

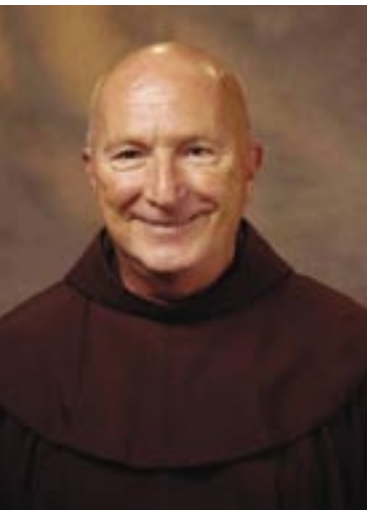
FRIARWORKS

FRANCISCAN MINISTRY & MISSION

THE FRANCISCAN FRIARS OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PROVINCE • FALL 2008 • VOLUME 2, NUMBER 1

Welcome Br. Brian

Have you ever received a totally unexpected phone call giving you the surprise of your life? Well, that's exactly what happened to Br. Brian Maloney, O.F.M., when the provincial, Fr. Jeff Scheeler, called to ask if he would be the new director of the office of Friar Works/Franciscan Ministry & Mission.



Br. Brian

Br. Brian has been on a sabbatical this year and was anticipating a new assignment at the end of the year—but not this one and not now.

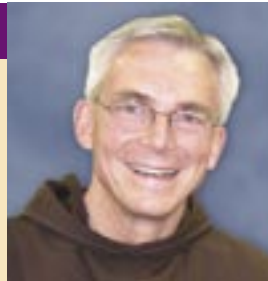
Returning to his hometown of Cincinnati after living and working in Chicago for the past 23 years was an adjustment. “Cincinnati seems so small,” Br. Brian commented after several days in the office. By a stroke of good luck, or the working of the Holy Spirit, his summer program was cancelled, giving Br. Brian the opportunity to begin working in the office before his sabbatical ends in October. “It has been good for me to be in the office this summer. I’ve gotten to know the staff and learn the procedures of the office. Working with Fr. Jim before his departure has been helpful,” Br. Brian suggested.

For the past 16 years Br. Brian has served as a counselor and director of admis-

sions at Mercy Home for Boys and Girls, a Chicago residential treatment center for adolescents. Prior to his recent work Br. Brian had been a business manager and an executive director of a national organization for Religious Brothers. In his early days of ministry Br. Brian was involved in food service and parish ministry. And, for a short time, he worked at St. Anthony Messenger Press, our flagship ministry, here in Cincinnati.

Br. Brian is excited “about my new job. In my short time in the office I have been impressed with the generosity of our friends and their apparent love of the friars. And I marvel at the many prayer requests we receive. I think this is going to be a wonderful ministry.”

In mid-September Br. Brian will conclude his sabbatical, participating in the Franciscan Study Pilgrimage Program in Rome and Assisi. He will return to the office in early November. Welcome to Friar Works Br. Brian!



Fr. Jim

DEAR FRIENDS,

This is a bittersweet time as I publish my last newsletter. Memories keep rushing in on me as I clean my files and begin the process of packing up. I’m thinking of the 67 newsletters I’ve published and the thousands of appeal and acknowledgment letters I’ve written. Then there is the wonderful travel

to our sites of ministry here and abroad, and the 13 pilgrimages hosted by the office. Through all of this I have met a lot of wonderful people.

I have loved working here in the Friar Works office and will miss it. It has been wonderful to meet so many people through visits, phone calls, emails, and other correspondence. It has been a privilege to generate funds to support my brother friars, the ministries of the province and the Order. It has all been one giant blessing for me.

Br. Brian, my successor, is taking to the job like a duck to water. He was very apprehensive when asked to be the director but his apprehension has turned into enthusiasm after being around the office for some weeks. Get to know Br. Brian a little better by reading the article on the left.

My excitement about moving to Jamaica continues to mount. I’m eager to get settled and get to work. I will take with me an abundance of gratitude for what you have done for me and the friars. I wish you every blessing. Please keep me in your prayers during this time of transition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. Jim".

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

If you're having a bad day, Fr. Carl Hawver may be just the tonic you need.

His enthusiasm for life as a friar bubbles over into his homilies, his melodious singing, and most importantly, his day-to-day ministry as chaplain for the Sisters of St. Francis in Oldenburg, Ind. Carl is the antonym—the polar opposite—of grumpy; he can elevate the spirits of even the most cynical soul. “He daily keeps our liturgy alive and new,” says Sr. Lorraine Geis, OSF, who frequently serves as sacristan for the Masses Carl celebrates. “He comes to his ministry with a strong desire, a passion to help in any way.” That desire to help was an invaluable asset in his previous career as a teacher and counselor at Catholic high schools in Ohio, Indiana and Michigan. When Carl left Bishop Luers High School in Fort Wayne,

the local paper said his impact on the community was “immeasurable.” Working in education all those years gave Carl the freedom to indulge in his favorite summer hobby, pinch-hitting for vacationing priests in the remote reaches of Alaska, one of his favorite places on earth. “I have received lots of rewards from serving as a ‘rent-a-priest,’” he admits.

—From an article by Provincial Communications Director Toni Cashnelli that appeared on the provincial website



Fr. Carl Hawver



With his departure for Jamaica, Friar Jim's e-newsletter, St. Anthony's Breadbasket, will be picked up by Br. Brian Maloney. Subscribe to Brother Brian's e-newsletter at: www.stanthony.org/donate/enewsletter.asp

MEET A MISSIONARY



Fr. Sigfrid's homemade rosary sits in front of a 1954 Chicago Daily News article about his ordeal.

They threw him in jail, took away his books, his eye-glasses, even his shoes. But they couldn't break his spirit. His devotion to his faith and to the people of China helped Fr. Sigfrid Schneider survive 29 months—most of it in solitary confinement—in a Communist prison. His remarkable story was told in dramatic detail by his friar nephews in a Catholic Update Video entitled, *Praying the Rosary* (St. Anthony Messenger Press). A native of Louisville, Sigfrid was one of 10 men in his family who gave their lives to the Franciscan Order. Four months after

his ordination in 1931, he sailed to China, working as a teacher and pastor at the Franciscan Mission in Wuchang, Hupeh. From 1943-'45, he was confined to house arrest in Shanghai by the invading Japanese. Concerned about papal influence in China, the Communists who rose to power in 1949 imprisoned both Sigfrid and his bishop, Rembert Kowalski. Closely guarded, instructed to “meditate on his crimes,” Sigfrid chose to pray, unraveling his socks and tying the threads together to fashion a homemade rosary. His ingenuity was his saving grace. After his release from prison, he was expelled from China on trumped-up spy charges. Sigfrid spent two years in the States, returning to the Far East in 1954 to help the friars establish a presence in Japan. There he died in 1987. His homemade rosary, preserved for all these years, is one of the most treasured possessions of the Franciscan Archives in Cincinnati.

—From an article by Provincial Communications Director Toni Cashnelli that appears on the provincial website.



Fr. Sigfrid Schneider in 1977.

CHECK US OUT ON THE INTERNET

The Province: www.franciscan.org.

St. Anthony Shrine: www.stanthony.org—post a prayer request or light a candle

E-cards: www.catholicgreetings.org.

Shop online at St. Francis Bookshop: www.stfrancisonline.com.

For inspiration, meditation and an array of Catholic material try www.americancatholic.org or www.franciscanradio.org.

St. Anthony, Pray For Us!

On June 13, the Feast of St. Anthony of Padua, Fr. Jim Bok, director of Friar Works/Franciscan Ministry & Mission, presided at the feast day Mass at the National Shrine.

Prayers were offered for all the benefactors of our Franciscan province. In addition, Fr. Jim represented the thousands of prayer requests and intentions that are presented to us Franciscans—intentions personally brought to the Shrine; those sent to us through the Friar Works office, the Mission Office, *St. Anthony Messenger* and *St. Anthony Messenger Press*; those sent online through *Franciscan.org* and *StAnthony.org*, coming from around the world. The National Shrine of St. Anthony truly has become international. We want you to know that we remember you in our prayer.



Fr. Jim preaches during the St. Anthony feast day Mass.



St. Anthony bread waits to be blessed.

Welcome Br. Vince

DEAR FRIENDS OF FRIAR WORKS, Fall 2008



Br. Scott

“Go with the flow” is a common expression. In the spring 2008 issue of *Friar Works*, Fr. Jim wrote, “Bro. Scott will be leaving the Mission Office in mid-May.” Well, it is mid-September and I am still here. It’s only mildly complicated and we are going with the flow.

Br. Vince Delorenzo, O.F.M., is the new director of the Mission Office. On September 23, he will return to the States after serving five years in Jamaica. Intending to return in August, he offered to stay at Mary Gate of Heaven until Fr. Jim Bok arrives. As you know, Fr. Jim is leaving the Friar Works office and heading to Jamaica. Well, I was intending to leave the mission office in June, after Br. Vince arrived. Br. Vince is accommodating Fr. Jim and I am accommodating Br. Vince. It worked out perfectly.

After his solemn profession, Br. Vince spent 11 years in fraternal ministry at Duns Scotus College in Detroit. From 1986 to 2002, he was the director of our Candidate Formation Program and then Guardian of St. Anthony Friary & Shrine here in Cincinnati. In 2003, Br. Vince joined our Jamaican mission at Mary Gate of Heaven, Negril, in the Diocese of Montego Bay, where he served as administrator of the parish.

We welcome Br. Vince. His main work will be the care of our friar missionaries and their missions and keeping missionary evangelization before the friars. Br. Vince will assume his duties on November 1—and I will be off on my sabbatical.



Br. Vince Delorenzo, O.F.M.

Sincerely,

Brother Scott, OFM

Br. Scott Obrecht, O.F.M.

Becoming Franciscans

This summer saw a lot of activity in our formation program.

We welcomed two new postulants, Kevin Janke and Michael Charron. They are beginning a year in which they live in a friary, learn about our way of life and other Franciscan things.

Last year's five postulants entered the novitiate to begin a year-long process of serious discernment about our Franciscan way of life. Friars Dan Helfrich, Clifford Hennings, Roger Lopez, Tim Tran and Josh Van Cleef all started together in the summer of 2007. Friar Richard Goodin made his first profession and moved to our formation house in Chicago.

On August 30 Friar Andrew Stettler will make his Solemn Profession in the Franciscan Order. This is his permanent commitment to our Franciscan way of life. Andrew has been through a year of postulancy, a year of novitiate and three years of simple profession to prepare for this major decision in his life.

The Franciscan way of life is still attractive. Visit:

www.franciscan.org/vocations/default.asp



Friar Dan Helfrich



Friar Clifford Hennings



Friar Roger Lopez



Friar Tim Tran



Friar Josh Van Cleef



Friar Richard Goodin



Friar Andrew Stettler



Postulants Kevin Janke and Michael Charron

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FRANCISCAN
MINISTRY & MISSION

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