

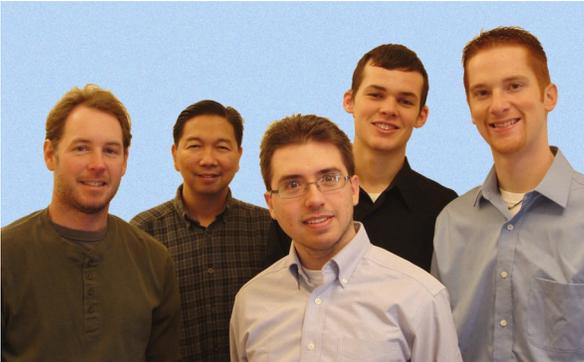


Franciscan Vocations

Saint John the Baptist Province

February 2012

Five make a *Come and See* weekend



Friday, February 10th, five men arrived at Saint Anthony Friary in Cincinnati to participate in a *Come and See* weekend. As is usually the case, the weekend began with Evening Prayer with the local community and ended with the Eucharist on Sunday morning.

Attending the weekend were (left to right):

Clinton Collins (38) a painting contractor from Kansas City, MO who owns his own business. Clinton has a BS degree in Business Management having studied at Park College and Missouri State University.

Antonio Rigonan (49) who comes to us from the Philippines via the United States Air Force where he serves as the local chaplain in Wichita Falls, TX. Fr. Rigonan is a diocesan priest of the Malolos Filipino diocese who is looking into the Religious Life.

Joshua LaPorte (22) from Rochester Hills, MI, who is presently studying Philosophy at the Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit, MI working on his BA degree which he is scheduled to receive in December of this year.

Shawn Fontaine (18) comes to us from Dunedin, FL. He is presently studying at Saint Petersburg College in Clearwater, FL. He also works part-time at McDonalds.

Corey Knapke (23) who will graduate this June from the University of Cincinnati with a BS degree in Mechanical Engineering along with an MBA. Corey is from Saint Henry, OH. This past year he spent time in Germany on a Co-op through the university.

Helping Fr. Don with the weekend were four others: Richard Goodin, O.F.M.; Clifford Hennings, O.F.M.; Michael Charron, O.F.M.; and Roger Lopez, O.F.M. Bro. Richard is Solemnly Professed and is continuing his studies for the priesthood at CTU in Chicago. Bro. Michael, who is in his second year of Temporary Vows, is also studying at CTU. Bro. Clifford is doing his year in the province at St. Mary of the Angels Parish in New Orleans while his classmate, Bro. Roger, is doing his at Roger Bacon High School in Cincinnati.

Note from Fr. Don



When I was a Postulant I asked my Director what penance I should choose for Lent. His answer surprised me and disappointed me.

He said I should more carefully follow the daily schedule. It surprised me because I expected him to say that I should give up something. It disappointed me because following the schedule seemed so ordinary and I was expecting something extraordinary. He challenged me to rethink what "penance" meant.

St. Francis referred to his new life as a "life of penance." What did he mean? He meant that each and every day he wanted to grow more like Jesus—to grow in virtue. If that meant giving up some bad habits and some behaviors that were inconsistent with his dignity as a child of God, then "penance" meant denying himself. But what he gave up was something he should not have been doing in the first place.

More positively, St. Francis viewed his life of penance as a growing beyond himself and his selfish desires and whims and following Jesus and His gospel more closely. The "giving up" that that involved was secondary to the growth and joy that that involved.

Lent 2012 calls each of us to examine our lives and ask ourselves: "What behavior, habit, idea is standing in the way of my becoming more like Jesus?" Can I spend Lent asking God for the grace to give it up *permanently*—not just for forty days, but forever because it does not belong in my life to begin with?

Or what virtue do I know I need to strengthen? Can I spend Lent practicing that virtue more consciously with the grace of God in order to develop it as a habit in my everyday life?

If we spend Lent cooperating with God's grace to make some permanent improvement in our life with Jesus, we are guaranteed that when Easter comes we will truly rise to new life with Jesus. We will become a "new man in Christ."

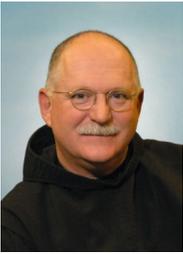
Try it and see.

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website: www.franciscan.org • email: sjbvocations@franciscan.org

YouTube channel: [franciscanvocations](https://www.youtube.com/franciscanvocations)

Bro. Tim Lamb, O.F.M. Moves On



Since February 2009, Bro. Tim Lamb, O.F.M. has worked part-time in the Vocation Office as well as serving as the Provincial Personnel Advisor, a position he has held since 2008. In January 2012 he was assigned as a member of the Formation Team for the Interprovincial Formation House in Chicago, IL. There he will join two other members of the team—Fr. Bernard Kennedy, O.F.M. of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Province and Fr. James Lause, O.F.M. of the Sacred Heart Province. Brother Tim will begin his duties in Chicago next fall.

In the meantime he will do some sabbatical work and prepare for his new position. Bro. Tim will replace Fr. Mark Soehner, O.F.M. who will be moving on to another assignment.

Presently our province has three Temporary Professed Friars—Michael Charron, Colin King, and Adam Calder—and two Solemnly Professed Friars—Christopher Meyer and Richard Goodin—living and studying in Chicago. Two other Temporary Professed Friars—Roger Lopez and Clifford Hennings—are in Cincinnati, OH and New Orleans, LA respectively fulfilling their S.T.I.P. year, a year of ministry in the province during the third year of Temporary Vows. (*S.T.I.P.* stands for *Supervised Time in the Province.*)

Presently, Fr. Don Miller, O.F.M. remains the Vocation Director, a position he has held since Spring 2003.

New Media Efforts in the Vocation Office which involves YOU

Anyone who has received an Initial Packet of Information from our Vocation Office which includes a mini CD and/or has visited our website (www.franciscan.org) and YouTube Channel (franciscanvocations) has experienced the fruits of our adventure into the world of electronic media. Admittedly, the videos on YouTube and our website and the mini CD have become significantly dated—as all electronic media does very quickly.

One of the features we want to initiate is having young Friars—and maybe some of the older Friars—answer questions or speak briefly on topics sent in by men discerning a vocation to our way of life. These will be short video shots that could easily be posted on our YouTube channel where everyone could benefit from both the question/topic and the answer. **So if you have anything you would like to ask one of our men in formation, or any topic for a quick discussion, send it by email to the Vocation Office at sjbvocations@franciscan.org.** Of course, we will keep the identities of the questioners anonymous. No one will know who asked the question or suggested the topic.

Postulants help with spreading the word about Franciscanism



William Estrellanes, Postulant; Sr. Luisa, OSC; Sr. Diane, OSC; and Joshua Froning, Postulant

One of the ways the Vocation Office reaches out to young men is through Vocations Fairs and Vocation Days. The Archdiocese of Cincinnati, for example, offers three *Cast Your Net* evenings every year throughout the archdiocese. We Franciscans and other Religious serving the Church of Cincinnati are invited to set up our displays and meet with the invited young persons who attend.

On January 8, the day the Church in the United States began its observance of *Nation Vocation Awareness Week*, the local Dominican community invited Religious to join their novices and Professed Friars for the Eucharist and for a day of meeting and greeting folks after the Masses. They also offered a panel of Religious so that young people could ask questions.

This year Postulants William Estrellanes and Joshua Froning joined Fr. Don and two Poor Clare Sisters to represent the Franciscans at the Dominican parish. (See picture above.) Joshua Froning, William Estrellanes and fellow Postulant Shane Jensen along with Temporary Professed Friar Roger Lopez have helped with the *Cast Your Nets* evenings.

Fr. Don attends many such occasions throughout the country representing our Franciscan province.

Present 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 30 videos on YouTube. Our URL is:

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

Come and See Date

The last **Come and See** dates for Spring 2012 are **April 13-15**

If you plan to join us for the 2012 Postulancy class, you must participate in this weekend. Please contact the Vocation Office for details. (513-542-1082 or 800-827-1082)