



Volume 3 ~ Issue 2; January 15 -February 14, 2018

Brothers, I am taking some vacation time, so the next issue will be published on February 15.
- Charles

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The Provincial Ministers of all seven US/OFM provinces have released the following statement in response to the decision of the Trump administration to deport upwards of 200,000 Salvadoran citizens currently in the US under Temporary Protective Status (TPS).-- ct

January 8, 2018

Dear brothers,

May the Lord give you peace.

This is another difficult and heart-breaking day for the immigrant community here in the United States. As was the case for Haitians and Nicaraguans and Sudanese in the recent past, so too will Salvadorans residing in the United States soon lose their temporary protective status (TPS). We deeply regret this decision of the Trump Administration and we grieve, along with so many of our brothers and sisters, the instability, fear and even trauma that this decision will give rise to.

The unequivocal support of the Franciscans of the United States for just, compassionate and comprehensive immigration reform is well-known and has been expressed in many ways both collectively and through our collaboration at the local level. We reiterate our call for such needed reform, beginning with the imperative to resolve the DACA stalemate in Congress so that the “dreamers” may continue to live and prosper here in the United States.

More importantly, as your provincial ministers, we want to assure all our non-citizen brothers that we stand with you, for you and by your side, and that we will continue to pursue all legal avenues available to preserve your lawful status here in the U.S.

Also, we ask, that the brothers in the local communities do everything possible in these difficult days to provide fraternal support, care and accompaniment to our brothers who are experiencing - in any way - the stresses of the immigration crisis that plagues this country. This is a time when our solidarity as a brotherhood is essential. And the same is true for our solidarity with those non- citizen brothers and sisters and families whom we serve in our ministries.

We further ask the JPIC committees to continue working in a coordinated way to provide resources to those affected by the TPS and other immigration changes, and to continue pursuing advocacy efforts for the reform of our broken immigration system.

It is painful not to be able to change policies that fly in the face of Biblical morality. It is a living experience of minority for us all. Let us continue to do all that we can—beginning with the fraternal care to our brothers caught up in this immigration nightmare, extending to prayer, and expanding to ministry and advocacy in support of those attempting to call the United States their home.

Fraternally,

**Robert Campagna, OFM (IC), David Gaa, OFM (SB),
James Gannon, OFM (ABVM), Kevin Mullen, OFM (HN), Thomas Nairn, OFM (SH)
Jack Clark Robinson, OFM (OLG), Mark Soehner, OFM (SJB)**



(Front l to r) Provincial Ministers Mark Soehner (SJB), Friar Caoimhín Ó Laoide (General Definitor), Thomas Nairn (SH). Back row (l to r) Kevin Mullen (HNP), Jack Clark Robinson (OLG), David Gaa (SB), and James Gannon (ABVM). Photo: courtesy, Friar Jim McIntosh (HNP)



Provincial Minister David Gaa
Photo: c Peter Jordan



Provincial Minister Robert Campagna (IC)

**From Our Novice Brothers
Interprovincial Novitiate
Old Mission Santa Barbara**

(January 9). We are safe but our neighbors to the Southeast of us have experienced the worst. Rains continue and the situation changes minute by minute. The Mission is built on a hill of rock. Our situation is secure and safe. This truly has been a year of learning...'we are not in control'. Keep our neighbors and first responders in your prayers.



**From Lisa Gosdchan
Parishioner, St. Barbara Parish
Old Mission Santa Barbara**

The Mudslides in Santa Barbara are devastating - 100 homes destroyed - 300 in unsafe condition - 8 business destroyed - 20 in unsafe condition - 17 fatalities - 28 in hospitals many in critical condition - 17 or more unaccounted for - Highway 101 closed from Milpas to Highway 150 until at least Monday afternoon - There are still integrity questions about the Highway 101 - Please pray for all the families.- This is just the beginning - Search and Rescue cannot get to some areas by foot or trucks. The mud is just too deep and there are too many boulders - Helicopters flying all day for fuel and rescues - The first responders have done an amazing job - also keep them in your prayers - Blessings Lisa



Above: Chapel, La Casa de Maria, Montecito, California.



**Nevertheless--
12 Days of Gratitude in Santa Barbara!
From Friar Larry Gosselin**

In an effort to bring their city together, Santa Barbara community leaders have initiated the 12 Days of Gratitude Movement. The campaign started Monday December 25 and ended on Friday January 5. Here is a message from Mayor Helene Schneider:



"In the spirit of the popular 12 Days of Christmas and in response to the many impacts we faced with the Thomas Fire, **Father Larry of the Santa Barbara Mission** and Santa Barbara Mayor Helene Schneider have joined together to encourage our community to come together, continue to celebrate the holiday season and revitalize our local economy with greater appreciation and awareness.

"We encourage all residents, visitors, business owners and the media to promote each day as it works best for them: #12DaysofGratitude

Day 1 of Gratitude, Blessings & Joy: Monday, December 25, 2017
Spend quality time with your family and friends this Christmas Day

[Click here to continue the text](#)



"Here we are gathering on the steps of Old Mission Santa Barbara in prayer, unity, and celebration. . . . We are praying for the restoration and revitalization of our community in the wake of the Thomas Fire." From left to right: **Friar Larry Gosselin**, Pravrajika Vrajaprana (Vedanta Hindu Society), Rabbi Arthur Gross-Schaefer, Afaf Turjoman, (Islamic Society of Santa Barbara), Mayor Helene Schneider, John Palminteri (KEYTV News Channel 3), and **Friar Dan Lackie**. *Photo courtesy: Friar Larry Gosselin*

NOVITIATE NOTES
From the Interprovincial Novitiate
Old Mission Santa Barbara
Santa Barbara, California

Many thanks to our Novice brothers for providing the following photos. For more information on their ongoing activities, check their Facebook page: Franciscan Interprovincial Novitiate- Old Mission Santa Barbara. -ct



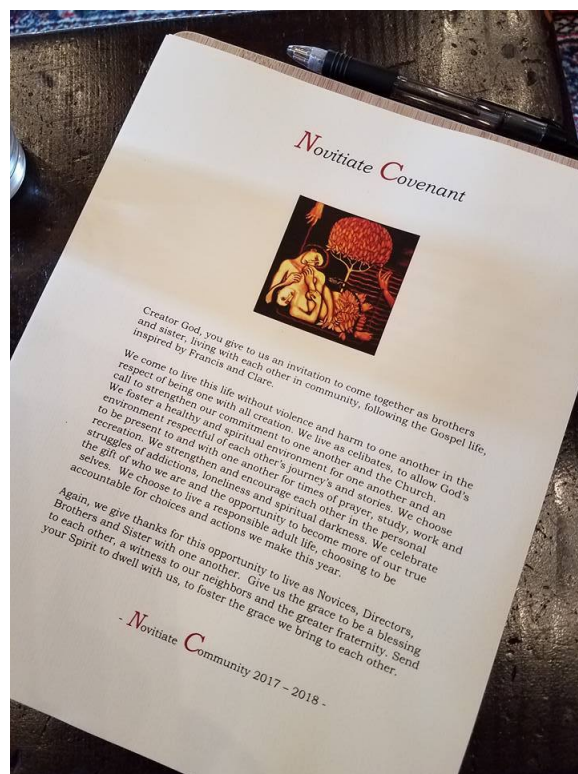
Above: Gathering of the Three Branches for Epiphany. We are grateful for these brothers.



Gathering of the Capuchin, Conventual and OFM novices for Epiphany. We were hosted by the Conventuals at San Juan Capistrano Friary/Novitiate, Arroyo Grande, California.



Novices ((l to r): James La Grutta (HNP), Luis Manuel Rosado-Colombani (HNP), Troy Hillman (HNP), Michael Lomas (SB), Antonio Luevano (SB), and Jason Damon (HNP)



Renewing our Novitiate Covenant & Praying for the grace and humility to live this year with true integrity.

“... And the Lord Gave Me Brothers”

**2018 Interprovincial Retreat
Holy Cross Retreat Center
Mesilla Park, New Mexico
January 8-12, 2018
By Friar Sam Nasada**

Some 55 friars from six U.S. provinces participated in the interprovincial retreat at the Holy Cross Retreat Center, Mesilla Park, New Mexico (near Las Cruces) from January 8-12, 2018. St. Barbara Province was well represented with 9 friars participating. In addition, two aspirants from Our Lady of Guadalupe province, as well as **Friar Jose Gutay** from St. Peter Baptist Province in the Philippines--he is currently working on the Navajo reservation-- were also in attendance. The retreat was directed by **Friar Matthew Beckmann** from the Holy Spirit Province, Australia. Although the Conventual friars are in charge of the retreat house now, traces of St. Barbara OFMs can still be found throughout the property. A portrait of **Friar Owen da Silva** still hangs in the library. Newspaper articles and a short history of the place could be found in the parlor. (Above right: *Friar Matthew Beckmann (Holy Spirit Province, Australia), Retreat Director.*

Photo: Friar Sam Nasada.



With a great sense of humor, including some obligatory jokes about his Australian accent and anecdotes from his formation years, Matthew took the retreatants back to the time of the early friars and that of their own formative years. He specifically pointed to the friars around Francis-- and those immediately following him--who had as much a part in shaping the Order as did Francis himself. He used the image of the solar eclipse to describe how it is sometimes necessary to block the



his cigar collection. Photo: Friar Sam Nasada.

For many of the friars here, the interprovincial retreat offered an occasion for reunion as well. It has now become an annual tradition, where old friends can both catch up with each other and get to know new faces. **Friar Bruce Michalek (OLG)**, chair of the interprovincial retreat committee which has been organizing these retreats for more than 20 years, considers this year's event an important milestone. He said that as far as he can remember, this was the largest number of retreatants that they have ever had for an interprovincial retreat to date. Unfortunately, younger friars were greatly under-represented at this event. Hopefully there will be more interest from the younger generation of friars in the future. *(Above right: Friar Jack Clark Robinson (OLG) taking picture during a session Photo: Friar Sam Nasada)*



Finally, we commemorated our deceased brothers and each province sang their own version of Marian Antiphons. You can find the video here: (St. Barbara's "Ultima" was not recorded because it's familiar to all of you and Holy Name Province only had one participant at the retreat.)

[Variety of Marian Antiphons to Commemorate Deceased Friars"](#)



Friars John Tran Nguyen, Chris Best, Richard McManus, David Buer, and Gordon Boykin (OLG), deeply involved in their Scrabble game. (Photo: Friar Sam Nasada)



*Friar Matthew Beckmann making a presentation to friar participants.
(Photo: Friar Sam Nasada)*



Below: Holy Cross Retreat, Mesilla Park, New Mexico



NEXT INTERPROVINCIAL RETREAT
Francis of Assisi and the Logic of the Gospel
St. Francis Friary, Burlington, Wisconsin
March 12-15, 2018

Friar Michael Blastic (HNP), pictured at right, is the scheduled presenter at the second interprovincial retreat offered this calendar year.



The event is slated for St. Francis Friary (former site of the interprovincial novitiate), Burlington, Wisconsin, March 12-15. The complete title of the retreat is "*Francis of Assisi and the Logic of the Gospel: Relinquishment, Fraternal Life, and Misison.*" Michael is presently on the interprovincial novitiate team at Old Mission Santa Barbara, California. The event, sponsored by our confreres of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (ABVM) province, is free of charge to friars. Those who are also participating in the R + R interest groups are welcome to stay an extra night (meals included) in order to do their work. **Deadline for receipt of registration is February 28.**

Download, complete and mail (snail mail!) the application form on the flyer. [CLICK HERE TO DOWNLOAD THE FLYER AND APPLICATION.](#)

HURRY!! SIGN UP NOW!!
THESE ANNOUNCEMENTS JUST IN!
2018 RETREATS SPONSORED BY HOLY NAME PROVINCE
OPEN TO ALL FRIARS

Sine Proprio

Retreat Director: John Quigley, OFM

Saint Anthony Friary, St. Petersburg, FL

Monday, February 19 – Thursday, February 22

In our early formation we often played games with our understandings of our vow of poverty. Concern was often based solely on physical objects, our “possessions.” St Francis investigates a way of life that is free of ownership and control while Jesus invites us to be perfected as our heavenly Father is perfect. To live without property is not only personal freedom but it is a revelation of the life of God who also lives “sine proprio.” This retreat will look at the life of Francis and the theology of God’s simplicity and “poverty.”

**To reserve a place on this retreat, please contact Vincent Laviano, OFM 917-887-5281
vlaviano@aol.com**

Brothers, let us begin again!

Retreat Director: Charles Smiech, OFM

Saint Anthony Friary, Butler, New Jersey

February 26- March 1, 2018

We stand at the doorway of new possibilities filled with hopes and fears. As we see our life as friars changing, this retreat will address the process of dying to self and rising to new horizons. As we walk by faith, we must continue to trust in Him, for the same God who has brought us thus far will continue to lead us where He wants us to be. Our time together will strengthen us for the new life that awaits us.

Friar Charles Smeich. A 1981 graduate from Christ the King Seminary, Charles is now serving at the Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land in America, in Washington D.C. as an International Retreat Director. In addition, he serves both religious and priests as confessor and spiritual director.

**To reserve a place on this retreat, please contact Robert Frazzetta, OFM
201-618-5825, email: rfom@aol.com**

DO YOU BELIEVE IN MIRACLES?

From Rufino Sanchez

Los Angeles, California

Recently, we received this email:

Hello! My name is Rufino Sanchez and I work at St. Francis Church in Los Angeles (Silver Lake). As you may know by now the Franciscans are leaving St. Francis Church. Since I have been working with you Franciscans for 45 years I would like to personally thank each and every one of you. I have written this letter (below) and I hope that you can publish it. It will be an honor for me to let each and one of you know how much I appreciate all of your kindness and love throughout the years.-- ct



Hello, my name is Rufino Sanchez. I was born in a small town in Puebla, Mexico. I come from a very large family. I have two brothers and three sisters. In my family I have very religious people. I have many relatives that are priests and nuns. I married my beautiful wife on December 1, 1966 and nine months later I was blessed with my first boy. We now have four boys and four girls all ranging from ages 50 – 36 years old.

As far as I can remember, I was barely making enough money to pay for the rent and bills. I was working at a bank in a small town. I was not very pleased with what I was doing. By 1972, I already had 3 children and life was not easy. It was very difficult to make ends meet. I did not know what I was going to do and one day while visiting my parents' home, my brother Alvarado was telling us that he was planning to come to the United States because he was not happy in his job either and wanted a chance in life, just like I did. As hard as it was to think about leaving my family, I knew that I had to do something to make ends meet. So, on October 15, 1972 I left Mexico for the United States. I left everything behind: my wife, my children, my parents, my home, and my life. But before I got on the

plane, I went to church to ask Saint Sebastian de Aparisio to protect me and my brother, and for St. Sebastian to be with us in our journey.



In the United States, guess what happened? Saint Sebastian not only protected us but he brought us to his own family, right there at St. Joseph's Church in downtown Los Angeles. The community there was the Franciscan friars (St. Sebastian was a Franciscan brother himself). There was a youth group at the parish and my brother and I joined. **Father Arturo Norman** was our spiritual director. He told us to see the pastor who needed someone to work in the church. We went to see him and by November 7, 1972 I had a job at the church! My journey had begun. Not only did I get a job, but I

also got a family—a Franciscan family. The Franciscan friars took care of me like their own brother and in a few months they provided food and shelter also.

By 1975, I brought my family here, and soon I started a new beginning with a happy and different life. My older kids started school at St. Turibius Elementary School and things had never been more perfect. My wife stayed at home with the kids while I worked and the children kept coming. Our family was growing very fast. It was a good thing that we had a family planning meeting. We only had eight children. Otherwise we would have been on a couple of dozen by now! Nevertheless, all of my children went to St. Turibius Elementary School. **Father Luis Baldonado** and the Franciscan sisters made it possible for my kids to receive a private education. After St. Turibius, the children then attended Holy Cross Middle School. Then, for high school, the boys enrolled at Cathedral High and Loyola High while the girls attended Sacred Heart of Jesus. After high school, all of them attended college, starting from Loyola Marymount University to California State Los Angeles. In addition to all this hard work, my wife also worked very hard as a stay at home mother.

None of this could have happened without the help of the Franciscan friars. We all succeeded. The Franciscans have been and will always be my brothers and they have always helped me with everything that I needed. They also affiliated me to the Franciscan Order and now, 45 years later, I am still with Saint Sebastian De Aparisio's "family". In terms of my own family, I have beautiful family: they are all in great health, have wonderful careers (such as editor, school psychologist, accountant, engineer, marketing, art designer, and a technology expert), and I am enjoying our 12 grandchildren.

I Thank God, I thank the Franciscans, and I thank you for wanting to get to know my family.

Sincerely,

The Sanchez Family

Above right: Mr. & Mrs. Rufino Sanchez celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary

Below: The Sanchez family



Update

IN MEMORIAM

Jennie Gutierrez, the mother of **Friar John Gutierrez**, died on Friday January 5, 2018, in San Jose, California. She was 91 years old and was surrounded at the end by her loving family. The Mass of the Resurrection has been scheduled for Friday January 19, 2018 at Most Holy Trinity Church, 2040 Naussau Drive, San Jose, CA 95122. (tel: 408-729-0101). The inurnment of ashes will be at 12:30 PM following the Mass and will be held at Santa Clara Mission Cemetery, 490 Lincoln St., Santa Clara, CA 95050. (tel: 408-296-4656).

Nadine Kitcheyen, aunt of **Friar Phillip Polk** died Christmas Day December 25, 2017. She was 59 years old. **Sadie Kniffin**, grandmother of Friar Phillip Polk, died Sunday, December 31, 2017. She was 97 years old. She was also the first Native American of her tribe to attend college and the first to become a registered nurse. Her funeral Mass was scheduled to be celebrated by Friar Ignatius DeGroot on Monday January 8, 2018 in San Carlos, Arizona.

Friar Bert (Myron) Pepowski (ABVM), 82, passed from this earthly life on December 28, 2017. He was born on May 14, 1935. A Mass of Christian Burial was held on January 8, 2018 at 11:00 a.m. at Assumption BVM Church, Polaski, Illinois

LET US PRAY FOR. . .

Ed Laverone, the brother of **Friar Ken Laverone**, was in a head-on automobile accident recently and is in the hospital in Modesto in critical condition with multiple injuries.

Dear Friars,

It's been brought to our attention that many of you use Skype, Viber, WhatsApp, etc. when you communicate. Please email me at jromeo@sbofm.org if you would like to add an additional point of contact to the 2018 Directory. Thank you so much – Joanne

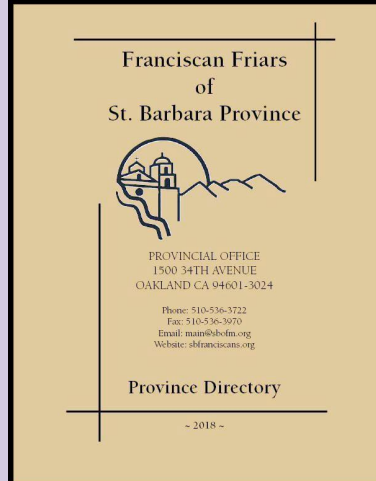
...AND MISSION COOP 2018!

We have 2 parishes in SF Archdiocese that would like us to come and preach for Mission Coop 2018...

St. Dennis Church - Menlo Park - Dates: Weekend of July 15 or July 22

St. Matthias - Redwood City - Dates: The weekend of Aug 11 & 12

Please email me at jromeo@sbofm.org if you are available for any of the above dates.



FROM FRIAR PONCHIE VASQUEZ San Solano Missions Featured in New Video

By Catholic Extension Society

The just-released “Catholic Extension” broadcast Episode 12 features another segment on our Franciscan confreres and the San Solano Missions. The episode is called “The Light of Christ” and is being aired on various Catholic cable stations throughout the country.



You can view the video online on the web page: www.catholicextension.org/videoseries. It is the first video on that page, and our segment is from 18:17 to 20:27.

That page also includes Episode 6, “Good Shepherds” with our previous longer segment on the San Solano ministry from 17:26 to 25:56

A shorter San Solano segment is also available in our YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/user/cathextension/videos>. It is called “The Border Divides a Nation at San Solano Missions,”



**AND FINALLY!
YES, THERE'S STILL A BIT OF CHRISTMAS
LINGERING IN THE AIR THIS JANUARY
A Post-Christmas Meditation in Calligraphy
By Friar Franklin Fong**

Brothers, the late theologian Howard Thurman wrote a wonderful poem about the season after Christmas/ Epiphany. He really puts Christmas into the bigger picture and context of our lives as disciples of Jesus Christ. Enjoy! (Artwork by Friar Franklin Fong)

<https://animoto.com/play/8iOfrqt6wUgqTW84hqlH7w>



Entrance of Serra Center, San Luis Rey
Parish, Oceanside, California.



Friar Vince Mesi, Pastor, San Luis Rey
Parish, Oceanside, California.

ALL THE NEWS THAT FITS, WE PRINT!

Current Newsletters from other US Provinces NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE!

Through the efforts of the US/ ESC Communicators group—special thanks to **Friar Jim McIntosh (HNP)**—you can view newsletters from other US/OFM provinces without having to subscribe to them individually.

If you ARE already registered for the “Friars Only” section of the website www.USFranciscans.org, just use this direct link:

<https://friars.usfranciscans.org/provincial-news/>

If you have NOT registered previously on this website, go to , www.USFranciscans.org, then click “Friars Only” at the top of the menu, then follow the instructions to register.

REVIEW OF *THE SULTAN AND THE SAINT* From David A. Elliott

My friend, Franciscan **Friar Mark Schroeder**, asked what I thought of the new drama-documentary, *The Sultan and the Saint*. Two thumbs up! Amazing what breadth and depth they communicated with integrity in such a brief span of time. They honored the most pertinent material from the (outstanding) book by Paul Moses, while supplementing it concisely to introduce new themes. First rate—I ended up buying it for only \$5.99 from iTunes. Well worth it, especially considering how many I'll share it with over time. (Lisa noticed Franciscan **Brother Mike Minton's** name in the credits, so I'm also seeking his contact information just to say, "Well done, Brother!") Once you've enjoyed this film, you might wish to form a small reading/discussion group to dive into the riches of Paul Moses's masterful book (nb: *The Saint and the Sultan*—different word order). Peace and all good.





Mel Bucher – Feb 1
Zeno Im – Feb 4
Joseph Zermeno – Feb 5
Elias Galvez – Feb 7
Rodrigo Ortiz – Feb 8
Michael Guinan – Feb 16

Pedro Umaña - Feb 18
John Gurierrez – Feb 20
Stephen Barnufsky – Feb 23
Ray Bucher – Feb 27
Tony Lavorin – Feb 28



Warren Rouse – Feb 6
Robert Brady – Feb 22
Gary Swirczynski – Feb 27

2017 Calendar

From Lara Hansen

~ UPCOMING EVENTS ~

Day of Discernment
Serra Retreat Center ~ February 3

Discernment Dinner in Los Angeles
Anaheim Convention Center ~ March 15 - 18

OFM.FYI, the bi-weekly newsletter of the Franciscan Friars Province of Saint Barbara, is published on the 1st and 15th of each month. Editor: Charles Talley ofm. Layout and artwork: Joanne Romeo. Relevant submissions of texts, photos, etc., are welcome at any time **and will be placed in the next appropriate issue.** Send submissions to: ofm.fyi@gmail.com

Visit our website