis Monastery and other friaries; and
- 3% was invested in fund raising.

As has historically been true, operating income at the Provincialate was primarily generated from three sources: 21% came from communities and friars, 46% from donations and 6% through transfers from investments. Friars through their participation in government programs alone contributed \$1.2 million during this 3-year period! Realizing that our friars cannot continue to generate the greatest portion of our income, the Province asked our ministries for the first time in Fiscal Year 2013 to contribute a percentage of their expenses to the fraternal economy to help cover the cost of the services they receive from the Provincial Offices. The contribution is 8% during fiscal year 2022 and totaled \$7,327,317 for this 3-year period.

Raising cash to cover our needs is an ongoing concern. We have consistently adhered to budgeting no more than 4.5% of the average value of our investments over a 12-quarter period. That discipline has served us well in good times and bad. However, in an effort to increase income from another source, the Province has been budgeting increasing amounts to invest in fund raising efforts for a planned giving person and an annual giving person. These positions have not been filled. Like other investments it may take some time to see the fruits of those efforts.

The Province insures more than 100 vehicles assigned to friars or our ministries. Christian Brothers Services provides our auto liability coverage. Several years ago the Province established a self-insurance fund to provide the collision and comprehensive coverage for its vehicles. In 2022 the fund reached over \$500,000 and is capable of generating enough income to sustain itself. Despite the need to replace a few cars every year due to accidents, the Province has discontinued charging premiums for collision and comprehensive auto coverage. We now collect only the premium to pay Christian Brothers for the liability coverage.

The Province runs a self-insured healthcare fund for the friars and our employees, named the Allegiance fund after the company that administers it for us. Amidst increasing healthcare costs throughout the nation, we have successfully managed to keep our costs in check. Two actions have simultaneously impacted our costs: (1) a concerted effort by Jeff Parrish and Brenda Boatman in the Province's Human Resources Department to educate employees to be smarter healthcare consumers; and (2) the ongoing enrollment of friars in government healthcare programs. Controlling our costs has allowed us to build up enough of a cushion in the Allegiance fund to fend off the occasional catastrophic year. Simultaneously we have reduced the overall premiums our ministries pay. From 2020 to 2022, the ministries' premiums increased 3.5%. Although employees saw their share of the insurance premium increase 3.5% during the same timeframe, they have repeatedly told us that they are grateful for the healthcare insurance provided by the Province. The fund is on solid footing and we continue to aggressively manage the costs and the premiums.

The Province continues to respond pastorally to victims of sexual abuse who make their needs known to us. Their care takes on many forms and many times there are costs. With proceeds from the friars' healthcare and retirement fund the Province established a \$1 million fund to respond to victims' needs. Payment to the victims over the previous 3 years was approximately \$280,837. The fund will be replenished as needed from the same source, which has a balance that is sufficient to meet friars' current healthcare and retirement needs.

Based on the financial statements reviewed by our auditors our ministries provided \$119 million in program services to our clients from Fiscal Year 2020 through Fiscal Year 2022. At the same time their funds on deposit with the Province grew from \$25 million to \$35.5 million.

The Province's investments averaged an annual return of 2.6% over the period January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2022.

The Province's finances are strong. We have been able to provide for the needs of those who have come to us for help, make major renovations to some friaries and provide for the healthcare needs of our friars. Our employees receive a fair wage and benefits package. We have been able to address ongoing needs of our aging friaries. It has not always been easy, at times requiring budget constraints. We have responded to the financial needs of these times while planning for our future. We have developed systems to aid us as our ways of handling finances locally and Province-wide continue to evolve.

We recognize God's hand in all that we have received and all that we have accomplished. In gratitude for those who have joined us in the good that we do, we thank God.

Formation

Steven Kropp, Director of Initial Formation

John Celichowski, Director of Continuing Formation

INITIAL FORMATION PROGRAM

“All formation is first of all the work of the Holy Spirit Who gives life from within both to those forming and those being formed,” *Constitutions 24*. In his report for the Triennium ending in 2020, John Celichowski (then Director of both Initial and Continuing Formation), wrote that the triennium could be summarized with three words: transition, gratitude and challenges. There has certainly been much of all three of these in the past three years, even apart from a global pandemic which greatly affected the formation and education of our Brothers. I would add that there has also been, as before, many blessings.

I would first like to note the Brothers who have been asked to dedicate themselves to the ministry of formation for the Province and Conference, for whom we are ever-grateful:

- Postulancy: David Hirt has served throughout this triennium (as well as the previous one) as the Director of the Postulancy program, now located at Saint Francis of Assisi Monastery in Milwaukee. This program has been functioning as the inter-provincial postulancy for the Provinces of: Mary, Mother of the Good Shepherd; Sacred Stigmata of Saint Francis, Saint Joseph and Saint Mary. David has been joined in the direction of the program by Roach Gaspar until 2021 and then Lake Herman (Saint Mary Province). This postulancy program has been supported by the local communities of (the former) Saint Conrad Friary and Saint Francis Monastery, particularly under the leadership of Kent Bauer and Brenton Ertel, who both served as Guardians during this period. The postulancy is now a year-long program in Milwaukee with the ending of the Inter-Provincial Postulancy Program, which was a “bridge” between provincial postulancy programs and the NAPCC novitiate. The various provincial postulancy programs in the conference are now working together on a number of efforts, including classes and a week-long retreat together.
- Novitiate: John Celichowski has served as Director of the NAPCC novitiate in San Lorenzo throughout the triennium, along with Kip Ledger (Saint Augustine Province) and Miguel Ramirez (Sacred Stigmata of Saint Francis Province). John will be concluding his time as Director of the Novitiate with the completion of this current “year”. The novitiate was greatly reconfigured on the level of budget and expenses when the NAPCC renegotiated the lease agreement with the San

Lorenzo Corporation, who owns the property in Santa Ynez, California. This reduced expenses substantially, making the novitiate program at San Lorenzo much more sustainable for the future.

- Post-Novitiate and Ministry Formation: John Scherer has been the Guardian of Saint Clare friary throughout this triennium and has served as co-director of the post-novitiate formation program. Steven Kropp served as director of both post-novitiate and ministry formation until July 2021, when Roach Gaspar took over both of those positions.
- Provincial Director of Initial Formation: upon assuming the role as Director of the NAPCC Novitiate, John Celichowski felt it would be a conflict to continue as Director of Formation and Steven Kropp assumed the responsibility for the current triennium.
- Capuchin Vocation Office: Michael Joseph Groark assumed the role as Director of the Vocation Office in 2020, after some significant transition in that office. He has been assisted by several brothers in formation throughout the triennium, particularly in the St Clare of Assisi community. The vocation office has resumed attendance at national conferences of Catholic young adults, and is redoubling efforts to work with St. Lawrence Seminary. The office is also seeking new and creative ways to engage young men in vocational recruitment.

It seems that statistics regarding formation is likely what the Brothers most want to know, since it is so integral to the future of our Capuchin Life to have new members formed in the Order. I'll start with the current reality, as of the writing of this report, for each level of formation.

As of January 2023 we have:

- One Postulant- Arnaud Dadjo, who comes to us from Cameroon (his home country) via the United Arab Emirates (where he was working when he met the Capuchins and first discerned religious life).
- No novices, although the program year started with one novice who discerned to depart formation.
- Six brothers in post-novitiate formation including two brothers undertaking the Master of Divinity studies at Catholic Theological Union, three brothers who are in undergraduate studies, and one brother who is completing a certificate in Spiritual Direction from the Aquinas Institute. These brothers come to us from India: Layola, Jaico (via Texas where his family now lives) and Shebin (who also came to us via the United Arab Emirates where he grew up); Belgium: Igor who

has now been incorporated into our Province; Iraq: Anthony (who comes to us via Detroit where his family now loves); and (last but hardly least) Wisconsin: McLean.

- Six brothers in ministry formation, three of whom are in full-time studies completing their Master of Divinity at Catholic Theological Union and three who were recently ordained to the diaconate and are in full-time ministry while finishing up the last couple of classes for the Master of Divinity. These brothers come to us from Vietnam: Truong (who is ministering at St Lawrence Seminary, while also assisting at Our Lady of the Holyland Parish); Puerto Rico: Javier (via Milwaukee where he was living before he joined the Order, he is ministering at Saint Francis of Assisi / Saint Benedict the Moor Parishes); Wisconsin: Nathan (who is ministering at St. Lawrence Seminary, while also assisting at a parish cluster in the Diocese of Green Bay, which is nearby); India: Alwin; Mexico: José (via Green Bay where his family now lives); and Cameroon: Baudry (via Billings, Montana where he was attending University when he met the friars in Crow Agency).
- Following entrance into full-time ministry as a professed (or professed and ordained) brother, it is expected that a brother participates for a minimum of five years in the mentoring program. This program had been directed by the Director of Initial Formation but has been reassumed by the Provincial Minister. It is designed to be a time of learning and sharing for the brothers. They meet annually for two-to-three days.

It will also be helpful for the brothers to note that during the course of this triennium eight brothers made their perpetual profession of vows, including the six listed above in Ministry Formation, and five brothers were ordained to the presbyterate.

The province continues to send our students of theology to Catholic Theological Union, of which we are a corporate member. We have been trying to engage them on a provincial level to assist with their struggles in enrollment and the quality of their education. The current President, Sr. Barbara Reid, has been very solicitous in getting input from the Corporate Members.

The brothers working in formation ministry were able to participate in two NAPCC sponsored workshops during the triennium, specifically devised to assist in that ministry. Both of these were facilitated by Dr. Josephine Lombardi a noted author a faculty member at Saint Augustine Seminary in Toronto. The first was a day-long video conference and the second, in October of 2022, was a week-long in-person conference at Serra Retreat in Malibu, California.

The Provincial Directors of Initial Formation of the NAPCC meet twice annually to discuss matter regarding our provincial formation programs, the NAPCC novitiate, formation for our formation ministers, and ways in which we can collaborate on a conference level to assist us all in our formation of the brothers.

Blessed be God in all His designs!

CONTINUING FORMATION PROGRAM

In his apostolic exhortation *Vita Consecrata* (1996), St. John Paul II writes: Continuing formation, whether in Institutes of apostolic or contemplative life, is an intrinsic requirement of religious consecration...Due to human limitations, the consecrated person can never claim to have completely brought to life the “new creature”; who, in every circumstance of life, reflects the very mind of Christ.... At no stage of life can people feel so secure and committed that they do not need to give careful attention to ensuring perseverance in faithfulness; just as there is no age at which a person has completely achieved maturity (69).

Chapter II of our Capuchin Constitutions further reminds us that formation in the consecrated life is “a journey of discipleship guided by the Holy Spirit” that “must be life-long” and involve “the whole person...human, cultural, spiritual, pastoral, and professional” (23:1, 2). Its purpose is “to make the life of the brothers and fraternities become conformable to the Gospel,” our First Rule, “according to the Capuchin-Franciscan spirit, taking into account the diversity of times and places” (23:3).

Our Constitutions also observe that ongoing formation has two dimensions: (1) “spiritual conversion,” rooted in “the sources of Christian life and the primitive spirit of the Order, which must be carried out in forms adapted to times and cultures;” and (2) “cultural and professional renewal, through technical adaptation to the conditions of the times” (41:3). Each circumscription is expected have its own norms for continuing formation, ensuring that they are “systematic, dynamic and integrated, embracing the whole religious life in the light of the gospel and the spirit of brotherhood” (42:3). However, it cannot be forgotten that “the first school of formation is the daily experience of religious life, with its normal rhythm of prayer, reflection, fraternal life and work” (42:4).

Norms for our Continuing Formation program are in the Provincial Policy Handbook. The most common way that friars participate is through the development of an annual plan and the submission of an individual budget. Friars are given great flexibility to create their plans, and while some may ask the program director for advice, most design their own. During this triennium the office continued to provide a regularly updated list of Continuing Formation Resources available in a variety of media.

With the approval of the Provincial Minister and Council, friars may also apply for certificate or advanced degree programs to enhance their ministerial skills and meet the needs of the Province.

In addition, friars who have been engaged in a sufficient period of full-time ministry may also request a sabbatical for the purposes of rest, relaxation, renewal, and ongoing formation. The length of a sabbatical will vary from a few months to a year. Only one or two friars each year request sabbaticals.

For the past several fiscal years, the Office of Continuing Formation received roughly 30 annual requests from friars for individual budgets. This included several friars who had been given permission to pursue post-graduate degrees. This represents a slow but steady decline in the number of friars participating. It also reflects the continued aging of our Province and the downward trend in the number of those engaged in active ministry.

It may also reflect the availability of free or low-cost opportunities online, especially on sites like YouTube. Many friars also fund what could be continuing formation expenses through their personal or community budgets. Because many of these expenses are modest, that is understandable. However, it also presents a challenge to determining how many friars are engaged in continuing formation.

One of the notable developments in continuing formation has been the expansion of opportunities that are made with advances in communications technology. The growing number of media platforms (e.g., FORMED, Word on Fire, the Bible Project, etc.) and devices that make it easier than ever to commit ourselves to ongoing spiritual conversion and cultural and professional renewal. Not surprisingly, the shift toward electronic platforms has been accompanied by an observable drop in print subscriptions in many of our friaries.

As was noted in our report to Chapter 2020 (2021), Continuing Formation remains a challenge in our Province as well as in the wider Capuchin Order. It is still too often considered more of an option than an obligation and needs to be more effectively integrated with our Initial Formation program. Yet it remains essential to the holistic development of each friar—human, intellectual, pastoral, spiritual. Commitment to Continuing Formation can help each of us strengthen and expand our ministerial skills, imaginations, and missionary spirit. It can enable us to leave our comfort zones and be ready, willing, and able to serve the needs of the Province and the wider Church and Order.

The world, it is often noted, does not stand still. We can't afford to do so.

Fraternal Collaboration

Bill Hugo, Director

Our Province began to explore Fraternal Collaboration of Personnel immediately after the 2014 Provincial Chapter. This is the third triennial report about collaboration, the two previous reports were submitted in 2017 and 2020. The Provincial Council regularly discusses the collaboration program and the well-being of individual collaborators at its monthly meetings.

As of this writing, the province hosts the following international collaborating Capuchins:

At St. Fidelis Friary in Appleton:

- Pushparaj Alphonse from the Amala Annai Province in Tamil Nadu, India (Local Vicar)

At St. Lawrence Seminary and Friary in Mt. Calvary:

- Chrispin Thomas Shirima from the Tanzanian Province (Local Vicar and SLS staff person)
- Peter Kafumu from the Tanzanian Province (Vice-Rector of SLS)

At Capuchin Community Services (CCS) with residence at St. Francis Monastery in Milwaukee:

- Henryk Cisowski from the Krakow, Poland Province (Capuchin Community Services Activities Director)

In residence at St. Francis Monastery in Milwaukee:

- Jibin James from Pavanatma Province in Kerala, India is completing an M.A. in Clinical Psychology at Cardinal Stritch University with Residence at St. Francis Monastery in Milwaukee. He hopes to begin a Ph.D. program in psychology this fall, after which he intends to remain in the province.

At Capuchin Retreat with residence at St. Crispin Friary in Washington MI:

- Biju Parakkalayil from the Krist Jyoti Province in India (Guardian & Capuchin Retreat staff person)
- (Antony) Julius Milton from the Amala Annai Province in Tamil Nadu, India (Assistant Director of Capuchin Retreat)

At the Solanus Casey Center with residence at St. Bonaventure Monastery in Detroit:

- George Kooran from the Pavanatma Province in Kerala, India (Solanus Casey Center (SCC) staff person, St. Bonaventure House Council, Solanus Guild Director, and Regional OFS Spiritual Assistant)
- Gebreyesus Amanuel Boyine from the Ethiopian Province (SCC staff person)
- (Roymond) Peter Chinnappan from the Amala Annai Province in Tamil Nadu, India (Assistant Director of the SCC)

In the Provincialate with residence at St. Bonaventure Monastery in Detroit:

- Joseph (Jose) Panakkalody Saviour from the Pavanatma Province in Kerala, India (Provincial Archivist with pastoral assistance in the SCC)

At the Capuchin Soup Kitchen with residence at St. Bonaventure Monastery in Detroit:

- Dijan Michael from the Pavanatma Province in Kerala, India (Capuchin Soup Kitchen staff person)

At St. Clare of Assisi Friary in Chicago

- Roach Gaspar of the Amala Annai Province in Tamil Nadu, India (Director of Ministry Formation and Postnovitiate Formation; Local Vicar of St. Clare Friary)
- Alwin Anthonysamy from the Amala Annai Province in Tamil Nadu, India, who will remain in St. Joseph Province after completing his M.Div. and M.A. in theology at Catholic Theological Union (CTU) with residence at St. Clare Friary in Chicago.
- Layola Keerthivasan from the Amala Annai Province in Tamil Nadu, India, who will remain in St. Joseph Province after completing his M.Div. at CTU with residence at St. Clare Friary in Chicago.
- Begashaw Tadesse Teklemariam from the Ethiopian Province who spent two years at the Capuchin Soup Kitchen and is now completing a D.Min. degree at CTU with residence at St. Clare Friary in Chicago. Begashaw will be discerning his future with both provincials in the months to come.

Since our last Provincial Chapter, the following collaborators arrived in our province:

- Alwin Anthonysamy from the Amala Annai Province in Tamil Nadu, India, who will remain in St. Joseph Province after completing his M.Div. and M.A. in theology at CTU

- Layola Keerthivasan from the Amala Annai Province in Tamil Nadu, India, who will remain in St. Joseph Province after completing his M.Div. and M.A. at CTU
- Raymond Mwakibinga from the Tanzanian Province who began his service at Capuchin Community Services with residence at St. Conrad Friary/St Francis Monastery in Milwaukee and later served in the Capuchin Soup Kitchen with residence at St. Bonaventure Monastery in Detroit.

Since our last Provincial Chapter, the following collaborators returned to their provinces:

- Biju Varghese Kochuniravath from Pavanatma Province in Kerala, India
- Madalai Muthu Savariappan from Amala Annai Province in Tamil Nadu, India
- Binoy Augustine Nedumpampil from Krist Jyoti Province in northern India
- Leo Amalanathan Vincent Antony Raj from the Amala Annai Province in Tamil Nadu India
- Raymond Mwakibinga from the Tanzanian Province.

As of this writing, up to three new collaborators are expected to arrive in the USA sometime during 2023. One from Tamil Nadu Province will begin an M.Div. degree at CTU. Another from Krist Jyoti Province will have an as-yet undetermined ministry in the province. The Tanzanian Province has expressed willingness to send another collaborator but asks that the newly elected provincial council make the final determination. If these plans materialize, the Calvary Province will have realized its frequently spoken goal of 18 collaborators. However, the Province will need to continue to accept new collaborators to sustain this level as current collaborators decide to return to their home provinces. While we might hope some collaborators spend a lifetime in the Calvary Province, we should expect others to want to return home just as our own missionaries in Central America, Guam, Arabia, Okinawa, and the Montana reservations did and still do.

The current collaborators are generating \$ 365,861.00 in annual income to the Province from their ministries, in the same manner that members of the Province do (Figures for three collaborators come from the next fiscal year budgets for the first time). The ministries also pay for their health insurance, as they do for provincial members. Four collaborating friars are in internal ministry for which no money is transferred to the Province. Collaborators' personal living expenses are paid by their local fraternity, as occurs for provincial members. Each collaborator receives a month-long vacation to their province-of-origin annually per the standard agreements

between their home provinces and the Calvary Province, which are approved by the General Minister. Local communities provide \$1,000 for these vacations, beyond airfare.

At the inception of Fraternal Collaboration of Personnel in our Province, the Provincial Minister and Council determined that it was appropriate for the Province's Mission Fund to finance the program. They recognized that collaborators are missionaries and, thus, appropriately are financed through the Mission Fund as our own missionaries have been. The actual expenses of the Collaboration Program for the 2021-2022 fiscal year were \$244,825.00. The largest portion of this amount is gifts to the collaborating provinces, much like our Mission Office traditionally made gifts to the Vice Province, now Custody, in Central America. Other expenses include legal fees, international background checks, accent modification and ESL programs, annual workshops for the collaborators, travel expenses of the collaborators and their provincials, and school-related expenses for guest friars not expected to stay in the province as collaborators. School expenses for guest friars expected to remain in the province as collaborators have been paid by our initial formation budget, like those for provincial members.

During the past year, the Provincial Minister and Council discussed our support of CTU beyond tuition payments. Our Province has frequently made capital commitments to CTU in the past, much of which was used as scholarships for lay students. In order that our collaborating provinces might benefit from these gifts, our Minister and Council decided to offer our capital support to CTU in the form of a scholarship to one friar from each of our collaborating provinces. The scholarship must be used at CTU for an M.A., or D.Min. degree. Each of our five collaborating provinces has identified a friar to benefit from these scholarships beginning the 2023-2024 academic year. Sr. Barbara Reid, O.P., President of CTU, has expressed enthusiasm for the creativity of this plan to support CTU and benefit members of our international order. Our trustee at CTU, Gary Wegner, has challenged other sponsoring congregations of CTU to consider similar schemes.

In light of these financial realities, the Provincial Minister and Council recently strove to stabilize funding mechanisms with this guideline. Collaborators working on their M.Div. toward perpetual profession and ordination with the intent to remain in the province for a time will have their school expenses paid by the Initial Formation Budget as provincial members do. Scholarship to CTU in lieu of the Province's typical capital gifts will be expensed to the Gifts and Grants line of the Provincial budget, from which the capital gifts to CTU typically came in the past. Other International friars who intend to remain in our Province for a time or are here by special arrangement will have the Collaboration Budget within the Mission Fund pay for their

educational expenses. The budgeted amounts for the coming fiscal year from all three sources total \$258,000.00.

During the past year, the Provincial Minister and Council reviewed the entire Collaboration Program. They affirmed the vast majority of the existing program. They called for a month-long orientation for each new collaborator at St. Bonaventure Monastery and its attendant ministries. During this month, a curriculum of helpful topics will be addressed. New student friars will be exempt from this orientation program in Detroit because of the orientation they receive through initial formation and, in the case of students outside of Chicago, their student visas do not allow an initial arrival with sufficient time before school begins. Guardians throughout the Province have done a marvelous job of aiding in the general and local orientation of collaborators. The orientation to ministry in a new culture is always challenging. Ministry Directors have gone out of their way to assist this process as they have been able. Orientation and adjustment are always an ongoing process. There is no silver bullet to accomplish it quickly. Everyone patiently makes progress.

The Fraternal Collaboration Office uses *Guidelines for the Reception of Ministers in the United States*, prepared by USCCB, to guide our own program. Designed primarily for diocesan priests who live alone and are typically more independent in ministry, the USCCB guidelines frequently are not applicable to our situation. The fact that Capuchin collaborators live in a community puts them in a situation not envisioned by the guidelines. That fact further highlights how important and successful local communities have been in welcoming collaborators and accompanying them in the acculturation process. Local ministers are especially important. Many initial acculturating tasks are best facilitated by the local community and ministry. A physically distant director of collaboration is limited in what he can do in this arena. We can celebrate the substantial success of local friars in these tasks.

With the end of COVID restrictions, The Office of Collaboration was finally able to offer the first of an annual workshop for collaborators. The first was on preaching within the American context. Prof. Richard Fragomeni of CTU and Michael Joseph Groark were the presenters. At the strong request of the collaborators themselves, the workshop to be held just before our chapter will discuss subcultures ministered to by the Province. It will look at Catholic ministry to African Americans, Native Americans, Vietnamese, and Spanish-speaking groups.

Anecdotally, many collaborators praise the spirit of fraternity, inclusion, and welcome they feel from our province. This is typically the case even when collaborators have been unhappy with administrative decisions of the Provincial Minister or Council. Collaborating friars who struggled with their adjustment to our culture typically say the fraternal concern of the friars, especially guardians, was impactful. When General Minister Roberto Genuin recently visited Detroit, he commented admiringly on the

fraternal spirit in the Province and the observable diversity among our provincial members and collaborators. The General's recent written response to Mark Joseph's triennial report echoes this same assessment.

Our Postnovice Jaico George represents the first new vocation to join the province specifically through the influence of a collaborator. Without Biju Parakkalayil and his family's connections to Jaico's family, our province would not have this precious vocation. Collaborators from India have brought new Indian groups to the Solanus Casey Center who previously did not frequent the center.

Ongoing challenges include:

Without any doubt, accent modification has been the most important challenge to collaborators, host ministries, and Capuchin communities. Considerable effort is put into accent modification for all our collaborators. Mr. Jeff Jenkins (Certified Compton PESL accent trainer and ESL teacher) had been screening all new collaborators for accent modification. During the past two years, we switched to a program operated by the Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology in Hales Corners, WI. A thirteen-week accent modification program has been the utilized standard. In the past, the majority of Metro-Detroit collaborators took advantage of an accent modification program offered by the English Language Institute of Wayne State University. John Scherer is considered invaluable by international students living in Chicago, much like Keith Clark and Campion Baer were at SLS before their deaths. Finally, collaborators take advantage of online accent modification programs. Members of local Capuchin communities and ministries are also challenged to understand English accents other than their own. With time and practice, they have grown in understanding other accents. Having said this, I have received fewer concerns about accents since the previous Provincial Chapter.

Expectations for future higher education have created tensions between several collaborators and our Province. The last three General Ministers have all expressed concern about this expectation. Certainly, the current and past Provincial Ministers and Councils have acknowledged the need for many collaborating provinces to access education around the world, including in our province. They have and do recognize that our province has the resources to provide some of the desired education. At the same time, the Calvary Province realizes access to education from the province cannot be an unregulated reality. For this reason, the Provincial Minister and Council have established what the province is willing to provide educationally and leave it to the collaborating Provincial Minister to choose the friars to benefit from that education.

The Province is already moving beyond the early requirements of accepting and orienting new collaborators. The Province is now entering a moment when collaborators are stepping into leadership positions alongside the members of the province. They already are guardians, local vicars, formators, vice-rectors, and assistant directors of ministries. We all will need to work together to provide leadership skills to collaborators as we do our members. In a way, the distinction between collaborators and members is beginning to blur.

Collaboration has slowed the Province's need to shed ministries. In fact, collaborators have made our ministries and communities Capuchin rich. These are important strategic goals. It remains to be seen if collaboration can help the province accomplish additional goals and line items in our Pastoral Plan.

Finally, fraternal collaboration is about relationships between and among provinces. These relationships might first appear to be the sharing of personnel in one direction and financial support in another. It is much more. Friars, including more than provincial ministers, visit each other's provinces. Retreat directors, preachers, and lecturers are desired more and more by our collaborating province. The expertise found in each province is shared. Of particular note is the establishment of the Solanus Casey Center in Villupuram, Tamil Nadu, India. I'm confident that would not have happened had we not been in collaboration. The benefits of collaboration are only limited by the boundaries of our imaginations.

Investment Commission

Patrick Byrne, Director

I am pleased to report on the activities of the Investment Commission over these past three years. The Commission takes great care in overseeing the Province's investments and understands the importance of being good stewards of the financial assets that have been entrusted to us.

The Investment Commission oversees six funds within the overall portfolio, each having somewhat different purposes and objectives. The investment policies are therefore unique to each fund as the investment horizons, cash needs and levels of acceptable risk differ between these funds, but they all are intended to maintain the purchasing power of the funds. The following is a description of each of the Province's investment funds along with the estimated value as of December 31, 2022:

- St. Joseph Fund - General fund providing supplemental income for the annual operating budget (\$36,514,687)
- Blessed Solanus Casey Fund - provides supplemental income to meet health care and retirement expenses of the Friars (\$58,728,654)
- Ven. Stephen Eckert Fund - Comprised of funds on deposit held for ministries (\$35,096,199)
- St. Conrad Fund - Annuities fund (\$3,064,231)
- St. Lawrence of Brindisi Fund - Provides scholarships and supplemental income to the Seminary (\$40,478,697)
- St. Anthony Fund - Provides operating support to the Capuchin Retreat Center and similar ministries (\$1,295,130)

The Province's overall portfolio is invested in a broad range of assets ranging from core fixed income investments (consisting of US Government bonds and corporate bonds) to private equity investments (comprised of investments in small to medium sized, closely held companies). By diversifying the Province's portfolio into a wide range of asset classes, the overall risk to the portfolio is substantially reduced. This diversification also provides more stable overall returns from the portfolio as different asset classes typically move in opposite directions depending on market conditions. By not keeping all of our eggs in one basket, the portfolio's returns are much more stable than when the assets are concentrated in only a few types of investments. The following table is an overall summary of the Province's asset allocation:

<i>Asset Class</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Asset Class</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Cash and cash equivalents	3.46%	Domestic Equities:	
Core fixed income investments	22.42%	Large-cap value equities	15.62%
Alternative Fixed Income	4.14%	Large-cap growth equities	13.92%
<i>Total fixed income investments</i>	30.02%	Small/Mid-cap equities	14.62%
International investments:			
Developed economies	14.76%		
Emerging markets	4.14%	Private equities	6.92%
<i>Total international investments</i>	18.90%	<i>Total domestic equities</i>	51.08%

The following table summarizes annualized investment returns for the Province's portfolio through December 31, 2022:

<i>Account</i>	<i>Annualized returns through December 31, 2016</i>				
	<i>Year ended 12/31/16</i>	<i>Last 3 years</i>	<i>Last 5 years</i>	<i>Last 10 years</i>	<i>Since Inception</i>
St. Conrad Fund	5.06%	2.40%	3.52%	3.88%	6.46%
St. Conrad Diversified Index	2.62%	1.87%	3.20%	3.45%	5.29%
St. Joseph Fund	6.77%	3.79%	8.37%	4.55%	7.29%
St. Joseph Fund Diversified Index	7.49%	3.56%	7.48%	7.48%	6.92%
Ven. Solanus Casey Fund	7.35%	3.59%	8.27%	4.68%	6.91%
Ven. Solanus Casey Fund Diversified Index	7.72%	3.79%	7.66%	4.70%	7.18%
St. Anthony Fund	7.08%	3.26%	8.10%	4.78%	5.64%
St. Anthony Fund Diversified Index	6.63%	3.79%	8.70%	5.23%	5.68%
Ven. Stephen Eckert Fund	7.64%	4.16%	8.58%	-	7.53%
Ven. Stephen Eckert Fund Diversified Index	6.63%	3.79%	8.70%	-	6.79%

St. Lawrence-Brindisi Fund	6.21%	3.73%	7.93%	4.70%	7.20%
St. Lawrence-Brindisi Fund Diversified Index	7.49%	3.60%	7.54%	4.64%	7.15%

	<i>Annualized returns through December 31, 2022</i>				
<i>Account</i>	<i>Year ended 12/31/22</i>	<i>Last 3 years</i>	<i>Last 5 years</i>	<i>Last 10 years</i>	<i>Since Inception</i>
St. Conrad Fund	-7.90%	1.60%	2.60%	3.10%	5.80%
St. Conrad Diversified Index	-7.50%	0.60%	2.00%	2.60%	6.70%
St. Joseph Fund	-15.00%	4.10%	6.10%	6.90%	8.00%
St. Joseph Fund Diversified Index	-14.90%	3.30%	4.30%	6.20%	7.40%
Ven. Solanus Casey Fund	-15.60%	4.00%	6.00%	7.00%	8.30%
Ven. Solanus Casey Fund Diversified Index	-15.90%	3.00%	4.20%	6.20%	7.50%
St. Anthony Fund	-16.10%	4.90%	6.50%	7.40%	8.60%
St. Anthony Fund Diversified Index	-15.90%	3.00%	4.20%	6.20%	7.50%
Ven. Stephen Eckert Fund	-15.80%	3.90%	5.50%	7.20%	7.20%
Ven. Stephen Eckert Fund Diversified Index	-15.90%	3.00%	4.20%	6.20%	6.40%
St. Lawrence-Brindisi Fund	-16.30%	4.10%	6.20%	6.70%	8.20%
St. Lawrence-Brindisi Fund Diversified Index	-14.90%	3.30%	4.30%	6.20%	7.40%

**The St. Conrad fund is an annuity fund and must comply with investment restrictions dictated by the State of Wisconsin. These restrictions require a different asset mix than the other funds often resulting in very different returns than the remainder of the portfolio.*

During 2022, the investment markets suffered a dramatic decline. This pullback in the markets followed two years of extremely strong returns during 2020 and 2021. The Province's total investment portfolio had an estimated value of \$175,100,000 as of December 31, 2022, an increase of over \$13 million since the last Triennial report. The COVID 19 epidemic instilled tremendous disruptions within our everyday lives and triggered seldom-seen uncertainty within financial markets. Extremely high inflation coupled with the instability caused in part by the war in Ukraine were key contributing factors in the dramatic declines in nearly all investment markets in 2022. Other than 2022, the Province's portfolio has enjoyed tremendous growth over the past six years. It is not unexpected that after such a long period of strong investment returns would be followed by a period of market underperformance. In light of this, the Investment Commission has reduced its market return expectations for the next five to ten years. The Commission members are all concerned about the short and mid-term returns of the Province's investment portfolio, but still consider that an annualized return **of a bit over 6%** is a reasonable estimate of long-term returns.

In late 2019, the Investment Commission was tasked with making recommendation of how to fund an anticipated \$15 million construction project at the St. Francis site in Milwaukee. The Commission was able to secure very favorable financing terms by leveraging its investment portfolio as collateral and securing very low interest rates for a six-year loan. During 2022, the Commission paid down \$3 million of this loan and currently has an outstanding balance of about \$11 million As of 12/31/2022.

Whenever possible, the portfolio is invested in consideration of the Province's socially responsible guidelines. Investment screens are in place and monitored on a regular basis in concert with other socially conscious investors. Over the past two years, the Investment Commission worked closely with the Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) Commission to incorporate the United

States Catholic Conference of Bishop's Socially Responsible Investment (SRI) Guidelines more fully into the Province's Investment Policy Statement and its investment practices. The Provincial Council adopted changes to the Provinces IPS and the Investment Commission is currently working to integrate these changes into its investment strategies.

The entire Investment Commission is most grateful to the Provincial Council for the opportunity to offer its advice and counsel to the Province. It is truly an honor to serve such an important mission.

Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation Commission

Michael Dorn and David Hirt, Co-directors

The role of the Justice Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) Office is to assist in the animation, formation and coordination of the friars in the Province of St. Joseph, work with the JPIC Office in Rome, the NAPCC JPIC Commission, community projects related to the Capuchins, and support individual friars who may have difficulties due to their involvement in JPIC issues. Continuing with the goals of the commission from the previous triennium, our areas of focus have been: immigration reform, care of creation, and economic justice.

During this past triennium, the makeup of the commission changed. Michael Dorn and David Hirt continued as co-chairs of the commission while Robert Wotypka continued as secretary, and John Celichowski and Truong Dinh continued as members. Fred Cabras left the commission to focus on his roles elsewhere. The commission gained, however, Peter Kafumu, a friar in fraternal collaboration from the province of Tanzania. All members have full time ministries that often take precedence over the work of the commission and struggle to find the time and energy to commit more personal reserves. The COVID 19 pandemic also made activities in the work of the commission more difficult and many of the commission members were holding pieces together elsewhere. The pandemic has had similar effects across the JPIC world, both secular and religious.

Robert Wotypka continues to serve as Corporate Responsibility Agent of the Province.

INFORM

The commission ended its regular mailings to the province because the statistics around such emails being read were significantly minimal. The commission acted on the assumption that friars engaging in the different actions pointed to by such a newsletter were getting their resources elsewhere and the commission was merely doubling up what was already being accessed.

INTEGRATE

The commission worked with Provincial Leadership to more fully integrate Socially Responsible Investing (SRI) into the provincial investment portfolios. This is an ongoing and developing endeavor. The provincial leadership, with the commission, also decided to enroll the province in the Laudato Si Action Platform (LSAP) and its 7-year commitment to inform and expand the provinces commitment to Care for Creation. The commission was also asked by Provincial Leadership to help find charities and ministries for provincial support under the leadership's push toward making "impact donations" rather than giving small gifts. Organizations that were so "impacted" were:

- Global Partners Running Waters (fresh water project in Guatemala)
- St. Bonaventure Third Order Fraternity (Detroit anti-racism project)
- Port Ministries (Chicago Secular Franciscan outreach to the poor of Back of the Yards)
- New Threads of Hope (Milwaukee--warehouse expansion)
- St. Rita of Cascia Citizenship Project (Chicago)

INSPIRE

A commission representative met with each region of the province to introduce the LSAP to provincial membership. Information from those discussions was gathered and collated and will be presented at this Chapter. David Hirt gave a post-novitiate seminar on JPIC/ Ecological conversion to the post-novices over New Year's 2022. The commission continues to bring in speakers at the postulancy level to inform and inform our newest members in the work of JPIC, with presenters such as Br. Anthony Zuba, OFM Cap (Saint Mary's Province and NAPCC JPIC Liaison to Rome), and Miss Anne Haines (Catholic Worker Movement). Br. Benedict Ayodi, OFM Cap will be presenting to them before Chapter as well.

WHERE COULD WE DO BETTER?

The COVID 19 Pandemic had a profound effect on the United States and on all of our ministries and endeavors throughout the province. Moving forward, the commission still seeks to find time and energy to fulfil its responsibilities while fully serving in their other capacities as well. Many of the members have felt at a loss during this time of instability but as things settle down and more help in our respective full-time ministries comes to be, we have hope for moving forward.

Human Resources & Provincial Ministries

Mr. Jeff Parrish, Director

The first part of this triennium, COVID significantly impacted usual ministry and office operations. As a result, new and creative modes of operation were developed and implemented. Through the governmental guidelines and mandates the ministries and offices were available to continue to assist those we serve.

Employee health benefits had significant changes and improvements during this triennium. The annual health benefit enrollment period (open enrollment) transitioned to a virtual and paperless process. Employees had little to no issues with this transition. There have also been improvements made to the benefit package provided to employees. These improvements include an increase in dental coverage, the addition of orthodontia coverage and the addition of vision coverage. The health benefits plan was improved to included coverage for legally domiciled adults.

Employee job descriptions and the corresponding performance evaluation forms have been updated in most ministries and offices.

The employee handbook revision project was paused for a period of time while we navigated through COVID. At this time, the employee handbook team has nearly completed their work. The next steps are a legal review of the handbook to ensure compliance in each of the states where the province has employees. Once the legal review has been completed, the handbook will be reviewed with the Provincial Minister and the Provincial Council for final approval and distribution to employees.

Post pandemic, POSJ experienced a new problem similar to other employers. Open positions with few or no applicants. Several times during this triennium we had 30 + open positions in the province. As a result, recruitment accounted for a significant amount of Human Resources time to fill these positions. At last count, POSJ had 12 open positions so this situation appears to be improving. In an effort to recruit more candidates for open, entry level positions and to ensure POSJ was providing a fair living wage to current employees, the starting or living wage for employees was increased to \$15 per hour. Current employees impacted by this change also received a wage adjustment reflective of their work performance and seniority.

During this triennium, the province has seen new ministry directors at the Solanus Casey Center, Capuchin Retreat, Capuchin Community Services, Capuchin Soup Kitchen and a new Director, Volunteer Services. As positions in ministries became available there has been a concerted effort to assign qualified friars to these available positions.

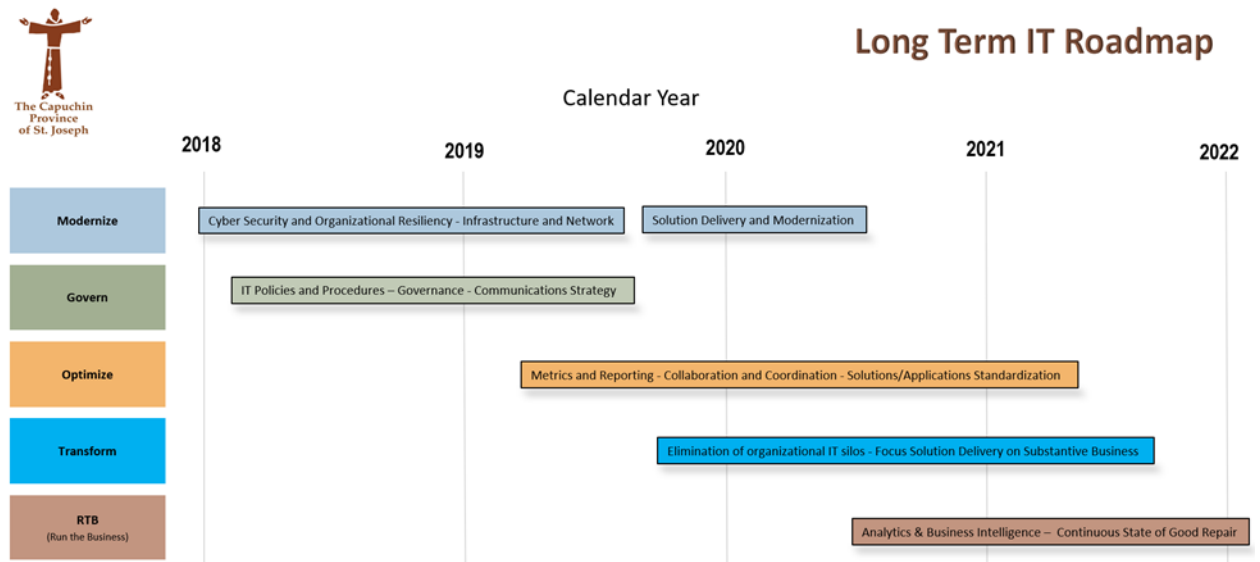
The province and ministries are supported by many dedicated volunteers who are involved in day to day and special event activities. The process to become a volunteer has been formalized and streamlined throughout the province. We are better able to match volunteers interests and gifts with ministry needs. With these upgrades we can more easily ensure we have the appropriate documentation and training records for volunteers, especially those who work with minors and vulnerable adults.

It is with a grateful heart, I submit my final triennial report. It has been an honor to work with and to partner with so many of you over these 20+ years. It doesn't seem so long ago when Perry McDonald was Provincial Vicar and stood in the doorway of the office and told me to "go do whatever it is you HR people do!" I have grown personally and professionally and have been blessed beyond measure by this opportunity. Thank you.

Information Technology

Mr. John Parker, Director of IT

In 2018 the Office of IT submitted a 5-year plan with goals for updating and modernizing the Province's IT infrastructure in five categories -



During this triennium, the final categories of this 5-year plan were completed (although run the business is never completed, as this is a “continuous” state of maintaining good repair).

- **Optimize**

- **Metrics & Reporting:** IT now has the capability of providing metrics/reports in a number of areas. Examples include: number of requests to the IT help desk, which technician worked on it, number of calls and average wait time to the Services Center call queue, amount of spam received/filtered to our email domains, MS Teams user activity.
- **Solutions/Applications Standardization:** Software has been standardized across the Province, such as MS Teams for video conferencing & chat – now including our video conference rooms, Yammer for Archives and Chronicles, FortiClient for VPN software.

- **Transform**

- **Elimination of organizational silos:** This area has been the most substantive in improving supportability, flexibility and ease of use of Province IT resources. Users previously had several separate login credentials to memorize. In 2022, we completed the elimination of virtual silos with two large changes: We merged the CSK and POSJ network domains into one. We also merged the now joined single network with Office 365. Now, whether you are logging in to a computer from a CSK or a POSJ location* - or even your email from offsite – your

user ID and password are one and the same. As of this writing (2/23), we are at the finishing stages of a phone replacement at CCS and St. Francis, which will be connected with the phones at the Michigan locations. This will enable 4-digit extension dialing between all CSK, CCS, Capuchin Retreat, St. Francis and SCC locations. **Excluding SLS, Montana, and some friaries.*

- We have implemented an online employee directory, with contact information for all ministries within the Province.
- **RTB**
 - **Analytics:** IT now has the capability to gather analytics for all systems within our network, from server uptime to temperatures of the CSK refrigerators and freezers.
 - **Continuous state of good repair:** During the course of implementing the IT 5-year plan – wrapping up with the phone upgrade at CCS/St. Francis in Feb. 2023 – all IT infrastructure has been upgraded. In 2022, the network at St. Fidelis was upgraded with new network cabling, switches, security cameras, and 10 additional Wi-Fi access points. During this triennial we also added new network cabling, switches, security cameras and 15 additional Wi-Fi access points at Capuchin Retreat. Other locations were completed during the previous triennial. At this point POSJ has a modern, stable and secure digital network in place to support the data, voice and video needs of staff and friars.

Liturgical Commission

Michael Bertram, Coordinator

The Commission consists of

Michael Bertram [chair]	Bill Cieslak
Brenton Ertel	Steve Kropp [liaison to the PC],
Tom Nguyen	Truyen Nguyen
Erico Ortiz in Milwaukee	Norbert Zwickl in Phoenix

Members continue to be generous in lending their talents to the organization of provincial celebrations throughout the year. The Commission's budget has diminished greatly, as meetings are conducted virtually. It has worked to the great comfort and availability of members. Practically the only time that the Commission meets in person is during Chapter. The members demonstrate good camaraderie and working relationships one with another, especially in the planning and execution of provincial celebrations.

Truyen Nguyen and Nathan Linton have accepted the responsibility of organizing provincial funerals, and I believe that I express the gratitude of the province to them in particular for this service to the brothers. Especially for provincial funerals, the Commission is grateful to local ministers at St. Fidelis, St. Lawrence and St. Bonaventure for their assistance and cooperation.

The province has been blessed with musical talent, and the Commission is grateful to friars and individuals who selflessly offer their musical skills for the prayerfulness of the province's liturgies. I take a moment to recognize the contributions of Ken Smits who died earlier this year and who served for many years on this Commission. He and others were prophets and champions of the good prayer that we enjoy today.

Pastoral Care and Conciliation

Ms. Amy Peterson, Director

The director in the Office of Pastoral Care and Conciliation's (OPCC) primary role is to work with the provincial administration to maintain a safe environment throughout the provincial ministries. This was done in collaboration with the provincial minister, the Provincial Council, the province's attorney and other provincial staff. This work was guided by best practices in the area of sexual abuse prevention and response.

In the area of prevention, the director:

- Coordinated initial and ongoing training programs for friars, including fraternal collaboration.
- Facilitated the review and revision of sexual misconduct policies and procedures.
- Worked with the Office of Behavioral Health and the Wellness Director to enhance and support a holistic approach to health and wellness.
- Worked with other professionals to develop a Safe Environment Program that is tailored to the Province of St. Joseph as well as coordinating an external review of the program.

In the area of response, the director:

- Responded to four allegations.
- Worked with the Province's attorney to respond to ongoing litigation in New York.
- Continued oversight of the Provincial Review Board. The board continued its review of all allegations of sexual misconduct and the annual review supervision and support plans for friars who have substantiated allegations of sexual abuse of minors.
- Ongoing management of the supervision and support of friars under supervision and support program.

Preaching and Evangelization Commission

Michael Joseph Groark, Director

In the last 3 years, our P&E office was transitioned from an office into a commission. We have been invited to reimagine how this commission can best serve the province at large, with a focus on collaboration with all of our ministries.

During this triennium, we reorganized the members of the commission and said goodbye to several brothers who were instrumental for many years in keeping our Capuchin preaching charism alive. We are grateful for their service and inspiration. We welcomed a number of younger friars who are emerging preachers and evangelizers, and we also invited a laywoman and a diocesan priest to serve as external consultants. As part of our reorganizing, we made sure to include brothers who serve across the province to aid in our collaboration efforts.

We are still receiving requests for parish missions, days of recollection, and retreats, however, these requests are becoming significantly less regular. During the pandemic, the friars became very adept at utilizing Zoom for conducting preaching events. Last summer, we also conducted a 3-day workshop on liturgical preaching in the US context for our brothers who are here as part of our collaboration program.

As we move forward, we will serve the province as a resource for collaboration amongst our various ministry sites. We look forward to working especially close with Capuchin Retreat to be a place where preachers can develop their skills and minister to God's people. We also want to ensure that we are helping to develop strategies to make sure that preaching skills are developed, nourished, and practiced in every stage of initial formation, realizing that this charism belongs to every brother.

Future hopes and directions:

- Continue to provide preaching formation and opportunities for younger friars.
- Collaborate with various Capuchin ministries for preaching events (Capuchin Retreat, St. Francis in Milwaukee, St. Lawrence, St. Bonaventure).
- Develop events for provincial employees and volunteers (days of reflection).
- Consider possibilities for provincial retreats.
- Continue to develop workshops for the ongoing formation of Capuchin preachers.

Provincial Review Board

Ms. Amy Peterson

The director in the Office of Pastoral Care and Conciliation (OPCC) coordinates the Provincial Review Board in compliance with the mandates and guidance of the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* (“the *Charter*”) and the *Essential Norms for Diocesan/Eparchial Policies Dealing with Allegations of Sexual Abuse of Minors by Priests or Deacons* (“the *Essential Norms*”).

The Provincial Minister appoints members to the Board. The appointments are for a three-year term which can be extended.

The role of the Provincial Review Board:

- a. Relying on their experience and professional competence and the evidence presented, to determine the semblance of truth of the allegations and provide recommendations to the Provincial Minister in his assessment of allegations of sexual abuse of minors and vulnerable adults by friars. It is important to note that the role of the Provincial Review Board is not investigatory; rather, the board evaluates evidence presented by the (duly appointed) investigator and offers advice to the Provincial Minister.
- b. To advise the Provincial Minister in his determination of suitability for ministry of friars accused of sexual abuse of minors and vulnerable adults.
- c. To review provincial policies on sexual abuse of minors and vulnerable adults.
- d. To advise Provincial Minister as requested, on all aspects of these cases, whether retrospectively or prospectively.
- e. To regularly review the Supervision and Support Plans (SSP’s) of friars who have been removed from public ministry because of established allegations of sexual abuse.

THE ROSTER OF THE BOARD

(Ms.) Amy Peterson, director, non-voting member

(Ms.) Maryann Clesceri, Executive Director of the Healing Center

(Ms.) Kathy Coffee-Guenther, Psychologist and Associate vice president for the Office of Mission and Ministry at Marquette University

(Ms.) Diane Knight, Former member of the National Review Board for the USCCB Office of Child Protection

(Mr. Joseph Becker), Former teacher and school administrator in MPS

(Mr.) Jim Reynolds, Forensic Psychologist

(Rev) Mark Payne, Canon Lawyer and Pastor at Blessed Sacrament Parish

(Dr.) Dale Bispalec, Psychologist

Public Relations

(Mr.) Tim Hinkle, Director

The PR Office of the Province of St. Joseph is made up of a PR Director, a Communications Manager and a Digital Content Specialist serving the province and its ministries.

The major areas of responsibility for the PR Office include media and public relations, marketing, crisis communications, social media, video productions and livestreaming. We work closely with the Offices of Communications, Development and Vocations in addition to serving the needs of major ministries and the Provincialate.

Major activities of the PR Office during the 2020-2023 triennium include:

- **COVID-19 Crisis Communication**

- Part of the Crisis Communication Team that met at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Developed rapid-response, real-time approaches for ministries to communicate drastic changes unfolding during the chaotic spring of 2020. Fielded simultaneous media inquiries from local, national and international press during March and April 2020.

- **Website Redesigns**

- Launched a new website for Capuchin Retreat in September 2020 and the Solanus Casey Center in February 2023.

- **Livestreams**

- Built livestream infrastructure at St. Bonaventure and began six-day-per-week livestream schedule for the duration of the pandemic, with peak online Mass viewership numbering in the thousands during Holy Week 2020.
- Acquired technology and developed in-house expertise to run remote livestreams in the field.
 - This allowed for us to continue to put friars on live TV during a time when TV station studios were off-limits and field crew would not visit POSJ sites.
 - This also allowed for livestreams of events during the pandemic, such as:
 - Motown Review live raffle
 - AHEE Souper Summer 2020 and 2021 live raffle

- Consulted with staff and friars at POSJ ministries and sites to develop livestream technologies and approaches at St. Francis of Assisi, Capuchin Retreat and St. Lawrence Seminary.
- **Ongoing media relations**
 - Developing relationships with journalists and securing placements of positive media stories, including placements in:
 - *Detroit Free Press*
 - *Detroit News*
 - *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*
 - *Detroit Catholic*
 - *Milwaukee Catholic Herald*
 - WDIV-TV (NBC)
 - WTMJ-TV (NBC)
 - *National Catholic Register*
 - Catholic News Agency
 - *Crain's Detroit Business*
 - *Hour Detroit*
 - *Milwaukee Biz Times*
 - *Bridge Michigan*
 - *U.S. Catholic*
 - *Milwaukee Neighborhood News Service*
 - *Urban Milwaukee*
 - Fox 6 Milwaukee
 - Fox 2 Detroit
 - *Detroit Public Television*
- **Ongoing social media management and content creation**

- The PR Office manages the social media presence of the Province and ministries, with close to two dozen social media accounts including Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, LinkedIn and Instagram, for:
 - Province
 - Blessed Solanus Casey
 - Capuchin Community Services
 - Capuchin Soup Kitchen
 - Capuchin Retreat
- Provincial and ministry social media accounts currently have nearly 105,000 total followers as of March 1, 2023.
- The PR Office also provides social media support for other offices and programs such as Tap into Life, Earthworks and the POSJ Office of Vocations.
- Over the trailing 12-month period ending February 28, 2023, there were over 5 million content impressions on Capuchin social media accounts and more than 600,000 likes, shares and comments.
- **Photography**
 - The PR Office has increased its capabilities this triennium with respect to in-house photography, video and livestreaming of celebrations, liturgies and events. Examples include:
 - Photography of jubilee celebrations, ordinations, vows and the Novena/Feast of Blessed Solanus Casey. Photographs are shared on social media, in print/electronic newsletters, websites and shared with external media such as *Milwaukee Catholic Herald*, *Detroit Catholic* as well as secular and other media. In-house photos taken by the PR Office staff have been printed in external media outlets including *Crain's Detroit Business* and others.
 - Livestreaming of provincial celebrations, friar funerals, etc.
 - Short video interviews, lectures and other content on an ad-hoc basis.
- **Graphic Design**
 - The PR Office produces brochures, business cards, flyers, banners, social media graphics and other designs to meet the needs of the province and

ministries. During this triennium, new roll-up banners were produced for the annual Capuchin Soup Kitchen SOCK Dinner, as well as new Capuchin Soup Kitchen ministry five-fold brochure and other items.

- **Relaunch of Sandal Prints**

- The PR Office relaunched *Sandal Prints* in 2022 in a tri-annual 16-page, full color magazine format sent to tens of thousands of households with an accompanying website at *sandalprints.online*. The publication has been well-received by subscribers.

- **E-mail newsletters and communications**

- The PR Office manages lists for the province and ministries and develops and distributes regular e-mail blasts and newsletters.

Solanus Casey Center

Steven Kropp, Director

Roymond Peter Chinnappan, Assistant Director

As with almost every aspect of our life and ministry, these past three years have been incredible for the Solanus Casey Center. We would like to start with some simple statistics to give you a sense of where we have been and where we are going: The number of visitors to the Solanus Casey Center went from an all-time high of 141,294 in 2019... to about half that number (73,610) in 2020 and has risen slowly but surely to 98,070 in 2021 and 112,338 in 2022.

What is most incredible about these numbers is that in 2020 the brothers and staff of the Center banded together to find creative and safe ways to continue to minister to almost 75,000 people IN PERSON in the midst of a pandemic (including over 18,000 confessions in that year). They were also able to create ways for those who were unable or unwilling to come to the Center to engage with us electronically. Mass from the chapel was livestreamed six days a week, as well as the Wednesday Blessing of the Sick and even some quiet times when one could pray as though you were at the tomb, while viewing it on our websites and social media pages.

In the following years we celebrated the Sacrament of Penance with 24,147 penitents in 2021 and 25,344 in 2022. Many times, especially during the seasons of Advent and Lent, there are 2 or 3 friar-confessors available in the reconciliation chapel. We are available for the Sacrament of Penance six days a week (Monday through Saturday) continuously from 9:30am to 4:00pm. We also have a brother available at the reception desk during those same hours to greet guests/pilgrims, give a blessing, etc... In addition, we have public Mass in the Chapel daily, the Blessing of the Sick each Wednesday and Sunday afternoon, and adoration throughout the day on the First Friday of the Month.

This triennium has brought many new things to the Solanus Casey Center. As part of the ongoing (and, now, almost completed) projects funded by the A.A. Van Elslander Foundation, as well as the generosity of our other donors, several key projects have come to completion, and we expect the rest of them to be completed within several months from now. Among these additions/renovations we have:

1. A new reconciliation chapel with four private rooms for the Sacrament of Penance and counseling
2. A new conference room on the main floor with seating for up to 14 people and video conferencing capabilities
3. A new and greatly expanded reception desk and new administrative offices

4. An entirely new building to house the Gift Shop and the On the Rise Café (which relocated from its former site on Gratiot Avenue)
5. New garden spaces and outdoor dining area, which are yet to be completed but well underway in their design and construction. These will include: a “votive wall” with images of the Holy Family and 27 saints, Stations of the Cross and Rosary gardens

We were blessed to have Archbishop Vigneron join us on December 3 to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the dedication of the Solanus Center (December 2, 2002) and to bless our new renovations and additions. He was joined by about 200 brothers, donors, members of the Van Elslander family and our architectural and construction team. It was a most blessed day!

Thanks to the brothers and staff of the Solanus Center, and a partnership with Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan we have been able to expand our ability to offer spiritual direction and professional counseling. We now have a total of four members of the staff who offer these services, free of charge, to our guests/pilgrims.

This past year, with a new leadership team at Capuchin Retreat, we have been trying to actively pursue ventures of collaboration between our two ministries. To this end we have worked on promoting our ministries jointly as part of our provincial evangelical outreach. We have one employee of the Solanus Center who spends part of her time working with Capuchin Retreat. We have each had (or have scheduled) a staff reflection day at each other’s sites. We look forward to finding more ways to collaborate in order to better minister to those who come to us.

We are continually grateful for our modestly sized, dedicated staff. We have six full-time and three part-time lay employees who minister in administration, front desk, the Father Solanus Guild and the gift shop. In addition, we have seven friars, including myself, assigned to this ministry. Plus, the staff of On the Rise Café have been a most welcome addition to the ministry here! Add to that our contracted services- security guards, landscaping and cleaning crew- and all together we are able to maintain a beautiful, welcoming and sacred place for body, mind and soul to be nourished! It feels as though we should single some of these fine people out, but would have to name each one and extol the many ways in which she/he has had great affect here. Nevertheless, David Preuss, who served as director through part of the current triennium and all of the previous one, deserves particular recognition. He shepherded this ministry through some glorious and some difficult times and he continues to serve with untiring devotion. For his leadership, example and continued presence we are most grateful.

The work of the Father Solanus Guild continues to be vital for the ministry of the Solanus Center and the promotion of the Cause. We are seeking creative ways to

increase membership in the Guild and to expand the outreach of the Guild to its members and others. We are promoting and actively encouraging Guild membership with our tour groups. There is a monthly newsletter from the Guild with reflections on the life and legacy of Blessed Solanus, and several other projects are underway to increase knowledge of his life and example. We will want to consider ways to keep these supporters and friends actively involved even after the canonization, which we pray will be soon!

Recently, we have decided to promote Blessed Solanus as the Servant of the Sick and the Poor, those he willingly admitted were closest to his heart. We are blessed to walk daily with those whose illness and poverty includes the physical at times but often encompasses and sometimes overwhelms the whole person. Through the intercession of Blessed Solanus and the ministry of this most special place so very many of them find comfort, peace and healing. The Brothers personally read and count each of the over 700,000 prayer requests we got this past year alone. The is truly a powerhouse of prayer.

We have completed many projects in this triennium to enhance the guest/pilgrim experience of the Solanus Casey Center, and we have several more planned for the year(s) to come. The incredible generosity of our benefactors has allowed us to do so much more than we might ever have hoped for. While the maintenance and enhancement of our buildings is a high priority, promoting the life, example and powerful intercession of Blessed Solanus must always be at the forefront of what we do here. Having a beautiful Center to minister from certainly will help us in that regard, but we must always be seeking new ways, new places and new opportunities to spread the word about this humble, compassionate servant of the sick and the poor.

Blessed Solanus Casey, pray for us!

St. Benedict the Moor

Michael Bertram, Pastor

St. Benedict the Moor Parish is small and growing steadily older. But the bonds of friendship and community are very strong. The community is small; the singular 10:30 Sunday Mass may have 60 people present with others participating via Zoom due to health and transportation concerns. Still, the connectedness is very important to parishioners.

The community continues to demonstrate a strong devotion to social justice causes and serving the poor. Parishioners are members of such organizations as MICAH [Milwaukee Inner-City Congregations Allied for Hope] and Common Ground. Additionally, parishioners are involved in organizations such as The Benedict Center, Pax Christi, Casa Maria Catholic Worker House, Voces de la Frontera, and more. Men's and Women's Groups are active in the parish and were so during the pandemic, meeting virtually when not able to in person. At the height of the pandemic, a great number of parishioners would meet virtually on Thursday evenings for discussions on the Scriptures and select topics.

I am personally grateful to Jerome Schroeder, a former pastor of St. Benedict, who has been generous and gracious in celebrating Sunday Mass. Both St. Benedict and St. Francis have a 10:30 Sunday Mass, the latter in Spanish. As it is difficult to find a Spanish-speaking helpout priest, Jerome has been very generous in his Sunday service to St. Benedict which frees me up for the Spanish Mass at St. Francis 3 out of 4 Sundays each month.

St. Francis of Assisi Parish

Michael Bertram, Pastor

St. Francis Parish continues to grow in number. Presently, there are approximately 660 households yielding a total of 1,300 members. This is partly due to new members from the neighborhood who are disillusioned with their own parishes. The OCIA Program [formerly RCIA] flourishes; 12-15 people receive sacraments at the Easter Vigil each year, bringing more and more people into the parish. But more significant is the desire of Catholics to find a service-oriented parish that demonstrates concern and care for the poor and needy.

Along those lines, the parish collaborates closely with the St. Ben Ministries and the House of Peace. [When Rob Roemer was Ministry Director of Capuchin Community Services, he would remark that St. Francis contributes more heavily than many wealthier suburban parishes.] Additionally, there is a 2nd Sunday collection on the first Sunday of the month that sends money to charitable causes, such as Street Angels, St. Vincent de Paul, and emergency needs like the earthquakes in Puerto Rico. Consequently, people are willing to drive great distances to attend Sunday Masses or to participate in parish life/activities as they are happy to have found a parish that answers their spiritual needs.

St. Francis is a diverse, inclusive community. The membership is approximately 50% white, 30% African American, and 20% Latino. For special liturgies throughout the year, the parish celebrates a bilingual Community Mass. The Puerto Rican community is diminishing as members die or move to warmer climates; it is also due to an assimilation with American culture that largely does not attend Mass. Mexican families have joined in sufficient numbers as to presently celebrate the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Culture is celebrated and shared with all in other such celebrations, such as San Juan Bautista and Black History Month. As a further sign of its inclusivity, St. Francis is known as a home where LGBTQ individuals and couples are welcome. See the article in The Shepherd Express, a local Milwaukee newspaper: <https://shepherdexpress.com/lgbtq/like-that/led-by-faith-coming-out-in-the-catholic-church/>

John Gurda, noted Milwaukee historian, has stated, "The best-kept secret in the city of Milwaukee is the 8:30 Mass at St. Francis." The Gospel choir adds great spirit to this Mass. Coupled with a genuine welcome to visitors and the warmth of the community, this Sunday Mass has drawn new members to St. Francis. The Sunday 6:15 evening Mass is also a draw for young adult Catholics. St. Francis has developed a reputation for serving young adults especially at the time of a wedding; this has wedded [pardon the pun] many young adults to St. Francis. The Sunday evening Mass is now the second most populated Mass on a weekend. Here, too, young adults forge

relationships and community one with another, especially as they grown into young parents.

The finances of the parish are very good. Annual budgets are consistently balanced [not the case prior to 2004] and the parish assumes responsibility for physical property and building improvement, saving the province additional expense [as the parish is the legal property of the Capuchin Order]. The Golf Outing, now in its 11th year, has made this possible, accruing income in excess of \$125,000 annually – income devoted to property repairs/projects and scholarship money for post-high school students. The parish conducted a Capital Campaign to pay for its part of the new St. Francis Center; its goal of \$1.5 million was met, largely due to outside supporters and benefactors who provided 47% of the target – a sign of the support that the parish enjoys in the wider Milwaukee community.

The parish is blessed with the ministry of Javier Rodriguez, an actual member of St. Francis Parish prior to his entrance to the Capuchin Order. He has embraced all people and demonstrated great service, meriting him the love of all in the parish. Kenny Howard, a member of St. Francis Parish and Site Manager of the St. Ben's Ministries, is finishing his first year of studies in the archdiocesan permanent diaconate program; he is the first African American candidate in the program in over 30 years. Together, Javier and Kenny present a picture of our changing Church, and they give great excitement for the future of St. Francis Parish and of our Capuchin Order.

St. Lawrence Seminary

Zoilo Garibay, Rector

Overview

St. Lawrence Seminary (SLS) marches on in a post-pandemic environment and remains true to its mission of providing “a residential college preparatory education in a living Catholic community nurturing mature, well-rounded man of faith, who prepare for a life of ministry as priest, religious, and lay leaders in the Church and world.” Since 2020, SLS opened for in-person classroom instruction, gradually moving over time towards a pre-pandemic mode as the situation allowed. In the 2022 academic year, SLS is back in full force. Efforts continue to accomplish the goals of the strategic plan that commenced in 2018, with 64% of the objectives already completed, 25% still in progress, and 16% yet to be initiated. Enrollment remains a major challenge. However, we are moving forward boldly and confidently in carrying on our mission, implementing our programs and making them attractive to prospective students, redoubling our recruitment efforts and making a strong case for the unique and highly rewarding programs that SLS offers.

Support for the mission of SLS from benefactors remains high, as is the satisfaction among the parents. Overall, student and staff morale is also high. Programs are enhanced to facilitate even greater satisfaction, engagement, and retention. It is my hope that our endeavors during this triennium and henceforth will continue to bear fruit, and make SLS a more viable enterprise for many more years to come.

Residential Life

SLS is committed to maintaining diversity and exposing students to different cultures. Through it, students learn the importance of tolerance, respect, and appreciation for each other’s uniqueness. Roughly thirty-percent of the students come from overseas while the greater majority are domestic. German and Spanish language and cultural exchange programs in partnership with Collegium Johanneum in Ostbevern, Germany, and Colegio Santa Ana in Lima, Peru, resume this year since the pandemic.

Academics

SLS received full accreditation by Cognia in November 2020, with an Index of Education Quality score of 299.50 (indicative of reaching impact level, and engagement in sustainable practices ingrained in the institution’s culture). Classroom instructions engage and motivate students, and address affective dimensions of student learning, their diverse needs and capabilities. Students utilize digital resources to communicate and collaborate to support individual learning and contribute to the learning of others. Members of the faculty demonstrate and continuously improve knowledge and skills necessary for effective instruction.

Spiritual Life

Programs in this domain are essential to the formation of lifelong disciples of Christ and remain a vital component of the school's mission, setting SLS apart from other Catholic high schools in the region and across the nation. Students receive religious education across all grade levels. Students participate in spiritual direction, annual retreats, confirmation preparation classes, communal prayer, and celebrations of the Sacraments (Reconciliation and Eucharist).

Co-curricular

SLS continues to offer curriculum reinforcing and supplementing opportunities outside the classroom that complement learning of some form:

- Athletics: Cross Country, Soccer, Basketball, Wrestling, Baseball, Tennis, Track & Field, Golf (new in 2022)
- Clubs: Cooking, International, Math, Reading · Esports ·
- Literary: Student Publications (Hilltopics, Inklings, Laurentian) · Music and Speech: Band, Choir, Forensics, Solo & Ensemble ·
- Leadership: National Honor Society, Student Government

Ministry

Humble Commitment (serving by sacrificing for others) is a school value. SLS provides invaluable off-campus ministry opportunities for students to care for others in need and grow to become servant-leaders:

- ACTS Housing Rehab
- Angel Tree Prison Fellowship
- Broken Bread Food Pantry
- Divine Savior Catholic School Apple Pie Making
- Sleep in Heavenly Peace · Special Olympics
- SSM Hospice Home of Hope
- St. Francis Home
- St. Peter Claver Fish Fry

Staffing

The hardworking and dedicated staff of SLS are the backbones of this time-honored institution. A total of 7 friars minister full-time (including 2 in ministry-formation and 2 from fraternal collaboration). 2 friars function in administrative roles. Retired friars assist in confessions and spiritual direction. 72 lay employees work in fulltime or parttime capacity. SLS has not encountered teacher shortage before or since the pandemic. An additional Admissions Coordinator, School Nurse, and Guidance Counselor were hired to reinforce the Admissions, Student Health, and Guidance departments.

New Initiatives

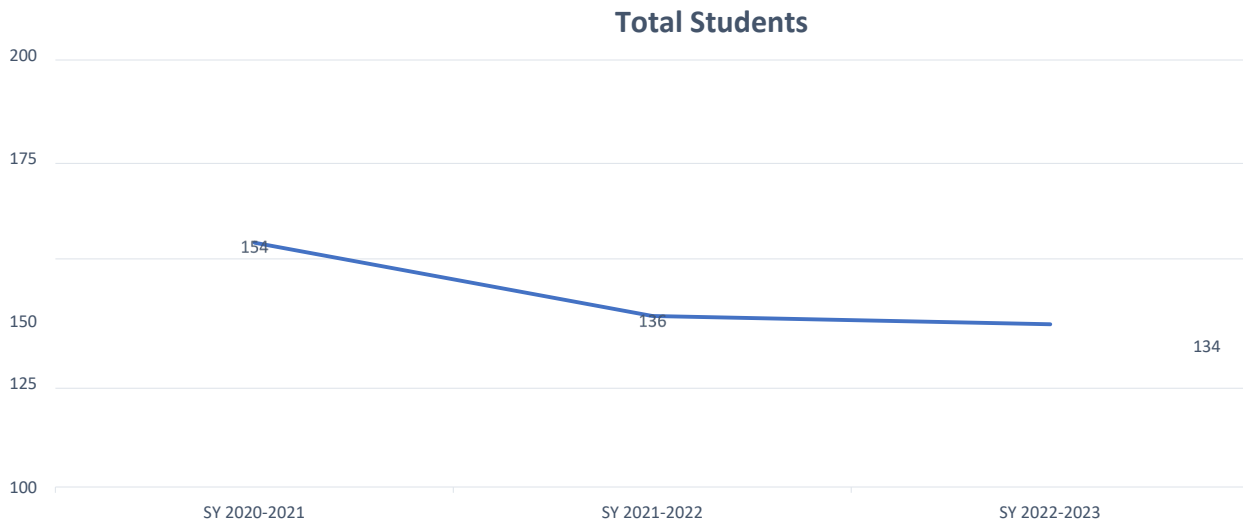
Appointment of a Vice-Rector (Peter Kafumu, OFM Cap.) and Dean of Studies (Katie Daane). Search for the Director of Institutional Advancement is progressing. A new organizational chart was created to facilitate a more comprehensive model for the Department of Institutional Advancement. A new food service provider (Flik) was hired. A delegation of students and staff will be sent for the first time to World Youth Day '23 in Lisbon, Portugal in July.

Challenges

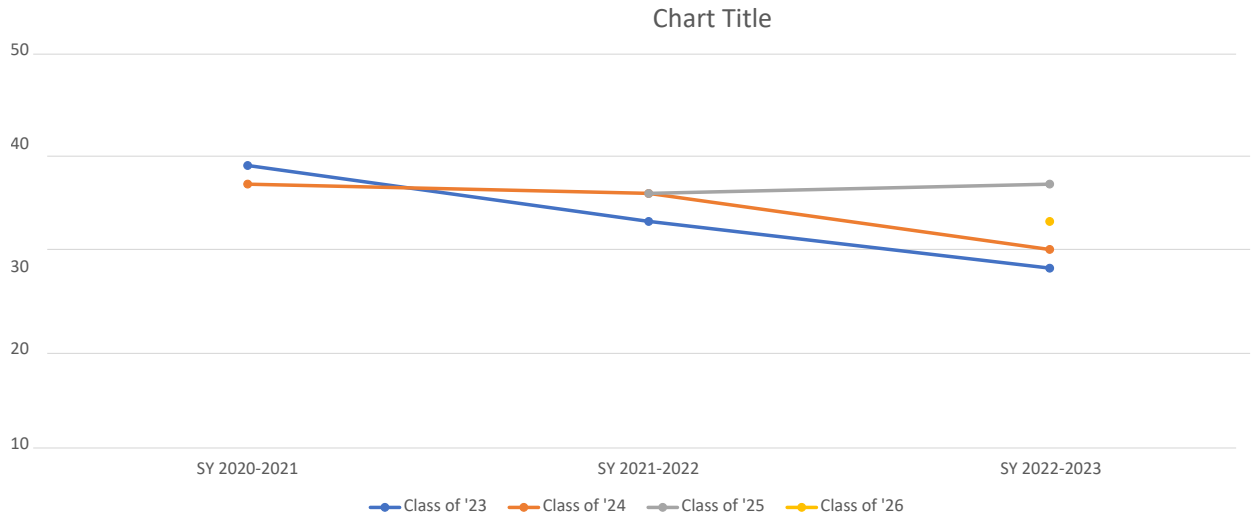
Low enrollment continues to be a challenge. This is not unique to SLS as a number of Catholic schools in the Archdiocese, across the Midwest, and parts of the country also face the same challenge. Recruitment efforts, domestically and internationally aimed at bringing in new students and creating a pipeline of future students, are strengthened and increased to reverse the declining trend. SLS will remain a school where no deserving young man is rejected due to financial constraints. We are firmly committed to that principle.

Student Demographics

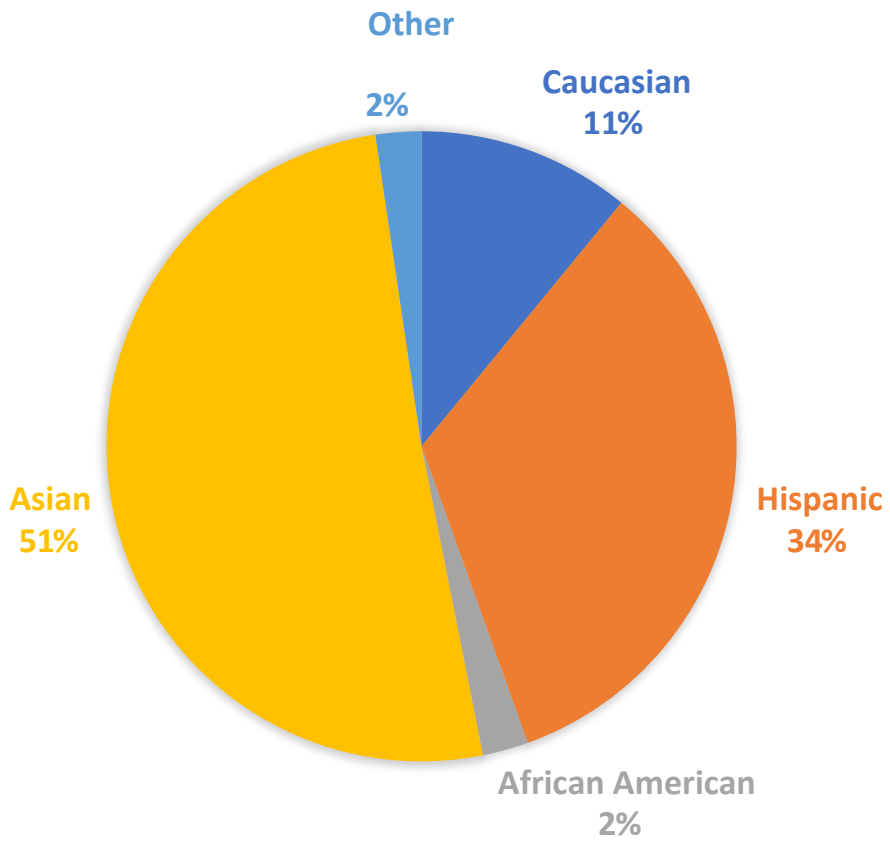
Student Enrollment



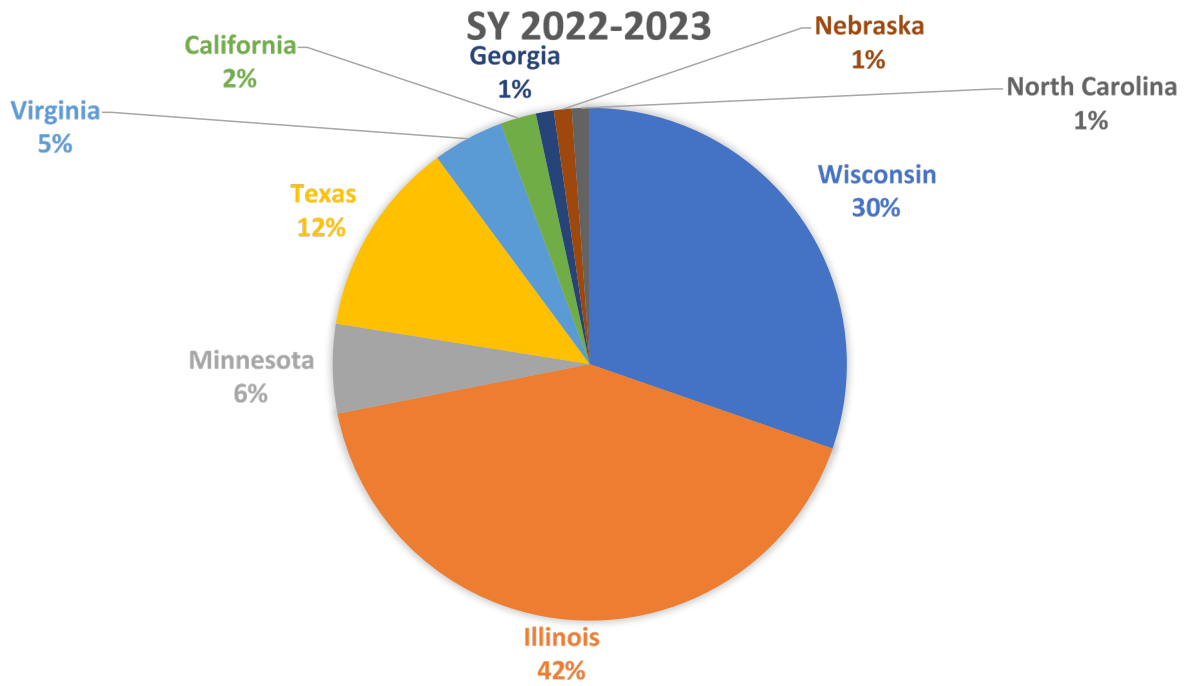
Class Trend



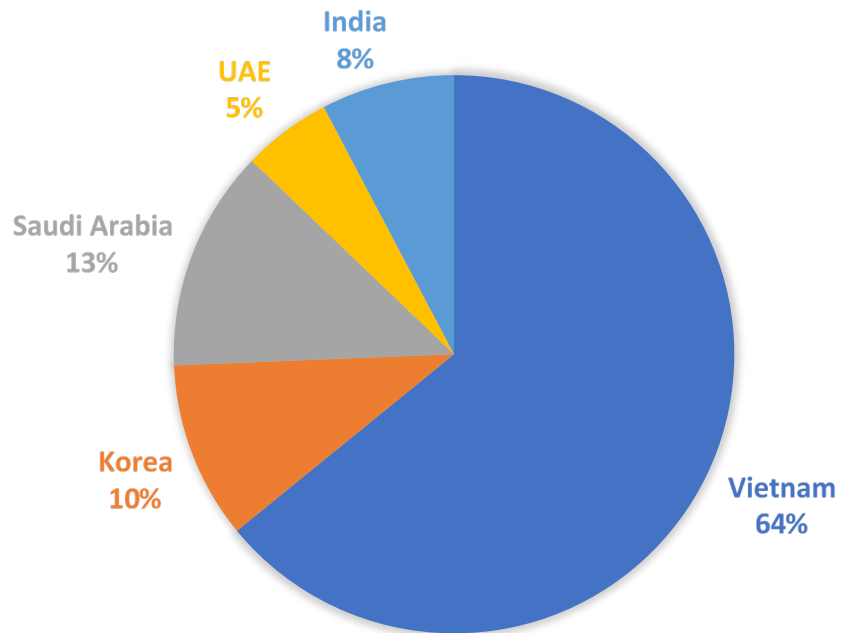
Student Diversity - SY 22-23



Domestic Students



International Students



Wellness Office

(Ms.) Debby Van Erman, Director

The Covid-19 Pandemic affected the friars, ministries and employees as it has spread throughout the country. The presence of the virus had a significant impact on the day-to-day activities of the Wellness Director throughout the triennium. The virus became widespread by early summer 2020 through 2021. Several friars and staff were infected by the virus (some hospitalized) and unconfirmed data indicates that 5 friars died from the virus.

Some of the early Covid-related activities carried out by the Wellness Office include:

- Maintained an evolving list of locations where friars could receive a Covid tests.
- Fielded daily phone calls from Guardians and individual friars with Covid concerns
- Consulted with many individual friars about mild and severe symptoms of Covid. Determined quarantine, isolation, reporting responsibilities of the individual plus communicated with others in an attempt to implement CDC recommendations to decrease community spread in and outside the friary. Helped to identify what level of healthcare (specific to Covid) was available to them based on their city's resources. Many ER's were not accepting walk-ins with Covid symptoms and offered alternative sites and options.
- Purchased personal protective equipment (PPE) and provided these supplies to friaries.
- Stayed informed on modifications of CDC Covid recommendations and provided this information to Guardians in the form of newsletters and emails. Communicated regularly with state-level health departments seeking guidance on particular Covid cases within the Province especially involving communal living and public ministry.

EFFORTS TO PROMOTE COVID VACCINATIONS

By January-February of 2021 vaccines became available (in most locations). In Wisconsin, we arranged 9 "in-friary" Covid vaccine clinics with the support of a local Appleton pharmacy who provided the vaccine and nurses to administer. Friar attendance was high; employees and affiliates were invited to attend these clinics as well. Friars in other locations accessed public vaccination sites. The Province (friars) reached a vaccination rate of over 95% with many receiving the Covid booster vaccines that were available later.

EFFORTS TO OBTAIN COVID TESTING SUPPLIES

At the end of 2021, congregate housing entities could apply to receive a sizable supply of rapid antigen Covid test kits. At that time, the Wellness Office provided test kits for community use throughout the Province. As of June 2023, testing supplies will not be offered through the State; there is a shift toward phasing out these programs.

As of this writing, all counties in areas where friars reside are considered to be at a “LOW” Covid activity level. This includes the friars in Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois, Montana, California and Florida (covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker).

The Wellness Commission was disbanded at the beginning of this triennium. Efforts toward starting a group to focus solely on enhancing friar wellness awareness will begin in the upcoming triennium.

LONG-TERM HEALTHCARE FACILITIES

Building relationships with long-term healthcare facilities has been another focus of the Wellness Office. Identifying those resources best equipped to provide for the wellbeing of friars increases the likelihood of admission when a need arises. Ongoing collaboration with such healthcare facilities continues in the areas of Appleton, Mt Calvary, Milwaukee and Detroit as explained below.

-Appleton Area: Historically, the availability of night-shift agency caregivers has been very limited. This limits the option of having 24-hour coverage at St Fidelis in order to offer “Aging in Place.” In the past, the Province has utilized St Paul Elder Services (SPES) for nearly all long-term care needs. Today, due to the ongoing crisis of staff shortages in long-term healthcare facilities, SPES has limited rooms available and has a long wait list for prospective residents. SPES recently closed an entire wing of the nursing home due to this dilemma. At one point in the past 3-4 years, there were as many as 12 friars residing at SPES in either assisted living or the skill nursing home. As of this writing, there are only 3 friars living at SPES. A new relationship began with Care Partners facility where assisted living and memory care options are offered. There are 3 friars living at Care Partners.

-Mt Calvary: The Villa Loretto SSM Health Facility continues to be the most appropriate option for the friars whether it is long term, short-term physical rehab or in-patient Hospice care. We have developed a good working relationship with SSM Health in Mt Calvary. St Francis Home is also an option for services mentioned above, however, availability has been very limited when the Province has had a need in the past few years. A relationship began with Eden Vista Memory Care Facility this year in Fond du Lac. One friar resides at Eden Vista.

- Milwaukee: Discussion continues with the Milwaukee Catholic Home in terms of future needs for friars in the area. One friar lives at the Milwaukee Catholic Home as of this writing.
- Detroit: There is no on-going relationship with a long-term healthcare facility in the area. "Aging in Place" is available at St Bonaventure Monastery as staffing has been adequate with a full-time Province Healthcare Assistant along with agency workers to fill in during evenings and weekends to provide 24-hour coverage. Fraser Villa near Detroit is used for in-patient physical rehabilitation services.

Future goals of the Wellness Office include continued efforts to provide "Aging in Place" for senior friars (when staffing is obtainable). Measures need to be identified to support friar wellbeing in the face of significant losses related to the aging process. Provincial-wide wellness awareness programs need to become a primary focus once again as the Covid virus no longer consumes the endeavors of the Wellness Office.

I want to thank the Local Guardians for their tremendous support during the past triennium. While friars within their communities were experiencing distress over the threat of Covid, the Guardians stepped up to implement mitigation measures to protect the friars even at times when the actions disrupted life within the friary. The resilience among all the friars, in light of this deadly virus, should be commended!

Regional Reports

Central Wisconsin

Chrispin Shirima, Coordinator

In the past few years, the coronavirus pandemic was a drawback to many social and religious gatherings. Considering the health of our friars, especially those advanced in age, Covid-19 made it difficult for us in the Central Wisconsin Region to gather as frequently as we would.

Normally, we have two required regional meetings each year, one takes place in the spring and the other in the fall. At these meetings, friars engage in discussions about our communal living, the ministries of the province, and the preparation for the upcoming provincial chapter. Some of the topics we accomplished this triennium were: discussions concerning proposals and the agenda for the 2023 Provincial Chapter, and discussion about leadership for the Province. We had training about the Program to Protect Minors and an updated mandatory reporting. We had, also, a workshop about the Laudato Si'; Action Platform (LSAP) - the focus was on how the community and individual friars may live a more ecological friendly lifestyle.

There were some times that we scheduled for regional meetings but we could not meet as a region due to covid-19. In such situations, we were able to meet in our respective communities to discuss the same agenda that was planned to be discussed in the given regional meeting.

In addition to these required meetings, friars in our region gather for other occasions each year to celebrate our brotherhood. We gather for Mardi Gras (on the Sunday/Tuesday before Ash Wednesday), for Memorial Day and for Labor Day celebrations. Our gatherings are held both at St. Lawrence Friary in Mount Calvary and at St. Fidelis Friary in Appleton.

Our Region of Central Wisconsin is also a home for some provincial events like Jubilees, religious vows celebrations, and post-novitiate workshops. In December 2022, we were glad to host the diaconate ordination for three of our brothers. In addition, when sister death visits one of our friars in the province, the Central Wisconsin Region has been one of the places to gather in celebrating the life of our friars. These events provide opportunities not only for the friars from our region but also from the entire province to get together in joy and celebration.

Special thanks to God for his abundant grace that enabled us to celebrate our unity in various ways. It is beyond doubt that the guardians from Sts. Lawrence and Fidelis communities play a key role in ensuring that our regional gatherings

are possible; special thanks to them. Finally, I extend my humble thanks to all friars of this Region and beyond for their cooperation and contributions.

Montana Region

Michael Dorn, Coordinator

The last three years have marked many changes in personnel in the Montana Region. In May 2020, MJ Groark was appointed the Director of Vocations for POSJ and thus moved to Chicago to assume this role. In August 2020, Thomas Skowron, who at the time was in post-novitiate formation, spent a year in Ashland at St. Labre assisting the brothers there in community and with teaching religion both online and in-person at St. Charles Mission in Pryor.

In November 2020, Mark Joseph Costello was appointed Provincial Minister by our General Minister and thus departed the Crow Reservation and his role as pastor of the Crow Catholic Parishes of Our Lady of Loretto, St. Dennis, St. Francis Xavier, and St. Kateri Tekakwitha in December 2020. That same month, Paul Koenig transferred from a brief stay at St. Clare Friary in Chicago and became the next pastor of the Crow parishes on the east end of the reservation.

In March 2021, after 37 years of ministry as pastor of St. Charles Mission in Pryor, Randolph Graczyk retired and transferred to St. Fidelis Friary in Appleton, WI. In May 2021, after six years of ministry as both a deacon and associate pastor of the Crow Catholic Parishes, Tien Dinh was reassigned to serve as Co-Director of the Capuchin Soup Kitchen in Detroit. That same time, Mike Dorn was assigned the associate role vacated by Tien and along with Paul Koenig, served as the second full-time priest on the Crow Reservation.

In June 2021, after teaching at Pretty Eagle Catholic Academy in St. Xavier for six years, Jerry Cornish retired from the classroom and transitioned to coordinating youth ministry for the Crow Catholic Parishes. In August 2021, Francisco Cux began his novitiate year at St. Labre in Ashland with Larry Webber serving as a novice director and Mike Dorn as his assistant. Francisco subsequently left the novitiate program in early June 2022. In December 2021, Truyen Nguyen was assigned to full-time ministry sharing responsibilities at St. Labre Parish and School in Ashland, MT. In January 2022, after suffering a fractured hip from a fall at the end of December, Bill Frigo, having served seven years as a senior friar at St. Katharine Friary, transferred to St. Fidelis Friary in Appleton.

In July 2022, after serving six years as pastor of St. Labre Parish on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation, Larry Webber retired from his role and transferred to St. Francis Monastery in Milwaukee, WI. Jozef Timmers began his assignment as pastor of St. Labre Parish in July 2022. In that same month, Paul Koenig was asked to become pastor of the Holy Land Parishes in Wisconsin, and thus transferred to this new role effective Sept. 1, 2022. Thus, Mike Dorn became the administrator or interim pastor

of the Crow Catholic Parishes while two visiting priests (Richard Mattox & Michael Sullivan) assisted him and Jerry Cornish from August – December 2022. In January 2023, Thomas Skowron volunteered to be assigned full-time to the Crow Catholic Parishes to assist Mike and Jerry.

Currently, there are seven Capuchins assigned to ministry in Montana: Dave Reichling, pastor of St. Bernard's Parish in Billings; Mike Dorn, Thomas Skowron and Jerry Cornish who all reside at St. Katharine Friary in Crow Agency and minister on the Crow Reservation; Jozef Timmers, Truyen Nguyen, and Jim Antoine (retired) who all reside at the newly renovated friary at the St. Labre Mission. Despite distances, the Montana friars still gather one to two times every month in Billings or Crow Agency to build fraternity and to discuss regional matters. In addition to offering regular sacramental needs to the parishes, weekly school Masses are celebrated at all three St. Labre school sites (St. Labre, Pretty Eagle, and St. Charles.) Additionally, Truyen assists the Director of Mission & Ministry in teaching 8th grade religion at St. Labre while Mike and Thomas visit and teach religion to grades K-8 on a weekly basis at Pretty Eagle. Sacramental prep is offered both at St. Labre and at PECA, led on the Crow Reservation by Jerry.

Despite having a shortage of personnel and staff to address the various spiritual needs of the Crow and Northern Cheyenne people, we are committed to doing what we can to sustain our Capuchin presence here in southeastern Montana. Currently, the PM and PC are exploring with NAPCC and the Capuchin Curia on the potential for making our domestic missions in Montana a San Lorenzo global fraternity of the Capuchin Order.

Michigan Region

Biju Parakkalayil, Coordinator

Brothers coming together is always an enriching experience of fun and frolic to our region.

Detroit region comprises of friars from St Bonaventure, St Crispin, St Mary and Saginaw area. We do have two types of regional gatherings. One is our weekly gatherings with Mass, social and dinner at St Bonaventure on Thursdays. The second one is a larger one for discussions on important matters of our Province, held once in Fall and once in spring.

Our Fall and Spring meetings discussed various topics as below:

- **St Francis in Milwaukee:** When it was being renovated, some friars had concerns about it and those concerns were answered/addressed by brothers who were working on the project.
- **JPIC:** Laudato Si action plan, an exhortation to live more eco-friendly life was nice input to our region.
- **Chapter 2023:** A detailed plan for the chapter was presented during our Fall gathering.
- **Discerned Leadership:** Qualities of the leaders in the upcoming years of our province and names for the coming triennium were discussed among small groups and their sharing was presented to the large group.
- **Chapter Proposals:** Out of the three proposals for chapter of 2023, the one on hosting the chapter at Calvary and an evaluation of the Fraternal collaboration program were rejected by most of the friars in the region. Almost all the friars in the region were open to the proposal on making St. Francis Friary and Parish as a destination ministry.

Participation at Fall and Spring meetings is great, though we miss a couple of them at every meeting. I especially would like to thank Brs. Dan & Frank who drive for hours to join us.

We do lovingly remember the brothers who were part of our region and moved to different regions of the province for ministry. Our meetings are not the same without them. At the same time, friars who have recently moved to the Detroit region have added flavor to the life and ministry of our region.

The unfortunate and sudden departure of Br Michael Gaffeny, is indeed a loss to our region.

Thanks to St. Bonaventure Community and Blessed Solanus Casey Center for holding the meetings each time.

Milwaukee/Chicago Region

Brenton Ertel & John Scherer

MILWAUKEE

This past triennium the Milwaukee region, along with the other regions of the province, learned ways to reconvene friars during the COVID-19 pandemic. From January 2020 to Transitus 2021, the friars did not gather as a region. October 3, 2021 the friars along with Milwaukee affiliates and friends joined together, again, to celebrate the annual Franciscan commemoration of Francis of Assisi. The Transitus liturgy was celebrated at St. Martin de Porres Catholic Church across the parking lot of St. Conrad Friary. After the liturgy, the St. Conrad community hosted a reception after the liturgy. This was the last Transitus celebrated at St. Conrad Friary. The Milwaukee region was anticipating the complete restoration of St. Francis Monastery so friars could reside there for the first time since the 1970's.

The construction for restoring St. Francis Monastery began during the month of March 2020 with the abatement. Along with construction on the monastery, St. Francis Parish and friars held a ground-breaking for the St. Francis Capuchin Center, a completely new building, during the same month in the parish parking lot. St. Francis Parish and St. Conrad community were responsible for moving parish related and Capuchin related items from the monastery. The St. Francis Capuchin Center was completed in September 2021 and the monastery was completed in January 2022. The St. Francis Parish offices move into the newly completed Center in January 2022. The St. Francis Capuchin Center was new building for both Parish and St. Joseph Province use with both contributing to finance its construction.

The move into the monastery began in May 2022. The friars from St. Conrad community were the first to move into the monastery. St. Conrad house was no longer to serve as a residence for friars. The province gifted the house to Anne Haines, a Catholic lay woman, who planned to found a Catholic Worker house in order to serve women who are seeking refuge from sex-trafficking and prostitution. Ms. Haines is the sister of Milwaukee auxiliary bishop Jeff Haines. Ms. Haines named the former friary St. Bakhita Catholic Worker House who is the patron saint of those involved in sex trafficking. There is a desire for both the St. Joseph Province and St. Bakhita Catholic Worker House to maintain a ministerial relationship. The summer of 2022 marked the departure of St. Joseph Province friars from St. Conrad House. The friars from that community were completely moved into the restored St. Francis Monastery.

Perry McDonald and Michael Bertram remained living in St. Francis Friary across the street from the Monastery on Brown St. The Province plans to sell St. Francis Friary to another buyer. The other community in Milwaukee is the St. Benedict community with

three friars in residence. The Milwaukee region celebrated the Transitus in October 2022 at St. Francis church.

There are currently 10 friars in residence at St. Francis Monastery plus postulants. The Postulancy formation program will continue to take place in Milwaukee with residence at St. Francis Monastery. Currently, the St. Mary's, Stigmata, and Mother of Good Shepherd provinces work together with the St. Joseph Province for an interprovincial postulancy. Two friars live at St. Francis Friary, three friars at St. Benedict Friary, and three who do not live in a friar residence for a total of 18 friars, not including postulants are in Milwaukee

CHICAGO

The Covid pandemic greatly affected the past triennium. The St. Clare Friary had 13 of 15 residents sick with Covid in May 2020. We separated the St. Agnes Friary and St. Clare Friary and had separate prayers and meals. Luckily, no one had to go to the hospital. Michael Joseph Groark came to take over the vocation office after we got over Covid. He and Fred Cabras were anointing in the hospitals with all precautions possible. Fred was working at Northwestern Memorial Hospital for his social work degree at the time. He moved upstairs to the guest rooms because he wanted to stay safe. We had Stanley here and he celebrated at weekend Masses because the parishes were closed. When the parishes did open Stanley got a help-out in Calumet City and several brothers joined him at the parish.

Stanley completed his DMin graduated from CTU. Mike Dorn, Julius Antony, Peter Chinnappan and Truyen Nguyen all received their MDivs from CTU.

John Scherer celebrated his 40th jubilee and the St. Clare Friary had 25 years when Mark Joseph Costello came for visitation.

A mural of the 1982 St Francis stamp was painted on the west wall of the building to celebrate the anniversary of the friary.

Ashwin Kumar, Francisco Cux, Jaico George, AlvaroMartinez and Arnaud Dadjo lived in the community as resident candidates.

Alvaro Martinez lived in the community as a resident candidate.

Arnaud Dadjo lived in the community as a resident candidate.

Jerry Kessel, Randolph Gracyzk lived with us as senior friars. Currently Gerry Pehler is living with us.

David Hirt came to give us a presentation on the Laudato Si project for the province.

On July 1, 2020, St. Clare of Montefalco parish was handed over to the Augustinian friars as part of the “Renew My Church” merger process in the Archdiocese of Chicago. A memorandum of understanding (MOU) was made between our province and the Augustinians to provide an associate pastor and to remain at San José Friary for two years. However, the MOU ended in May of 2021. Vito Martinez, André Weller, Truyen Nguyen, Truong Dinh, and Mike Dorn were all transferred to new ministries and/or locations in the province. The previous friary that was next to St. Clare of Montefalco in Chicago is now a postulancy house for the Augustinians.

