

# OFM.FYI

~ Happy Easter! Christ is Risen! ~



Volume 3 ~ Issue 6 ; April 1-14, 2018

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**PROVINCE JOINS WITH 118 GROUPS  
IN AMICUS CURAE BRIEF  
TO SUPPORT 'DREAMERS'  
March 20, 2018**

The Franciscan Friars of the Province of St. Barbara recently joined with a coalition of 118 other religious groups and organizations in the filing of an *amicus curae* brief before the



United States Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit (northern district of California) on March 20, 2018. The case concerns the outstanding DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) program, which affects the legal status of so-called "Dreamers"— upwards of 1.6 million

young people brought to the United States by undocumented parents and guardians as infants and children.



In signing the brief with a statement of interest on behalf of the friars, **Provincial Minister David Gaa** (Pictured above right) noted that: "The friars of the St. Barbara Province are convinced that the present Federal climate of oppressing immigrants is contrary to human dignity afforded every child of God. As Pope Francis has stated, 'A person who thinks only about building walls, wherever they may be, and not building bridges, is not Christian. This is not the Gospel.' And last year, the Pope added, 'Walls solve nothing. We must build bridges. But bridges are built intelligently, through dialogue and integration. So, I understand this fear, but closing borders does not solve anything, because in the long term that closure hurts the people themselves.' And as well, the underlying racism needs to be labeled, and nonviolently opposed."

According to organizers, the brief submitted before the Court "illustrates the vibrancy of DACA beneficiaries in their religious communities, the extent of support of the religious community for DACA recipients, and the ways in which religious institutions would be harmed if DACA is ended." The present case before the Court of Appeals concerns the Regents of the University of California v. Department of Homeland Security.



### **FROM FRIAR SAM NASADA OFM's WELL-REPRESENTED AT LOS ANGELES RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CONGRESS Anaheim, March 15-18, 2018**

There was no shortage of OFM presence at what is considered the largest annual Catholic gathering in the United States: the Los Angeles Religious Education Congress in Anaheim, CA. Held from Friday to Sunday with a special day for youth on Thursday, the event attracted about 40,000 people from all over the world. **Friar Dan Horan (HNP)** gave several presentations, both to youth and the general public, as well as presided over a liturgy called "Hope for the World in the Young Adult Perspective." Meanwhile, **Friar Rufino Zaragoza** coordinated the music for the Vietnamese liturgy. **Friar William Burton (SHP)**, a scripture scholar, gave two workshops on the Synoptic Gospels and the Gospel of John, respectively.



*(Above: l-r: Friars Scott Slattum and Dan Horan (HNP). (Photo: Sam Nasada)*

As usual, the Franciscan School of Theology and our Vocations Office had a booth open in the Exhibit Hall. This year, the Franciscan Renewal Center also opened a booth at Congress, showcasing the different ministries at the Casa. Current FST students and alumni, as well as other friars from our province and others, stopped by and helped promoted our school and vocation. Among other non-St. Barbara friars were: **Casey Cole** and **Edgardo (Lalo) Jara (HNP)**, **Frank Jasper (SJB)**, currently on sabbatical at Old Mission San Luis Rey), **Rommel Perez** and **Jose-Luis Peralta (OLG)**. Additionally, all the 6 current novices came from Santa Barbara and were very active in reaching out to people about vocation.





*(Above: Novice Antonio Luevano, Friars Sam Nasada, Jose-Luis Peralta (OLG), Ivan Cortéz (Junipero Serra), Novice Luis Rosado (HNP) and Friar Javier Reyes at the Vocations Booth. (Photo: Ivan Cortéz)*

*Below: Friars Eric Pilarcik, Novice Jason Damon (HNP), Friars Juan-Jose Jauregui, Sam Nasada, Javier Reyes, Oscar Mendez, Novice Troy Hillman (HNP), and Friar Zeno Im. (Photo: Zeno Im)*



**Talks by Friar Michael Blastic Available  
From Interprovincial Retreat  
March 12-15, 2018**



**Friar Tom West writes:** Minister Provincial David Gaa, Friar Ray Bucher, and I participated in the Interprovincial Retreat in Burlington, Wisconsin (March 12-15).

Approximately 25 friars from around the US attended. The theme of the retreat was: "Francis of Assisi and the Logic of the Gospel." The talks by our presenter, **Friar Michael Blastic** (HNP and member of the Interprovincial Novitiate team in Santa Barbara) are available online at [www.livestream.com/assumptionprovince](http://www.livestream.com/assumptionprovince)

**A Gentle Reminder:  
Register IN ADVANCE for the  
EXTRAORDINARY CHAPTER!  
Old Mission San Luis Rey  
May 28-May 30, 2018**

**Friar Mark Schroeder writes on behalf of the Extraordinary Chapter Steering Committee:**

Every friar needs to register for the Extraordinary Chapter. We have made the process for registration quite simple. We are using the Courtyard Marriott for overflow; we want to fill the Retreat Center to maximum capacity to keep our costs down. The Province does subsidize a large portion of the total cost of Chapter.



**Chapter starts Monday, May 28 with dinner and ends Wednesday, May 30 with dinner.** Of course, you can stay Wednesday night and leave Thursday.



The prices listed are "total package" and the same for each friar, whether you spend two or three nights. (If you are like me, I always look for the cheaper deal. There are no cheaper deals! The costs are high and therefore we cannot discount if you only stay two nights.) Using the link from San Luis Rey Retreat Center, you are given four options for lodging, and two options for payment.

**Lodging options:**

1. Friars already living at MSLR;
  2. Friars who would like to stay at the Mission Retreat Center;
  3. Friars who would like to stay at the Courtyard Marriott (this is limited to 35 reserved rooms); and
  4. Friars making their own lodging arrangements.
- After you click on your housing option, you can make a reservation just for yourself or for a group of friars.

**Payment options:**

Once you are on the registration page, you can choose to either

1. pay now with credit card, or
2. pay by check later (during Chapter).

**To finalize our logistics, we need you to make your reservation by Friday April 20.**

(If you have questions, see my contact information on the registration link or contact the retreat center directly.)

[Click Here to Register for the Extraordinary Chapter.](#)

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**AHEM!**

**SPEAKING OF CHAPTERS,  
KEEP IN MIND**

**CHAPTER 2019!**

**June 23 – 28, 2019**

**Franciscan Renewal Center, Scottsdale, Arizona**

Members of the Chapter 2019 Steering Committee (**Friar Peter Boegel, Chair**) are already hard at work doing preliminary planning for the event. They met recently with **Friar Robert (Bob) Barbato OFM.Cap.**, who is serving as a consultant for the meeting at which, among other things, friars will vote for members of the Definitorium. In addition to Peter, other Steering Committee members include: **Ray Tintle, Sam Nasada, Sebastian Sandoval, Scott Slattum, Oscar Méndez, and Charles Talley.** Feel free to contact any one of these friars if you have any particular ideas, suggestions, or concerns about Chapter.

Also, mark the dates:

- **Convocation (North): October 23-25, 2018 / San Juan Bautista, CA**
- **Convocation (South): October 29-31, 2018 / Franciscan Renewal Center, Scottsdale, AZ.**



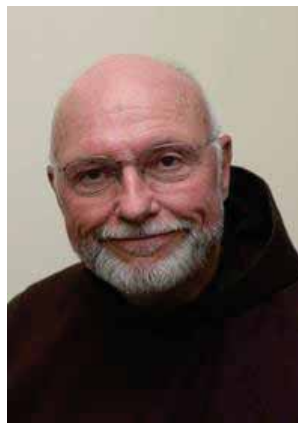


Above: Chapter 2019 Steering Committee (clockwise, starting at head, left) **Friars Peter Boegel, Ray Tintel, Sam Nasada, Scott Slattum, Bob Barbato (consultant), Sebastian Sandoval, Oscar Méndez.** Missing: **Charles Talley (holding the camera).** Photo: C. Talley, ofm

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**AN INVITATION TO FRIARS!  
“WE ARE ALREADY ONE”--  
CONTEMPLATIVE DAYS RETREAT  
MOUNT IRENAEUS, NEW YORK  
JUNE 18-22, 2018**

**FROM FRIARS KEVIN KRISO & DAN RILEY**



We would like to invite you to Mt. Irenaeus' 2018 "Contemplative Days," June 18-22.

Almost from our beginning on the Mountain we have gathered with Franciscan men and women, and also Camaldolese Benedictines, to enjoy and explore the quiet at the Mountain. We gather, share common prayer, meals and conversation, knowing that we each enter and have lived a contemplative life in various ways as we learn from one another and deepen our own contemplative practices.

*(Below: Holy Peace Friary-Mt. Irenaeus, NY)*



Our theme this year comes from one of Thomas Merton's insights, "We are already one" with our addition of "Grounding in Christ's Peace in Troubled Times."

Mt. Irenaeus is comprised of 378 acres of trails, woodland, ponds and open spaces as well as a chapel, hermitage and a large timber-framed common house, the House of Peace. Most of each day will be "open" so that we have time to read, rest, pray and roam around reading "The Book of Creation." We will also meet as a group each day for discussions and for communal prayer. For those who might want to do some physical indoor or outdoor labor, that will also be gratefully accommodated!

*(Below: Chapel, Mount Irenaeus)*



We have availability for single occupancy in the House of Peace and in cabins and hermitages. In keeping with a contemplative time, we hope to give participants enough space to be in solitude as they wish so we are taking reservations on a first come, first-served basis. The Contemplative Days begin mid-afternoon on Monday, June 18 and conclude by lunchtime on Friday, June 22.

Throughout the world there is a hunger and need for all of us to take time with our relationship with God and listen to what is ours to do. Many times, more "practical" concerns compete for our attention but in reality, taking time with God is probably the most "practical" thing we can do. Maybe this letter is an invitation to you from God to take some time away?

**Please contact us by Tuesday, May 1 for a place in our Contemplative Days. You can use our phone number 585-973-2470 or e-mail Michelle Marcellin, our Office Coordinator, at [mmarc@sbu.edu](mailto:mmarc@sbu.edu).**

With fraternal affection,  
Kevin and Dan

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## **FST OFFERS CONTINUING ED CLASSES SUMMER 2018**

**From Friar Ken Laverone  
Director of Ongoing Formation**

The Franciscan School of Theology is announcing their Summer 2018 Continuing Education Program. This is an excellent opportunity for Ongoing Formation that we are all requested to take advantage of as part of the Orders guidelines for Formation of All Friars at all stages of our lives.

The Ongoing Formation Office has funds to support tuition and housing for these courses at FST. If you choose to participate in any of these programs, please register directly with FST and then complete the Ongoing Formation Grant Request found in the Friary Handbook. Once I have received your request and a space has been reserved for you, I will request the Provincial Office to forward the funding for your participation. For the complete schedule of classes, [click here](#).

Offerings this summer include:

- July 2-6 **Friar Garrett Galvin**, *The Book of Genesis and the Spiritual Formation of God's People*
- July 9-13 Mary Beth Ingham, CSJ, *The Path of Beauty: Walking with a Discerning Heart*
- July 16-20 **Friar Joseph Chinnici**, *Communion and Critique: Franciscan Religious Practices and the Transformation of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*
- July 23-27 **Friar Bill Short**, *Praying with St. Francis: An Introduction to Contemplation*



Fr. Garret Galvin, OFM



Mary Beth Ingham, CSJ



Fr. Joe Chinnici, OFM



Br. Bill Short, OFM

*(Mary Beth Ingham photo courtesy FST, Friar photos courtesy Peter Jordan)*

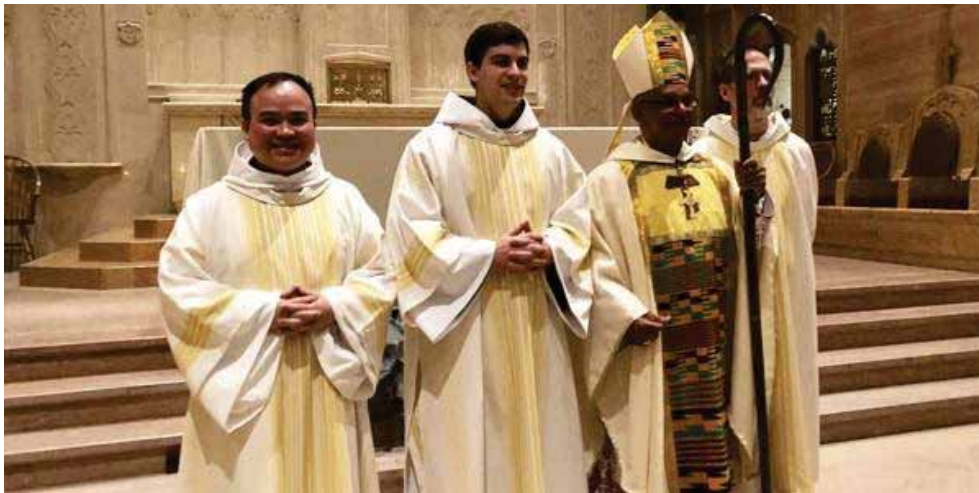
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**Three Friars Ordained to Diaconate in Chicago  
From Friar Jim McIntosh (HN)  
March 10, 2018**

Three Franciscan friars were ordained as transitional deacons on March 10. In the beautiful and historic St. Peter's in the Loop Church, Bishop Fernand Cheri III, OFM, ordained **Friars Casey Cole (HNP)** from North Carolina; **Dat Hoang**, (SH) from Vietnam by way of Minnesota; and **Edward Tverdek**, (SH), from the Chicago area, to the diaconate. As transitional deacons, these men expect to be ordained as priests after serving for a time as deacons. Bishop Cheri, the principal celebrant, is an auxiliary bishop of New Orleans, and a member of Sacred Heart Province.

Concelebrating the Mass were **Provincial Minister Thomas Nairn**, OFM, of Sacred Heart Province and Friar Joseph Rozansky representing Provincial Minister Kevin Mullen, OFM, of Holy Name of Jesus Province. Family members, approximately 50 Franciscan friars, and other guests witnessed the ordination. The Mass was followed by a simple celebration and lunch in the church basement.

— *Friar Jim McIntosh is US Franciscans Director of Communications. Text edited for length. - ct*



*(l to r) Friars Dat Hoang (SH), Casey Cole (HN), Bishop Fernand Cheri, and Ed Tverdek (SH).*

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**FROM FRIAR SAM NASADA  
NEW DEACONS FROM THE PROVINCE OF JUNIPERO SERRA  
St. Francis of Assisi Church, Tijuana, Mexico,  
February 26, 2018**

On February 26, three friars from Junipero Serra Province in Mexico were ordained to the diaconate (*pictured below, l-r*): **Friars Heli Absalón Monroy Rodríguez, Jesús Iván Cortéz Osorio, and Rubén Darío Meléndez Hinostroza**

Ordaining bishop was Francisco Moreno Barrón, Archbishop of Tijuana. Ivan and Ruben are currently studying at the Franciscan School of Theology in Oceanside, CA. ¡Felicidades, hermanos

*(Photo: courtesy Friar Heli Absalón Monroy).*





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## JUST OUT!

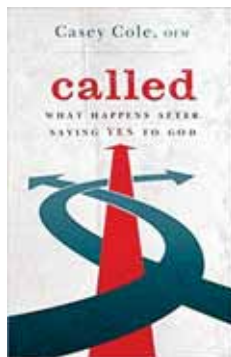
### ***CALLED: What Happens After Saying Yes to God*** By Casey Cole OFM

“Six years ago, in July of 2010, I said yes to God. The culmination of much discernment and prayer over a number of years, I found myself sitting alone in a chapel no longer afraid of what I was going to do with my life. Finally confident in who I was and comfortable with who God wanted me to be, I was ready to begin living completely for God rather than myself.”



So begins **Friar Casey Cole** in this newly published title, released just this month (March, 2018) by publisher Franciscan Media. The book culls from six years’ worth of blog entries penned by Casey, charting his experience and reflections on community life.

Casey, a friar of the Holy Name Province, who recently made his solemn profession, originated “Breaking the Habit,” the highly acclaimed YouTube videos which provide a young “friar’s eye view” of Franciscan life.



Rather than print a review here, we welcome friars to write their own impressions of the book. Send them to us at: [ofm.fyi@gmail.com](mailto:ofm.fyi@gmail.com)

**Casey Cole, OFM**

**Called: What Happens After Saying Yes to God**

**Paperback:** 192 pages

**Publisher:** Franciscan Media (March 7, 2018)

**Language:** English

**ISBN-10:** 1632532417

**ISBN-13:** 978-1632532411

Kindle edition available.

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# Updates....



Requiescant in pace. May they rest in peace.



**Br. Maurice Peltier, OFM** - Brother Mo died Wednesday, March 14, 2018 at Highland hospital in Oakland CA. Brother Mo was 93 years old and 64 years professed. The Mass of the Resurrection was on Friday March 23, 2018, in the Historic Church at Old Mission San Luis Rey. A memorial service for Brother Mo for staff and volunteers is scheduled for April 15, 1:30 pm at San Damiano Retreat, Danville, CA. Friars are certainly welcome, too.



**Br. Marion Alfonso, OFM** - Brother Marion died on Thursday March 22, 2018. He was 94 years old and 60 years professed. Visitation will be held on Monday April 2, 2018, from 5 to 7 PM at the Sorenson Chapel, 1140 B Street, Hayward, CA 94541. The Mass of the Resurrection will be at 11 Am on Tuesday April 3, 2018 at St Elizabeth's Church, 1500 34th Ave., Oakland, CA 94601. Burial at St. Mary's Cemetery immediately following the Mass.

### **Integral Ecology and Catholic Energy Transformation Webinar: April 12, 10 AM (Pacific)**

This webinar will explore ways in which religious communities and institutions can reduce their energy consumption and transition to renewable energy sources. Dan Misleh will help set the tone by talking about the Catholic Climate Covenant and how a focus on reducing energy waste and improving the environment aligns with Catholic teaching and our collective responsibility to care for creation and care for the poor. Dan Last will give an overview of how the Catholic Energies program is helping Catholic facilities implement energy projects, along with examples of their work with Catholic institutions. Lastly, Mark Simmons will discuss some of the solar and renewable energy options. There will be time for questions and discussion. [REGISTER HERE.](#)



**FROM FRIAR MAX HOTTLE  
ANNUAL POW-WOW  
San Xavier Mission  
Tucson, Arizona  
March 17-18, 2018**

Our confrere, **Friar Max Hottle**, has sent us this photo, which he has labelled as "Franciscan Sister dancing along with The Peoples" on school playground behind the friary & convent.

*(Below photo: San Xaver Pow-wow, 2018. Photo: Courtesy, Max Hottle OFM)*





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**FROM ROME, ITALY**  
**A NOTE FROM PETER WISE**  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, SAN DAMIANO RETREAT**  
**March 18, 2018**

While passing through Rome and searching for Sunday Mass in English, **Brother Bill Short** shared his Roman orchard project, similar to ours at San Damiano. This is *Laudato Si* in action!

By the way, meeting Brother Bill seemed to happen because the night prior my wife Patrice, my mother, and I searched online for a Mass in English. Of several options, we choose St. Isidore's, which unbeknownst to us is run by Franciscans, many Irish among them. So after Mass at the hospitality gathering I asked if any friars had been part of the Province of St. Barbara. Br. Bill Short was there. We shared our connections with Brother James Lockman and others connected to San Damiano. I mentioned San Damiano's new orchard of course, and he showed me major work of similar nature he/the friars are doing at this cool and very old place in Rome. You might notice in the attached picture pruned olive trees and the paved area (note vehicle) that his Irish/UK brothers will soon replace with a new vibrant green space. ( No gophers!) About the rain clouds, they were of substance. Good for Brother Bill's projects.

*(Below photo: Peter Wise (l) with Brother Bill Short at St. Isidore's, Rome. Photo: P. Wise)*



## WE ARE NOW ON INSTAGRAM!

Research has shown that the largest age group of Instagram users is 25-34 year old. This is the prime target of our vocations search. Our Instagram username is: **iwantobeafranciscan**.



Please follow us if you have Instagram, and spread the word, especially to those who you think might be interested in journeying with us as friars. If you don't have Instagram already, you might want to try to sign up... It's actually very easy. We really appreciate your continued support with encouraging and inviting young men to consider the Franciscan life.

## BIRTHDAYS & Feast Days

### BIRTHDAYS

Vince Mesi – April 1  
Joachim Grant – April 3  
Tom Frost – April 5  
Dennis Duffy – April 12  
John Kiesler – April 16  
Franklin Fong – April 16  
Jeff Macnab – April 18  
Nghia Phan – April 24  
Louis Khoury – April 26  
Miguel Obregon – April 25  
Christian Mondor – April 27  
John Tran Nguyen – April 27  
Brian Trawick – April 2

### FEAST DAYS

Richard McManus – April 3  
Ben Innes – April 4  
Vincent Nguyen – April 5  
Alberto Villafan – April 8  
Angelo Cardinalli – April 19  
Jorge Hernandez – April 23  
Rene Juarez – April 27

## 2018 Calendar

*From Lara Hansen*

### ~ UPCOMING EVENTS ~

#### **Discernment Dinner/Prayer/Discussion**

*April 13 ~ Assumption Friary, Boyle Heights, Los Angeles, CA - 5PM*

#### **Discernment Dinner/Prayer/Discussion**

*April 18 ~ Old Mission Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, CA - 5PM*

#### **Come and See Discernment Weekend Retreat**

*April 20-23 ~ Old Mission Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, CA*

#### **Come and See Discernment Weekend Retreat**

*April 20-23 ~ St. Elizabeth Friary, Oakland, CA*

#### **Vocation Day**

*April 23 ~ Our Lady Queen of Angels Catholic Church, Newport Beach, CA*



## Youth Vocation Day

April 23 ~ Franciscan Renewal Center, Scottsdale, AZ

### Discernment Dinner/Prayer/Discussion

May 4 ~ St. Elizabeth Friary, Oakland, CA - 5PM

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**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.

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](mailto:ofm.fyi@gmail.com)

Visit our website

