



# FRANCISCAN VOCATION MINISTRY

## SACRED HEART PROVINCE

*A Gospel Movement*

August 2009

*Relationships are important - to you and to your friends. So talk with them about the most important relationship someone can ever have, a relationship with the God of the Universe. After all, knowing God is the ultimate source of happiness for every human being! Come build a relationship with us; we make the Gospel personal.*

### Answering the Call



Not everybody who was called in the Bible answered God's call. In Mark 10:17-22 the rich young man turned his back on Jesus' call. The young man had kept all the commandments since his youth and we read that Jesus looked steadily at him and loved him. Jesus asked him to do one more thing, to sell what he had and follow Jesus. But the young man's face fell at these words of Jesus and he went away sad. He went away sad because he wanted to follow Jesus and he wanted to keep his possessions. As in the case of Moses and Jeremiah, the twin responses 'Yes' and 'No' were struggling within him. Answering God's call held a fascination for him but it was also frightening. He wanted to have everything but that is impossible. He had to make a choice but he did not have the generosity to put Jesus before his possessions.

Answering God's call is exciting but as in every decision we make it involves saying no to other possibilities. The young man had a vocation but he freely chose not to answer it because he did not want to say no to some of the possibilities that life offered him. But in saying no to his vocation he surely lost out on greater possibilities and greater potential for happiness. We read that he went away sad. How could he be happy since he had just rejected Jesus' call to him? We see that it takes faith and courage to answer God's call.

### Come and See Retreat

Come and see what life is like as a Franciscan Friar.

Where: St. Louis, MO

### Spend A Weekend With Us...

*It could change everything!*

Come and see what life is like as a Franciscan Friar.

Where: St. Louis, MO

When: September 11-13  
2009

Who: Catholic Men 18-40

How: Complete the below form to express your interest

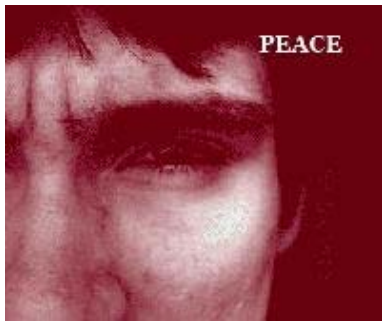
[Register for the Come and See Retreat!](#)

**Check out our ad in the St. Louis Review**



[www.stlouisreview.com](http://www.stlouisreview.com)

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[Register for Come and See!](#)

## Contact Us

Franciscan Vocation  
Ministry  
3320 Meramec St.  
St. Louis, MO 63118  
Phone: +1 (314) 353-8088

Jack Carnaghi, OFM:  
[brjack@befranciscan.com](mailto:brjack@befranciscan.com)

Fernand Cheri III, OFM:  
[brferd@befranciscan.com](mailto:brferd@befranciscan.com)

## Websites

[www.befranciscan.com](http://www.befranciscan.com)  
[www.thefriars.org](http://www.thefriars.org)  
[www.ofm.org](http://www.ofm.org)

## Papal Address



In the Lord's own words: "Thy Kingdom come." "This prayer needs to shape the mind and heart of every Christian in this nation," Pope Benedict XVI said. "It needs to bear fruit in the way you lead your lives and in the way you build up your families and your communities. "It needs to create new 'settings of hope' where God's kingdom becomes present in all its saving power." The Holy Father said praying for the coming of the God's kingdom "also means being constantly alert for the signs of its presence, and working for its growth in every sector of society." The Pontiff continued: "It means facing the challenges of present and future with confidence in Christ's victory and a commitment to extending his reign." It means not losing heart in the face of resistance, adversity and scandal. It means overcoming every separation between faith and life, and countering false gospels of freedom and happiness. It means working to enrich American society and culture with the beauty and truth of the Gospel, and never losing sight of that great hope which gives meaning and value to all the other hopes which inspire our lives," he added. Continuing the legacy, "follow faithfully in the footsteps of those who have gone before you," Benedict XVI challenged the Church in the United States. "Hasten the coming of God's Kingdom in this land! Past generations have left you an impressive legacy. In our day too, the Catholic community in this nation has been outstanding in its prophetic witness in the defense of life, in the education of the young, in care for the poor, the sick and the stranger in your midst. On these solid foundations, the future of the Church in America must even now begin to rise! Only God in his providence knows what works his grace has yet to bring forth in your lives and in the life of the Church in the United States," Benedict XVI said. "Yet Christ's promise fills us with sure hope." He continued, "Let us now join our prayers to his, as living stones in that spiritual temple which is his one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. Let us lift our eyes to him, for even now he is preparing for us a place in his Father's house. And empowered by his Holy Spirit, let us work with renewed zeal for the spread of his Kingdom."

*more powerful than revenge, hope more powerful than despair, community more powerful than isolation and God is more powerful than all that mitigates against goodness and hope.*

*Become an instrument of change. Become a messenger of peace. Belong to something bigger than yourself...*



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