

VOL. X ISSUE NO. 2

# CAPERONE

SEPTEMBER 2018

## *AN EVENING WITH THE NOVICES*

CELEBRATING AND SUPPORTING CAPUCHIN VOCATIONS

IN THIS ISSUE...



FORMATOR'S  
CORNER



NOVICE  
SPOTLIGHT



THE ANNUAL  
GALA



SAINT OF THE  
MONTH

# FORMATOR'S CORNER

## PREPARING FOR THE TSUNAMI

By Br. Bill Talentino, OFM, Cap.

For most of us, the present crisis in the Church is an earth-shattering and heart-wrenching experience. In one sense, it should not surprise us that an institution that is made up of sinners might also itself be sinful. On the other hand, we are rightly shaken to learn that some of our leaders have been more concerned about protecting the institution than about protecting souls. We need radical changes, not only in structures, but also in attitudes, so that the Church might reflect more fully what it is meant to reflect. The chaos created by the changes of Vatican II will likely prove to be a spit in the ocean compared to the tsunami of change that is needed, and will hopefully come, in the wake of the present situation. Having said that, I ask myself, as a formator in a religious community, "How do I guide men, who feel called to give their lives in service to the Church, when that Church is in the midst of a huge and serious crisis?"

A few thoughts for our novices' consideration:

Brothers, the first thing we must do is to acknowledge with humility that our own sins contribute to the evil that is in the Church today. Let us not run away from our complicity in today's situation, but rather cry out with St. Peter, "Lord, I am a sinful man." I dread finding out on the last day how many people my sins have hurt. "When we have taken the log out of our own eyes, then we can see to take the specks out of the Church's eyes." Repentance will open our hearts to the ever-active presence of God's Spirit at work in us to bring us and the Church to a greater holiness.

Second, we know that some of the structures of our Church are outdated, harmful, and unjust. One glaring sin is the discrimination against women. Pope John Paul II already apologized to the world for this sin in the Church, and for many other ways that the Church has hurt people in the past. Both he and Pope Francis have apologized to those who have been hurt personally by the sins of Churchmen, priests, religious, and bishops. Jesus did not

come to form a men's club, so let us not hold too tightly to the present structural system. Monumental change will be necessary. If we surrender ourselves to the Spirit of Christ, the Spirit will re-create us to become a holier and more inclusive Church. Let us be friars who are open to new possibilities, perhaps even some that may make us initially uncomfortable. And, let us be friars who are free enough to listen with compassion to the stories of those who carry the pain of abuse and injustice that the Church has inflicted upon them.

Third, we want to be grateful for the many men and women who have been heroic in their fidelity to Christ and to the Gospel life of ministry despite the crippling structures, and not spend our energy seeing only the evil that is plaguing us in these days. Gratitude is the disposition that enables us to live out of God's will and not our own. It is not our Church, it is Christ's Church, and through it He still does great things for us.

Fourth, we don't want to simply watch the tsunami come upon us as something we deal with when it gets here. We want to be a part of the change, we want to help it come about so that we can own it with energy and creative imaginations. This begins with our striving to be the best friars we can be, living in self-sacrificing love of others. If we are trying to lay down our own wills, we will be less likely to hurt those who look to us for guidance on the journey to the Kingdom and into the very heart of God.

Brothers, this crisis can be a great temptation for you to give it all up. There will be suffering, you will experience much rejection as Jesus promised us. But if you have the strength, the Church needs you more than ever! I invite you to vow to be a friar who witnesses Christ to the world so purely, humbly and dynamically that many others will want to share this Christian life with you. The Church will become holier because of you.

# THANK YOU FOR A GREAT CELEBRATION



San Lorenzo Seminary was as beautiful as ever on Saturday, September 8th, when it hosted the annual gala. About 150 people joined the San Lorenzo Foundation to celebrate and support the novitiate and this year's novices.

The evening included a live and silent auction, with more than 60 items auctioned, including Cappy, a miniature Australian Shepherd puppy that stole everyone's heart. And the night couldn't end without the delicious desserts prepared by the novices and the Novice Director. The 15 desserts represented the cultural diversity of the novices, ranging from the bright green buko pandan (Philippines), to bahn bo (Vietnam), to Lamington and pavlova (Australia), to betlewa (Lebanon), to flan (Puerto Rico), to everyone's favorite chocolate chip cookies (USA).

The novices and the formation team would like to thank everyone who participated in and collaborated with this great celebration. Your support helps to improve this novitiate experience year after year.

Thank you for all your support and hope to see you all again next year!

*"We are so grateful for the tremendous generosity shown forth in the Gala. The generosity of those who attended was heartwarming. It reveals how much people are impressed and moved by the Novices' giving of their lives in the service of the church. Their generosity is not just the support of the novitiate, but also a tremendous sign of faith in the new life these young men bring to the church."*

Br. Robert Stewart, Novice Director



***"I am rejoicing in the emotions that are generated by the experience of the GALA and the wonderful opportunity to welcome these young men to the Novitiate and to let the greater community come into their world."***

Tom Nelson, Gala Committee Chairman



***"It was truly a great 'gala', an amazing effort by all to make this a successful event. It was a great experience of personal support for the novices and the formation team. Thank you!"***

Br. Peter Poel, Novice (CC)

# NOVICE SPOTLIGHT



**BR. SETH DWYER**

**Province:** Saint Augustine (Pittsburgh, PA)

**Hometown:** Orono, Maine **Age:** 28

**Name a book/movie/song that you think describes you:** Tattoos On The Heart by Fr. Greg Boyle, SJ.

**What were you doing before you entered Capuchin formation?:** I was a FOCUS missionary working with college students at Temple University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

**What brought you to the Capuchins?:** The desire to give the love that God has placed in my heart in a radical way to everyone I encounter.

**What is your ministry this year and what do you enjoy the most with it (and why?):** Lompoc Correctional (although I haven't started yet). In the meantime, I'm at Old Mission Santa Ynez and I enjoy it because I love walking around and engaging with people.

**Who has influenced your life/spirituality (any person in particular?):** Mary Magdalene, because of her conversion and her love of Jesus; Mother Teresa of Calcutta, because of her immense compassion for the poor; my parents, because of their love for me.

**What is something that our readers probably don't know about you?:** I scored 1,000 points in my four years playing high school basketball.

**For this month's feature question, what does the Capuchin habit represent to you?:** The habit for me represents God's endless love and compassion for all of us. God placed this love and compassion within my heart and the habit for me is an external sign of God's desire to share this with everyone. The habit invites people into conversation, prayer, healing, and even venting so that these people may experience how much God loves them.

**Province:** The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Australia)

**Hometown:** Pooraka, South Australia, Australia **Age:** 40

**Name a book/movie/song that you think describes you:** Hacksaw Ridge.

**What were you doing before you entered Capuchin formation?:** I was a SCADA Engineer for South Australia Powernetworks, an electricity distribution company.

**What brought you to the Capuchins?:** The Peace Prayer ascribed to St. Francis of Assisi; a fraternal way of life that fosters a balance between active ministry and contemplation; our Province's Vocation Director Fr. Thomas McFadden.

**What is your ministry this year and what do you enjoy the most with it (and why?):** I volunteer at Alpha Resource Center which is a day program service for the mentally and physically disabled. I quite enjoy spending time with clients in a variety of activities such as karaoke, tennis, working at the garden, arts and crafts, etc. but more so, getting to know each one personally including the staff there. They are very dedicated and passionate people.

**Who has influenced your life/spirituality (any person in particular?):** My parents, Sr. Cecilia Đê, and Fr. Peter Zwaans.

**What is something that our readers probably don't know about you?:** I pray the Rosary using the notch on my fingers when I don't have rosary beads in hand. For saints, I have a devotion to St. Francis of Assisi and St. Therese of Lisieux because they had such a deep love of God and neighbor.

**For this month's feature question, what does the Capuchin habit represent to you?:** For me, putting on the Capuchin habit is a constant call to daily conversion, i.e. putting on Christ. It's a call to empty myself so Jesus Christ can be the center of my life. In the words of St. Paul: "I no longer live, but Christ who lives in me."



**BR. DUY TRAN**

# A NOVICE'S JOURNEY

By Br. Javier Rodriguez

## This Habit of Mine

It has been two months since our arrival at San Lorenzo and our investiture, and we have been busy since then. Just a couple of weeks ago, we celebrated the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, which reminded me of one phrase that I heard during the investiture ceremony that has stayed with me.

“As (the habit) resembles the Cross...”

However, that’s not exactly what I heard that evening. What I heard the Novice Director, Br. Robert Stewart, say was, “As this habit represents the Cross.” My analytical mind went to work right away.

“Wait. What?! It represents the Cross?!” That was my first thought. I began to wonder, is it going to feel that heavy? Does that mean that I’d have to wear it all the time? Am I ready to carry such a burden?

My mind focused on the Passion of Christ and the extraordinary burden of carrying His Cross. Of course, I can’t carry His Cross or handle such a burden. None of us can! But, I began to question, could I even carry my small and sort of manageable cross that this habit now represents?

As the days passed, through my meditations, a meaning of the Cross began to emerge within my heart. Love! The Cross represents the ultimate expression of God’s love through the Son, Jesus. This brought me some relief.

This habit of mine represents God’s love, which in return should be the love I share with everyone and everything, even when I’m not wearing it. So, the habit isn’t a burden. It is a gift of love for me and those with whom I interact.

And if you read the entire sentence pronounced by Br. Robert, it becomes even clearer that it’s a gift of love.

“As it resembles the Cross, may wearing it lead you to greater commitment to the service of Christ and His Church.”

My interpretation of that sentence now is that my habit resembles the Love of God and serves as a reminder to share that love with the world, just as Christ did. That’s a cross I feel I can carry.

I’m clear now about the habit, but when it comes to the cave experience, that’s a whole other story.





# SAN LORENZO SCOOP

## WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING AT THE NOVITIATE SO FAR...

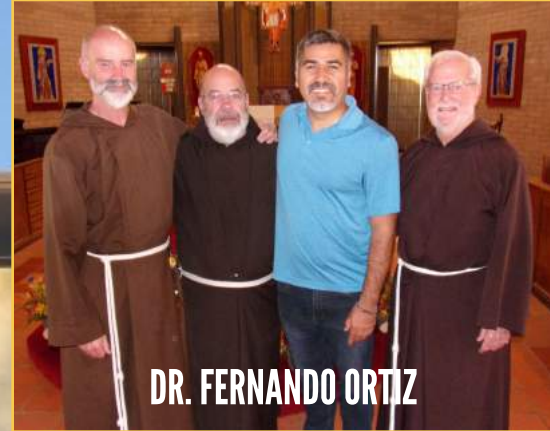
BELOW ARE SNAPSHOTS OF RECENT EVENTS, ACTIVITIES, AND VISITS OF PRIESTS, LAITY AND VISITING FRIARS FROM DIFFERENT CAPUCHIN PROVINCES.



FR. JACOB BEARER & FR. JEFFREY BARNISH  
(DIOCESE OF CLEVELAND)



BR. VINNIE FORTUNATO (SSF)



DR. FERNANDO ORTIZ



BR. ANDREW CORRIENTE (SA)



BR. SIMEON GALLAGHER (SC)



BR. JIM MUNGOVAN (SA)



BR. ALEJANDRO MAGALLANES (OLA)

TRIP TO LAKE CACHUMA



(SPONSORED BY WESTERN AMERICA PROVINCE VOCATION OFFICE)



SAN LORENZO VINEYARD'S FIRST FRUITS



!FELIZ CUMPLEAÑOS,  
RICARDO!

# SAINT OF THE MONTH

By Br. Brendan Bourizk, OFM, Cap.



## Ignatius of Santhia Feast Day: September 22

Our Saint of the month hails from Santhia, Italy. He started as a diocesan priest, who was in charge of a prestigious parish given to him by a noble family. He was also the Vicar to the local Bishop. For

six years it seemed that Father Belvisotti had his career set out for him as it looked very promising, and could have proven to be a very successful and fruitful vocation as a priest.

So what inspired Father Belvisotti to give up this auspicious life and take up the call to the Capuchins?

Don Lorenzo Belvisotti was asked by the Capuchin Provincial of Turin why he would throw away such a good and spiritually fruitful career. He responded,

*“Father, in everything I have been doing up to now I feel that I have been following my own will. Something inside me keeps telling me that if I really want to serve the Lord I must subject myself to obedience.”*

On May 24th 1716, Father Belvisotti became known as Brother Ignatius of Santhia.

Throughout his religious life as a Capuchin, he was involved in a few different apostolates, such as confessor, preacher and military chaplain. But his 14 years as novice master were remarkable.

As novice master, he signed the profession of 121 novices. He developed an excellent reputation among the novices for his holiness, maternal gentleness and supreme discretion. Compelled by the ideal life that Our Lord lived, he would preach and teach the novices in their daily conferences about the “absolute poverty of Bethlehem, the total surrender of Calvary and the burning love of the tabernacle.” Perhaps his most effective way of teaching the novices was his practical example of being and his deeds. In imitation of the Crucified he lived out love and understood its demands that love came from self-denial and sacrifice of one’s own will for the other.

The life of Saint Ignatius of Santhia living in obedience eclipses the tendency of our fallen humanity to grasp and hold onto our own will. Rather, he shows us that it is in giving our will up and surrendering it to Our Lord’s true and holy will that we will experience true peace.

## SPECIAL THANKS



To Fr. Peter Banks and the Western America Province Vocation Office for sponsoring the Lake Cachuma outing. It was a fun day!

## OCTOBER CELEBRATIONS

- 4 - St. Francis of Assisi (S)
- 16 - Luke Kim (B)**
- 18 - St. Luke, Evangelist (F)
- 28 - Sts. Simon and Jude, Apostles (F)
- 30 - Anniversary of Dedication in Consecrated Churches of the Order (S)





# KEEP CALM AND PACE E BENE

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## ABOUT US

*CAPERONE* is a monthly newsletter produced and edited by the novices of the North American Pacific Capuchin Conference.

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