



# Insight & Wisdom

Franciscan Vocation Ministry

"O Most High, Glorious God, enlighten the darkness of my heart and give me a right faith, a certain hope and a perfect love, insight and wisdom, O Lord, that I may carry out your holy and true command." *St. Francis of Assisi, Prayer before the Cross*



## Franciscans Welcome New Postulants

On August 13, 2006 in a liturgical ceremony held at Holy Cross Church in the Bronx, NY, three men were officially received as Postulants by the Holy Name Province of Franciscan Friars. Our Province continues to give thanks to God for **Antonio Cornier**, **Luis Nunez**, and **Peter Viccione**, who are responding to God's call to be a Franciscan. These men entered the initial Franciscan formation program in July and will spend their postulancy learning the ways of living a life of fraternity in mission of the Gospel.

In this issue of *Insight and Wisdom* you are introduced to our new postulants. Antonio, Luis, and Peter are men like you. They heard a call in their lives to serve God in the footsteps of Saint Francis of Assisi. Each man needed time and space to figure out how to best respond to that call from God. All three men took advantage of the Vocation Weekends in their quest to prayerfully discern God's plan for their life. Not only did attending these weekends allow for these men to get to know the Franciscan friars better, but the weekends provided clarity for the path that they would follow.

You too are invited to discern your call to follow our Lord in the spirit and example of Saint Francis of Assisi. If you think you are being called to be a Franciscan, then please consider participating in one of our Vocation Weekends. The upcoming Vocation Weekends are listed on the back page of this issue. You can learn more about these weekends on our website at [www.vocation.org](http://www.vocation.org) or by calling the Franciscan Vocation Ministry at 1-800-677-7788.

May God give you the strength and courage to respond to God's call in your life. And may God bless you with *Peace and All Good*.

May God bless you  
with a joyful  
Feast of St. Francis  
of Assisi

October 4, 2006

*Pax et Bonum!*

Lord make me an instrument of Your  
peace.  
Where there is hatred, let me sow  
love;  
Where there is injury,  
pardon;  
Where there is doubt,  
faith;  
Where there is despair,  
hope;  
Where there is darkness,  
light;  
and where there is sadness,  
joy.



## Antonio Cornier

Antonio Cornier was born in Ponce, Puerto Rico and moved to the U.S. mainland at the age of 11. He has lived in various cities but considers Miami, FL his "hometown" since most of his family currently lives there.

He is a graduate of LaSalle Military Academy in Oakdale, NY. After high school he moved to College Park, MD to attend the University of Maryland. By that time, Antonio was already thinking seriously about religious life. It was during his last year of high school that he had read about the life of St. Francis. Antonio felt St. Francis challenged what he was brought up to believe as important.

After one year of college Antonio left school to join the Order of Friars Minor and was associated with the Commissariat of the Holy Land in Washington, DC. He completed his initial formation and did much of the work needed for a Masters in Divinity. Although Antonio left that community, it was during his time there that he became familiar with the friars of Holy Name Province who lived next door at that time.

Upon leaving the community, Antonio moved to Madison, WI where he earned two degrees from the University of Wisconsin - a BS in biology/zoology and an MD. He moved to Florida to complete his residency in pediatrics at Jackson Memorial Hospital. Prior to being accepted in the Holy Name Province's postulancy program, he practiced medicine as a pediatrician and worked in an emergency department in Miami.

Antonio says that "I think the path I ended up on was unusual but the journey was important, and it has taken me to this point."

"The life of St. Francis of Assisi has been my main attraction to the friars," explains Antonio. He is particularly drawn to the Franciscans by a desire "to live the

Gospel with greater awareness of God's love for all creation, especially the poor and those forgotten by society."

As for his expectations for initial formation as a Franciscan, Antonio says "I want to grow in prayer deepening my awareness of God's presence in my life. I wish to experience fraternity in the hope of understanding better what it means to be a true brother. Finally, I hope to grow in my understanding of ministry so that I can see it not so much as what I do but who I am as I seek to serve."

During his postulant year, Antonio's ministry is at the Mercy Center in the Bronx where he teaches English as a second language and also gives talks on health related issues to parents.



*Front row: Antonio Cornier, Luis Nunez, Peter Viccione, and Fr. Ron Pecci, OFM, Postulant Director. Second row: Br. Bill Herbst, OFM, Assistant Postulant Director, Fr. Greg Jakubowicz, OFM, Vocation Director, and Fr. John O'Connor, OFM, Minister Provincial.*

## Luis Nuñez

Luis Núñez was born in Brooklyn, NY, and was raised there, the Dominican Republic, and eventually in the Bronx, where his family currently resides. He graduated from DeWitt Clinton High School in the Bronx and attended Hostos Community College.

Luis worked in a restaurant in downtown Manhattan before he entered the Holy Name Province's postulancy program. He came to know the friars of Holy Name Province through the Province's shrine, Saint Francis of Assisi Church located on West 31st Street in New York City.

After attending a retreat, Luis began to have a greater understanding of his relationship with God. Since that retreat Luis has seen his faith continue to mature.

He is attracted to the Franciscans' fraternal life and the sense of welcome he experiences. "You can be yourself with them," says Luis.

## Peter Viccione



### *Four Friars Profess Solemn Vows*

Br. George Corrigan, OFM, Br. Zachary Elliott, OFM, Br. Emersion Rodríguez, OFM, and Br. Gonzalo Torres, OFM, professed their solemn vows as Franciscan friars on September 9, 2006 at St. Francis of Assisi Church in New York City. Each solemnly professed friar will live the Rule of St. Francis for the rest of their lives.



Luis hopes that during his initial formation as a Franciscan that he can "learn about God like a child learns lessons of life from their father. To find out what the will of God is by letting Him guide me, by depending on Him, by letting Him sanctify me. To learn how to truly love everyone I encounter and to love the brothers God has put in my life. To learn how to live in fraternity so I can be a living example of a risen Christ."

His ministry during his postulant year is at the Saint Francis Residences in New York City. Operated by the St. Francis Friends of the Poor, Luis ministers at their three residences that provide a humane and dignified home for street people, the mentally disabled and dependent people who have suffered years of personal and institutional neglect.



Peter Viccione comes to the Franciscans from Providence, RI where he was born and raised. He attended Catholic grammar school and graduated from Providence's Classical High School. After high school, Peter decided to enter into a minor diocesan seminary in the Diocese of Providence and attended Providence College. He remained at the seminary for only three months because he realized that he was not quite ready to make that step. From there, he attended Rhode Island College and studied English.

Prior to entering the Holy Name Province's postulancy program, Peter was the coordinator of a group residence for people living with mental illness such as schizophrenia.

He met the friars of the Holy Name Province at St. Francis Chapel and City Ministry Center in Providence where he was involved as a lay minister. Peter was attracted to the Franciscans by the open, accepting, and encouraging attitudes of the friars. He sees a strong sense of support and acceptance among the brothers.

According to Peter, "It is easy to see that through prayer, community, and ministry that Franciscans live truly fulfilled lives. I am drawn to a way of life that is to serve the Lord and others while living in community."

Peter's hopes that during his initial Franciscan formation he can discern his "direction in life more intensely by living the life of a Franciscan." He adds, "I also hope to create meaningful relationships with my classmates, formation directors and others in the community that will help me to grow in my understanding of Christ and others."

His ministry for his postulant year is as a Vocation Education Counselor at the Create Young Adult Center in Harlem, NY where he ministers to young homeless men in the New York City area.



Pax et  
Bonum

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Upcoming Vocation Weekends

**October 20, 21, 22, 2006**

*Discernment Retreat* (Contemplative Experience)  
Holy Peace Friary & Mt. Irenaeus  
West Clarksville, NY

**November 17, 18, 19 2006** (*Newly Added*)

*Hospitality Weekend*  
Siena College Friary  
Loudonville, NY

**December 8, 9, 10, 2006**

*Hospitality Weekend*  
St. Anthony's Shrine  
Boston, MA

**February 9, 10, 11, 2007**

*Hospitality Weekend*  
Holy Name College  
Silver Spring, MD

**March 2, 3, 4, 2007**

*Discernment Retreat* (Service Experience)  
San Damiano Spiritual Center & St. Francis Inn  
Philadelphia, PA

