

FRIARWORKS

FRANCISCAN MINISTRY & MISSION

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photos by Br. Scott Obrecht, O.F.M.



Historic Chinle

The old church in Chinle.

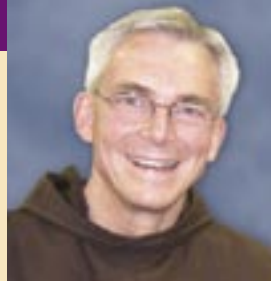


Fr. Blane prays at the groundbreaking.

It was a long time coming, but on June 5 the old mission in Chinle, Arizona on the Navajo Reservation was approved for a listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The new Chinle Franciscan Mission Historic District includes the red sandstone church, cemetery, house and shop behind it. “The application process took three years and mounds of paperwork,” according to Pastor Fr. Blane Grein, O.F.M.

All of this coincided with the August 4 ground-breaking for the parish’s new two-story, multi-purpose building. “We have to get that up and running so we can clean out the sandstone church and start renovating it,” Fr. Blane says. He has plans for the structure to house food storage facilities, two emergency shelter rooms, and a kitchen/dining area. The new building, called Jooba Hogan (Kindness Center) will accommodate Cursillo gatherings. Talbot House, a major social service outreach center in the area, will be a major beneficiary of the new site. It serves 16 Navajo Chapters in a 2,000 square mile area.

This all began in 1905 when ground was broken for a simple friary in Chinle. In January 1906, Fr. Leopold Osterman, O.F.M., moved in. Soon after, Annunciation Mission church was built and the friars have been faithful servants at the mission ever since.



Fr. Jim

DEAR FRIENDS,

Winter 2007

Celano wrote that St. Francis “used to observe with inexpressible eagerness and above all other solemnities the Birth of the Child Jesus, calling it the feast of feasts on which God, become a little baby, hung upon human breasts.”

Francis loved this expression of God’s love of us. Franciscan theologians see the Incarnation as the first intention of God. From the beginning God intended to become one of us and, with that in mind, created everything through the Word. Jesus wasn’t forced to come here as a result of our sinfulness – He would have come to live among us even if Adam and Eve had not sinned because of God’s love of us.

This way of thinking, from the Franciscan intellectual tradition, colors our way of looking at life and the world. God is not angry or vindictive, demanding the suffering and death of Jesus as a payment for past sin. Instead, God is gracious, sharing divine life and love in creation and in the Incarnation – much like parents do with a child.

May you experience God’s wonderful love during Christmas. Colleen, Shirley, Patti and Jim join me in wishing you a most Blessed and Merry Christmas!

Sincerely,

Fr. James Bok, O.F.M., Director



Fr. Blane with parishioners at groundbreaking.

Fr. Bryant Hausfeld, O.F.M., pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish in Alamogordo, New Mexico, has given years of ministry to young men in trouble with the law.

“I have been in four County Detention Centers and in every penitentiary in New Mexico except one and have never committed a crime.”

“I have been in four County Detention Centers and in every penitentiary in New Mexico except one and have never committed a crime,” states Fr. Bryant. He ministers to young people in jail and especially to those just getting out.

Fr. Bryant affectionately calls them “exmates.” “I never expected to minister to men in this situation. About ten



Fr. Bryant chats with an “exmate.”

years ago I started working with a young man in the seventh grade

who was constantly in trouble with the police. He was an angry young man. I spent a lot of time with him, he came to trust me, and he changed. I was hooked.”

As he became more involved in “the system,” Fr. Bryant realized that the system was not always open-minded. It has its share of prejudices. Sometimes a person needs an advocate. Fr. Bryant is there to help. “I have had my share of successes and failures working with these young people. God has blessed me with an ability to never give up on someone. At times it’s hard, especially when a person won’t change,” explains Fr. Bryant. “Ministering to inmates and exmates has touched my life in ways I never thought possible. I love the work.”

MEET A MISSIONARY



Fr. Max with some local children.

He started out as a high school teacher in Ft. Wayne, Indiana. Six years later, Fr. Max Langenderfer, O.F.M., volunteered for the missions in the Philippines, and spent the next six years ministering at Our Lady of the Rosary, Naval, Leyte.

In the early 1980s the Minister General put out a call to friars to come to Africa.

Fr. Max heard that call and returned to the U.S. for studies in 1985 in preparation for going to Africa. In 1987 he went to Malawi to work with young men joining the Order. After six years, Fr. Max ministered for several years out in the bush and was eventually brought to the headquarters of the Province of St. Francis in Africa and Madagascar to be treasurer. He resides in Nairobi, Kenya.

Recently in Cincinnati for a sabbatical year, Max has returned to Nairobi and will be given an assignment. After 20 years in Africa, Max is still enthusiastic about missionary work there.

Watch Over Us, Francis

The neatest part of the statue installation outside St. Anthony Messenger Press on September 27 was the excited reaction of sculptor Loyola Walter, Associate Professor of Art at the College of Mt. St. Joseph and niece of Franciscan Friar Tony Walter. “Whoo-hoo!” she exclaimed as her 520-pound, 6-foot-tall creation, a dynamic image of St. Francis reaching out to his neighbors in Over-the-Rhine, was hoisted onto his second story perch. This was Loyola’s first sculpture of such magnitude.

The event attracted walk-by gawkers and slowed traffic to a crawl. “Is that the Black Madonna?” one driver hollered from his car. “No,” responded a friar, “that’s St. Francis.” “Is he Baptist?” the driver asked. “Roman Catholic!” was the good friar’s proud response.

– Edited from an article published by Toni Cashnelli in *SJB News Notes*



St. Francis looks upon the neighborhood.



St. Francis being hoisted up.

Minister General Visits Cincinnati

By Jim Bok, O.F.M.

Br. José Rodríguez Carballo, O.F.M. the 119th successor of St. Francis, paid a fraternal visit to our province in October. It is a privileged moment for any province to have the General Minister of the Order visit and so it was for us. Br. José arrived on the evening of October 15th accompanied by General Council member Fr. Finian McGinn, O.F.M., and enjoyed a quiet dinner hosted by my community at Pleasant Street Friary.

The next day Br. José was a busy man: a visit with Archbishop Pilarczyk, an interview with Friars Jack Wintz and Pat McCloskey at St. Anthony Messenger Press, and lunch with the provincial office staff. After a short siesta Br. José addressed a gathering of friars from around the province, encouraging us to “Enter into the process of re-foundation with enthusiasm and conviction. Help the entities of your conference to fix their eyes on the future... This is no time for looking back. Much awaits us. It is certain we have a glorious history to remember and recount. I am no less certain we have a great history to construct.” After his address, Br. José presided at Mass for the friars, the Poor Clares and our affiliates. A dinner following the Mass had the energy of a family reunion.

Br. José left behind a very real sense that we’re all in this together; friars, men in formation, provincial staff, visiting sisters and affiliates. It was obvious to all of us that Br. José sees himself as one whose role is to listen and inspire. We were blessed by his visit.



Br. Finian and Br. José, center, with the provincial council and general visitor.

Overheard

“I just want to say how grateful we are for the Franciscans.”

— Archbishop Daniel Pilarczyk to Br. José

“I kind of felt it coming off him... the passion, the desire to live the life.”

— Novice Richard Goodin after Br. José’s visit with Friars in formation

“I got to serve the Minister General coffee this morning.”

— Scott Obrecht, O.F.M., to his secretary, Dolores Schmitz, at the Motherhouse

Howdy Pilgrim!



Valley of the Temples, Agrigento.



Fr. Jim with some pilgrims after Mass.

By Jim Bok, O.F.M.

Last month 28 of us spent 11 days on pilgrimage in Southern Italy. While Italy is beautiful, the real beauty of the trip was the group I was with and people we met. New friendships developed, folks shared something of their lives, and people stepped out of their comfort zones. Pilgrimage is an occasion to build bridges and break down barriers. I preach that as we go. In the Rule of 1223 St. Francis wrote, “I advise, admonish, and exhort you in the Lord Jesus Christ that when you travel through the world you do not quarrel or argue or judge others; rather be meek, peaceful and modest, courteous and humble, speaking honorably to everyone.” Good advice, don’t you think?

Visiting another culture, interacting with people of different languages, faiths and customs is a real challenge. Pilgrimage is made difficult by people who are not just like us. That’s why St. Francis’ words touch me. What must I do to build bridges and break down barriers? Eve Mayer, the mom of my friend, Br. Gene, often said, “Why can’t we all just get along?” I ask that frequently.

St. Francis, in the Legend of the Three Companions, says, “The peace which you proclaim with words must dwell even more abundantly in your hearts. Do not provoke others to anger or give scandal. Rather, let your gentleness draw them to peace, goodness and concord. This is our vocation: to heal wounds, to bind what is broken, to bring home those who are lost.” I hope we pilgrims all came to understand this a little better.

FR. ULMER SOCIETY

Fr. Ulmer Kuhn, O.F.M. began our development office in 1962. It has helped sustain the St. John the Baptist province and its many ministries. In his memory we established The Fr. Ulmer Society in 1993 to recognize the many friends who have supported our work for 25 years through the Franciscan Development Office, now Friar Works/Franciscan Ministry & Mission. We are happy to enroll those who began with us in 1982. Enrollees receive an enrollment plaque and certificate. If we missed you let us know.

2007 Fr. Ulmer Society Members

Alfred Abrahamsohn	Cecilia Gartelman	Irene Percoski
Mary Akers	Joann Gesiakowska	Nick Picciano
Marie Albano	Bernice Giangeruso	Zofia Poray
Judith Albrecht	Florence Grinkmeyer	Margaret Prentice
Donald Amabile	Julieann Hajjar	Mildred Pzenny
Michael Armentrout	Julia Hayes	Frank Pulido
Toni Baker	Joan Hilton	Jane Quilty
Dina Baldassari	Eleanor Hughes	Frank Quirk
Ted Beetz	William Hundelt	Anthony Rallo
David Behr	Margaret Igoe	Gladys Refsnyder
Mary Kay Bern	Dora Jaramille	Vivian Reidmiller
Paul Blain	Patricia Jenkins	Robert Rellinger
Charles Boehman	Harold Johnson	Roy Remedios
Robert Bossett	Raymond Johnson	Albert Ricciardelli
Philip Brady	Marie Kambe	Shirley Rice
Helen Briggs	George Kaspar	Mary Richards
Mary Buttino	Patricia Keeley	Dorothy Rippe
Mary Cantor	John Kelly	Mary Roche
Dominic Caruana	Thomas Kinsella	Josephine Rogers
Antonio Caruso	Adele Kiser	Joan Rohde
Regina Casey	Catholic Knights of Ohio	Virginia Rose
Frances Cassayre	Henry Kohout	Marie Ruiz S.F.O.
Carmela Cavaliere	Casimira Komarek	Frank Rushen
Barbara Cercone	Wilma Kopp	Garrett Ryan
Anthony Chlan	Frank Kryzan	Catherine Sabella
Alice Clavell	Catherine Kukoda	Richard Sander
Patricia Concannon	Pauline La Bate	Leo Sansone
Kathryn Cosgrove	Leroy Langbein	Angelina Savovich
Pauline Costello	Ethel Laviano	Erwin Schirmeister
Edward Crowley	James Le Pine	Shirley Schmardel
Margaret Cruitt	Philip Lehpamer	Mary Anne Schuerger
William Cullen	Thomas Lillis	Joseph Schulist
Thomas Cullen	Sally Loch	Helen Schwarting
Paul Daigrepoint	William Loehr	Elizabeth Seljan
William Dale	Sophie Luzynski	Alfons Sobolesky
Terry Datria	Rome Malatesta	Geraldine Sollors
Anna Dax	Jo Mancuso	William Spacer
Theresa Demmert	Susanna Masset	Jo Anne Stack
Olivia Dick	Anna Mc Donnell	Mary Stark
Anthony Ditata	Mary Mieski	Marjorie Sullivan
Patrick Dolan	Margaret Miller	Delores Sutter
Madeline Domenico	Otto Moorman	Jacqueline Tascher
John Donovan	Veronica Morris	Robert Terrusa
Maynard Dubuque	Helen Moughan	Mildred Tomasella
Walter Duke	Lucy Munafo	Frank Trzepakowski
Mary Durkin	Carl Muthert	Gertrude Valade
Muriel Edwards	Victor Naples	Rita Vassallo
Ruth Egan	Nicolas Natividad	Charles Vattieri
John Engelhart	James Neubauer	Victor Vela
John English	James Nieters	Roger Von Der Embs
Regina Erbacher	Bill O'Brien	Rose Wakemen
Rose Escriba	James O'Brien	Barbara Walters
Lana Evangelista	William O'Bryan	Gerard Weigel
Elaine Fago	Mary O'Malley	Natalie Wells
Michael Feerick	Ruth O'Neill	Paul Wicker
Frank Fiduccia	Andrew Olson	Ruth Wicktora
Joseph Fioritto	Carol Ott	George Willenborg
Edward Flesch	Ann Palotas	Larry Williams
Kay Flisak	Frances Pastore	Margaret Winfield
Colleen Flynn	Alice Pavis	Agnes Wudi
Marie Foersterling	Elizabeth Pekar	Robert Yaro
Mary Franconere		Marcella Zant



ST. ANTHONY'S BREADBASKET

e-news from Friar Jim

Subscribe to St. Anthony's Breadbasket at:
www.stanthony.org/donate/enewsletter.asp

IRA Rollover

No, this is not a command to my dog, Ira. It is an opportunity for you, though. The Pension Protection Act of 2006, passed by Congress, changed the rules for charitable gifts made from individual retirement accounts (IRAs). If you are 70 ½ or older, the Federal government now permits you to rollover (donate) amounts from your IRA to a charity without claiming any income and thus avoiding additional income tax. These tax-free rollover gifts can be any amount up to \$100,000 in one year. This is a great way, if you have an IRA, to make a gift to the Franciscans in 2007. Consult your financial advisor or the manager of your IRA account.

CHECK US OUT ON THE INTERNET

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St. Anthony Shrine: www.stanthony.org
– post a prayer request here

E-cards: www.catholicgreetings.org

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FRIARWORKS

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