

Padres Trail

May 13, 2010 + Official Newsletter of the Franciscans of the Province of Our Lady of Guadalupe + Volume #26, Issue # 2

Twenty-Fifth Anniversary Year

Collaboration

Reflections and actions by Gino Correa, our Minister Provincial

Our Minister General has challenged us on various occasions to restructure ourselves at both the formation and on-going formation levels so that we can grow from having a provincial mentality to seeing ourselves as members of a world-wide order.

It has always been acknowledged by those who have participated in the interprovincial formation programs that one of the most important benefits has been to meet, live, and work with friars from other entities. Such interaction has helped us to appreciate the distinct personalities and cultures of other Provinces and their members and it has also helped us to appreciate the Province from which we have come.

At the present time we have discerned as a council and with the formation council which novitiate to send our men to this coming year. We have worked with both programs, in California with the Santa Barbara Province and at Cedar Lake with the interprovincial program of St. John the Baptist, Sacred Heart and Assumption. Both offer wonderful opportunities for Franciscan living and formation. This year we have chosen Cedar Lake.



Brother Bruce Michalek and Vietnamese friars

In the past several months and particularly in March our Province of Our Lady of Guadalupe has sought to enter more deeply into the wellsprings of interprovincial collaboration by exploring the international scene. The stories and the pictures which Brother Bruce Michalek sent regularly while he was in Vietnam continue to be shared since his return to the Southwest this past month. I dare say his enthusiasm has a contagion that I am sure will get other friars to consider the possibility of venturing into a similar experience and exposure.



Father Gino Correa (right) visiting the Council of the Filipino Province. Father Florecito (PJ) was also present.

At the end of March I had the opportunity to spend a week in Manila in the Philippines. It was a busy time of meetings but one which bore the fruit of helping to bring us into another privileged area of collaboration. Hopefully in a few months after immigration issues have been settled and a visa is issued, Fr. Florecito, better known as Father PJ and possibly another Filipino friar will be joining us to work in the Navajo apostolate of our Province.

Perhaps many of you do not realize, but in several of our missions there are communities of Filipinos who have come to our country to work in the educational and medical centers of these missions. Most

notably they are present in Zuni, Ft. Defiance, and Tohatchi. When I became aware of this it occurred to me that perhaps one of the ways of addressing our own need for more friars in the missions was to see if we might have a friar from the Philippines join us. There would be the support system in place for our invited Filipino friar, an opportunity for the Filipino communities to celebrate their own culture and heritage, and a way for our own fraternity to respond to the Minister's challenge to move beyond our own Provincial boundaries.



Father Florecito, better known as Father PJ, and possibly another Filipino friar will be joining us to work in the Navajo apostolate of our Province.



Palm Sunday in one of the barrios of Manila--the friars live in a very simple apartment among the poor and celebrate the Gospel in the streets and on basketball courts. There is no Church building and so they gather where they can.

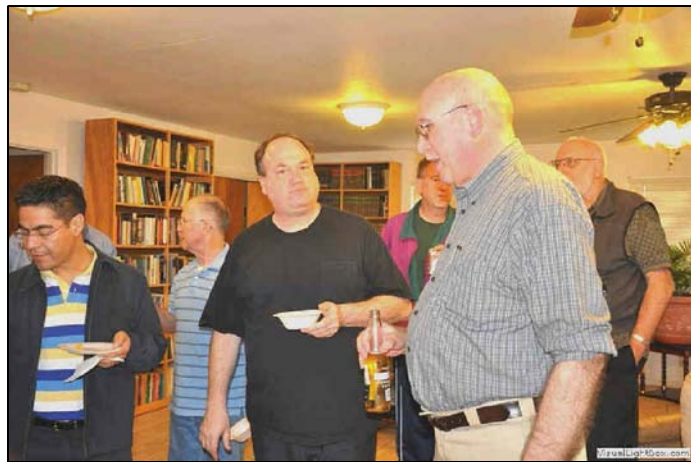


Don Billiard, Efrén Quintero, Rommel Pérez from the Sacred Heart Province

At a more local level the friars from San Antonio hosted a gathering of many friars who represented several Midwestern states and states in the South to the friars of our own Province here in New Mexico and Arizona. We gathered again to explore the possibilities of collaboration between the friars of Sacred Heart Province and the Province of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Some of the topics we discussed were immigration, a house in Mexico, a better evaluation of interprovincial activities such as the border project, the possibility of sponsoring a program much

like the Rocky Mountain Gathering of the Secular Franciscans in Albuquerque for San Antonio and other items that hopefully will lead us to a fruitful field of cooperation and interaction.

We are often reminded that the crisis we face in life can sometimes disguise the opportunity that awaits for those who venture headlong into whatever storm remaining confident that the words spoken to his disciples on the sea are spoken to us now... "do not be afraid."



Chris Kerstiens speaks with Aloys Jost from the Sacred Heart Province who works with Hispanics in Shreveport, Louisiana.

"We gathered again to explore the possibilities of collaboration between the friars of Sacred Heart Province and the Province of Our Lady of Guadalupe."

**OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE
PROVINCE OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE
ORDER OF FRIARS MINOR
Editor: John Mittelstadt, OFM
PO Box 39, Tohatchi, New Mexico 87325
Telephone - 505-733-2243
Fax - 505-733-2657**

Some more shots from San Antonio



Efred Quintero and Gino Correa: good food, good fraternity



A cookout for the friars



Thomas Shaughnessy from Sacred Heart Province who works in Quincy, Illinois, in a moment of jubilation at the meeting



Collaboration in action



Albuquerque greets St. Louis.



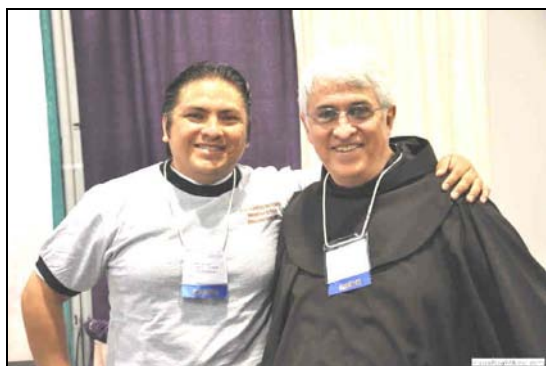
Juan Antonio Guterrez speaks with simply professed Jesus Ramirez from Chicago Illinois



Band of Brothers

Short Notices
from all over the
Province

ANNEHEIM, CALIFORNIA, FATHER GINO CORREA - Our Provincial Vocation booth at the Religious Education Conference in Anaheim, California, March 19-21, was a hit. The Congress was quite a gathering of 40,000 Catholics from around the country and even the world. Our **Father Richard Rohr** was one of the main speakers and several of our men worked at a booth we set up promoting our Province. It is the first time we have done this. We grew from such an experience.



Candidate Jorge Hernandez and our Provincial in Anaheim

TOHATCHI, NEW MEXICO, ST. MARY MISSION - Our short term volunteer program began in late December when a small group from Quincy University (Sacred Heart Province), Quincy, Illinois, came to spend a week of service. In the early spring, Marian University, Indianapolis, Indiana, sent a large group for a week. Marian University is a Franciscan institution of the Oldenburg Sisters. Since then, several colleges and high schools have arrived for a week or are coming during the summer. There were a number of major projects - e.g., sidewalks in front of the hall, a ramp for the handicapped and elderly for the thrift shop. The young people are well chaperoned and supervised by our staff and experience cultural and spiritual events along with the labor. This is our 21st year of welcoming volunteer groups. Needless to say, we are getting more professional. St. Mary Mission also hosted 43 men in AA for a semiannual retreat. It was a great success again. They are usually from California, New Mexico, Arizona and Colorado and travel to what they consider a sacred place. The retreat is held the first weekends of May and November.



Gonzalo Moreno greets visitors at the booth in Anaheim



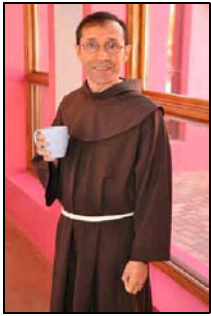
Marian University building a ramp for the handicapped



St. Charles Borromeo, Skillman, New Jersey, high school students pouring sidewalks for the hall

Toward a History of Our Province - Part Two

By Jack Clark Robinson



Charlie Martinez

In the first installment of this examination of the history of Our Lady of Guadalupe Province, I mentioned that my aim is not to judge past events. My effort remains to see what has happened and to understand as clearly as possible why it happened, so that we can learn from the past. For if we are not seeking to learn from the past, there is no real reason to study it.

The biggest fact in the twenty-five year history of the Province remains the decline in the number of friars within the Province.

The effect of that reduction in numbers has been multiplied as well by changing demographics among the friars over the years.

The fewer friars we have, the older they get and the more work they believe that they need to do. In 1985, when the Province was founded the one hundred friars of the Province averaged less than fifty-five years of age. Today, the sixty friars of the Province average sixty-five years of age. Twenty-four of the friars are over seventy years of age; while only twenty are under sixty years of age. Five of those twenty (Robert Sprott, Ron Walters, Charlie Martinez, Don Billiard and Jack Clark Robinson) began their Franciscan lives as part of St. John the Baptist Province, while eight of the remaining fourteen were born in Mexico. The next ten years will see even greater changes in the life of the province. All of the friars who founded the province will be at least sixty-five years old, and probably fewer than thirty of them will remain alive, with maybe twenty still engaged in full time ministry.

One fact about those friars who founded the Province merits close examination. Their average age in 1985 was slightly less than fifty-five, which means that the “average friar,” if there ever is such a creature, was born about 1930. He was too young to have participated directly in World War II, but old enough to have been profoundly influenced by the total national mobilization brought about by the conflict. He knew what it was to unite for a cause which was perceived as enormous, difficult and of incalculable importance. As their older brothers, cousins and others had put their lives on the line during the war, the young men becoming friars in the 1940s and 1950s sought a big cause for which to make big efforts and big sacrifices. They and their families saw similarities between going off to war to serve their country and going off to the seminary to serve God. Larry Schreiber’s mother had the Purple Heart she received at the World War II death of Larry’s half-brother, Larry Steuber, placed in the base Larry Schreiber’s ordination chalice in 1960 .



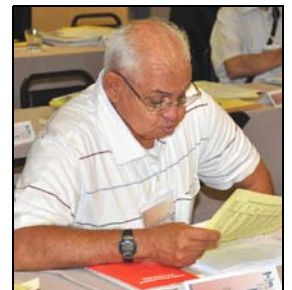
Emeric Nordmeyer

By 1960, the Catholic Church in the United States seemed on top of the world. Beyond the election of an Irish-Catholic politician from Boston as President, parish churches, parochial schools and seminaries were bursting at the seams. Between 1946 and 1963, the U.S. population boomed by 38%, but the Catholic population grew even faster, from 24 million to 44 million, or 84%. Birth control was an unmentionable sin; families were big, and one son was expected to go to the seminary, while a daughter went to the convent. The number of seminarians in the United States exploded from 22,950 to 48,750. An astounding number (62) of the friars who founded Our Lady of Guadalupe Province in 1985 were

of the age to have been in initial formation sometime between 1946 and 1963. Having come through this era of incredible growth, they thought the growth of the Church in the United States between 1946 and 1963 “normal.”

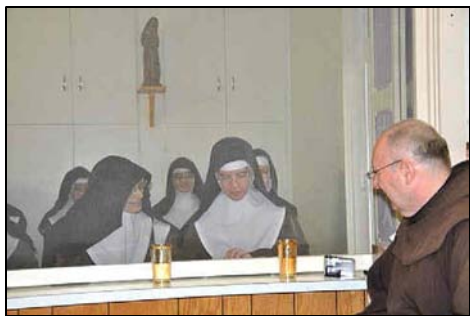


Andres Gallegos, Lalo Espinosa



Ricardo Garcia

But that growth was not normal. By 1985, the forty-eight thousand seminarians of 1963 shrank to twelve thousand seminarians. Southwest friars knew of this downward spiral. Several of them,



The author, Jack Clark Robinson, visiting the Poor Clares of Roswell, New Mexico

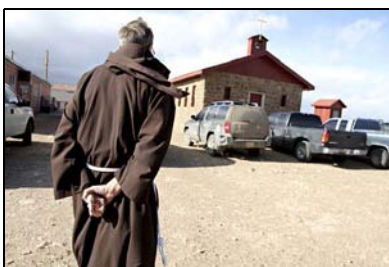
including Paul Jewett, Peter Ricke, Paul Marcian Schneider, Galen Hoffman, Bart Wolf, Diego Mazon, Gino Correa, Timon Cook and John Kramer had experience working in initial formation. In discussions among the friars leading to the formation of the Province, concerns about vocations were raised repeatedly. The Task Force formed to study formation of a new province addressed those concerns:

It is true that we do not have the manpower to maintain our present apostolates, but this could be a blessing in disguise. We must admit that the vocation office has had less than full cooperation from the Friars. And many Friars on their part have had little input into the personnel or programs for vocations. It has never really been a very high priority in the lives of the Friars. But with a lack of manpower directly confronting the continuance of the work which the Friars have been involved, we might all be personally interested in vocation work! (“Task Force on Needs and Resources Report,” 68-69)

Those words presumed that the number of vocations was a function of the recruitment efforts of the friars, and that presumption proved less than accurate. Many of the founding friars accepted that presumption though, because their life experiences led them to believe in the availability of an abundance of vocations to the religious life and the priesthood.

Another presumption frequently expressed at the time of the founding of the Province held that the vocations which did come to Our Lady of Guadalupe Province would be “local,” that is from the Southwest. Within three years of its founding, some fifteen men born in New Mexico or Texas, including several who stayed only briefly in initial formation, were part of the Province. Today, there are twelve such men. None of the friars in 1985 would have foreseen that by 2010, 40% of the youngest third of the Province would have been born in Mexico. Nor had anyone thought at least fourteen solemnly professed members of the Province (including Valentine Young, Lorenzo Ruiz, Galen Hoffman, Jerome Mueller, Paul Jewett, Dennis Fountain, Brian Morrow, Patrick Halsmer, Walter Duguay, Dennis Huff, Reynaldo Davila, Richard Young, Antonio Trujillo, and Marcos Hernandez) would have joined another province, secularized or departed religious life altogether.

The numerical and demographic shifts in the composition of the Province during its brief twenty-five year history foretell a very different Province in the very near future.



John Mittelstadt facing St. Anthony Mission, Naschitti, New Mexico



Gerry Steinmetz, pastor at Holy Family, Albuquerque



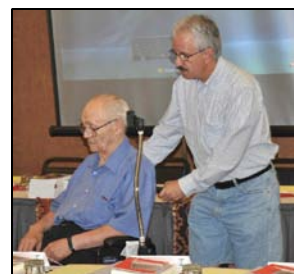
Ron Walters



Joseph Gonzalves, John Friebel



Paul Juniet



Ulric Pax, Jose Rodriguez

Notes from the Province

The Provincial Council approved the petition of postulants **Anthony DuPont** and **Jose Luis Peralta** to enter the novitiate in June, 2010. They will join novices from four other provinces (SH, Western Canada, SJB & ABVM) at Cedar Lake, IN.

The Provincial Council has approved the following ESC students to begin their Postulancy at St. Francis in Gallup, NM, in September, 2010: **Jorge Hernandez, Edgardo Jara** and **Martin Romero**.

The Provincial Council has hired **Sr. Catherine Bertrand, SSND** as a facilitator to assist the council in future planning endeavors. She will attend the upcoming APA at the end of May, 2010 in order to meet the members of our province.

The Provincial APA scheduled for May 30-June 2, 2010, will be held at the Inn at Rio Rancho. Please mark your calendar now to reserve these dates. If you wish to be excused from the APA you must receive permission directly from Fr. Provincial.



Bishop James Wall of Gallup and John Mittelstadt at the Tohatchi Confirmation brunch, May 9. The Bishop said: "I am looking forward to Abel's ordination to the priesthood. It will be my first."

commendations soon. They were impressed with our document "Preparing for Our Senior Years" and suggest that we implement what we have stated in that document (found in our Provincial Legislation). The Provincial Council recommends that we familiarize ourselves with that document. The council will also begin searching for a Health Care Coordinator for our province, which was at the top of their list of recommendations.

Br. Mark Schornack was removed from Hospice Care on April 28, 2010, and has been assigned a room in the extended care section of South Valley Care Center. Mark welcomes all visitors. He still plays a wicked game of Pinochle.

Joseph Gonsalves will pronounce his solemn vows on Sunday, September 5, 2010, at 4:00 PM at Holy Family parish. A reception/meal will follow in the parish hall.

Mark your calendars for the **Annual Play Day** which will take place at Casa Guadalupe Friary on Labor Day, Monday, September 6, 2010. beginning at 12 Noon.

We continue to pray for: **Mark Schornack** who has made a remarkable recovery and is off hospice but who is suffering from a case of shingles. **Cecil Kleber** who is still going through therapy for his recent hip surgery. **Bruce Michalek** who broke his toe in Vietnam and is still battling infection. **Diego Mazon**. Pray for our **retired and elderly**.

+Deceased: +James J. Maloney (father of Brian Maloney, OFM -SJB); **+Richard Radomski** (father of Michael Radomski, OFM -SJB); **+Kiyoko Teshima** (Friend & Benefactor of the friars-Gallup, NM); **+Marcel Kolaloski, OFM** - Assumption Prov.); **John-Marie Cassese, OFM** - SHP; **+John Schmitz** (father of Alan Schmitz, OFM - SJB).



May 17 - **JOHN FRIEBEL**; May 18 - **CORMAC ANTRAM**; May 26 - **MICHAEL HAAG**.

June 7 - **JUAN ARRELLANO**; June 28 - **PAUL JUNIET**.

July 2 - **WAYNE GIBBEAUT**; July 4 - **JACK CLARK ROBINSON, ANDRES GALLEGOS**; July 11 - **TIMON COOK, PAUL O'BRIEN**; July 26 - **JOHN MITTELSTADT**; July 28 - **DON BILLIARD**.