



# Franciscan Vocations

## Saint John the Baptist Province

November 2009

### Largest Come and See in six years



Left to right: Eric Seguin of Ottawa, ON; Brad Cypher of Leesburg, VA; Daniel Bircher of Harrisburg, PA; Jason Dymek of Central Falls, RI; Kyle Huber of Lancaster, OH; and Brandon Elliott of Elwood, IN. One of the participants is not pictured.

Seven men from the United States and Canada gathered at Saint Anthony Friary in Cincinnati, Ohio for a Come and See weekend September 4 through 6. This is the largest group attending such a weekend in the last six years. God is definitely blessing our Franciscan Province of Saint John the Baptist.

**Eric Seguin** lives in Ottawa, ON Canada and works at the local cathedral parish. He has training in both restaurant and hospitality (hotel/motel)

management. He is 39 and the youngest of ten children.

**Brad Cypher** is 23 and lives in Leesburg, VA where he teaches in a grade school. One of his more interesting tasks is teaching Latin in the primary grades. He is the eldest of four boys.

**Daniel Bircher** comes from Harrisburg, PA. He is 29 and is presently also involved in the restaurant business. Dan has two younger brothers.

**Jason Dymek** lives with his parents in Central Falls, RI. He is 25 and works in a grocery store. Jason is the youngest of three boys.

**Kyle Huber**, 21, grew up in Lancaster, OH. He is the eldest of six children and is presently studying at the Franciscan University in Steubenville, OH. He is the eldest of six having two brothers and three sisters.

**Brandon Elliott** is 23 and lives with his parents and sister in Elwood, IN. Brandon is finishing up his college course work. Brandon is the middle child of three having one brother and one sister.

**David** (not pictured above) lives in Cincinnati, OH. He is 30 and works at a local business. David is an only child.

We are thrilled to have had these men take a serious look at our way of life and our ministries. As mentioned above, God is blessing our province with many good men with generous hearts open to the possibilities of a vocation to the Franciscan life.

### Three make the November Come and See



Three made the November 6–8 Come and See at Saint Anthony Friary in Cincinnati, OH.

**Lucas Smith** lives in Palm Bay, FL with his family. He is 19 and is attending college. He is the second eldest of three having one brother and one sister.

**Eric Knott** is 20 years old. He lives with his parents in Indianapolis, IN. Eric is the third eldest of four having one brother and two sisters.

**Michael Morel II** is from Houston, TX but is presently working in David, KY. He is 27 and has one younger sister.



This summer Fr. Don helped as a mentor at a Catholic on Call in Chicago, IL. The program is geared for young adults thinking about some form of ministry in the Church. Many of the young men and women were seeking information on Lay Ecclesial Ministry, and others were thinking about Religious Life and priesthood.

One of the primary benefits of the week is the reassurance that one is not alone in the desire to serve within the Church. Repeatedly the participants commented on how wonderful it is to know that others are searching too.

If any of you are interested, please contact the Vocation Office for more information. The program is free.

**Come and See  
Weekends for Spring  
2010**

**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  
www.franciscan.org • sjbvocations@franciscan.org

# Friars Participate in National Catholic Youth Conference

November 19-21 four Friars of our province joined almost 23,000 young people at the National Catholic Youth Conference in Kansas City, MO. Friars Joshua van Cleef, O.F.M. and Richard Goodin, O.F.M. joined the Vocation Directors, Fr. Don Miller, O.F.M. and Bro. Tim Lamb, O.F.M. as exhibitors representing our Franciscan way of life.



Friars Richard and Joshua with Brother Tim talk to some parents.

The Conference is held every other year and draws high school aged youth and their Youth Leaders from all over the country for a three day celebration of faith and community. They attend workshops, recreate, pray and spend time visiting various booths where they are exposed to various Religious Communities, Colleges/Universities, publishers (including our own Saint Anthony Messenger Press), and souvenir vendors. The event usually ends with a Eucharist with all participants in attendance.



Each morning the participants gathered for prayer at the Spirit Center and then processed over to the Convention Center for the day. Saturday morning we got a video of the group both outside (left) and in the Center (below).



You can find copies of the edited video both on our Vocation YouTube site and on the Fr. Don's Vocation Blog.

(<http://vocationvibes.franciscan.org>)

The video includes comments by Friars Joshua and Richard.

## 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. Also, in celebration of the 800th Anniversary of our way of life, there is a special feature on the home page concerning the history of our Province.

Besides the vocation blog (accessed directly at <http://vocationvibes.franciscan.org> or from the website) we now have over twenty videos on YouTube. Our URL is:

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

You might want to check them out.

## Note from Fr. Don



In the last newsletter (July 2009) I wrote: "while I pause momentarily to say a prayer of thanksgiving for 'what is,' I quickly add a prayer for 'what will be.' "

The "what is" referred to the fact that we have eleven men in formation at this time. The "what will be" referred to the healthy number of prospectives who are looking to join us in the future, some as early as July 2010. That situation has not changed. We have the possibility of a sizeable group for our next class. Of course, I am deeply aware that I am dealing with the mystery of a vocation—the mystery of God working in the lives of those discerning a religious vocation.

Brother Tim and I have been hustling this fall trying to keep up with those wanting to come to a Come and See and then seek application to the Order. We are also very conscious that there are many of you who have not yet reached that level of discernment. I refer to those of you who may have received a packet of information from us but have not yet returned your completed Personal Inventory. (I encourage you to get that in so that we can continue to help you with your discernment.) I also refer to those of you who have returned the PI but have yet to be visited by one of us. We have not forgotten you; we are working our way through the list of those who need to be visited.

We are also trying to develop new materials to help trigger the desire to serve God in the Religious Life in the hearts of those who may have not given much thought to the Franciscan life. I find that many young men have never given our way of life a thought because no one has ever mentioned it to them.

This is where you can help. Talk to your friends, brothers, cousins, etc. and ask them if they have ever considered looking into the possibility of being a Friar. It costs nothing to seek information and to talk to a Vocation Director. (We don't bite and we won't kidnap them and drag them off to a Friary. ☺)

You can also help by praying for vocations every day. Here is Saint Francis Prayer for discernment:

**Most High, Glorious God, enlighten the darkness of my heart and give me true faith, certain hope, and perfect charity, sense and knowledge, Lord that I may carry out Your holy and true command. Amen**