

## A Grace-filled and Rewarding Life...

*A reflection by Mike Vricella, O.F.M. Cap.*

My name is Mike Vricella. I am beginning my second year of studies as a Capuchin Friar in Boston. While serving as Co-Chair of the Vocations Committee of my parish, I met the Capuchins. At that point, I was not actively discerning a religious vocation and other than the saints of the animals and Padre Pio, my knowledge of Franciscans was non-existent. What struck me most is the fraternal spirit embodied by each friar I met. As I began to know friars I asked myself, "If these men value what I do, is God giving me a hint?" Then one night I filled out the online form but was hesitant to hit the send button. Eventually, I did and seven years later I find this to be a grace-filled and rewarding life.

This past summer I was assigned to the northern part of Central America for a cross-cultural immersion program offered by the Province. I spent most of the time in Honduras. The first month was spent studying Spanish and the second month I taught 5<sup>th</sup> grade religion and English at a local school.



Although Honduras is one of the poorest countries in Latin America, the faith of the people is extraordinary. As Franciscans we are called to be healers. Much of the violence and poverty in Honduras was due to social-economic structures that do not benefit the Honduran people.

This coming year, I will be completing an undergraduate degree at Emmanuel College in Boston. I am currently working with the Chinese Catholic Community in preparing to hopefully bring the Good News that transformed Francis over-seas in the future.

