



# Franciscan Vocations

## Saint John the Baptist Province

June 2011

### Five More Admitted to Postulancy

The Admissions Board of the Province of Saint John the Baptist met at Saint Anthony Friary in Cincinnati, OH on March 26 and May 14, 2011 and approved the request for admittance of five more members of the 2011 Postulancy Class. These newest members of the class are:



**Matthew Sharick**, 29, of Metamora, IL. is the son of Stanley and Patricia Sharick. He is the eldest of two siblings having one sister. He graduated from Metamora Township High School in 2000 and then spent three years at Illinois State University in Normal, IL studying psychology and political science. He now drives an eighteen wheeler for Morton Building Inc.

**Shane Jensen**, 25, of Georgetown, KY. is the son of Dave and Theresa Jensen and is the eldest of four siblings having three sisters. He graduated in 2004 from Bryan Station High School. That same year he entered Asbury College in Wilmore, KY where he studied theology for two years. His latest job is with Scentsy which is a wickless candle company.



**Joshua Froning**, 23, of Piqua, OH. is the son of James and Nancy Froning and he is the eldest of three siblings having one brother and one sister. He graduated from Lehman Catholic High School in Sidney, OH in 2006 and then matriculated to the University of Cincinnati where he will graduate in 2011 with a Bachelor Degree in Biochemistry. Josh presently works part time for United Parcel Service. of Piqua, OH.

**William Estrellanes**, 28, of San Diego, CA. is the son of Cynthia and stepson of Anthony Poligono. He was born and reared in the Philippines and is the youngest in his family having one brother. He came to this country during his college years and has studied at the College of Marin in California where he earned an AA in Psychology and at the University of California, Davis where he earned a BA in Psychology, and Communications & Education. He has also done graduate studies at the National University in San Diego, CA.



**Clay Zapalac**, 23, of Richmond, TX. is the son of Annette and Tom Mooney. Clay graduated from B. F. Terry High School in 2007 and has studied at both Wharton County Junior College and the University of Houston. He has one younger sister and two older brothers. He is active in his home parish, Sacred Heart Catholic Church, in Richmond, TX where he volunteers and participates in various liturgical ministries. He is also a member of the Knights of Columbus.

These men will join **Jeffrey Schmitz**, **Matthew O'Hearn**, and **Brandon Elliott**, (all were accepted in January 2011 and featured in the March 2011 Newsletter) on August 21, 2011 at St. Anthony Friary in Cincinnati, OH to begin their year of Postulancy—a year-long introduction to Franciscan life, prayer, and spirituality in preparation for the Noviti-

ate. They will form the **largest class of Postulants** St. John the Baptist Province has had in **28** year.



**Jeffrey Schmitz**, 40 is from Silver Spring, MD but was born and raised in Lafayette, IN. He is presently teaching high school math.

**Matthew O'Hearn**, 36, is from Cambridge, NY. He earned a B.A. in Philosophy from Wadhams Hall Seminary College and has studied theology at Christ the King Seminary.



**Brandon Elliott**, 24, was born in Circleville, OH and now hales from Elwood, IN. He is a Certified EMT and has studied at Ivy Tech Community College, Peru State College, and Excelsior College.



## 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 (which may be accessed either directly at <http://vocationvibes.franciscan.org> or from the website) we now have 31 videos on YouTube. Our URL is:

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

The Province also has a **Facebook** presence at:

<https://www.facebook.com/Franciscanfriars>

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website: [www.franciscan.org](http://www.franciscan.org) • email: [sjbvocations@franciscan.org](mailto:sjbvocations@franciscan.org)  
YouTube channel: [franciscanvocations](http://franciscanvocations)

# Province Celebrates a Chapter



Fr. Don calling the group to order

On Sunday, May 22, twenty of us arrived at Saint Meinrad Archabbey in St. Meinrad, IN to begin setting up for our Provincial Chapter. By Monday morning all of us—the Chapter Planning Committee with the help of the Postulants and our men in Initial Formation—were busy preparing our living and meeting spaces for the arrival of the Solemnly Professed members of Chapter.

By 4:00 p.m. Monday afternoon, Provincial Minister Fr. Jeffrey Scheeler, O.F.M. called the meeting to order and Executive Secretary Fr. Donald Miller, O.F.M. read of the list of voting members and official observers and the Chapter was under way. That evening after supper, Fr. Jeffrey gave us his report of how he sees our province.

It was a moving and challenging and inspirational address. In true Franciscan style, we followed with a social.

Tuesday morning we prayed and began the business part of our gathering. Already we had to make a change in schedule in the afternoon because Archbishop Dufour of Montego Bay, Jamaica was delayed and was unable to speak at the assigned time. But, we adapted by showing and discussing a DVD from Fr. Michael Perry, O.F.M., the Vicar General of the Order of Friars Minor, and all was well. We finished the afternoon with Eucharist and dealt with Staff Reports that evening.



Fr. Jeff presiding at the Jubilee Eucharist

Wednesday morning we began with Archbishop Defour who gave us a powerful challenge. We continued with business that day and gathered in Chapel to celebrate the Jubilees of our men who had been Friars and/or Priests for 40, 50 or 60 years. While relaxing after the Eucharist and Jubilee banquet, the fire alarm warned of a possible tornado and we all had to move to the basement. After being there a while and joking about our situation,

the lights went out—and remained out for fifteen hours. This caused some concern for our elder and less able Brothers, but everyone chipped in and cared for one another's needs.

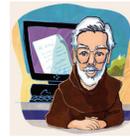
Thursday morning we met with no lights, sound system or visuals. We adapted and continued but by noon Frs. Jeff and Don decided to rework the schedule so that all could head home by Thursday evening. We would just forgo a few things that were non-essential and finish Thursday evening instead of Friday noon. Of course, as soon as we made the decision and rearranged the schedule, the power came back on but, as one Friar commented, the toothpaste was out of the tube. So we discussed and voted on proposals and elected members to leadership and finished Chapter a bit unceremoniously by supper time.



Friars voting on a proposal

Looking over the evaluations and listening to comments, the group appears to have enjoyed their time together and feel that we did what we went to Saint Meinrad to do. Much more needs to be done as we “face our future with hope”—a frequently heard mantra among us. We will continue reshaping of our province throughout the next three years as we put the Chapter decisions into practical form.

Pictures by Fr. Frank Jasper, O.F.M.



## Note from

## Fr. Don

In his *Testament*, Saint Francis wrote: “And after the Lord gave me some brothers, no one showed me what I had to do, but the Most High Himself revealed to me that I should live according to the pattern of the Holy Gospel.”

I have been thinking about those words as I watched the incoming class of Postulants grow to eight. We have thirteen men already in Initial Formation and one Solemnly Professed Friar, Bro. Christopher Meyer, O.F.M., in Priestly Formation. With this new class and with Bro. Richard's Solemn Profession, we will have twenty in Initial Formation, and two Solemnly Professed Friars in Priestly Formation.) The Lord is, indeed, blessing the Province of Saint John the Baptist and the Order of Friars Minor with new brothers and for this I am deeply grateful.

As Franciscan Friars we are called to live “according to the pattern of the Holy Gospel.” This is our life and our basic ministry—to live the Gospel life in community. Whatever else we do, we are to first of all live the Gospel life as brothers.

During the last full week of May, about 125 members of our province met in Chapter—a gathering in which we discussed our common life, passed legislation, and elected members to leadership. (see pictures and an article on the left.) While the men in Initial Formation can not yet vote, they were active members of the Chapter and joined in the fraternal assembly. From comments overheard and made directly to me, I believe it was a formative experience for them. It was also good for the Professed Friars to witness the growth in young membership with which the Lord is blessing us. *Saint John the Baptist Province is alive and well in the service of the Church and humankind.*

If you feel called by the Lord to throw in your lot with this band of Brothers, I ask you to contact us in the Vocation Office and let us help you discern your possible call. We welcome your sincere search for what it is that the Lord is calling you to be and to do.

I've listed some resources as well as our contact information on the front page of this newsletter.

# Our Men in Formation are in Transition

**Richard Goodin, O.F.M.** was born in Lebanon, KY in November 1983. He graduated from Marion County High School in his home town in 2002, and attended the University of Kentucky in Lexington, KY earning a Bachelor of Science Degree in Mechanical Engineering in 2006. He joined the Franciscans in July of that same year. Having completed Postulancy he entered the novitiate in Cedar Lake, IN in June 2007 and made his First Profession of Temporary Vows in June 2008. He then continued his formation at Saint Joseph Interprovincial Friary in Chicago, IL and attended classed at the Catholic Theological Union in the same city. In 2010 he did his S.T.I.P. (Supervised Time in the Province) year at Mary, Gate of Heaven Friary in Negril, Westmoreland, Jamaica. Returning to the States for our Provincial Chapter in May 2011 and a 30 retreat in June/July 2011, he will make his Solemn Profession of Vows on August 27, 2011. He will return then to Chicago to finish his studies for priesthood.



**Daniel Helfrich, O.F.M., Roger Lopez, O.F.M., Joshua van Cleef, O.F.M., and Clifford Hennings, O.F.M.** renewed their Temporary Vows for the second time and are beginning their S.T.I.P. year.



Bro. Dan Helfrich has completed a Certificate in Theology at the Catholic Theological Union and two years at the Coyne Institute in Chicago training as an electrician. He will be at Mother of Good Counsel Friary in Hazard, KY working with our Appalachian missionaries this year.



Bro. Roger Lopez has finished his undergraduate work in Catholics Studies and will finish up his philosophy requirements in August 2011. He then will be in Cincinnati, OH working at Roger Bacon High School.



Bro. Josh van Cleef completed his B.A. at the Virginia Military Institute and has completed his philosophy requirements and one year of theology at the Catholic Theological Union. He will be on the Navajo Reservation working at Chinli, AZ at Our Lady of Fatima Friary.



Bro. Clifford Hennings joined the Franciscans before finishing his Bachelors degree at the University of St. Thomas in Houston, TX. He now has completed his B.A in Religious Studies and his philosophy requirements at DePaul University in Chicago. He will be in New Orleans, LA at Our Lady of the Angels Parish.



**Michael Charron, O.F.M.** renewed his Temporary Vows for the first time. He came to us with a Bachelors degree in English Literature and post B.A Paralegal Certificate from the University of Cincinnati. He will complete his philosophy requirements by the end of the summer and then spend three weeks at St. Patrick Friary in Galveston, TX before returning in the fall to St. Joseph Friary in Chicago to begin his studies in theology.

Novices **Colin King, O.F.M.** and **Adam Calder, O.F.M.** finished their novitiate and made their First Profession of Temporary Vows on June 11, 2011 at San Damiano Friary in Cedar Lake, IN. After vacation and summer study they will join Bro. Michael in Chicago at St. Joseph Friary. Bro. Adam will pursue a Certificate in Theology at the Catholic Theological Union and Bro. Colin will begin fulfilling his philosophy requirements for priesthood at DePaul University.



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(See our YouTube channel [franciscanvocations](#) for a video of Bros. Colin and Adam's profession service, and page 4 of this newsletter for an article on the ceremony.)

**Eric Seguin, William Gibson, Adam Farkas, Joseph DiAte, and Jonathan Beer** have completed their year of Postulancy and will begin their Novitiate year August 15, 2011. With the new date for the beginning of Novitiate, comes a new location as well. They will be joining the novices from five other provinces at Burlington, WI. This year's class will include men from Holy Name, Immaculate Conception, Sacred Heart, and Our Lady of Guadalupe Provinces in the States and Christ the King Province in western Canada as well as our own Saint John the Baptist Province.



Eric Seguin is a native of Ontario, Canada. He has training and experience in the hotel/restaurant field and, most recently before joining us, as sacristan at the Cathedral in Ottawa.

William Gibson is from Round Rock, TX and completed four years of college before entering our province. He holds a Bachelor Degree in Philosophy from the University of Dallas.



Adam Farkas is a Michigander having been born in Warren, MI and lived most recently in Richmond, MI. He is a graduate in 2007 of Richmond High School.

Joseph DiAte was born in Dunkirk, NY but calls Chapmansboro, TN home. He graduated from Kingston Springs High School and completed two years at Aquinas College in Nashville, TN where he majored in theology.



Jonathan Beer came to us from Hamilton, OH where he graduated in 2009 from Badin High School. He then completed one year at the Franciscan University in Steubenville, OH before entering the Postulancy Program.

## Come and See weekend

Because of the new starting date for the Postulancy Program, our first *Come & See* weekend for the fall will be **November 4-6, 2011**. Please let the Vocation Office know if you would like to attend. (1-800-824-1082)

# Friars Colin King and Adam Calder Make First Profession of Vows



Fr. Jeffrey Scheeler, O.F.M. receives the Profession of Friar Adam Calder, O.F.M.

As it came time for the Profession ceremony to begin, the weather had cleared but the sky was overcast and the air was cool but humid. The Friars from six provinces gathered in the small chapel of Our Lady of Lourdes Friary in Cedar Lake, IN. The focus of the gathering were nine men from five provinces about to make their First Profession of Vows in the Order of Friars Minor. Guests included Dominican Friars, some Franciscan Sisters from Mishawaka, IN and a few lay folk.

The ceremony was simple; basically a Liturgy of the Word that began with a reading from the Life of Saint Francis by Saint Bonaventure, followed by a reading from Saint Paul's letter to the Philippians and a passage from Gospel of Saint Matthew. Joachim Studwell, O.F.M., a member of the Novitiate team from the Province of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, preached.

Bro. Norbert Bertram, O.F.M., the Saint John the Baptist Province member of the Novitiate team, examined the candidates for profession and prayed for them. Then each of the five Provincial Ministers or Provincial Vicars received the vows of the men from their respective provinces. Fr. Jeffrey Scheeler, O.F.M., Provincial Minister for Saint John the Baptist Province received the vows of Friars Colin King and Adam Calder.



Fr. Jeffrey Scheeler, O.F.M. receives the Profession of Friar Colin King, O.F.M.



Friar Colin receives a knotted cord.

During the Novitiate, the Novices wore a cord with no knots. The knots represent the three Vows of Chastity, Obedience, and Non-appropriation (Poverty); vows that the Novices had not yet taken. So during their Profession service, each received a knotted cord after making their profession of the Vows.

Each Novice then signed his Provincial Book of Membership along with his Provincial Minister and the members of the Novitiate Team as official witnesses. (The Friars will sign this same book again on the occasion of their Solemn Vows.)

Once all nine Friars had promised to live the life of the Friars Minor for a period of one year, all present welcomed and congratulated them with a formal sign of peace.

The nine Friars professing vows represented five provinces: Saint John the Baptist, Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Most Holy Name of Jesus, and Our Lady of Guadalupe from the United States, and Christ the King from western Canada.



Friar Colin (left) and Friar Adam (above) receive a sign of peace from Fr. Jeffrey Scheeler.

This profession ceremony marked the closing of the Interprovincial Novitiate at Cedar Lake, IN; a program that spanned more than fifteen years. August 15, the new novitiate class will gather at Burlington, WI and will represent five American provinces and the province of Western Canada. Because the novitiate program includes men from more provinces (potentially all seven of the American provinces plus Western Canada), a larger building is needed. Assumption Province had used the building in Burlington as a Formation House of Theology. It is in good shape and all are happy to be able to use it.

Saint John the Baptist will be sending five men to the program this year. In all, the novitiate class should include sixteen novices.

# Friars to Participate in World Youth Day

At the request of Provincial Minister, Fr. Jeffrey Scheeler, O.F.M., four members of Saint John the Baptist Province will be attending World Youth Day and participating in the Franciscan Village August 16–21, 2011 in Madrid, Spain. The “village” will include Franciscans of all sorts; Friars, Religious, Seculars, and youth organizations. The gathering spot will be around the Church of San Francisco el Grande, Plaza de San Francisco. The organizers view the “village” as a place for meetings and sharing. It will include exhibitions, visual presentations, a venue for selling objects, prayer and adoration.

In response to Fr. Jeff's response, the two Vocation Directors, Fr. Don and Bro. Tim, along with two of our Temporary Professed Friars, Joshua van Cleef and Clifford Hennings, (pictured on page three) will travel to Spain in August. Bro. Tim and the two younger Friars will arrive earlier to participate in a walk along the Camino Inglés, a 68 mile trek leading to Santiago de Compostela. Fr. Don will meet up with them in Madrid on August 15.

Bros. Josh and Clifford are veterans of the 2009 Walking Friar Pilgrimage through Virginia. The three hikers will carry bedroll, provisions, and clothing on their backs and sleep at pilgrim inns along the way. They expect to complete the walk in five days.

Fr. Don will hopefully be able to report the World Youth Day activities by way of his blog (<http://vocationvibes.franciscan.org>). *Saint Anthony Messenger* hopes to use the blog postings in its coverage of the international event.

