

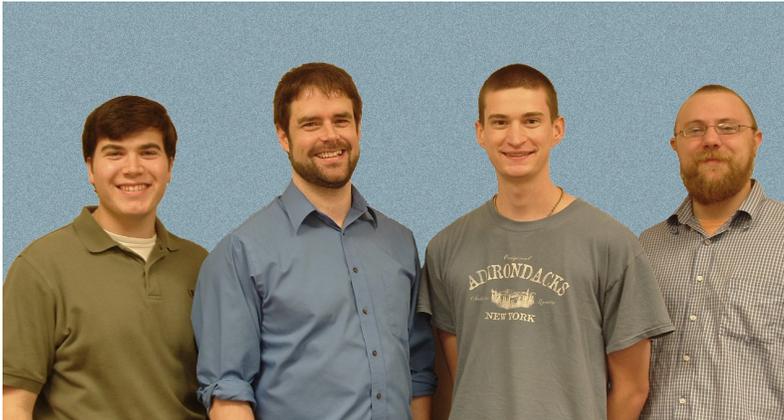


Franciscan Vocations

Saint John the Baptist Province

December 2012

Four Make a *Come and See*



L to R: Reed Thompson, Richard Payne, Joshua Heskamp, Damon Tritle

The Friars of Saint Anthony Friary and the Vocation Office of St. John the Baptist Province of the Franciscans hosted a *Come and See* weekend October

19-21, 2012. Four young men participated. They are **Reed Thompson** (19) from Geneseo, IL, Reed is presently attending Ball State University in Muncie, IN working on a BS in Architecture. **Rick Payne** (35) from Indianapolis, IN. Rick is a practicing therapist with a MA degree in Counseling from Mars Hill Graduate School at Western Seminary in Portland, OR. **Josh Heskamp** (25) from Wadsworth, OH. Josh holds a BA in Philosophy from the University of Akron, Akron, OH and is presently working at Buehler's Grocery in Wadsworth. And **Damon Tritle** (27) from Chambersburg, PA. Damon presently works at Auntie Anne's Pretzel shops where he makes pretzels. Damon has studied German at Millersville University in Millersville, MD.

This was the first *Come and See* weekend for our newest Postulants, Ramón Castellon and Zach Bischler, to work. They were assisted by Bros. Colin King, O.F.M. and Eric Seguin, O.F.M. from St. Joseph Friary in Chicago, IL.

Let's remember these young men and all of our men in formation and those discerning a possible vocation with the Franciscans in our prayers.

Fr. Don Speaks at USAFA

At the invitation of Fr. (Col.) Robert Bruno, O.F.M., head chaplain at the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado, Fr. Donald Miller, O.F.M., our Vocation Director of almost ten years, gave two talks at the Academy on October 29 and 30, 2012. The first was an informal presentation and discussion concerning Vocations with just under 100 Catholic cadets participating. Every Monday evening all of the air force cadets have an opportunity to meet with others of their particular religious denominations for spiritual programming. Fr. Bob had had other Vocation Directors speak and invited the Director from his own province to the October 29th session.

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Note from Fr. Don



A LONGING FOR ADVENT: Since childhood and all through my days of Initial Formation (Postulancy, Novitiate, and Temporary Profession) I was used to allowing the Liturgical Calendar to add form and structure to my life. One of my most striking memories is the silence we observed at home on Good Friday—only necessary talking, no television (more likely, no radio when I was very small since we didn't have a television until I was in fourth grade), and certainly no going out with friends. Of course, I didn't like this as a child, but I do remember clearly realizing that Good Friday was a very special day.

I have to confess that a part of me still yearns for those "good old days," especially when Advent arrives. Deep in my soul I want to shout out to the world that Christmas begins with First Vespers on December 24th—not Halloween or even Thanksgiving. Do NOT decorate for Christmas during Advent.

Well, needless to say, my desire is being severely ignored by just about everyone. And each year I find myself fighting with myself to remember what Advent is all about.

I try to remind myself that Advent is a time for **patient waiting**. During the first part of the season, the Divine Office and the Readings at Mass focus on our patient waiting for the second coming of Christ. It is a reminder to prepare ourselves for the inevitability of death with a strong dose of hope and anticipation for the redeemed life Jesus won for us. It is a **joyful** waiting and longing for the parousia.

On December 17th, the Liturgy switches to a patient waiting for the Solemnity of Christmas and the celebration that our God is Emmanuel—God with us.

"Patient," "waiting"—to foreign words in today's society. We know how to do neither. Everything is "instant" and "waiting" is intolerable.

Maybe Advent has something to teach us if we but allow it to permeate our thinking and feeling. Come Lord Jesus, Come!

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Vocation Directors Meet in Plano

November 1–5, 2012 the National Religious Vocation Conference held its bi-annual Convocation in Plano, TX, a suburb of Dallas. The three to four hundred participants from various Religious Communities were treated to two lively keynotes as well as the opportunity to network and renew old friendships or, in some cases, to make new friends. In addition to the keynote speeches there were topical workshops and inspiring Liturgies and Prayer Services. Of course, meals and breaks offered the opportunity to share and compare some of the best practices in vocational ministry.



Archbishop Joseph Tobin delighted the participants with an inspiring talk as well as with his warm, personal presence. When the Archbishop was invited a couple of years ago by the NRVC staff to be the keynote speaker at the 2012 Convocation he was stationed in Rome in the Office which oversees the life of Religious Communities and Institutes of Apostolic Action. Little did anyone know at the time that by the date of the gathering, Archbishop Tobin would be named the new Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. In spite of the issues of moving back

to the United States and beginning a new ministry, Archbishop Tobin graciously agreed to keep his commitment with the NRVC. As a fellow Religious (Archbishop Tobin is a member of the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer, known also as the Redemptorists) he assured the group that he was most “at home” in their midst.

The Archbishop told the group: I am convinced that gratitude is the attitude that will make vocation ministry credible.... The young need to hear that we are grateful: to the point of wanting passionately to invite others to share our life."

Sister Kathryn Hermes, FSP gave NRVC convocation participants plenty of good food for thought with her keynote address Sunday on being the reconciling presence of Christ in the church and world. She spoke of the role of “story” in both the life and the writings of Saint Paul.



The next Convocation will be in 2014.

USAFA

On Tuesday Fr. Don addressed a faculty brown bag lunch forum on "The Role of Religion in Social Discourse" to just under 40 faculty, staff and cadets, mostly faculty. The presentation was followed by a question and answer session.

Vocation Media Resources

Our Provincial website (www.franciscan.org) continues to provide a wealth of information about the life and ministries of the 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 a YouTube channel (franciscanvocations) and a Facebook page (Franciscan Vocations; St. John the Baptist Province).

New Website Replaces mini-CD and Personal Inventory

You have already received a packet of information from the Franciscan Vocation Office including a mini CD and a copy of the *Personal Inventory*. **Both are now replaced by a new pass-protected website.** There an individual will find new videos and a newly designed *Personal Inventory* in pdf format. The document can be completed all at once or in several sittings and then submitted to the Vocation Office when finished, or printed, or both.

The process is simple. It all begins with an individual's email address. Each person creates a private user name and password which he alone knows. The Vocation Director cannot access that name or password, but, in case a person forgets either, the Vocation Director can have both resent to him electronically. Once the *Personal Inventory* is complete, the individual can print and mail it or submit it electronically. The site remains accessible to view the videos, FAQs, etc

If anyone who has not yet sent in his *Personal Inventory* wishes to use this new format, please let the Vocation Office know and you can gain access to the website. Also, if you want access to the new videos, let the Office know and you, too, can gain access.

We hope that this new format will make life easier and more efficient for both the prospectives and the Vocation Office. (That is once we work out the bugs.) 😊

Come and See Dates

The *Come and See* dates for 2013:
February 8-10, 2013
April 19-21, 2013

If you plan to join us for the 2013 Postulancy class, you must participate in one of the weekends. Please contact the Vocation Office for details (513-542-1082)