

WINTER 2017



BENEFACTORS APPEAL



Capuchins of Central Canada
2100 Jane Street, Toronto ON, M3M 1A1
Province of Mary, Mother of the Good Shepherd

CHARITABLE REGISTRATION # 11883 7988 RR 0001



*Mary, Mother of the Good
Shepherd Province*

Capuchins of Central Canada

2100 Jane Street, Toronto, ON M3M 1A1
Tel. 416-244-8458 Fax. 416-244-9796

provincial.office@capuchins.ca Charitable Reg.# 11883 7988 RR 0001

Christmas 2017

Let me begin with the message of Pope Francis for the season of Advent; "For the great human family it is necessary to renew always the common horizon toward which we are journeying. The horizon of hope! This is a horizon that makes a good journey."

"The time of advent that we begin again returns us to the horizon of hope, a hope that does not disappoint because it is founded on the word of God. A hope that does not disappoint, simply because the Lord never disappoints! He is faithful".

With the fraternal greetings, I come to you together with all my Capuchin brothers, to bring a little hope into your life here on earth and in the life to come. Let us together re-create hope for ourselves and for our children. Life can be lonely and aimless without having our gaze into the future. Let us not become the victims of changing environment around us. Winter is just beginning and in four months we will have spring time again.

Capuchin brothers are called to be men of hope and our mission is to bring hope to the poor and the simple people around us. We are conscious of creating hope through our life and ministry. And we believe that even a beautiful smile we share with people we meet reawakens hope for another day.

Our hope is strengthened as Br. Michael Mascharenhas is moving well ahead in his seminary studies and has less than two and half years to complete. Br. Akram Esho and Sunil D'Costa are in their post novitiate programme. Our postulant Martin doing wonderfully well in his formation. Our hope is increased by the news that one or two young men will be joining in January as Candidates. One diocesan priest is discerning to join the Capuchins.

We are grateful to you for helping us with your prayers and finances in our mission of forming these young men to be good capuchin brothers. We count on your support to keep our hopes for the province of central Canada and the Capuchin order at large alive.

We are blessed to have your support. May God reward you one hundredfold. In all our houses we decided to place your prayer intentions before the alter in our chapels, and pray for you during morning and evening prayer, announcing your name during the intercessory prayers. May God bless you and your family! May all your hopes for yourself and for your children come true by the Grace of God.

Let me wish you grace filled Advent and A Joy filled Christmas!
With love and Peace

Bro. Henry Alva ofm. cap.

Bro. Henry Alva, Capuchin
Minister Provincial





Blessed Maria Angela Astorch Capuchin Poor Clare December 2



Born September 1, 1592, in Spain; died December 2, 1665, in Spain; beatified May 23, 1982, by John Paul II; feast day, December 2. Mystic, woman religious.

Maria Angela is called the breviary mystic because it was through the liturgy that she had her closest encounters with Christ. Legend has it that she brought along six volumes of the Latin breviary when she joined a Capuchin monastery at age eleven. (She had been orphaned several years earlier and was being raised by a nanny; a sister was already in the monastery.) Maria Angela took her final vows when she was seventeen and when she was twenty-one, moved from her hometown of Barcelona with five other sisters to found a new community of Capuchin Poor Clares in Zaragoza two hundred miles away. Her mystical writings, including a depiction of her encounter with her guardian angel, primarily happened during this time. In 1645, she was among the founders of a community about three hundred and fifty miles away in Murcia. That last assignment was challenging both in terms of natural catastrophes and intrigue and false accusations against the sisters.



Blessed Maria Angela's Wisdom: "As soon as I perceived (the guardian angel's presence, such a change in my spirit came upon me that one could say that I lived within and outside my body at the very same time. Infused with great nobility in my perceptions, my heart filled with a sweet sensation of comfort and with minuscule operation it fortified my whole spirit."

What We Can Learn: Slow down today and invite your guardian angel into a conversation.



Answering God's Call— Postulancy Year (Your donations at work for the Church)



27 Then Peter said to him in reply, "We have given up everything and followed you. What will there be for us?" 29 And everyone who has given up houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands for the sake of my name will receive a hundred times more, and will inherit eternal life.

Matthew 19: 27,29

The thought of leaving family, friends, home, country and everything dear could have been something that Peter was questioning is it worth it. This was the same question that I had asked myself before going into postulancy. But the only way to know is to do it, to have trust in God, as my reflection for the year of mercy goes "Jesus I trust in you" now he has asked me to further my trust in him, by leaving all that I hold dear to my heart to take on him fully and trust that he will guide me.

As we are heading into the new liturgical year I have gotten a "preview" of theme for this year. As Jesus had promise one will receive one hundredfold the reward and I have receive just that, with his grace. Coming here was something that worried me just like Peter was worried. But God provides, after the first week of living here, there was a sense of calm, there was a feeling that I was no longer the one from another province but rather was one of their own, it was a feeling that I was home. Ever since then till now I still have that great sense of belonging here as though he took me away from one family so that I can be part of another to grow deeper in his love.

I have also started to have new experiences in ministry with working in St. Martin de Porres (food pantry and St. Vincent de Paul) and St. John the Evangelist Cathedral (open door café and hospitality), my eyes have been open to the poverty of which people live in but more than that is the gratitude that they have. Many, though are homeless or have barely a roof over their heads or food in their homes will mostly reply with the answer of being "blessed" when I ask them how they are. They tell me that they are thankful for another day of life and for the food and service we provide. This has given me a great learning experience for myself of what it means to be truly grateful, not only with what I have material wise, but also the graces of God which sustains me which helps me to be able to continue on in formation.

Through these first four months of the postulancy program I can say that this has been one of the best thing that has happened for me. I have grown in love of my new brothers, in love of God and God's people and have experience the true presence of God in the people I work with. At times I fear that I am enjoying myself too much and think that I am not doing something right but I am assured by those around me that I am on the right path for a postulate. As Psalm 16:11 states, *"You will show me the path to life, abounding joy in your presence, the delights at your right hand forever."* And I am living just that.



Peace and Goodness
Martin Ngo, Postulant



Capuchin Burse Report 01 January, 2017— 04 December, 2017



Name	Amount
100 St Philip Neri CWL Burse	\$500.00 (3)
110 Volpe & Russo Burse	\$25.00 (1)
112 William J Whyte Sr Memorial Burse	\$150.00 (3)
19 Blonde Family Burse	\$25.00 (5)
203 Gilda and Raffaele Gaglione Family Burse	\$100.00 (2)
207 St Anthony Burse#6	\$100.00 (2)
250 Christine Wilcox Memorial Burse	\$100.00 (1)
258 Romanelli Family Burse	\$120.00 (2)
277 BR John Corriveau Burse #2	\$500.00 (1)
319 Br Henri Van Olfen Burse #7	\$100.00 (1)
334 Marie Van Boxtel Memorial Burse	\$100.00 (1)
382 Klein Family Burse #2	\$150.00 (2)
411 Joseph & Bridgett Heffernan Memorial Burse	\$495.00 (21)
416 St. Alphonsus Parish Burse #5	\$178.00 (5)
426 Br. Paul Duplessie Burse#7	\$500.00 (1)
451 L. Tersigni Family Burse #2	\$300.00 (1)
476 Br. Paul Duplessie Burse #8	\$700.00 (2)
477 Fr. Ladislaus Council #7744 Burse #4	\$225.00 (2)
478 Gordon Brush Living and Deceased Family	\$500.00 (1)
479 Br Aurele Prefontaine Memorial Memorial Burse #5	\$200.00 (2)
480 Francis J La Madrid Memorial Burse	\$300.00 (3)
483 Br. Louis Mousseau Burse #6	\$195.00 (4)
484 Br. Otger Devent Memorial Burse#3	\$105.00 (4)
489 St Jude Burse #3	\$120.00 (2)
496 Gasperino and Elena De Gasperis Burse #	\$1,200.00 (5)
497 Maria Van Massenhoven Memorial Burse #2	\$296.50 (4)
498 Charles P. Sherren Memorial Burse #2	\$174.13 (4)
500 Padre Pio Burse #4	\$60.00 (2)
504 St Philip Neri CWL Burse #2	\$130.00 (6)
505 Seminarrians Burse #24	\$65,963.27 (124)
514 Devotees Of Daily Mass & Rosary	\$250.00 (4)
91 St Conrad of Parzham Burse	\$100.00 (1)
95 St Joseph Burse #2	\$100.00 (2)
General Campaign	\$540.00 (1)



Please Pray For.....

Our Men In Formation



Br Michael Mascarenhas
Solemnly Professed
in Priestly Formation
London ON



Br Akram Esho
Simply Professed
1st year Post Novitiate
Toronto ON



Br Sunil D'Costa
Simply Professed
Blenheim, ON



Mr. Martin Ngo
Postulant
Milwaukee, WI



We wish to take this opportunity to offer our heartfelt thanks for your generous prayerful and financial support. We wish each and every one a very **MERRY CHRISTMAS** and offer our warmest blessings to each of you throughout the coming New Year.

*"For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
And he is named, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:6)*





STAYING AWAKE AND KEEPING WATCH



During these past few weeks most of the trees have shed their leaves. As a result, our part of the world has become bare and colourless. Fortunately a few trees have kept their leaves and remain green and full of life. They serve to remind us of "Hope" during the chill of winter. John Shea tells the following story:

When God was making the trees he gave to each species a gift. But first he set up a contest to determine which gift would be most useful to whom. He said to them, "I want you to stay awake and keep watch over the earth for seven nights."

The trees were excited to be entrusted with such an important task! The first night they found it difficult not to stay awake. However the second night was not so easy and just before dawn a few fell asleep. On the third night the trees whispered among themselves in an effort to keep from dropping off. Even so it proved to much for some of them. Still more fell asleep on the fourth night. By the seventh night the only trees still awake were the cedar, the pine, the spruce, the fir and the holly and the laurel.

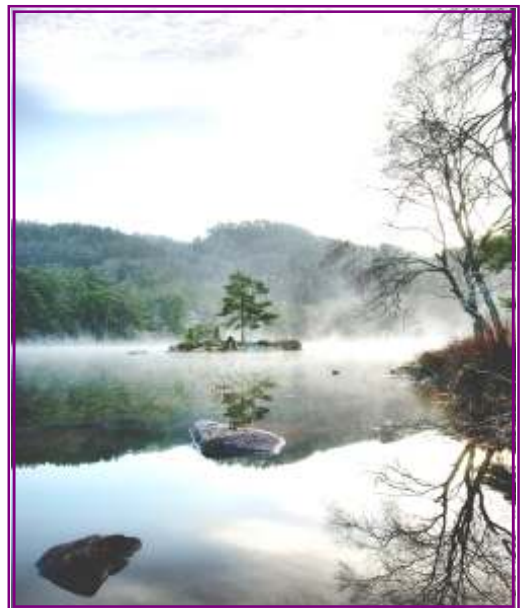
God looked at this little group of trees and said, "What a wonderful endurance you have. You will have the gift of remaining green forever. You will be the guardians of the forest. Even in the seeming dead of winter, your brother and sister trees will find life protected within your branches."

Ever since, all the trees and plants shed their leaves and sleep all the winter long, but the evergreens remain awake. This story illustrates the two major themes of Advent:

Wakefulness in the midst of sleepiness and greenness in the midst of barrenness.

In the evergreens we find a lot of gentle but resolute defiance. The surrounding world may be asleep or barren, but they continue to bear witness. While the trees that shed their leaves represent the unreliable, the fickle and the inconstant. The evergreens show us what our role as Christians is, it is to be awake among the sleeping, to be green in the midst of the barren. We are called to be evergreen followers of Christ. This means to be active, watchful and faithful disciples. We are to bear witness to peace in the midst of conflict, to love in the midst of indifference, to hope in the midst of despair, and to life in the midst of death. The way to witness peace is to live in peace with different others. The way to witness to love is to act lovingly towards the different others.

The evergreens don't preach. Yet they bear eloquent witness to life. So it is in the case of the Christian. The most effective way to witness to Jesus is to be an authentic and genuine Christian. We must ask the Lord to help to remain steadfast and faithful. We need him to sustain our faith, our love and our courage. His help becomes available to us especially through prayer and membership in his community.



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 Blessed 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

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:

Bro. Alan R. Gaebel, ofm, cap.
 Development Office
 2100 Jane Street
 Toronto, ON M3M 1A1
 416.241.3101 ext.245
 bro.alan@capuchins.ca

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 also accessible through our website at: www.capuchins.ca