



*Franciscan Vocation Ministry*  
*Holy Name Province*

# Insight & Wisdom

*For those discerning a call to  
our Franciscan way of life*

Fall 2008

## In This Issue

- 1 Province Welcomes Three
- 2 Introducing Our Postulants
- 3 Choosing the Franciscans
- Upcoming Vocation Events
- 4 Solemn Profession 2008
- 5 Meet Our Newly-Professed Friars
- 6 Focus on Formation
- 7 Milestones

Franciscan  
Vocation  
Ministry

## Province Welcomes Three



**T**hree men were officially welcomed as postulants of Holy Name Province in a prayer service conducted at St. Anthony Shrine in Boston, Mass. The Rite of Candidacy, held Aug. 17, was led by Provincial Vicar Fr. Dominic Monti, OFM. Also participating in the ceremony were Br. John Maganzini, OFM, Postulant Director, Fr. Brian Smail, OFM, Vocation Director, and Fr. David Convertino, OFM, Guardian and Executive Director of the Shrine.

Pictured above, the men affiliated to the Province included (from left) Scott Carey, Gerald Hopeck and Michael Reyes. (See page 2 for brief biographies of each postulant.) Attending the ceremony were more than 25 friars from St. Anthony Shrine and St. Anthony Residence, as well as varied houses of the Province. Family members and friends of the postulants also shared in this joyful occasion.

In his homily, Fr. Dominic spoke to the men about Franciscan vocation and brotherhood. "Francis tells us that the 'Lord had given him brothers.' It is the Lord who has called you to be here, and the fraternal community gathered here is also called to encourage you in your discernment."

During the ceremony, Fr. Brian presented Scott, Gerald and Michael to Fr. Dominic and recommended them for acceptance. After the men were welcomed in the name of the Province, they stated  
*continued on next page*

*"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 for Discernment*

*Province continued*

their intention to “. . . deepen our dedication to our Franciscan vocation and to do this freely in the presence of the community gathered here.” They added, “We commit ourselves to prayer, fraternity, ministry, and study in order to know the life of the friars and the Province and to discern our vocation. We do all this while trusting in the grace of God and the intercession of Saints Francis and Clare.”

The postulants were then presented with blessed tau crosses, a traditional Franciscan symbol, by Br. John and Fr. David, and greeted with the sign of peace by the participating friars.

Reflecting on the occasion, Fr. Brian said, “It was very gratifying to help these men in discerning their vocation and then see them make this first step.” Br. John added, “I feel privileged and humbled to walk the journey with these fine men who have responded to God’s call.”

The Rite of Candidacy marks the beginning of the first year of

initial formation to the Province. Br. John, who became Postulant Director in July, explained, “During this year, the postulants focus on human development and formation to community life. They participate in the daily prayer life of the friars and engage in ministries. They attend classes, workshops, and retreats.” Previously located at Holy Cross Friary in the Bronx, N.Y., the postulant program was relocated this year to St. Anthony Shrine in Boston.

For Scott, Gerald and Michael, the affiliation service capped a month of activity since arriving at the Shrine on July 20. Following a welcoming prayer service led by Fr. David and a week of orientation, they attended introductory workshops and visited several friaries and ministry sites in the Province.

The men also participated in a week-long entrance retreat led by Br. John at Miramar Retreat Center in Duxbury, Mass.

. . . prayer,  
fraternity,  
ministry  
and  
study

## Introducing Our Postulants



### Scott Carey

Scott was born in Encino, Ca., and lived in various parts of the United States. He graduated summa cum laude from Merrimack College in Andover, Mass., with a bachelor’s degree in religious studies, and earned a master’s degree in divinity from Harvard University in Cambridge, Mass. Scott converted to the Catholic faith in 1999 and worked for several years with the homeless and those living with AIDS. He got to know the friars at St. Anthony Shrine as a member of the “20’s and 30’s Group.” Entering the initial formation program brought Scott full-circle. He says, “It was at the Shrine that I first encountered the friars and felt the invitation of the Spirit towards religious life, so it was very humbling and moving to have Br. John Maganzini and others welcome me home.”



### Gerald Hopeck

Gerald was born and raised in Bridgeport, Conn. He graduated from Kings College in Wilkes-Barre, Pa., with a bachelor’s degree in theology and history and earned his master of arts degree in theology from LaSalle University in Philadelphia, Pa. Gerald worked as a pastoral associate in several parishes serving youth and the African-American community. He got to know the friars at St. Joseph’s Friary in Wilkes-Barre and then at St. Patrick-St. Anthony Parish in Hartford, Conn. For Gerald, the Rite of Candidacy was the culmination of a spiritual journey. He says, “During the blessing of postulants and the fraternal embrace I was filled with the Spirit. This feeling reconfirmed my faith and reinforced the call that I have felt for the past 11 years.”



### Michael Reyes

Michael was born in San Pablo, Laguna, in the Philippines. After moving to the United States, he earned an associate’s degree in information systems management from Berkeley College in New York City and worked as a programmer/analyst. Michael completed his bachelor of business administration degree, also from Berkeley College, this past spring. Working a block away from St. Francis of Assisi Church in Manhattan, he got to know the friars by participating in early morning Eucharistic celebration and prayer. For Michael, the affiliation service highlighted the gifts of community. He explains, “I am not journeying this new path alone. I have all my Franciscan brothers around me offering their wisdom, support, love and prayers.”

## Choosing the Franciscans

### “Love, gentleness, compassion and care”



Br. Erick Lopez, OFM, first met the Franciscans while attending school in Colombia, but was drawn to the Order by his experience as an active member of Immaculate Conception Church in Hialeah, Fla. Observing the friars ministering there, he noticed the “love, gentleness, compassion, and care” with which they treated the people they served as well as one another. For Erick, the Franciscan way of life mirrored the love, compassion and mercy that God shows to all people.

Erick was born and raised in the municipality of Placetas, Villa Clara Province, Cuba. He earned a bachelor’s degree in radiochemistry at the Instituto de Ciencias Nucleares de Ciudad de la Habana and went on to complete a degree in chemistry from La Universidad del Valle in Santiago de Cali, Columbia. Prior to entering the initial formation program, he worked in the computer science industry in Miami, Fla. Erick spent this summer ministering to parishioners of St. Francis of Assisi Church in Raleigh, N.C., and is currently continuing his studies in the post-novitiate program at Holy Name College in Silver Spring, Md.

## Upcoming Vocation Events

*Are you being called to be a Franciscan?  
Join us for a weekend to learn more about our way of life.*

### Come and See Weekends

If you are interested in Franciscan life, we invite you to visit our community for a weekend of hospitality, prayer, discernment and fraternity. Join us to share meals, celebrate the Eucharist, and reflect on the Gospel life of joy, compassion and service inspired by St. Francis of Assisi. You’ll also get a chance to speak with our Vocation Director and other friars about Franciscan life and your vocation.

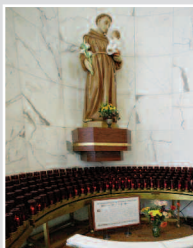
#### Holy Name College Silver Spring, Md. Nov. 21-23, 2008

Meet our friars serving in the Washington, D.C., area as well as our student friars in initial formation. The weekend also includes visits to the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, the Franciscan monastery and several ministry sites.



#### St. Anthony Shrine Boston, Mass. Dec. 5-7, 2008

Get to know our friars in residence and meet our postulants, who will share their experiences in their first year of discernment with the Province. You’ll also learn about our ministries and have free time to explore the sights and sounds of historic downtown Boston.



### Franciscan Experience Weekend (FEW)

St. Anthony Shrine, Boston, Mass.  
Jan. 16-18, 2009

FEWs offer an opportunity for guests to discuss their calling in depth with the Vocation Director and other members of the vocation team. These conversations serve to clarify the interest level of both the candidates and the friars. Guests also meet our friar community at the Shrine and are taken on a tour of local ministries by our postulants. Generally, guests are *invited* to attend the weekend by the Vocation Director.



## Solemn Profession 2008



**F**ive Holy Name Province friars professed their final vows at St. Francis of Assisi Church on West 31st Street in Manhattan this summer. Provincial Minister Fr. John O'Connor, OFM, celebrated the Aug. 23 Mass, assisted by Provincial Vicar Fr. Dominic Monti, OFM, and Fr. Francis Di Spigno, OFM, Director of Post-Novitiate Formation. Rev. Br. Matthew Rissick, TOR, served as deacon.

Pictured at bottom right, the newly-professed friars included (from left) Br. Harry Monaco, OFM., Br. Stephen Mimnaugh, OFM, Br. Linh Hoang, OFM, Fr. Kyle Haden, OFM, and Br. Hugh Macsherry, OFM. (See page 5 for brief biographies of each friar.) They were joined by Br. Fadi Azar, OFM, of the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land, who also professed solemn vows.

Participating in the celebration were family members, friends and colleagues from many Province parishes and schools including Siena College in Loudonville, N.Y., St. Bonaventure University in Allegany, N.Y., St. Mary Church in Providence, R.I., and St. Patrick-St. Anthony Church in Hartford, Conn. A large number of Holy Name Province friars also participated in the Mass, the first celebrated at St. Francis of Assisi since renovations were completed this summer.

In his homily, Fr. John spoke to the newly-professed friars about the meaning of love, a topic rarely addressed in the ceremony of profession. Outlining the varied forms of love, including romantic love, affection and friendship, he described how each is manifested in religious life. Living out your vows, Fr. John explained, involves maintaining the idealism of romantic love, sharing yourself on an emotional level with others, and nurturing friendships in community. "Do not take yourselves too seriously," he added, "Be transparent. Keep your love simple."

For the solemnly-professed friars, the Mass marked the conclusion of the initial formation program and their full incorporation into the Province and the Order of Friars Minor. Brs. Harry, Stephen, Linh and Hugh are currently finishing their studies in preparation for ordination to the priesthood next May. Fr. Kyle was ordained to the priesthood in the Archdiocese of Kansas City, Kan., in 1997.



## Meet Our Newly-Professed Friars

### Fr. Kyle Haden, OFM



Kyle was born in Berlin, Germany, and raised in Kansas City, Kan. He earned a master's degree in history from the University of Missouri, Kansas City, and went on to complete a master's of divinity from the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, Ill. A convert to the Catholic faith, Kyle was ordained to the priesthood in the Archdiocese of Kansas City in 1997. He says, "After living alone as a diocesan priest for some time, I decided I needed a community to share my life with. So I naturally went with the charisma that first attracted me both to the Church, and to ministry." Currently residing at St. Stephen of Hungary Church in Manhattan, Kyle is pursuing a doctoral degree in historical theology with an emphasis on American Catholic studies at Fordham University in the Bronx.

### Br. Linh Hoang, OFM



Linh was born in Saigon, Vietnam, but fled with his family in 1975 to the U.S. where they settled in Lebo, Kan. He earned master's degrees in theology and divinity from the Catholic Theological Union. Linh came to know the friars at Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Manhattan while working toward a Ph.D. in theology at Fordham University. He says, "I was attracted to the spirit of St. Francis and the theologies of the early Franciscan scholars. I felt that the contemporary Franciscans were seriously trying to live out that tradition." For Linh, solemn profession marked "a time of joyous celebration for my family and friends in my profession to Franciscan life." He currently teaches full-time in the Department of Religious Studies at Siena College in Loudonville, N.Y.

### Br. Hugh Macsherry, OFM



Born and raised in Baltimore, Md., Hugh earned a bachelor's degree in philosophy and classical languages at the University of Maryland. Upon completing an additional degree in secondary education and foreign languages, he taught Spanish in the Montgomery County School System in Wheaton, Md. Hugh came to know the friars at St. Camillus Church in Silver Spring, Md, and was attracted to their way of life by the popular image of St. Francis. For Hugh, solemn profession was "a public statement of my intention to live as part of the community of Franciscan friars for the rest of my life." He currently resides at Holy Name College in Silver Spring where he is in his final year of studies at Washington Theological Union in Washington, D.C., in preparation for ordination to the priesthood.

### Br. Stephen Mimnaugh, OFM



Stephen is a native of Norwalk, Conn. After earning a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Vermont, he worked as an account manager in the financial services industry in Philadelphia. Returning to school, Steve completed a master's degree in liberal arts with a concentration in urban studies from the University of Pennsylvania. He came to know the friars in the early 1990's while a seminarian studying in New York. Steve says, "I liked the friars' approach to ministry. The friars gravitate toward ministry to persons who have experienced some form of marginalization. The message of the Gospels is one of inclusion." Currently living at Holy Name College, Steve is completing his studies at Washington Theological Union in preparation for ordination to the priesthood.

### Br. Harry Monaco, OFM



Born and raised in Ballston Spa, N.Y., Harry earned a bachelor's degree in history from St. Bonaventure University in Allegany, N.Y. He also holds a master's degree in social work from Boston College in Boston, Mass., and a master's of divinity degree from the Washington Theological Union. Harry says, "I was attracted to the Franciscans by the friars whom I met and by their witness to the Gospel. I was also attracted by the person and story of St. Francis of Assisi and manner in which he chose to live the Gospel." Harry has returned to St. Bonaventure University where he is teaching and working in campus ministry while pursuing a master's degree in Franciscan studies.

## Focus on Formation

Formation to Franciscan life and ministry is a gradual process of personal, spiritual, and ministerial development. During the initial formation program, a candidate is helped to develop his personal character and theological understanding so he will be able to live and work effectively with other men as a Franciscan friar in service to the Church. Initial formation concludes with profession of solemn or final vows, an event which fully incorporates the friar into the Province and the Franciscan Order. (See article pages 4-5.)

Formation, however, does not end with solemn profession. Rather, it is a life-long process. Opportunities for growth are provided throughout the friar's life.

Focus on Formation, a new feature of *Insight & Wisdom*, will highlight various aspects of formation, both initial and ongoing. The first installment focuses on summer assignments.

### *Summer Assignments*

Summer assignments are an important part of initial formation to the Franciscan way of life. Every summer from the novitiate (second) year on, student friars leave their house of formation to gain experience in ministries of interest, complete coursework in their areas of study and develop foreign language skills. These opportunities benefit both the friars as individuals and the Province as a whole.

Below, two friars in formation describe their assignments from this summer and what they learned from the experience.

#### **“Moments of untamed grace”**

“I spent my summer with a feisty Irish nonagenarian nun! Not everyone has the privilege of saying so, and I revel in the humor of having played chauffeur (and buff bodyguard) to Sr. Kate Murphy, my delightfully spirited summer ministry coordinator. Ironically, my summer assignment was not a test script for “Driving Miss Daisy II” but a splendid and enriching immersion into the lived experiences of the communities of Long Beach Island. Kate and I would spend most afternoons bringing communion to the homebound and sick in hospitals. These were moments of untamed grace, and I can still see their faces of gratitude because of our visits, our prayers and our presence.

Each of the four Franciscan churches on the island radiates its own charm, but one thing they have in common is the overwhelming sense of welcome that pervades. Liturgies burst with color and tingle with effervescent music. It was easy to fit in and delight early-morning church-goers with hymns rearranged to jazz, blues and gospel rhythms. The St. Francis Community Center, a multi-ministry hub, allowed me the rare opportunity to reflect on the Word of God with the laity. These encounters not only stimulated my weekly reflections at Mass, but also allowed for more “human” verses “academic” homilies. Working with low-income families, as well, instilled in me a sense of humility.

The “Festival by the Sea” was much anticipated. I enjoyed working the seafood booth but, after six hot summer days of pedaling clams and shrimp, I think a few extra dollars for cologne needs to be slipped into the intern's stipend envelope.

In all, life on Long Beach Island was glorious. The friars, Steve, Tom, Jim and John, are a treat to be with, and all the visiting friars added to great fraternity. Moreover, since each friar took turns cooking, mystery, adventure and daring always accompanied the evening meal. Thankfully, if I needed to escape the evening meal, I could always resort to stuffing myself with crepes, crumb cakes, chocolate covered strawberries and other goodies left over by kind neighbors. I would have to work out the extra calories at the local gym but then, given the stipulations of being Sr. Kate's buff bodyguard, I could, as the old adage goes, kill two sea gulls with one stone.”

— *Br. Dwayne Fernandes, OFM (Dwayne spent the summer serving four churches on Long Beach Island, N.J. He is currently in his first year at Holy Name College in Silver Spring, Md.)*

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Above, Br. Dwayne Fernandes, OFM, far right, enjoys the “Festival by the Sea” on Long Beach Island. He is joined by, from left, Fr. Ken Cafe, OFM, a visiting friar from Australia, Fr. Steve Kluge, OFM, Pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Church, Br. Kevin Kriso, OFM, of Mt. Irenaeus Franciscan Mountain Retreat, West Clarksville, N.Y., and Fr. John Ullrich, OFM, Fr. Jim Scullion, OFM, and Fr. Tom Conway, OFM, of St. Francis of Assisi Church.

*Focus continued*

### **“Advancing the cause of peace and justice”**

“Ever since my time as a missionary in Africa, I have been deeply aware of the need for all Christians to work for peace and justice in the world. One of the reasons I joined the Holy Name Province was because I was impressed by how the friars steadfastly lived out the call to be men of peace and justice, often in some very exceptional and unique ways.

Since moving to Holy Name College two years ago, I have taken full advantage of the many opportunities present in Holy Name Province and in the Washington, DC, area to live out this call to be a man of peace and justice, both in my formation as a friar and in the city where I live. One such opportunity became a reality this past summer when I was asked to work at the office for Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) at the Franciscan General Curia in Rome, Italy.

Among other assigned tasks, my chief responsibility was to develop a paradigm for research and reflection for the newly opened JPIC offices in Nairobi, Kenya and Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo. Thanks to Joe Rozansky (the head of the office and a Holy Name Province friar) and Vicente Felipe, I learned much about how the Order works for justice in the world, and how integral education and networking are to the promotion of JPIC values and initiatives.

Life at the Curia was also an unexpected pleasure, not just because of the mouth-watering food that was served at every meal, but because it is a crossroads for friars from all around the world. These encounters with my brothers from 14 different nations expanded my appreciation of what it means to live out the gospel in fraternity.

I will always look back on my summer ministry at the General Curia as a time when I learned some practical lessons on how to promote JPIC principles. I will also remember it as a significant step in my quest to understand more fully how to live out my call as a Franciscan friar, committed to advancing the cause of peace and justice in my fraternity and in the world.”

– Br. Paul O’Keeffe, OFM (In his third year at Holy Name College, Paul is completing a master’s degree in clinical social work at Howard University in Washington, D.C.)



Above, Br. Paul O’Keeffe, OFM, far left, poses with some simply-professed friars who came down to Rome from Assisi.

## **Milestones**

The Franciscan Vocation Ministry would like to introduce Milestones, a new feature highlighting significant events in a friar’s journey through initial formation. This first installment focuses on the reception of Jeffery Jordan as a novice of the Province.



During a June 13 prayer service conducted at St. Paul’s Friary in Wilmington, Del., Jeffery Jordan, OFM, was welcomed into the novitiate of Holy Name Province. Provincial Vicar Fr. Dominic Monti, OFM, presided at the service, assisted by Fr. Ronald Pecci, OFM, Director of Novices. During the ceremony, which took place on the Feast of St. Anthony, Jeffery was vested in a habit and officially received into the Franciscan Order as a novice. He will spend this next year deepening his relationship with God and will be introduced more intensely to the Rule of Life of the friars and to the history and traditions of the Franciscans.

A native of Georgia, Jeffery is a graduate of the University of Georgia where he majored in both linguistics and romance languages. Originally a member of the Pentecostal Holiness Church, he was welcomed into the Roman Catholic faith in 2003. Jeffery worked in the international shipping industry before joining Holy Name Province. He got to know the friars as a parishioner of Sacred Heart Church in Tampa, Fla., and was attracted to “the unique Franciscan spirituality and understanding of God’s presence in all things, and the particular ministries of the Franciscans.”

## Franciscan Vocation Ministry

The Franciscan Vocation Ministry is called to promote vocations to the Franciscan way of life and ministries of Holy Name Province. We offer the following services:

- Information on our Order, the admissions process and the initial formation program
- Consultation and assistance with discernment to religious life
- Come & See Weekends for interested men
- This newsletter highlighting Vocation activities

For further information or to speak with the Vocation Director, please contact:

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