



Franciscan Vocations

Saint John the Baptist Province

April 2010

Six Approved for 2010 Postulancy Class; One More Awaits Admission

At three sessions the Admissions Board approved a total of six men for the 2010 Postulancy Class. The class will begin their year of Postulancy on July 1 at St. Anthony Friary in Cincinnati, OH.



Eric Seguin (40) comes to us from Ottawa, ON Canada. He has a degree in Hospitality and spent a number of years working in restaurants and

hotels in management positions. He presently works at the Cathedral-Basilica of Notre Dame in Ottawa.

Daniel Bircher (29) grew up in Harrisburg, PA and presently works in the restaurant business as a bartender. Daniel began studying for his home diocese of Harrisburg and attended the Pontifical College Josephinum for a little under two years before discerning a vocation with us.



Pierce Gibson (23) is from Round Rock, TX and is about to graduate from the University of Dallas with a degree in Philosophy and Letters. Pierce has been living at Holy Trinity Seminary while taking classes at the university discerning a call to the priesthood for his home diocese of Austin.

Adam Farkas, (21) comes to us from Richmond, MI. Since graduating from the local High School, Adam has been working in a local restaurant. Re-



cently Adam spent time in Hungary with his relatives. Adam has persevered in his desire to be a Franciscan since his days in high school.



Joseph DiAte (20) lives in Chapmansboro, TN and is attending classes at Aquinas College in Nashville, TN. Joe attended Harpeth High School

in Kingston Spring, TN where he graduated in 2008 before matriculating into Aquinas. Joe was born in New York and lived briefly in Erie, PA but has spent most of his life in Tennessee.

Jonathan Beer (19) grew up in Hamilton, OH and graduated from Stephen T. Badin High School in 2009. Presently Jonathan is finishing up his freshman year at Franciscan University in Steubenville, OH. Jonathan plays a number of musical instruments and wrestled for his high school.



Joseph Bach (41) also of Hamilton, OH and now presently working in New Orleans, will go before the Admissions Board in May. Joe has spent most of his life in education and was Principal of St. Mary of the Angels Grade School at the time of hurricane Katrina.

Postulants and Novices Prepare to Move On



Having almost completed their year as Postulants, Colin King (top left) and Adam Calder (bottom left) are looking forward to a brief vacation and beginning their Novitiate. They will leave St. Anthony Friary in Cincinnati June 1st to spend a couple of weeks with their families before reporting to the Novitiate in Cedar Lake, IN on June 24th.



Meanwhile, our present novices, Friars Kevin Janke, O.F.M. (top right) and Michael Charon, O.F.M., (bottom right) prepare to make their first Profession of Temporary Vows on June 15th. After profession, Friars Kevin and Michael will join our other men in Temporary Vows at St. Joseph Friary in Chicago, IL to proceed with their studies.



Formators Meet in Albuquerque

Once a year the Vocation Directors, and the Directors of Postulants, Novices and the Temporary Professed along with the Provincial Secretaries of Formation of the four Midwest provinces meet. This year Our Lady of Guadalupe hosted those of us from Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Sacred Heart, and St. John the Baptist Provinces in Albuquerque, NM. We have a video, including our evening trip on the tram to Sandia Peak, posted on YouTube.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eYsohFK4A8g>

Fall Come and See weekends : September 3-5 and November 12-14

Please contact the Vocation Office for details and registration.

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March 2010 *Come and See*

Jeff Schmitz (39) and Matthew O'Hearn (36) joined the Vocation Team and the Friars and Postulants of Saint Anthony Friary in Cincinnati March 5-7, 2010 for a *Come and See* weekend. Jeff is a high school science teacher in the Washington, DC area while Matthew has served recently as a nurse's aide. Jeff has a degree in structural engineering and has travelled extensively with the United States Department of State. Matthew has a degree in Philosophy and has done some study in Theology.



Jeff Schmitz Matthew O'Hearn

Vocation Print Resources

Enclosed with the mailed copies of this Newsletter is a brochure created by Brother Tim Lamb, O.F.M., a member of the Vocation Team as well as Personnel Director for our Province, listing some suggested readings for those interested in our Franciscan way of life. We at the Vocation Office often get inquiries about what written resources would be helpful for someone interested in Saints Francis and Clare or in Franciscan Spirituality. So Brother Tim compiled a "suggested reading list" featuring some of the more popular and recent resources for beginners and those who are already familiar with Franciscan topics.

Knowing that books can be expensive and many have limited funds, we have indicated which books are available on a "lend/return" basis from our Vocation Office. We also indicate which are available for purchase from our own Saint Anthony Messenger Press.

If you would like a copy of the reading list and did not receive one along with a mailed copy of this newsletter, please let us know by contacting the Vocation Office either by telephone (1-800-827-1082) or by email (sjbvocations@franciscan.org)

Vocation Media Resources

Our Provincial website (www.franciscan.org) continues to provide a wealth of information about our life and ministry as Friars. The Vocation drop-down menu on the home page is a particularly rich resource for finding out about our men in Initial Formation and what Formation is all about.

Besides the vocation blog (accessed directly at <http://vocationvibes.franciscan.org> or from the website) we now have over twenty videos on YouTube. Our URL is:

<http://www.youtube.com/franciscanvocations>

Vocation Office Activities

Bro. Tim and Fr. Don have been visiting prospectives this spring, but so have some of our Temporary Professed Friars. For example, Fr. Don did a high school visit in Hamilton, OH and spoke to the seniors during their religion class period about vocations in general and Religious Life in particular. He also met with the Religious Ed. Class at St. Louis Parish in Owensville, OH early on Sunday morning.

In early March, Friars Joshua van Cleef, O.F.M. and Roger Lopez, O.F.M. participated in a *Here I Am Lord* weekend in St. Charles, IL. Our office has been involved in this program for the past few years, but this year we also had a *Come and See* weekend at the same time. So our two young Friars took care of the conference—and from all reports did a fine job.

Note from Fr. Don



As I travel and meet people who ask me what I do, and I tell them that I am a full-time Vocation Director, they usually offer me sympathy with comments such as "That must be very frustrating work." Their response (especially the look on their face) often changes to polite pity when I answer "No, it's not terribly frustrating and I enjoy it." I believe the "pity" stems from their unspoken belief that I must be totally insane. *Everyone knows that trying to find quality candidates for the Religious Life is nearly impossible these days.* I beg to differ.

So far this academic year, Brother Tim and I have accompanied a dozen men through the admittance process. Seven have chosen to seek admission this year; the rest have discerned that they need a little more time before making that commitment. Besides, we have visited and are mentoring many others who are not yet ready to begin the admittance process. As I write this reflection, there are 180 names in our data bank; all good men who have at least asked for information about our way of life. *I assure you, that working with these men is NOT "terribly frustrating." It is mostly a blessing and a joy.*

Recently I shared with another Friar an experience that clearly reflects this. I had interviewed a couple of men and had been on the road for a few hours when I returned home for a quick supper. I had scheduled another interview that evening and I was feeling tired and a little empty because of what I had already accomplished that day. But I went to the interview and came home re-energized and excited. Why? Because I had had the privilege of spending a couple of hours with a young college student who is on fire with his love for Jesus and the thought of giving his life to others in a life of service. His idealism and faith were palpable and I found myself excited along with him. Excited for him and about my own life as a Friar.

This incident is not unusual or isolated. In the almost seven years I have served my province as Vocation Director I have met literally dozens of enthusiastic and dedicated young men. *God is blessing us beyond belief* and I feel humbled and privileged to accompany them—even those who discern not to continue seeking our way of life.

So, if I run into you in my travels and tell you that I am a full-time Vocation Director, don't offer me sympathy but rejoice with me in the goodness of our loving God. *Because I know that trying to find quality candidates for the Religious Life is very possible these days.* I find them every day.