



Franciscan Vocations

Saint John the Baptist Province

February 2009

Two Approved for Postulancy

The Admissions Board, at a meeting held at St. Anthony Friary in Cincinnati on January 31, 2009, approved **Andrew Farwick** and **Colin King** for the Postulancy Program. Both will begin their formation in Franciscan life on July 1, 2009.



Andrew, 24, is the second oldest of five children having one brother and three sisters. He is a native of Cincinnati, having grown up in St. Thomas More Parish, where he attended the parish grade school. He then attended McNicholas High School and St. Thomas More College in Crestwood Hills, KY where he earned a B.A. in Biology.

Andrew is presently employed by the USEPA.



Colin, 29, is the second oldest of four children having three sisters. He is a native of Canal Winchester, OH but presently lives in Norwood, OH. He attended St. Mary Grade school and

Fisher Catholic High School in Lancaster, OH and then Xavier University where he earned a Bachelor degree in the Arts and Sciences with a major as an Intervention Specialist.

Colin is presently employed by the Mason City Schools.

How did these two men get to this point in their lives? How long did they discern their calling? Well, Andrew first contacted the Vocation Office in February 2008, just one year ago this month. He sent his Personal Inventory in quickly but then took some time for prayer and reflection. He reconnected with the Vocation Office in August, made a Come and See weekend in September and began the process in earnest to seek admission to the Class of 2009.

Colin began his discernment with the Friars in August of 2006. He, too, returned his Personal Inventory quickly and then made a Come and See weekend in September of that same year. It was after the weekend that he felt the need to do more discernment and prayer. It was this last spring that he decided to begin the final process of seeking admission.

So, how long does discernment take? The answer to that question is different for each man who attempts to respond to that inner feeling that God is calling him to be a Franciscan. Each person is different and each call is unique. God does not work within each man in the same way. God treats each person individually knowing what is best for him.

So there is no one answer to "how long does discernment take?" Andrew and Colin's experiences show how God called each of them over a different period of time and according to a different sequence of events. Each have listened and answered the call in his own personal way, and now they are ready to pursue the Franciscan way of life.

How is God calling you?

**Come and See weekend for
spring 2009**
May 1-3, 2009
Call the Vocation Office if you would like to participate

New Member of Vocation Ministry Team



At its meeting in Pittsburgh during the first week of February, 2009, the Provincial Council (The Provincial Minister, Provincial Vicar and the four Council Members) assigned Bro. Tim Lamb, O.F.M. as Part-Time Vocation Director to

work with Fr. Don in the Vocation Ministry of the province.

Bro. Tim was born in Dover, NH in 1954. He is the youngest of four children having one sister in Texas and one brother and one sister in New Hampshire.

Before entering the Franciscans in 1995, Bro. Tim taught hearing-impaired children emphasizing speech and language development. He was a member of the Secular Franciscans and lived in Houston for 19 years.

Bro. Tim made his novitiate in 1996-97 professing Temporary vows for the first time in 1997 and Solemn Vows in 2000. In 2002 he earned a MA in Pastoral Counseling from Loyola University in Chicago, IL. In 2003 he received a Counseling License from the State of Illinois and a Clinical License in 2004.

From 2002 to 2005 he worked for a Substance Abuse Rehabilitation Co. called Gateway counseling inmates at the Illinois Department of Corrections in Lincoln, IL. From 2005-2008 he did general counseling for the Community Health Center.

In May 2008 he was named Personnel Advisor for the Province of St. John the Baptist and is now named to the Vocation Office of the same Franciscan province.

We welcome Brother Tim.

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www.franciscan.org • sjbvocations@franciscan.org

New Web Videos Highlight Men in Formation



Picture taken from a video featuring Friar Richard Gooding, O.F.M.

In a project that has been in development for almost two years, 15 videos highlighting our eight men in formation are ready to be uploaded to our provincial website. They are already available for viewing in YouTube. (Type in franciscanvocations and hit enter)

The project became a reality in early January when Fr. Don, our Vocation Director, visited our Novices in Cedar Lake, IN to film their comments concerning Religious Life and Franciscanism. There were no prescribed texts. Each novice was encouraged to speak on a topic or topics that he felt would help young men in their discernment of a calling to our way of life. Later, toward the end of January, our Simply Professed Friar and our Postulants were given the same task and were filmed in Cincinnati.

The young men chose to speak on fraternity, what attracted them to the Friars, the process of discernment, following Jesus, what type of person is attracted to the Franciscans, the vowed life, radical love in ministry, and much more.

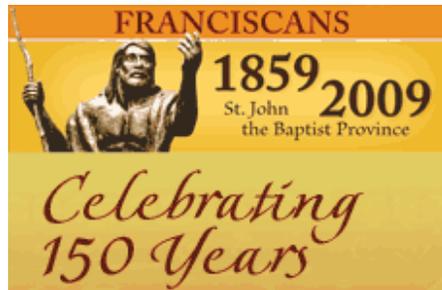
Saint Anthony Messenger Press which hosts our provincial website will create a new version of the Franciscan Formation page to accommodate both photographs of the men as well as hyperlinks to their individual videos.

Our intention is to continue upgrading our website pages and to eventually highlight some of our Franciscan ministries with both written texts and new videos. We want to use every resource available to get the message out to young men that our way of life is an exciting and beautiful way to serve the Lord and others. It is obvious from the videos that those already in the initial formation process, view their experience of Franciscan life as one of joy and hope.



Picture taken from a video featuring Friar Clifford Hennings, O.F.M.

In 1209, Pope Innocent III approved a plan by Francis of Assisi for a new way of religious life. This year, Franciscans around the world are marking the Eighth Centenary of the founding of their Order. In 1859, the entity that became St. John the Baptist Province in Cincinnati was formally erected as a "custody." This 12-part series, commemorating the 150th anniversary of the province, celebrates the lives and contributions of the friars.



The above quote, taken from our provincial website, introduces a new feature on the site. Each editions of the series introduces some aspect of our provincial history of ministry. Each will also be archived on the site for easy retrieval.

The first installment, featured in January, presented a brief history of the brave Friars who came to Cincinnati as missionaries from the Tyrol in Austria at the invitation of Archbishop Purcell to minister to the German-speaking immigrants who were flocking into the Cincinnati area. Our province grew quickly from the first few men who braved the trip to the "new world."

The second installment, featured this month, highlights our work with the poor. From the earliest days of the community we have focused on the financial and social disadvantaged in our society.

To read this series simple go to our website (www.franciscan.org) and click on the icon on the right which looks like the insert above. At the end of the February article is a hyperlink (on the left) to the previous editions.

We hope you enjoy reading about our Franciscan community.

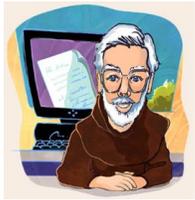
Notes from the Vocation Office

Across the country, the number of inquiries from young men seeking information concerning religious life is on the rise. Various explanations are being offered, but, in the end, the reason may be less important on the practical level than the fact: more men are looking into our way of life. And for this we give thanks and praise to God.

I personally experienced this increase last fall. The number of new inquiries and the amount of travel both increased significantly. Thus I asked the provincial administration for additional man-power in the office. I am pleased to welcome Brother Tim on board and hope that his presence will improve our service and programming to the prospectives.

Will this increase in inquiries lead to more men in our Initial Formation programs? It is too early to answer that question. The new prospectives have not yet had the time to discern their call fully.

If you know of any young men who may be thinking about the Religious Life, let them know that they are not alone. Many are seeking and asking for information. Encourage him (them) to contact our Vocation Office at 800-827-1082, sjbvocations@franciscan.org or www.franciscan.org.



More up-to-date accounts of happenings in and around the province can be found on Fr. Don's Blog at:

www.vocationvibes.franciscan.org

Also, monthly updated information about who we are and what we do as Franciscan Friars can be found at:

www.franciscan.org