



# Franciscan Vocations

## Saint John the Baptist Province

July 2009

### Five Profess First Vows in Franciscan Order



Friars Galen Osby (ABVM), Martin Flores (SH), Roger Lopez, Daniel Helfrich, Joshua van Cleef, Tim Tran and Clifford Hennings (SJB)

June 15, 2009 at Cedar Lake, IN our five novices, along with one each from Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Sacred Heart Provinces, professed vows for the first time thereby ending their novitiate and becoming Temporary Professed Friars in the Order of Friars Minor. The newly professed will move to Chicago, IL this fall to our inter-provincial friary where they will pursue studies and continue

their formation as Franciscans. This summer, Friars Galen, Martin, Daniel and Tim will study at St. Bonaventure University in New York while Roger, Joshua and Clifford will join Friar Richard Goodin and Frs. Mark Soehner (SJB) and Ed Shea (SH) on pilgrimage in Virginia (see accompanying story on right).



Fr. Frank Jasper, Vicar Provincial of SJB Province, receives the vows of Friar Joshua van Cleef

During the ceremony, each Friar places his hands into those of the representative of the province and read the vow formula in which he promised to follow the Rule of Saint Francis according to our General Constitutions living in obedience, without anything of his own, and in chastity. Since all of the Provincial Ministers of the Order were in Assisi for a General Chapter, the Provincial Vicars represented the Provinces.

As novices, the Friars wore a cord without knots.

As a part of the profession ceremony they are clothed with a cord with three knots representing the vows they had just taken.

Each Friar vowed the Franciscan life for one year. By Church law they must make a one-year profession for a minimum of three years before being allowed to make a life-time commitment of Solemn Vows.



Friar Clifford Hennings receives a knotted cord



June 16, 2009 at St. Anthony Friary, Cincinnati, OH six Friars were prayed over as they prepared to begin a six-week, 300-mile pilgrimage from Roanoke, VA to Washington, DC. Planning to take little on the road, the group plans to find work for food and shelter as they witness to their faith to whomever they meet.

The six pilgrims are (l to r) newly professed Friars Roger Lopez and Joshua van Cleef; Fr. Ed Shea a member of the formation team at the interprovincial formation house in Chicago; newly professed Friar Clifford Hennings; Fr. Mark Soehner, also a team member in Chicago; and Friar Richard Goodin, a second year Temporary Professed. All are members of St. John the Baptist Province except Fr. Ed who belongs to Sacred Heart.



The Friars were given sun hats and mission crucifixes for their journey. (Giving a "mission crucifix" is a custom in the Order.) You can follow the trip at [www.friarwalk.com](http://www.friarwalk.com)

**Come and See  
weekends for 2009-2010**

Please call the Vocation Office if you would like to participate

**September 4-6, 2009**

**November 6-8, 2009**

**January 8-10, 2010**

**March 5-7, 2010**

**April 30-May 2, 2010**

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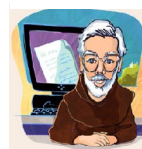
## Two men received into the Novitiate at Cedar lake, IN



Friars Michael Charron (left) and Kevin Janke (right) finished their year of Postulancy May 31, 2009 and took some time off for vacation and family visits. On June 25, 2009 they began their year of novitiate along with four Friars from Sacred Heart Province at the interprovincial novitiate in Cedar Lake, IN. Upon completion of the year they will profess Temporary vows and join our six Temporary Professed Friars in Chicago.



## Note from Fr. Don



June and early July are exciting months for me as a Vocation Director. Early in June the Postulants wrap up their year of Postulancy and leave for a few-week vacation prior

to entering the Novitiate on June 24th. On June 15th the Novices conclude their stage of formation by making their First Profession of Vows. Then on July 1st, the new Postulants arrive to begin their initial year of formation.

While no one was prepared to make a Solemn Profession (a life-long commitment) this year, the fact that we have eleven men in Initial Formation is exciting. The Lord is richly blessing our community and the long hours of Vocation Ministry are showing some positive results. I cannot help but feel a certain sense of satisfaction, but I also experience a deep sense of gratitude to our loving God for allowing me to be a part of these men's discernment process.

But the story doesn't end there. A new group is already preparing themselves to begin their Franciscan formation next July 1st as the Postulants of 2010. Our province is blessed to have a large number of prospectives. Bro. Tim Lamb and I have been kept very busy visiting, interviewing, and mentoring those who, God willing, will be with us in just a few short months.

So while I pause momentarily to say a prayer of thanksgiving for "what is," I quickly add a prayer for "what will be." What a privilege to be able to work with so many generous and courageous young men. God is indeed good and loving. And he is certainly smiling on our Franciscan province of Saint John the Baptist.



## 4th of July Picnic

Approximately 40 Friars from the greater Cincinnati area gathered at St. Anthony Friary for the annual 4th of July picnic (which was actually held this year on July 3rd). This annual picnic proves to be an opportune time for the Friars and the new Postulants to meet one

another. Pictured above are Colin King, Adam Calder, and Andrew Farwick; the new Postulants who had just arrived on June 30 and July 1. Early in the afternoon, Fr. Don Miller, O.F.M., their Vocation Director, joined them in a game of bean bag toss. Other Friars engaged in card games, horse shoe toss, and a water balloon toss. At supper time everyone feasted on brats, hamburgers, and other "picnic" food.



## Three formally Received Into the Postulancy Program

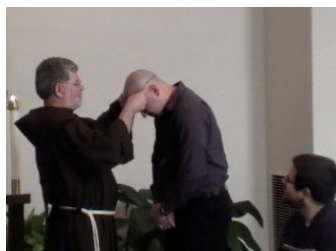


Adam Calder, Colin King, and Andrew Farwick

Our new Postulants were formally received into the Postulancy Program by Fr. Jeffrey Scheeler, O.F.M., our Provincial Minister, at an Evening Prayer Service at St. Anthony Friary in Cincinnati on Tuesday, July 7, 2009. Each was invested with a Tau Cross, a traditional symbol used by Saint Francis. These men will live with the Friars until the beginning of next June learning about Franciscan life, communal living and prayer, and Franciscan spirituality. But most of all,

they will learn about themselves and about their vocation. This is an initial step in the discernment process which, God willing, will lead them to give their lives to the Lord and to the Church as Franciscans in Solemn (life-long) Profession of vows.

Adam Calder, 28, is from Parkersburg, WV; Colin King, 29, is originally from Columbus, OH; and Adam Farwick, 24, is life-long resident of Anderson Township, Cincinnati, OH



Adam Calder received Tau Cross

## Vocation Media Resources

Our Provincial website ([www.franciscan.org](http://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 either directly at <http://vocationvibes.franciscan.org> or from the website) we now have 21 videos on YouTube. Our URL is:

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

You might want to check them out.