



Franciscan Vocations

Saint John the Baptist Province

May 2009

One More Approved for Postulancy

In January the Admissions Board approved Andrew Farwick and Colin King for the Postulancy Program. At its most recent meeting, held at Saint Anthony Friary in Cincinnati April 25th, it approved **Adam Calder**. Presently there are three members in the class of 2009.



Adam, 28, is the second oldest of three children. He was born in Parkersburg, WV and has lived in a number of other places including South Carolina, Virginia and Guam while his father was in the Navy. After graduating from high school, he entered the Marines, but was honorably discharged after a few month because of an injury. He returned to Guam and then tried his hand at college and eventually became a member of the Bluefield West Virginia Police Force.

Adam likes to work with his hands. His favorite activity is repairing cars. He has also worked in customer service and manned a help desk for EchoStar.

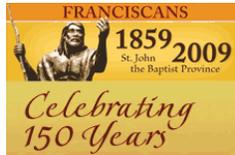
Adam first contacted us through our website in October 2008. Fr. Don visited with him in December of that year and he came to Cincinnati for a Come and See weekend in January 2009. Liking what he saw and feeling called to our way of life, he began the admissions process which culminated in his acceptance April 25th.

Adam, Andrew Farwick (left) and Colin King (right) will begin their Postulancy July 1.



Photos by Donald Miller, O.F.M.

150th Anniversary of Saint John the Baptist Province; 800th Anniversary of Franciscan Order



April 16, over 400 people gathered at Saint Peter in Chains Cathedral in Cincinnati to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the founding of Saint John the Baptist Province and the 800th anniversary of the Franciscan way of life. Archbishop Daniel Pilarczyk of Cincinnati presided along with Provincial Minister Fr. Jeffrey Scheeler, O.F.M. Bishop Charles Dufour of Montego Bay, Jamaica also attended along with the friars and friends and families from around the area.

In his homily, Fr. Jeff acknowledged that the Cincinnati celebration had a double focus—the 150th anniversary of the founding of our province at the invitation of Archbishop John Baptist Purcell of Cincinnati in 1859 and the 800th anniversary of the approval of the Franciscan way of life by Pope Innocent III in 1209. Our founding friars came from the Tyrol to minister to the German speaking immigrants in the Cincinnati area. Very quickly their work spread into the surrounding areas. (This year our website is featuring a history of the province in twelve segments. You can read this monthly account by clicking on the note at the bottom of the icon on the front page.)



Bro. Norbert leads the procession



Our men in formation. L to R: Friars Dan, Clifford, Richard, Roger, and Joshua

Fr. Jeff commented that the presence of Bishop Dufour reminded us of the missionary activity of our province. We have been involved in missions in “China, the Philippines, Japan, Africa, Jamaica, Mexico, and South America, as well as to many places in our own country, -- the Navajo reservation, the Pueblos, the Louisiana Delta, Appalachia, among others.” He also thanked the Poor Clares, the Secular Franciscans, Friars of other provinces, the leadership of other Religious Communities

and all who came to celebrate.

He continued: “Tonight is certainly an opportunity for us to appreciate our history and our heritage, and how God has worked in and through us. Many brothers have been part of the Order and our Province. Since the beginning of our province, over 2,300 friars have made religious profession; I don’t know how many friars there have been world-wide in the last 800 years, but you can imagine! That’s a lot of Gospel energy going all around the world!”



The eldest in the province, Fr. Noel William and the youngest, Novice Clifford Hennings

We are grateful for those who have gone before us and those young men who are taking the step to join us to continue the work of the Order in our country and beyond.

Are you interested?

Photos by Frank Jasper, O.F.M.

Come and See weekends for 2009-2010

September 4-6, 2009

November 6-8, 2009

January 8-10, 2010

March 5-7, 2010

April 30-May 2, 2010

Please call the Vocation Office if you would like to participate

5000 Colerain Ave • Cincinnati OH 45223-1213 • 1-800-827-1082 • 513-542-1082

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International Chapter of Mats: the 800th Anniversary of the Franciscan Way of Life



The Little village of Our Lady of the Angels in Italy came alive April 15-18 as 1800 Friars arrived to celebrate the 800th Anniversary of the founding of the Franciscan Way of Life. This place, known as the Potiuncula (the Little Portion), is where Saint Francis and his first followers lived and from which they traveled to Rome to present their vision of life to Pope Innocent III for

his approval. Today the swampy land has been turned into a thriving village at the heart of which stands the Basilica of Our Lady of the Angels. This structure houses the Potiuncula, the little chapel which Saint Francis repaired and near which he died. Both Wednesday and Thursday evenings all 1800 Friars crammed into the basilica to celebrate the Eucharist.



It was to this area that Francis fled when he left Assisi and embraced his simple life of dependence on God. Away from the social structures and culture of developing Assisi, Francis chose to live and work among the lepers and other poor outcasts of society. His physical descent from the heights of Assisi to the plains below symbolized his inner movement of soul.



Having listened to several reflections on Franciscan life and the meaning of that primitive Rule of Life approved by Innocent III, the Friars spent Friday in Assisi praying, fasting, and observing a day of quiet. Returning to the plains in mid afternoon, they processed from the Potiuncula up to the Basilica of Saint Francis in Assisi where he is buried. There they received a copy of the Rule of 1226 (the final Rule of Saint Francis which each Friar vows to observe) printed in seven languages.

Like Saint Francis and his first followers, the Friars travelled to see the Pope on Saturday. Unlike the first group who walked to Rome, the Friars took buses to Castel Gandolfo where Pope Benedict XI was vacationing for the Easter holidays. There, after the formal welcoming and an address by Pope Benedict, the three Ministers General (that is, the Minister General of the Franciscans, Conventuals and Capuchins) renewed their vows in the name of the Friars of all three Orders. The Chapter closed with the papal audience.



Note from Fr. Don



Nine Friars from Saint John the Baptist Province went to the International Chapter of Mats, and I was privileged to be one of them. I traveled to Rome on Easter Sunday evening

with two other friars and we stayed with the Irish and Italian Friars at San Isidro Friary in Rome. Wednesday we took the train to Assisi and returned to Rome on Saturday evening. We returned to the States on Tuesday. We played "tourist" for those days before and after the main event—the Chapter of Mats.

Being with 1800 Friars from the three Franciscan Orders was, to say the least, exciting. There were men from many countries speaking many languages, but we are all Franciscans. The differences seemed certainly less important than the common bond we share through Saints Francis and Clare. I came home with a deep realization that I belong to a vast movement with international and cross-cultural aspects.

A second impression is that there are a good number of young men joining the Friars. Many are from Eastern Europe and Central and South America. All have a love for Francis and the Church and are willing to give their lives in service to that Church and to the Franciscan community. Our numbers here in the States may be lower, but, again, we belong to an international community and indeed we have younger brothers in our midst.

I wrote about my experience on the vocation blog (<http://vocationvibes.franciscan.org>). There you will find more detail as well as many more pictures. (Remember, you can click on the pictures to enlarge them.) I invite you to take a look there and share my experience of Franciscan brotherhood. We are indeed a diverse group.

I would also invite you, if you haven't already, to return your Personal Inventory and to take a deeper look at our way of life. For 800 years, men like yourself have been attracted by Saints Francis and Clare to live the life of the Gospel. Today we continue that tradition according to the times and places in which we live. Francis and Clare were part of the 12th and 13th centuries; we are part of the 20th and 21st. But their vision of living the gospel remains as true today as does the Gospel of Jesus itself.

Please contact the Vocation Office for more information. If you have misplaced the papers we sent, let us know and we will replace them. If you have questions, concerns, fears, misgivings, etc. let us know and we will assist you. Our is a beautiful life and we invite you to join us.

It won't hurt to take a look.

Other pictures of the Chapter of Mats



Fr. Jose Rodriguez Carballo, O.F.M.
Minister General of the Franciscans,
at the opening prayer service

Photos by Donald Miller O.F.M.



The meeting tent (which was about a city block long)

Friars gathered in Assisi outside the Basilica of Saint Clare



Friars gather at train station in Rome

