



Newsletter

of the Immaculate Conception Province

Order of Friars Minor • Province of the Immaculate Conception

Volume 2, Issue 3

Pax et Bonum!

April-May, 2006

Friar Rocco Famiglietti receives Humanitarian of the Year Award

GUATEMALA CITY - At the invitation of Oscar Berger Perdomo, President of the Republic of Guatemala, Fr. **Robert Campagna**, Provincial Minister, and Fr. **Patrick Boyle**, Provincial Vicar, traveled to Guatemala City on March 28th to witness the presentation of that country's highest honor of recognition given to a civilian, The Humanitarian of the Year Award.



Fr. Rocco Famiglietti, Provincial Minister Robert Campagna (in the President's Chair) and President Oscar Berger Perdomo.

Fr. Rocco Famiglietti, founder and present Guardian of Valle de los Angeles (Valley of the Angels) school and orphanage.

The ceremonies, conducted at the National Palace in Guatemala City, were presided over by the Secretary of the Interior, with President Oscar Berger Perdomo presenting the award in the company of the First Lady, Wendy Berger Perdomo. In his formal address, the President stated how indebted he was to the Franciscan Friars of the Province of the Immaculate Conception for their years of service to the people of his country and for the extraordinary source of support - both spiritually and financially - that they have continued to provide.

Along with the many invited guests and dignitaries that were present, was the mother of the First Lady, who was a member of our parish of San Augustin in Guatemala City when Fr. Rocco was first assigned there as a young missionary. Also present for the ceremony were 25 students from Valley of the Angels along with several of the sisters and teachers who staff the facility.

Following a video presentation that showed the various stages of construction and then the ongoing ministry of Valle de los Angeles, one of the students gave an impressive testimony, from memory, to Fr. Rocco.

In the presence of an abundance of media personnel, the President spoke of the work of the Franciscan Friars in general and then the work of Fr. Rocco personally just prior to pinning the medal of honor on Fr. Rocco. Fr. Rocco himself gave a short, but touching speech of gratitude that was greeted with thunderous applause.

Following a receiving line, during which those present were able to personally congratulate Fr. Rocco, a formal reception was held in the Grand Foyer of the National Palace. Along with Fr. Robert Campagna and Fr. Patrick Boyle, also present were Fr. Rafael Fernandez, Central American Foundation President, Fr. Roberto Siguere and Fr. Guy Vellardita.

During a private conversation with the Provincial Minister in the Presidential Office just prior to the festivities, President Oscar Berger Perdomo stated that this ceremony was a great honor for Fr. Rocco personally, but more significantly, it was a testimony to the many years

"This is our humble way of saying 'Thank you' to you and [those] who continue to support the work of your Province."

- President Oscar Berger Perdomo

of Franciscan presence in Central America.

He told the Provincial Minister, "It is a well deserved show of appreciation to the many friars of your Province who have served as missionaries here in Central America and especially in my own country. This is our humble way of saying 'Thank you' to you and the countless number of benefactors who continue to support the work of your Province through their generous contributions to the Franciscan Mission Associates. I don't always have the opportunity to show my gratitude in such a personal way, so I am most grateful you are here because I know you will carry my words of gratitude back with you."

On Wednesday of Holy Week, Fr. Robert celebrated Mass for the staff and employees of our Franciscan Mission Associates in Mount Vernon, NY and personally shared this message with all present.



Fr. Guy Vellardita, Provincial Minister Robert Campagna, Award Recipient Fr. Rocco Famiglietti, Vicar Provincial Fr. Patrick Boyle, Foundation President Fr. Rafael Fernandez and Fr. Roberto Siguere



Easter Photos

Pictured above are Easter photos from Sacred Heart Church in Waltham, MA (left) and the Chapel at Convento San Francesco (right).

Friar Mario Julian named sheriff's chaplain

TROY, NY - Friar **Mario Julian** reports that he has been named the Chaplain of the Rensselaer County Sheriff's Department. Friar Mario also serves on the Board of Directors of the Roarke Center, an outreach program for people in Troy offering members crisis intervention and advocacy. The Center is run by the Daughters of Charity through St. Anthony School building.

Friar Michael Travaglione sent to the Sinai

NEW YORK - Friar **Michael Travaglione**, a military chaplain, recently informed the Provincial that he has been assigned to the Sinai for at least the next 12 months. He will be working there with the multinational peace force. Please keep Friar Michael in your prayers. His address is:

Fr. Michael Travaglione, OFM
HSC 1SB
Unit 31529

APAE 09832 (Postage is the same as a letter mailed within the U.S.)

The *Newsletter of the Immaculate Conception Province* is published monthly. Content is edited by the Province's Office of Communications. Friar **Thomas Washburn** serves as Managing Editor. Friar **Michael MacInnis** is the Proofreader. Please send all communications [letters, articles, etc.] directly to the Provincial at Rmcofm@aol.com.

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Convento friars celebrate Triduum at the General Curia

ROME - The friars of Convento San Francesco were once again invited by the guardian of the General Curia to celebrate the Paschal Triduum there at our Order's mother house in Rome. The simply professed friars helped out as readers, acolytes, cantors, and Mass servers while Friar Primo Piscitello was invited to be main celebrant for the Easter Vigil. For each celebration, the chapel at the General Curia was filled with friars, Franciscan sisters, and lay people, including Friar Chris Gaffrey's parents. Many of those in attendance commented on the beauty of the liturgy singling out the Exsultet (sung in Italian by Primo) as the most beautiful rendition they had ever heard.

Friar Richard Martignetti published in *The Cord*

ST. BONAVENTURE, NY - The current May/June 2006 issue of *The Cord*, includes an article written by Friar **Richard Martignetti** entitled "The Eucharist and Francis of Assisi." The article focuses on the ways St. Francis encouraged greater reception of Holy Communion in a time when "the practice of receiving Holy Communion had significantly tapered off."

Friar Richard places Francis squarely within the context of the Fourth Lateran Council in 1215 which, among other things, called the faithful to a greater reception of the Eucharist. It is this Council, for example, that established the Easter Duty that we are so familiar with in our own time. Friar Richard writes, "Francis of Assisi must have been overjoyed by the Council's desire to promote Eucharistic devotion since he himself had already been nourishing and deepening his own love for the Body and Blood of the Lord since the advent of his conversion ten years earlier."

He proposes that Francis also serves as a poignant model for us today, "[T]hese words of Francis apply to any and all of us as we heed the call to approach the table of the Lord, partake of His Body and Blood, and marvel at His sublime humility."

The Cord is a publication of The Franciscan Institute at St. Bonaventure University in New York.

Friar Edwin Paniagua defends licentiate

JERUSALEM - On June 5th, Friar **Edwin Paniagua** will prepare his defense of his Licentiate in Sacred Scripture in Jerusalem. Please remember him in your prayers.

First Profession set for June 25th

NEW YORK - Provincial Minister **Robert Campagna** has announced that Friar **Adley Lobo** was approved by the Provincial Council for first profession of temporary vows. First Profession is scheduled for June 25th at 7:00 PM at St. Lawrence Church in Scarborough.

Province website confused for porn site

NEW YORK - Several friars were shocked this week when they thought they were accessing the Provincial website but instead found themselves on a website full of pornographic images. In January 2005, our website changed its address from www.icprovince.COM to www.icprovince.ORG. Although a change of just three letters, those three letters make all the difference.

Website address, or domain names, are not something that we own, but rather we rent them. Once we give up the rental of that particular address, anyone else can pick it up. This is what has happened to our former .com website. Once the rental of that site was given up, it became available. The Province no longer owns the rights to the .COM address and it has subsequently become a porn website. While this is unfortunate, inappropriate and just plain wrong, it is not illegal. And, we have no way of stopping this company from doing this.

The most important thing that we can do is be absolutely certain to have the correct web address for our Provincial website: www.icprovince.org. And, please make sure your parish or other websites that may link to our Province site have the correct address or people visiting your sites will be in for a big surprise.



Friar Francis Walter receives the vows of Friar Alvin Te during the renewal of vows on May 23

Friars in Temporary Profession renew their vows

ROME - On May 23, during Mass in the Convento Chapel, Friar **Francis Walter** received the vows of Friars **Philip Pacheco**, **Andrew Rennie**, **Christopher Gaffrey**, **Giacomo La Selva** and **Alvin Te**. Friars Philip and Andrew renewed their vows, as they anticipate their Solemn Profession of Vows on September 2 in Waltham. Friars Chris, Giacomo and Alvin renewed for one year as they continue their studies, entering into Theology in the next academic year.

In Friar Francis' homily, he stressed the importance to live our vows as a witness to the entire world, being counter-cultural to a culture that does not embrace the ideals of the Evangelical Counsels of Poverty, Chastity and Obedience. (Submitted by Friar Andy Rennie)

PRAYER LIST

Infirm Friars: Friar **Owen Angeloni**; Friar **Kenneth Ghastin**; Friar **Kieran Monahan**; Friar **James Tuxbury**; Friar **Fred Fusco**; Friar **James Merlino**; Friar **Blaise Tranchida**; Friar **Bruno Ciardiello**; Friar **Peter Paul Meilak**; Friar **Jude Mili**; Friar **Rocco Famiglietti**.

Deceased Family and Friends: Fred Rowan, husband of Virginia Rowan a long time employee of FMA; Marian Golischano, secretary at the Provincial Curia who passed away May 3, 2006; Josephine Mestone.

Infirm Family and Friends: Adeline Campagna, mother of Provincial Minister **Robert Campagna**; Anthony Desena, good friend of the friars from Precious Blood Parish in New York; Norman Sysol, father of the late former Vicar Provincial **Steven Sysol**; Domenica D'Arco, sister of Friar **Larry Stumpo**; Peter Shreeves, uncle of Friar **Christopher Gaffrey**; Brian Gaffrey, brother of Friar **Christopher Gaffrey**; June Lane, mother of Friar **Mark Brown**; Grace Bucchino, mother of Friar **John Bucchino**; the father of Friar **Antonio Nardoiani**; Connie Gliatta, the mother of Friar **Ronald Gliatta**; Ann Fusco, sister-in-law of **Fred Fusco**; Jean Bonnici, sister-in-law of Madeline Bonnici (FMA).

Those in nursing home care: Bishop **Nicholas D'Antonio**; Friars **Anthony Dugas**; **Xavier Carnicelli**; **Thaddeus Palmieri**; **Januarius Izzo**.

* Please note: If you know of someone on the prayer list who no longer needs to be there, please send an email to internos@icProvince.org

Blessed Maria Teresa of St. Joseph connected to St. Francis Church, Toronto

TORONTO - Blessed Maria Teresa of St. Joseph, beatified on May 13th, is "one of our own." She lived in Archdiocese of Toronto from 1912-1920. She and her congregation were invited by the Archbishop of Toronto Neil McNeil in 1912 to come to Toronto to minister to the immigrant communities.

She opened their first house and orphanage in our Parish of St. Francis on Harrison Street. The house is still functioning and ministering to the local community. Blessed Maria Teresa in her autobiography speaks highly of the warm welcome and assistance she received by the local community. She lived in and visited Toronto Canada and the USA from 1912 to 1920.

This is what she wrote about her Toronto experience: "Here my dear Italians showed themselves to be generous benefactors. They had not only supplied us with the necessary food, but also collected money and brought it to us after work. They helped us most faithfully through all these years, and we, on our part, have done all we could to get them to observe their religious duties. Since May 1913, their orphan children have always found a home in the Carmel of the Divine Heart. In Toronto we found benefactors of all nationalities faster than in any other foundation. They vied with one another to make a real home here for the poorest of all children."

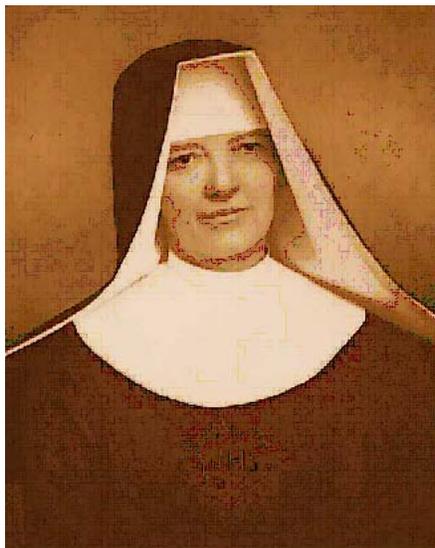
Presently the Carmelite Sisters DCJ have houses in Mississauga, St. Catharines Ontario, and Medicine Hat, Alberta. Mother Maria Teresa of St. Joseph — Anna Maria Tauscher — was born on June 19, 1855 in Sandow, Germany, which is now in Poland. She came from a deeply religious Protestant pastor's family. God guided this richly talented and capable woman on steep and stony roads to the Catholic faith. On October 30, 1888 she was received into the Catholic Church. From then on she herself became poor for the sake of the poor, homeless for the sake of the homeless. She placed her life in the service of God.

In order to realize this goal, she founded a religious Congregation, the Carmel of the Divine Heart of Jesus on July 2, 1891. Mother Maria

Teresa took the Carmelite spirit of prayer and coupled it with apostolic service. Her concern was aimed especially at poor and neglected children, above all those who had no home. Her loving dedication was further directed to families and individuals who had left the Church, to the lonely, the aged, to immigrants and transient workers— simply all who were homeless in any way. So it was that contemplative prayer coupled with active charity became the distinguishing mark of the Carmel of the Divine Heart of Jesus.

After a long life of dedicated service, Mother Maria Teresa died at the age of 83 on September 20, 1938 at the Mother House of the Carmel DCJ. in Sittard, Holland. Bishop W. Lemmens opened her beatification process in Sittard on February 2, 1953. On December 20, 2002 Pope John Paul II declared Mother Mary Teresa of St. Joseph venerable. On May 13th 2006, Mother was beatified in Roermond, Netherlands. Before her death she wrote: "To be able to dry tears, to heal wounds of souls from the heights of heaven, this is my ardent wish."

What a great honor for our Province to be connected to so holy a woman.



Bl. Maria Teresa of St. Joseph



Celebrating his 55 years as a priest at Spinelli's in East Boston, Fr. Bede Ferrara shows Fr. Alfonse Ferreira his latest book, Jesus Weeps dealing with how to cope with loss.

RIP: Friar Emery Kish, May 17

YOUNGSTOWN, OH: Friar **Emery Kish**, died in the evening of May 17, 2006. At the time of his death, Friar Emery was in residence at Assumption Village Nursing Facility in Youngstown. He was moved there in May of 2004 from Mount Alverna Friary, also in Youngstown, due to his health care needs. Friar Emery was 81 years old and was Professed for 54 years. He is survived by several nieces and nephews.

A native son of St. Emery Parish in Fairfield, CT, Friar Emery was originally a member of the Custody of St. Stephen the King, and became a member of our Province in 1993. During his years of ministry, Friar Emery served the people of God, the Custody of St. Stephen the King and our beloved Province in many ways. He ministered primarily to the Hungarian speaking faithful while serving at St. Joseph's Seminary, Teutopolis, IL, St. Emery Church, Fairfield, and St. Joseph Church, Cleveland, OH. Prior to his move to Assumption Village, Friar Emery was a member of the Mount Alverna Friary in Youngstown where he served as Vicar and ministered to the faithful at the Shrine of Our Lady, Comforter of the Afflicted. His connection with the Shrine dates back to its beginnings, as it was Friar Emery who negotiated the original purchase of the land and then oversaw the construction of the Shrine.

All Rites of Christian Burial were conducted at Mount Alverna Friary, Shrine of Our Lady, Comforter of the Afflicted. The wake was held on May 19th, and the Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on May 20th. Interment took place at Calvary Cemetery in Youngstown.

Friars are requested to remember Friar Emery in their prayers, and those who are priests are to celebrate the Eucharist twice. May Jesus, our Risen Savior, whom Friar Emery served so faithfully, receive him into eternal life.