

# Beginning My Third Year of Simple Vows...

*A reflection by Salvatore Cordaro, O.F.M. Cap.*

My first exposure to the Capuchins was at St. John the Baptist Church in New York City. When I had begun attending daily Mass there in 2003, I had already been engaged in a long discernment process to figure out if I was actually called to religious life and, if so, which form of consecrated life was the one I was meant to enter. The friars I observed and eventually got to know there exemplified the life I had been searching for. They were good, humble, prayerful men who served people with joy and with respect, and I knew that I wanted to live as they did. I was accepted into postulancy in 2005 and my time with the Capuchins since then has been a wonderful, blessed experience. Being a relatively older person (I'm now 44 years old), I've had some issues with adapting myself to a new way of being in the world, but there has been nothing that has hindered my growing in my new identity as a Capuchin Franciscan.

This past summer, I was in Central America with five of my brothers from Boston as part of a cultural immersion program. We did have classes there to learn Spanish, but the real reason for the program was to allow us to experience Capuchin life in a different part of the world and to be exposed to life in a part of the world that is desperately poor and in need of economic and social justice.



Unfortunately, I had a somewhat difficult experience in Central America because my fluency in Spanish never reached the level that enabled me to be comfortable in conversing in that language. The resulting isolation was what was truly difficult for me but my brothers from Boston helped me immensely. I am truly grateful for the gift of brothers.

I am currently in post-novitiate in Boston, beginning my third year of simple vows. I will be continuing my studies in theology at Boston College's School of Theology and Ministry, in training for my future role as a priest. I greatly enjoy my studies and am also looking forward to using what I am learning in my present and future ministries. I am attempting to keep my studies grounded in my role of service in the Church and in my call as a Franciscan. I know that I must integrate my spiritual, personal, intellectual and pastoral formation in order to be an effective minister in the Church. I pray that I will be a worthy Capuchin for the rest of my life, one who will help others to realize their own way to God.