

Servites Today



“The Order of Friar Servants of Mary is a community of men gathered together in the name of Jesus the Lord. Moved by the Spirit, we commit ourselves, as did our First Fathers, to witness the gospel in fraternal communion and to be at the service of God and all people, drawing abiding inspiration from Mary, Mother and Servant of the Lord. “

Servite Constitutions, #1

When you write or review your will, please consider making a charitable bequest. Your bequest to the Servants of Mary will help us spread devotion to the Blessed Virgin; serve the Church in parishes, schools, hospitals, and foreign missions; train future priests and brothers; and provide for the elderly religious. Your charity will be a lasting memorial that will grow and prosper in the minds and hearts of all who are touched by the work of the Servants of Mary.

For more information, please contact Fr. Lawrence at the Servite Development Office: 1439 South Harlem Avenue, Berwyn, IL 60402, 708-795-8885 or visit www.servite.org (the Gifts/Giftshop link).

From the Editor



The story by now should be familiar... “A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they had not much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, but when the sun rose they were scorched; and since they had no root they withered away. Other seeds fell upon thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. He who has ears, let him hear.” (Matthew 13: 3-9).

In many interpretations and homilies, we have probably heard that God is the sower, the seed is the Word, and we are one of the four type of soil: we reject the seed of the Word outright; we hear the Word but do not let it take root; we receive the Word with enthusiasm and then the cares and concerns of the world choke it out; or we allow the Word to take root and our example produces much fruit.

However, we can also look at this story as if we are the sowers. Jesus gave us the Word, not for us to keep personally, but rather to “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...” (Matthew 28:19). God has given us the seeds to sow in the circumstances of our own lives: as missionaries; shrine directors and rectors; as Servites, vowed and secular; ordinary men and women; as donors and collaborators; each doing their part in anticipation of an abundant harvest from which we all might benefit. May God bless and reward the efforts of us all.

Cover: UNIFAS Mass at Monte Senario.
Photo by Theresa Orozco, OSSM.

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James Foerster, Editor

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In 1948, the first American Servites arrived in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa, and established their first mission at Ingwavuma. The area was remote with no towns or villages, no industry or job opportunities, a lack of roads, no electricity, no running water, no schools, and a population living in poverty. These friars were later joined by fifteen others from the USA and Ireland. Four additional missions were established, each with various outstations.

On Saturday, July 19th, 2014, these “Pioneer Missionaries” were honored and celebrated at Ingwavuma. The initiative for the celebration was taken by the laypersons of the Vicariate Pastoral Council. In attendance were many parishioners from the various parishes of the Vicariate Apostolic, Servite friars from Swaziland and Mozambique, the Priors Provincial of the USA and Canadian Provinces, Servite and other Sisters from South Africa and Swaziland, the diocesan priests of the Vicariate, Bishop Jose Luis of Manzini, Bishop Khumalo of neighboring Eshowe, and Bishop Don Pietro of Abruzzi, Italy.

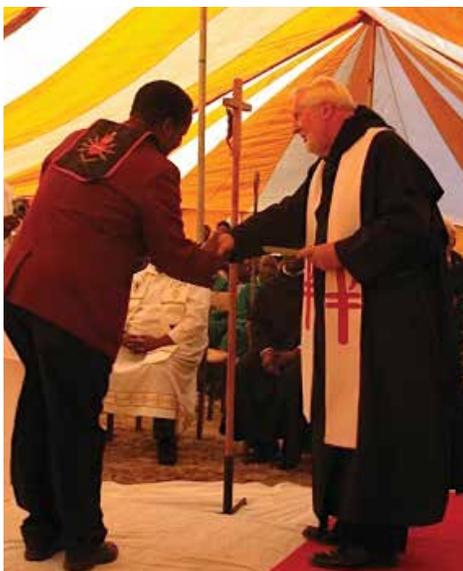
The joyful Mass, accompanied by music and dancing, opened with a rousing *Izibongo* (Zulu praises) in honor of the pioneer missionaries. Adding to the festive, spirited mood, the celebration also witnessed the



“PIONEER MISSIONARIES” TO AFRICA HONORED AT INGWAVUMA

solemn profession of vows of Bro. Thabiso Masinga, O.S.M. After Mass, there was a long roster of speeches – nine in all! The Bishop of Eshowe spoke first. He was followed by two chiefs: Chief Mabudu Tembe from Manguzi, the chair of the local board of chiefs, and Chief Mngomezulu. Chief Tembe’s opening greeting was “Makadunyiswe uJesu Kristo,” (Praised be Jesus Christ). This remark received great applause. The speeches were then

followed by a session of gift giving: two sheep for the chiefs; African carvings for the Provincials; gift tokens for the remaining “pioneers” Fr. Charles Toland, OSM, Fr. Declan Doherty, OSM, and Fr. Mel Loftus, OSM; gifts for living “pioneers” overseas (Fr. Jack LeMay, OSM, Fr. Camillus McGrane, OSM, and Fr. Bernard Thorne, OSM) and various other gifts. The day’s festivities ended with a catered dinner under another colorful tent.



Today, eight Servite friars minister in the Zululand Servite Missions. The main task of the missionaries today continues to be the proclamation of the Gospel and the establishment of viable Catholic communities. Other ministries include education, health care, and building of homes for people of the area. The future looks bright, but we need your continued spiritual and material support as we firmly establish the Catholic Church in South Africa. If you are interested in helping the Servite Missions in Africa, please call the the Servite Development Office at 800-778-4000

UNIFAS 2014

THE VARIED BRANCHES OF THE SERVITE FAMILY GATHER IN ITALY

The Seventh International Congress of the Servite Family (UNIFAS) convened August 4 – 11, 2014, in Collevaenza, Italy. The theme of the congress was “A Sower Went Out to Sow: The Servants of Mary and the New Evangelization.”

UNIFAS was established in 1987, with the goal of bringing together representatives of all branches of the Servite family. Meeting every four years, the group encourages cooperation and sharing in the promotion and renewal of fidelity to the common Servite charism. The purpose of the group is to express, foster, and promote communion and cooperation between the varied members of the entire Servite family.

This year’s assembly brought representatives from twenty-one countries. The ninety-seven attendees represented the Servite friars, enclosed nuns, thirteen separate groups of

sisters, two groups of secular institutes, the lay diakonia, Servite Secular Order members from eleven countries, and two Associate members of the London Servite Sisters. Friars Frank Falco, O.S.M., Arnaldo Sanchez, O.S.M., and Oscar Aguilera, O.S.M., represented the USA Province and Australian Delegation.

Through invited speakers, large and small group discussions, and through shared liturgies, the Congress examined the topic of the “new evangelization” and how each member and group of the Servite Family is challenged by, and lives its own mission of proclaiming the Gospel.

After hearing presentations on the current state of the world and the Church, Pope Francis’ apostolic exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*, and the tradition of the Servants of Mary for the new evangelization, the various family branches shared their differing experiences





be challenged and shaped by it, we commit ourselves to put it into practice, so that the seed of the Gospel might germinate in us and bear fruit in abundance...

Aware that ‘the harvest is abundant, but laborers are few,’ we ask the Lord of the harvest to send workers into his harvest; into the vineyard of Senario, new brothers and sisters, workers for peace and harmony, cantors of God’s glory, messengers of the Gospel.”

Photos in this article courtesy of Theresa Orozco, OSSM.

of evangelization within their particular expression of Servite life.

Participants also found time to make two spiritual pilgrimages. The first was to pay homage to St. Philip Benizi, the first Servite saint, at the Sanctuary of St. Philip in Todi, where his body rests under the altar. A spiritual homecoming was then made to Monte Senario to honor the Seven First Fathers, the first sowers and the root of branches of the Servite family. At the monumental cross here, the participants received the symbols of soil, seed, sprouts, and stone, along with an image of the Seven

Holy Founders, in honor the conference theme.

The work of the congress concluded with an inspiring *Message to the Servite Family*, the result of the presentations, work, and reflections of the group. It reads in part:

“As sons and daughters of the Seven First Fathers, we too have discovered Christ to be the pearl of great price, the cause of our joy, and we prefer nothing to his love. Meek and humble, free and obedient, we welcome his word as the seed in our soil; day after day, we meditate upon it and, allowing ourselves to



What is the “New Evangelization?”

The term “new evangelization” was made popular by Pope John Paul II, mainly in reference to Europe, once strongly Christian but becoming increasingly secular. Having accepted the Gospel once, and on the verge of forgetting it, the pope saw the European nations as in need of a “new evangelization.” Pope Benedict followed up by establishing the Pontifical Council for the New Evangelization in 2010. The secularization trend is not the case for Europe only. A recent study by CARA (Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate) revealed that 77% of American Catholics claim that they are “proud to be Catholic.” And yet, only 23% of those attend Mass weekly. It became clear to many American bishops that the Church in the United States was also in need of new evangelization and put out the call for every Catholic to deepen their own faith, believe in the Gospel, and be willing and open to sharing the Good News.



NEW LEADERSHIP AT THE GROTTO

PORTLAND NATIVE SELECTED AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Grotto is pleased to welcome Thomas Fullmer as the new Executive Director of The Grotto.

Servite Fr. Jack Topper, Executive Director since 1991, will remain at The Grotto serving as Rector. While Fullmer will become the administrative leader of The Grotto, Fr. Topper will be the spiritual leader, and will continue to lead the sacramental and religious ministries of The Grotto.

Fullmer is a Portland native who has been heavily involved in non-profit organizations, including serving as board president of Michael Allen Harrison's Snowman Foundation, and as director of business development for the Total Development Center, a non-profit project working with youth. He has been involved with the Blanchet House of Hospitality and has served on the executive committee of the Portland Good Friday Breakfast.

Fullmer brings event management experience to The Grotto. Working with Peter Jacobsen Productions, Fullmer was tournament director of many large-scale events, including the PGA JELD-WEN Tradition Golf Tournament and the USGA's 2003 U.S. Women's Open at Pumpkin Ridge Golf Course.

Among his many involvements are working with Oregon Entrepreneurs Network and serving on the board of the Oregon International Air Show. He is a graduate of Jesuit High School and the University of Oregon.

"My parents brought me and my brothers and sisters to The Grotto frequently back in the 60s and 70s. It was my Mom's favorite place. I am humbled to have been selected to carry on the 90-year tradition of The Grotto," said Fullmer.

"I invite people of all faiths and cultures to visit this Portland treasure and I encourage those who have visited in the past to return with family, friends and out-of-town visitors throughout the year. It is one of Portland's best-kept secrets and summer and fall are beautiful times of year to visit."



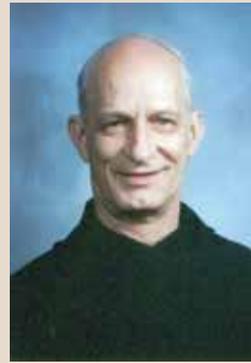
US PROVINCE JUBILARIANS



Fr. Mel Loftus, OSM
55 Years Solemn Profession
October 11, 2014



Fr. Carlo Marchetti, OSM
55 Years Ordination
October 18, 2014

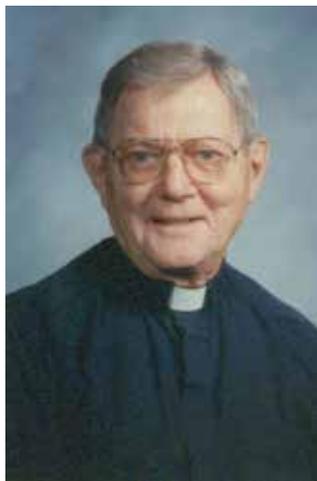


Bro. Michael Callary, OSM
55 Years Solemn Profession
October 25, 2014



Fr. Thulani Ntsele, OSM
15 Years Ordination
November 28, 2014

Fr. Sean Lennon, OSM
35 Years Solemn Profession
November 17, 2014



Fr. Anthony M. Gaydos, O.S.M., a solemn professed friar and priest of the Order of Friar Servants of Mary, USA Province, died Friday, July 18, 2014, at Mary Queen and Mother Center, Affton, MO. He was ninety-three years of age and a priest for sixty-six years. He was born April 27, 1921 in Weirton, West VA, the son of the late Emery and Anna (Pillar) Gaydos. He is the brother of the late Sr. Cecilia Gaydos, O.S.M., Emery (Sylvia), the late Martha (John) Merryman, Bernard, Timothy (Marian), and the uncle of several nephews & nieces.

Fr. Gaydos entered the Servite Order at Mater Dolorosa Seminary, Hillside, IL on September 15, 1934, professed solemn vows in 1946 and was ordained a priest on May 27, 1948. Fr. Gaydos was an Instructor and Assistant Master of Students, Mater Dolorosa Seminary, Hillside, IL; Instructor at St. Philip High School, Chicago, IL, Master of Postulant Brothers, Chicago, IL, Assistant Servite Vocation Director,

Chicago, IL., Instructor, Servite Seminary, Hillside, IL. He also served as Pastor of St. Joseph Parish, Carteret, NJ, and Associate Pastor at Seven Holy Founders Parish, Affton, MO. He began his nearly forty year association with St. Marie du Lac, Parish, Ironton, MO, in 1973. He served at this parish in the foothills of the Ozarks first as pastor until 1991, and then as senior priest. He will be remembered for his humorous stories and serious homilies as well as for his contentious relationship with the ducks at the parish lake. For many years he kept his Servite brothers entertained with his contributions to their monthly newsletter, *Inter-Servos*.

He officially retired in 2012 with residence at Mother of Perpetual Help Center, St. Louis, MO. The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Thursday, July 24, 2014 at Our Lady of Sorrows Basilica. Interment was in the Servite plot at Queen of Heaven Cemetery, Hillside, Illinois.

REST IN PEACE





Servites
Today

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Notes

from the National Shrine of St. Peregrine

St. Peregrine is the patron saint of the sick, especially those suffering with cancer or other serious illness. Guided by his love of the Blessed Virgin, he entered the Servite Order and dedicated himself wholly to the service of God and the Church. At the age of sixty, he suffered from varicose veins which degenerated into a gangrenous ulcer of the leg. It was decided, with the consent of the friars, to amputate the leg as soon as possible. The night before the operation, Peregrine dragged himself before an image of the crucified Christ in the chapter room of the priory. There he became drowsy and seemed to see Jesus descend from the cross to heal his leg. The following day, the doctor arrived to perform the amputation but could find no sign of the wound.

At the National Shrine of St Peregrine (Our Lady of Sorrows Basilica in Chicago), a healing Mass and blessing with relic of St. Peregrine is celebrated at 11:00am on the third Saturday of the month. There is a healing Mass and blessing in Spanish on the second Saturday of each month, also at 11:00am.

This miracle gave faith to those suffering from illness and further enhanced the reputation Peregrine had already received by his exemplary life. While this miraculous, physical healing stands out in St. Peregrine's story, there is another profound reality to keep in mind as we face our own sufferings – the spiritual healing, conversion, and trust that allowed Peregrine to turn his heart over to God and trust in whatever God had in store for him. When we pray, let us ask for this same grace to trust in God's holy will for ourselves and our loved ones.

