

FRANCISCAN VOCATION MINISTRY

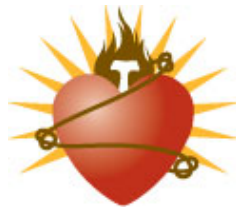
SACRED HEART PROVINCE

A Gospel Movement

May 2009

Be grounded in God's glory (1 Corinthians 10:31). Always be asking the question, "What most glorifies God in this situation?" When you feel victorious, attacked, discouraged, beaten down: all these moments tempt us to a sinful response. Let's pursue the God-glorifying response.

Open Your Heart



By opening our hearts we begin to see that human beings have intrinsic dignity and inestimable worth. This means that we don't have to prove our worth to anybody. Human dignity does not come from what we look like, how old we are, what we do for a living, how smart we are, or even whether we are healthy, sick, or disabled, rich or poor, strong or weak, young or old, born or unborn, living or dying. Human dignity comes from the fact that we were all made to be loved into eternity by God, and to love others as we love ourselves. All human beings have dignity, no matter what their state in life, because we were all made for something Wonderful! By participation in the unconditional love of God our heart overflows in ways we never imagined. It is believing that there is such a thing as perfect, absolute, ultimate, infinite, unconditional, and eternal Truth, Love, Goodness, and Justice. It is learning that these things can only be found in God, and that God loves us so much, that He wants us to be a part of that Love forever. If we truly believe that this is our "telos," our end, then we know what it means to be human. A human being is a physical and spiritual being, created by God, and our final goal is to find happiness by accepting the perfectly unconditional love of God for all eternity, and by giving ourselves away in love to others.

All Good Things Must Come To An End

It has been a wonderful three years walking with all of you in your discernment process. As I continue my preaching ministry and chaplaincy ministry to the Illinois State Police, I bring all of you in my heart and prayers. You are in good hands with Br. Jack and our newest member of the team: Fr. Ferd Cheri. Keep in touch through my website at www.friarjp.com.

General Chapter Update



From all over the world, 181 friars have come to the Basilica of Santa Maria degli Angeli for the 187th General Chapter of the Order of Friars Minor. This month long gathering of the leaders of the Franciscan Order and other delegates began in the heart of the Franciscan world, the Portiuncula or Little Portion. It is here that the Order of Friars Minor of St. Francis of Assisi was born 800 years ago. As the General Chapter gets underway, members of the Provinces and Custodies of the English Speaking Conference are well represented among the more than 180 delegates and staff of the month-long meeting with 23 friars from ESC Provinces present in various capacities.

Among the many items of business on this first day of the General Chapter were the elections and appointment to key roles during the Chapter. A few members of the English Speaking Conference delegation were elected or appointed for these roles. Michael Perry, OFM, Provincial Minister of the Sacred Heart Province, was elected on the first ballot to serve as Moderator of the Chapter. Three moderators are elected and these are key roles of leadership in the Chapter.

Provincial Minister Michael Perry, OFM is shown here placing his hands on the Franciscan Rule.



Peace and All Good things,

Friar Johnpaul

New Arrival



Today, May 20, 2009, I celebrate my 31st anniversary of ordination to the priesthood. I was a diocesan priest for 13 of those years before joining the Franciscan Friars. Since being with the friars, I have never looked back because I know the Lord was calling me to community life. I have appreciated the fraternal support for my prayer life, ministerial needs and my spiritual formation. Being a friar, has taught me that I am not alone in ministry. I have brothers who I can count on to keep me honest and challenge me to be my best self. I do not have to do it all. I have brothers to help me, guide me and above all, keep God first in all I do.

I grew up in a big family with 6 siblings who rubbed shoulders all the time and in every way. I feel the same way about the friars. I have over 25 years of pastoring in the African American community and some 12 years of being an educator in Catholic high schools. I love liturgical ministry, gospel music ministry and formation ministry, especially in these exciting times in which we live. I look forward to journeying with men as they discern a vocation to be sons of Francis as members of the Sacred Heart Province.

Peace and all Good,

Fr. Ferd
Vocation Minister

Giving Thanks



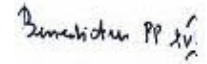
St Francis always gave thanks for the gift of his brothers and I have MUCH to be grateful for. My years with Friar Johnpaul in the vocation office have been a blessing. I will always be thankful for the many gifts he so freely shared in our time together. May God continue to bless him and may he know in his heart what a gift he has been to me and all those who had the pleasure of walking with him as they discovered their vocation with us. The office and I continue to be blessed with the arrival of Fr. Ferd Cheri OFM. "God is good, all good," as Francis was

Pax Et Bonum



Some of us dwell too long in the valley of indecision or camp out on the shores of denial, but I do know that there is help available during these crucial times in our lives if only we would dare receive it. Pray God hears and only wants us to have joy and peace and see if you are called to a Gospel life as a Franciscan.

Site of the Month



This site aims to bring the words and messages of Pope Benedict XVI to young people.

www.Pope2You.net

Presentation of the Message

"Be sure to announce the Gospel to your contemporaries with enthusiasm. You know their fears and their hopes, their aspirations and their disappointments: the greatest gift you can give to them is to share with them the "Good News" of a God who became man, who suffered, died and rose again to save all people. Human hearts are yearning for a world where love endures, where gifts are shared, where unity is built, where freedom finds meaning in truth, and where identity is found in respectful communion. Our faith can respond to these expectations: may you become its heralds! The Pope accompanies you with his prayers and his blessing."

New Banner

Take a look at our new banner, soon to be proudly displayed at the Franciscan Vocation Ministry center.

[Click Here to View](#)

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accustomed to saying, in bringing Fr. Ferd to the Vocation Ministry. He will be a true gift to us all!

Br. Jack
Vocation Director

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Websites

www.befranciscan.com
www.thefriars.org
www.ofm.org

Saint Francis' Prayer Before the Crucifix

Most High, glorious God, enlighten the darkness of my heart and give me true faith, certain hope, and perfect charity, sense and knowledge, Lord, that I may carry out Your holy and true command. Amen.



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