



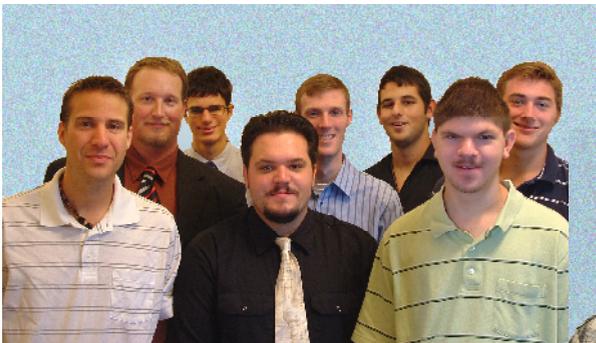
Franciscan Vocations

Saint John the Baptist Province

October 2010

Two *Come and See* weekends so far this Fall; a third pending

As we mailed the July Newsletter, the September *Come and See* was already filled to capacity. Shortly thereafter the November one began to fill up so we arranged to have an additional weekend in October. Eight participated in September; four in October.



(L to R) Christopher Patterson, Matthew Sharick, Lazaro Ramos, Shane Jensen, John Poston, Zachary Bischler, Joseph Major, and Nikolas Thorvaldsen

This is truly a blessing as more and more young men discern a possible calling to our way of life.



(L to R) Jakob Ihli, John Michels, Michael Latawiec, and Joshua Morgan

If you feel that it is time for you to make a *Come and See* weekend, please call the Vocation Office at 1-800-827-1082.

Schedule for the *Come and See*

November 12-14, 2010

March 11-13, 2011

January 7-9, 2011

April 29-May 1, 2011

A schedule for the rest of 2011 and the beginning of 2012 will be ready for the next Vocation Office Newsletter.

Vocation Directors' Activities

As part-time Provincial Personnel Director, Bro. Tim offers our men in formation, as well as other groups of Friars and lay folks, workshops on personnel profiling and conflict management. Our Novices and Postulants have benefitted from his services so far this fall.

Fr. Don offered his annual Introduction to Moral Theology class to the Postulants and has led a number of young adult discussion groups in the Cincinnati area and helped with a *Busy Persons Retreat* at Thomas More College.

Both Bro. Tim and Fr. Don have participated in various Vocation Fairs and Youth Conferences often setting up vocation displays and talking with those attending. This in addition to our visiting and mentoring those discerning a vocation with our province.

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

YouTube channel: franciscanvocations

Interprovincial Events

The Friars responsible for initial formation for the English Speaking Provinces throughout the world gathered at St. Malo Retreat Center north of Denver, CO this summer for five days of sharing information and our common fraternity. This bi-annual meeting is



Rocky Mountains above St. Malo

a good opportunity for the Friars to talk over common issues we all face in the formation of our youngest members and to celebrate the gifts that God is giving us in the young men in the various stages of formation. For one afternoon all of the Vocation Directors met to conduct our annual meeting as did the Postulant Directors, Novice Directors, etc. We Vocation Directors discussed, among other things, how we are going to participate in World Youth Day in August 2011. (see a video at YouTube channel *franciscanvocations*)

Also this summer and into the fall, the Friars of Saint John the Baptist and of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Provinces are attending five-day retreats conducted by our respective Provincial Ministers—Fr. Jeffrey Scheeler, O.F.M. and Fr. Leslie Hoppe, O.F.M. The theme of the retreats is the closing section of a document given to all Friars by our General Minister, Fr. José Carballo, O.F.M. concerning our Franciscan vocation. This is the first time that both provinces have come together to share a common set of retreats. Both provinces are discerning the possibilities of a common future which will certainly involve us in more ministerial and fraternal collaboration. Both provinces will conduct a Chapter in May 2011 at which some practical decisions will be made.

Note from Fr. Don



After many, many years, the beginning date for the Postulancy Year is changing. The Postulancy Program will no longer begin on July 1. WHY?

As the English speaking provinces of North America look at new and creative ways to collaborate—something that the world-wide Franciscan Order is encouraging us to do—forming common formation programs beginning with a common Novitiate appear to be not only beneficial but a wise way to go. For 17 years, the young men from Saint John the Baptist, Sacred Heart, and Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (and for some of those years Our Lady of Guadalupe) Provinces have shared a common Novitiate and Temporary Professed formation. Not only has this afforded the young men a chance to get to know one another, it has helped them realize that they are joining an Order that is bigger than just their individual province. They have grown to learn that we are members of a world-wide brotherhood and, as the world grows smaller due to modern means of transportation and communication, we realize more and more deeply that we are indeed one Franciscan Order.

This year, there are ten Novices representing six provinces from the United States and Canada. Next year there could be more provinces joining together which will mean more Novices and that will necessitate a new location. The present thinking also includes a different starting date for the Novitiate, one more in line with the academic year. But all of the details are still being worked out so there are still a few unanswered questions.

So why am I writing about this now? Simple answer is: 1) if the starting date for the Novitiate changes, the starting date for the Postulancy has to also so that the two programs mesh. And 2) I want to get the word out to those who will be joining us for the 2011 Postulancy class that they need not end their jobs or sell their home/break their rental leases or get rid of their cars for a July 1st starting date. It looks, at the present, more like September 1st, but that is not yet chiseled in stone.

So what do we do now? The provincial administrations of the English speaking provinces are working together to iron out the details as quickly as they can. In fairness to our present Postulants and those who will be Postulants in 2011, our province has decided to keep you as informed as possible so that you can plan along with us for a smooth transition. Some of you, I know, are going to be disappointed that you have to possibly wait another couple of months to begin. But the programs remain the same and once you begin you will receive the same formation that others have received before you. But we will keep you informed as details are firmed up and I invite you to contact the Vocation Office with any questions or concerns that these developments might raise. I (we) want you to know and to be as comfortable as you can be as we continue to grow in our Franciscan way of life.

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 31 videos on YouTube. Our URL is:

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



Catholics on Call is a Young Adult program offered by CTU (Catholic Theological Union) in Chicago to help young men and women discern their ministerial role in the Church. Andrew Hennessy, a prospective for our province, participated this past summer and offers this reflection: "This summer I was lucky enough to attend the annual *Catholics On Call* discernment conference in Chicago. Before I arrived, I looked forward to living through the week that would unlock all the mysteries of my vocation; little did I know that I would come away with more questions than answers. *Catholics on Call* taught me what discernment really is, challenged me with questions I had never asked myself, and gave me the ambition to undertake a new process of self discovery. Working along with other young adults considering ministry and religious life, I found companionship in my Discernment, and the confidence to share the details of my own journey. The programming was full of valuable insight into the profound and ancient process of discovering how God calls us in life. I learned the facts about many aspects of religious life that I had never understood, and got helpful reassurance for some of the doubts and worries I have. It was *Catholics on Call* that helped me get serious about discernment, understand how important the process is, and start looking for the signs God provides me. I highly recommend it to anyone considering a vocation to religious life, or anyone just trying to find direction in their faith."

Chapter 2011



St. Meinrad Archabbey will be the site of the Saint John the Baptist May 2011 Provincial Chapter. A Chapter is a triennial gathering of the members of the province to set policy and to elect leadership. Next May we will look to the future of the province to do some strategic planning as well as elect four members to our Provincial Council.