

# Easter 2017



## Benefactor's Appeal



Capuchins of Central Canada

2100 Jane Street

Toronto, ON M3M 1A1

Province of Mary, Mother of the Good Shepherd



Dear Friends;

Peace and All Good!

As we make our way through Lent towards the Easter Resurrection we are reminded that we are a people of penance or ongoing conversion towards the Risen Christ. The Church of course journeys beside us throughout the year but especially closely during the seasons of Lent and Easter. Our Order and province also share in this renewal and re-orientation towards Christ and we find evidence of this among the young men whom God has guided to us.

In January 2017, we welcomed Mr. Martin Ngo as a candidate, he will live with the friars for 6 months as he continues a process of discernment before applying for our Postulancy program in Milwaukee, WI. We also have Bro. Alex de Melo and Bro. Sunil D'Costa, our two novices currently in Santa Ynez, California. Bro Michael Mascarenhas is living at our friary in London ON and studying at St. Peter's seminary and also in London ON is Bro. Akram Esho who is studying English in preparation for future studies.

A few young men are in touch with our Director of Vocations and we hope through god's guidance and inspiration that some may join us in the coming year. We are deeply thankful for your generous support, which greatly helps us to continue the education and formation of these young men as they prepare to enter Religious Life as a Capuchin Friar and to minister among God's people, both in our parishes and on our streets.

We again offer our sincere gratitude and pray that the Risen Christ will continue to bless and inspire each of your generous hearts.

*Br. Henry Alba ofm. Cap*

Bro. Henry Alba, Capuchin  
Minister Provincial

*We, the friars of the Capuchin  
Province of Mary, Mother of the  
Good Shepherd extend to each  
of you our warm wishes for a  
truly blessed, joy-filled and  
Holy Easter!*



## Answering God's Call - Candidacy - (Your donations at work for the Church)



*Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."*

Matthew 22:37-40

Facing new transitions in life can always be a scary and difficult thing especially when you are still new to the situation. This is my case as I now move to St. Anthony Friary as the new candidate for the Capuchin order. Working in St Francis Table was something that I was not used to and having an introverted personality wasn't going to make things easier. Yet God has a way of giving us the skills and graces we need to do what he may will us. Working at St. Francis table has brought out a new side of me one that I would not have believed existed, I have gone from being an introvert, one who is quiet, shy and timid to one that is outgoing, voiced and approaching. Working with those less fortunate has given me time to reflect on life itself and on the teaching of the gospel. I would have never thought that I would learn so many life lessons as the weeks go by. The people who come through our doors, come in with great gratitude for the service that is being provided for them, they come in with even greater charity by offering to pay for another's meal if they are without money, they come in with great patience allowing one another to go first if they want or if someone cuts in front of them, truly here is where the gospel is lived out. To love one another, to show mercy to others, and to be thankful for what is provided. Though some of them may not even be Christian yet I have found that I am learning from them on how to be a better Catholic man myself, by seeing their action.



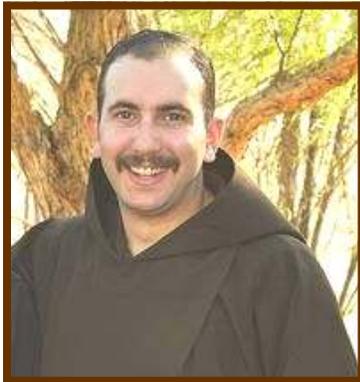
From my time at St Crispin Friary in London I was able to grow my spiritual life to learn to love my God, and what better way to do this than to love his people and this is one of the key lessons that I have learnt here so far. It is not only to show love toward those who are less fortunate but also to show love to all, especially those who may not return that love that we show. I have learnt to not be discouraged by what some may say, nor will I be any less kind to those that blame me for things that I have no control over, but rather for love of my neighbour I endure all things and return good to those that may not be so kind to me, for only then have I truly loved my neighbour. Though there are long days where I may be tired, a smile will always be on my face when serving our patrons. For in them I see the image of our God and how can I not smile being in his presence. I can say that after being here for only a couple of weeks that it has truly been a blessing, to work with many wonderful volunteers and grow so much more as a person, through being with and serving the patrons that walk through our door each day.

*Martin Ngo*

Front Cover Photo: The marble slab on which the body of Jesus was lain and washed before being buried. Located just inside the entrance of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Jerusalem Israel. Photo: Bro Alan Gaebel, 2012



## Answering God's Call - Novitiate- (Your donations at work for the Church)



My ministry this year is at the Alpha resource centre which helps adults with developmental disabilities improve on their self reliant skills in a friendly and caring environment. It is a new experience for me because I have never worked with people who have disabilities. So I wanted to take up this new experience and it has been very rewarding for me to be able to give some joy and happiness to their life. The participants have changed my view about seeing people with disabilities, they are just like us. They have their good and bad days, like to have different hobbies and just wanna' be loved. The staff have been very encouraging and have helped a lot with making me feel comfortable and answering my questions.

There have been several experiences so far this year of interacting with some of the homeless in California. All those whom I've met have been very approachable and engaging. I think the most amazing part is hearing their story and hearing about their past. The best part is when they ask for prayers or we pray together. During the Christmas Holidays we raised money for the homeless to make sandwiches and provide them socks hats and gloves for the cold winter.

The staff definitely keep us busy around here with different work projects. In the rule St. Francis says that if we don't work we don't eat, this is a great motto to live by. The projects here are sometimes challenging but after the job is done its very satisfying to say that we did it with our own hands but also that we did the project together as brothers. The vineyard here is something very special because I have never been in a vineyard before and I feel that working in the vineyard has helped my spiritual life grow because there are so many verses that talk about vineyards. We also have a garden as well and it has been rewarding to see the plants that we plant grow into veggies that we can use in our dinners. Also we have been cutting down some dead trees and moving the huge trunks which are heavy. These experiences have given me new appreciation for God's creation and how beautiful it is. Plus I have gained a new sense of responsibility for the stewardship of creation.

One of the best things about Novitiate is how deep my prayer life has become. At the start of Novitiate I thought I wouldn't like the silence or the calmness, but I have grown to enjoy and even miss the silence sometimes. Being away from all the noise of the world is one of the great gifts of being here. It gives me a chance to focus on what really matters. During our day we have lots of time for meditation and contemplation. My favourite way to use this time is Lectio Divina which gives me a chance to reflect on scripture and write down my thoughts.

Another great aspect to Novitiate is being able to come all together from all over the world to participate in this program; I have met guys here from all over the USA and Guam. It has been great to see that I am not the only one discerning that there are other guys like me out there. Plus going through this transition of my life has been made easier because of the great community that is established here. Fraternity is a big part of our charism and being able to develop friendships with the guys here is great, to seriously talk about things that really matter and goof off as well too.

*Bro. Alex de Melo*



# Capuchin Burse Report

January 01, 2017—March 03, 2017



Name	Amount
203 Gilda and Raffaele Gaglione Family Burse	\$50.00 ( 1 )
250 Christine Wilcox Memorial Burse	\$100.00 ( 1 )
382 Klein Family Burse #2	\$50.00 ( 1 )
411 Joseph & Bridgett Heffernan Memorial Burse	\$80.00 ( 4 )
476 Br. Paul Duplessie Burse #8	\$500.00 ( 1 )
484 Br. Otger Devent Memorial Burse#3	\$25.00 ( 1 )
489 St Jude Burse #3	\$20.00 ( 1 )
496 Gasperino and Elena De Gasperis Burse #	\$400.00 ( 2 )
497 Maria Van Massenhoven Memorial Burse #2	\$50.00 ( 1 )
504 St Philip Neri CWL Burse #2	\$40.00 ( 1 )
505 Seminarrians Burse #24	\$565.00 ( 11 )

## A Second Chance

God always wants the best for us,  
 But in Eden we sinned;  
 we really blew it.  
 We disobeyed God's direct decree;  
 We separated from Him,  
 and we knew it.

You'd think we'd learn to  
 behave ourselves,  
 But through all time,  
 we just kept doing it;  
 Piling wrong on top of wrong,  
 Our punishment—  
 we kept accruing it.

Jesus came and changed all that;  
 He paid the price for all our sins;  
 When we repent and  
 believe in Him,  
 We change, and a better  
 life begins.

Easter stands for a second chance  
 For us to choose to put things right;  
 If we repent, and really believe,  
 Our record is polished  
 clean and bright.

When Jesus rose from  
 the dead back then,  
 He guaranteed our eternal life,  
 Reunited with God in heaven,  
 Free from tears and  
 fears and strife.

Easter ensures paradise  
 For all of us, for you and me;  
 We're reconciled to our  
 Lord and King  
 For now and all eternity.

*By Joanna Fuchs*

## Origin and History of Easter Eggs

Next to the Easter bunny, the most familiar symbol is the Easter egg. Like others, the egg has a long pre-Christian history. Again there's no certainty as to why it became associated with Easter.

Many Ancient cultures viewed eggs as a symbol of life. Hindus, Egyptians, Persians, and Phoenicians believed the world began with an enormous egg. The Persians, Greeks, and Chinese gave gifts of eggs during spring festivals in celebration of new life all around them. Other sources say people ate dyed eggs at spring festivals in Egypt, Persia, Greece, and Rome. In ancient Druid lore, the eggs of serpents were sacred and stood for life.

Early Christians looked at the connection eggs had to life and decided eggs could be a part of their celebration of Christ's resurrection. In addition, in some areas, eggs were forbidden during Lent; therefore, they were a delicacy at Easter. Since many of the earlier customs were Eastern in origin, some speculate that early missionaries or knights of the Crusade may have been responsible for bringing the tradition to the West.

In the fourth century, people presented eggs in church to be blessed and sprinkled with holy water. By the twelfth century, the *Benedictio Ovorum* had been introduced authorizing the special use of eggs on the holy days of Easter. The timing of this blessing would uphold the idea that Crusaders may have brought the tradition back. Even though eggs had been used previously, the Crusaders may have made the custom more popular and widespread.

In 1290, Edward I of England recorded a purchase of 450 eggs to be colored or covered with gold leaf. He then gave the eggs to members of the royal household. Once the custom became accepted, new traditions began to grow up around it. Eggs were dyed red for joy, and in memory of Christ's blood. Egg rolling contests came to America from England, possibly as a reminder of the stone being rolled away.

What about the familiar Easter Egg hunt? One source suggested that it grew out of the tradition of German children searching for hidden pretzels during the Easter season. Since children were hiding nests for the Easter Bunny to fill with eggs at the same time they were hunting pretzels, it was only a small leap to begin hiding eggs instead.





# Please Pray

For these men in our Formation Programs



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



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



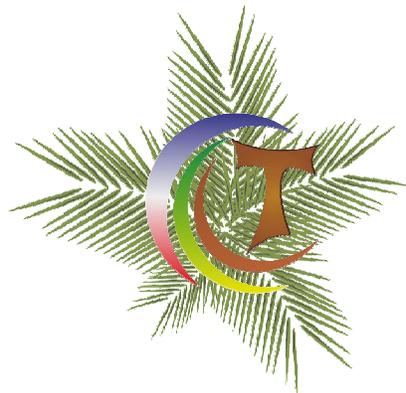
Bro. Alex De Meloo , ofm cap. (Novice)  
from London, ON currently at – Novitiate at San Lorenzo Friary,  
Santa Ynez, California



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



Mr. Martin Ngo (Candidate)  
from Toronto, ON currently at St. Anthony Friary, Toronto ON



# THE CAPUCHIN LEGACY PROGRAM



As Christians and Catholics one of the most important tasks we have is that of faithful stewardship. This is beautifully expressed in *Pope Francis' "Laudato Sii"* which gives thanks for our interdependent relationship with all of God's creation, in which each one of us shares.

This same spirit also finds resonance in a quote by the Venerable Fr. Solanus Casey, OFM, Cap (d.1957) who stated, *"The only science that gives purpose to every other science is the science of religion – the science of our happy relationship with, and our providential dependence on God and our neighbour."*

One of the most important and faith filled acts of this stewardship that you can do; is to make certain that you have a current Will and Power's of Attorney in place. This is YOUR loving remembrance for others and an act of love that is returned a hundred-fold in your reaching out and assuring "*new life*" for others.

***Have YOU considered what your legacy will be?***

**Our Capuchin Saints and Blessed**

Not only can you leave a gift of financial remembrance but gifts of Life Insurance, Stocks, Bonds or Property may also be gifted through your will.

For further information please contact:

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