

Vocations † †



Capuchins of Central Canada
Mary, Mother of the Good Shepherd Province

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St Crispin Friary 127 Friars Way, London ON

If we Capuchin Franciscans were to move to the city of London, ON where would they find a house to live in? Try, 127 Friars Way! Our new home just off Wonderland Rd North, near

Sherwood Forest Mall, has been named St. Crispin Friary. St. Crispin was an Italian brother in our Order of Friars Minor Capuchin (1668-1750). He is venerated as a saint for his devoted service and spiritual wisdom he developed in the course of his life. These same values are ideal for young men in discernment to religious and priestly life. During an epidemic, he is said to have effected a number of cures by his prayers. His body which even at the present time is still in a remarkable state of preservation, rests under one of the side altars in the famed Capuchin Church of the Immaculate Conception in Rome. He was the first saint canonized by John Paul II, on June 29, 1982.

The Capuchin friars are not unknown in the diocese of London. We first established ourselves in Blenheim, Ontario in 1927, serving the Flemish and Dutch immigrants. Today, we also minister to the parishes of Erieau and Ridgetown. Capuchins are also remembered in the diocese of London where Fr Stephen Eckert grew up in Dublin, Ontario and whose family worshiped at St. Columban parish. On May 21st, 1891 he entered the Capuchin Order in Detroit Michigan. As a priest, he preached many missions in the churches of the diocese. After a life of missionary zeal among the African-American people of Milwaukee, he died on February 16, 1923. Fr Stephen Eckert is proclaimed Venerable but looked upon by many as a saint.

We have arrived in London, Ontario to be able to send our men in formation to study at the local universities and to learn theology at St. Peter's Seminary. We see the city as an ideal place for our student friar's and candidates to volunteer, working among the poor in soup kitchens and other worthy ministries which seek to serve poor and needy. Two young men have asked to live with us to get a sense of religious Capuchin life and they will then move on to Toronto as candidates working at St. Francis Table, our restaurant for the poor on Queen Street West.

Three priests have been assigned to live with our young men in formation and they will be available to do weekend parish work and spiritual direction so as to help us out financially in providing for the young men in formation. So where do these Capuchin Franciscan brothers live - providentially on 127 Friars Way. If you are in the area, stop and meet the friars in their new home. Pax et Bonum - Peace and Goodness!





Bro Michael Mascarenhas, ofm, cap.

On the Solemnity of the birth of St. John the Baptist, I made my solemn profession. On the birth of the “forerunner of Christ”, I too responded to the call to follow Jesus. It has been a long journey but one in which I have grown in spirit and in wisdom. I no longer look in fear of whether I will make a good Capuchin, I now believe in myself. My heart is at peace and I continue to hear the words of Christ:” come follow me”.

Follow me to the poor, the marginalized, be an advocate for them. In the famous words of Saint John Paul II, “Be not afraid”, I embark and journey forward in my life as a Capuchin and as a full member of the Capuchin Order. I am very grateful that God has called me to be a Brother of St. Francis. Humility is the virtue that we strive for. It can allow us to become holy and attentive to the needs of others around us. We see this blossoming in the life of St. Francis.

As I reflect back on my profession, I recall the deep sense of peace that I felt in my heart as I recited the words of my profession before my brothers and my family members. It is this peace that will provide strength for me in times of difficulty as I study for the priesthood and in my ministry to the poor. I view this as a sign that God indeed has called me to be a Capuchin brother. No matter whether we are ordained or not, we are brothers and we must have the spirit of the poor. This is the rule of Saint Francis of Assisi. Pope Francis tells us that it is the poor who can evangelize us. For me, service to the poor is what I feel God has called me to in the area of social justice. As I continue on my path that God leads me on, I do so with love and compassion. I invite all of our dear young people who feel the Lord calling them, to pray for the grace and courage to answer His call in their lives. The life of a Capuchin friar is one that is truly fulfilling and a call for us to be courageous. Peace and Goodness!



Franciscan Dream August,13,2016

You'll see the dreams from Francis' eyes
An you'll experience the broken child's cries
Where you'll leave the world with Franciscan trails
And share the joy with abandon trace
Where these struggles you will face
When being stuck inside our lives maze
An create the world where there won't be cries
Share the Franciscan dream
That was once ours
But we became lost in struggles and lies
Give praise to God
For the Franciscan ways
That you will be able to trace
When God's will you come to face.



By: Jakub, Rudnicki



In Discernment

How fitting that this be the year of mercy and the words inscribed on the image of divine mercy, sums up both what this year is to us and to where I am in my discernment. To give a brief summary to where it all started, growing up I lived in a simple two bedroom apartment that housed seven people, myself included, but we had our doors opened to whomever needed a place to stay. My small home soon became a

place of refuge for new, soon to be Vietnamese seminarians who are now priests. I felt that through their visit and simple call, that I, a little kindergartener at that time, should become a priest. That call had planted the seeds of a vocation in my heart, though I did not take much notice of it. As I grew so did the seed that was planted, it had taken root in my heart. Eventually my friends and teachers had found out and had shown great support in my vocation, watering the seeds that they may grow ever more fruitful. This was something that I had experienced all through my life, my friends that had learnt of the vocation that I'd sought, had given me great support in encouraging me to seek that life. But to where would I go?

Ever since I was a young child my mother had always taught me to remember the poor, we would save up any spare change from around the apartment put them into the "poor piggy bank". By the end of the year or when the piggy bank was full we would bring the money to a convent where their ministry was to the poor around the world. This left an everlasting impression on my heart, which lead me over to discerning with the Capuchin Franciscans. Though I had felt the call, it was a challenge for me to answer it, with all my schooling and family still with me, I did not have trust strong enough in God to accept his call, but as a father he is always patient, allowing us to grow. It took five years of discernment with the brothers and prayers from those around me that I had been finally able to utter the words, "Jesus I trust in You" to let go of those that are dear to me, to put them in His arms knowing that there they will be well cared for. Lastly to put myself into His arms to trust in the path that He will lead me knowing that He will always be there with me every single step of the way.

Martin Ngo, Candidate

Capuchin Franciscans Celebrate!



The Transitus of St Francis of Assisi ~ October 3, 1226

Today is the vigil of the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi. Franciscans from all around the world have a Transitus celebration this evening. The Transitus is a Franciscan devotion to ritually remember the passing of Saint Francis from this life into God. It is similar to what you might do on the anniversary of the death of a family member or very dear friend. You remember their lives, recall the day they died and what occurred. You share your memories and talk about how much they meant to you.

To ritually revisit the story of Francis' passing is important to us; without it, something significant would be missing from our celebration. At the Transitus we will listen to the stories Francis' early brothers and Clare of Assisi shared about the night Francis died. They tell that, despite the pain he was enduring, there was a deep joy and peace in him. He wanted the Gospel read to him and he wanted all his followers there so that we could give them a final blessing. And, of course, Francis wanted singing all around him as he welcomed Sister Death. This link might help you to understand a little more about our celebration of the Transitus on the evening of October 3rd, each year.

Transitus explanation: <http://youtu.be/ITRzZzORmdg>



St. Francis tells us "it is not fitting, when in God's service, to have a gloomy face or a chilling look" and so, like good Franciscans, we will have some delightful refreshments after celebrating the Transitus in order to make tangible our Franciscan joy.

Franciscan Spirituality an introduction...

Franciscan spirituality encompasses a rich array of ways of thinking and ways of living. Here is the briefest of introductions, broken into three categories even as they are deeply interrelated. The process is dynamic: you may start by shaping how you think which influences how you see which changes how you live; at another point it may be life experiences that are the catalyst for shifting how you think and how you see.

Franciscan Theology & Philosophy 101

Franciscan ways of viewing God and God's action in history has been a theology that was always orthodox with other parts of Christian theology and yet, at the same time, featuring a different set of emphases. Whereas Christianity has often overemphasized "the stain of original sin," St. Francis and Franciscan theologians lived and preached and wrote about the many ways that creation is good and the life we have been given is a joyous opportunity. Fr. Richard Rohr OFM, a widely acclaimed author, names the Franciscan way an "alternative orthodoxy" with its different set of emphases while not trying to fight about doctrines.

The Franciscan emphasis on the goodness of God and creation has many ramifications. Creation is the outpouring of God's love into the universe. Creation reveals to us God's love for us and God's beauty (which is why Franciscans call creation "the mirror of God" and that God has two books of creation—Sacred Scripture and creation). And the faith in a good God has implications for the Incarnation and salvation history. The Word of God became incarnate not because the world is full of sin, but in order to transform the world into a communion of love centered in Christ. Blessed John Duns Scotus (c. 1266 – 1308) wrote that the Incarnation was part of the plan all along, with creation a prelude to much fuller manifestation of divine goodness in the Incarnation.

Franciscan Consciousness 101

From a more positive way of thinking about God and creation, we can see the world from a different consciousness. Francis and the Franciscans honored the world around them and were ignited in praising God from their experiences. They did not split the world into that which is profane and that which is holy, but could see God in the dirt and the worms, in the suffering of life, and in the leper. The Franciscan way of seeing moves us away from dividing up the world in the good and the bad which, as Sr. Ilia Delio says, is "always capable of identifying God's absence, but rarely consistent in affirming God's presence in everything that is." Francis was able to see God imbedded in a marvellously interconnected world with God as the source of each and every thing. He saw the world in universal kinship, with the moon, the water, and the birds as his sisters and the sun and the wolf as his brothers.

"My soul in an excess of wonder cried out: 'This world is pregnant with God!' Wherefore I understood how small is the whole of creation- that is, what is on this side and what is beyond the sea, the abyss, the sea itself, and everything else- but the power of God fills it all to overflowing."

- Angela of Foligno

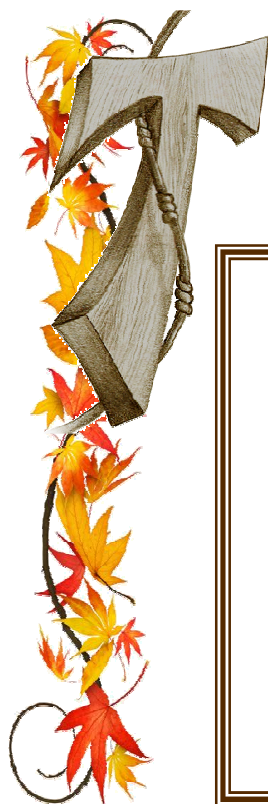
Franciscan Way of Living 101

Broadly, the Franciscan way is to live knowing that all of creation is the place to encounter God. Concrete manifestations of involve living more simply on the earth and with other people in order truly experience and savor God's gift of life. The things of this world are God-like just as they are and reveals God to us in their specificity. Therefore, to deepen our relationship to God we need regular, attentive contact with the world in its simple, humble state. We can forget about a search for things and people that are worthy of love or that will make us happy. The world is full of signs of God's presence, with God telling us what we need to hear through the bits and pieces we encounter in a day. In an ongoing way we are converted to the gospel through God's daily work inside and outside of us.

Francis' first biographer, Thomas of Celano describes the way of Francis like this:

Who could ever express the deep affection Francis bore
for all things that belong to God?
Or who would be able to tell
of the sweet tenderness he enjoyed
while contemplating in creatures
the wisdom, power, and goodness of the Creator?
From this reflection
he often overflowed
with amazing, unspeakable joy
as he looked at the sun,
gazed at the moon, or observed the stars in the sky.

<https://franciscanaction.org/earthcorps/spirituality>



UPCOMING EVENTS

OCTOBER 15, 2016 — RISE UP!
Men's Conference
Essex ON

NOVEMBER 06, 2016 — COME AND SEE
for young men 15—30 yrs
10:00am—04:00pm
St Francis Table 1322 Queen Street W
Toronto ON

DECEMBER 04, 2016 — COME AND SEE
for young men 15—30 yrs
10:00am—04:00pm
St Crispin Friary 127 Friars Way
London ON



Share these links with your friends and family!
Help support and promote our Capuchin Way of Life!

[https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/
the-capuchin-foundation/annual-appeal-2016/](https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/the-capuchin-foundation/annual-appeal-2016/)



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Please Pray for our Men in Formation



Bro. Michael Mascarenhas , ofm cap. (Solemnly Professed)
from Hamilton, ON currently at St Crispin Friary – London, ON



Bro. Akram Esho , ofm cap. (First Vows / Simply Professed)
from Iraq/Mississauga, ON currently at St Francis Friary– Blenheim, ON



Bro. Alex De Meloo , ofm cap. (Novice)
from London, ON currently at – Novitiate at San Lorenzo Friary,
Santa Ynez, California



Bro. Sunil D'Costa, ofm cap. (Novice)
from India/Toronto, ON currently at– Novitiate at San Lorenzo Friary,
Santa Ynez, California



Mr. Joseph Lee (Postulant)
from S. Korea/Toronto, ON currently at – Postulancy at St Conrad
Friary, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Mr. Martin Ng (Aspirant)
from Toronto, ON currently at St. Crispin Friary – London, ON

Mr. Yousef Elia (Aspirant) from Windsor, ON