Fr. Hai Ho, OFM Cap. Speaks about Campus Ministry at St. Mary’s College

Q. Fr. Hai, when did you begin as Campus Minister at St. Mary’s College? What kind of preparation did you have?

I began in March 2015. Serving as a priest in our parish in Watts certainly helped prepare me. Also, I graduated from St. Mary’s which helped.

Q. What do you enjoy about your ministry?

Walking with the students. These are the times when I get to listen to their stories and have a more personal encounter with them… These can be challenging moments as they have their genuine struggles with who they are and who they want to be—questions about their identity: emotional, social, religious, sexual, cultural, intellectual, physical, psychological. Hopefully, they will have an encounter with the holy presence of God.

Q. How do you exercise the Capuchin charism?

We all desire genuine loving relationships and college students are no different. I exercise the charism by being a brother to the students. They are hungry for true connections and companionship.

IN THIS ISSUE

AMIG@S, Mexico 4-5
BR. KEVIN, Homeless 6
BROTHERS’ Legacy 10
EXILE AND REPATRIATION
Frs. Albert & Dominic 7
FR. FLAVIAN, RIP 3
FR. HAI, St. Mary’s Moraga 1
FR. HAROLD’ MESSAGE 2
OUR VIETNAMESE FRIARS 9
PLANNED Giving 11
VOCATION Trends 8

Pope Francis to visit Capuchin Day Care in Dublin during August Int’l World Families meeting. See p. 6

Pictured above are: Father Hai Ho, OFM Cap., Chaplain (center), with campus ministry leaders at St. Mary’s College, Moraga.
Dear Friends of the Capuchins,

St. Francis once told his brothers, “I see men coming from all over the world, called by the Lord to join our band of God’s troubadours!” Today, his vision is realized, perhaps, beyond his wildest dreams.

At the end of the summer, I will be attending our General Chapter in Rome, where friars from all over the world will gather to discuss our life as Capuchins. It is always a great gift to meet friars from other countries and compare notes.

One thing is true everywhere: we are able to continue to minister among God’s people because of the generosity of so many friends and benefactors. Whether we gather as an international brotherhood, or simply a small community in each of our houses, our prayers always go out for those brothers and sisters who support us and work with us among God’s people.

I thank you once more for your wonderful generosity, which allows our ministry here and in Northern Mexico to continue and flourish. Please know I will take your intentions with me as I travel to Rome, and I will commend you to the Lord’s care.

Pray for me and all the brothers.

May the Lord bless and keep you!

Fr. Harold Snider, OFM Cap.
Provincial Minister

---

Two cappuchinos or Two Capuchinos?

A few days ago when I answered the friary phone, something unexpected happened to me. As soon as I answered, Capuchinos, good afternoon," the person on the other end said he wanted “two.” “Two what?” I said. The voice replied, “Two cappuchinos.” Then, I asked, “Two friars or two coffees?” To which he answered, “Well, two cappuchino coffees.” At that I explained that we are not a CAFÉ. However, I could tell him why this beverage is named “cappuchino.”

According to oral tradition in the order, what the old friars transmit to young people, the Capuchin coffee bears that name because it was invented by one of the friars, Marco de Aviano in the 1600’s in Italy. Tradition tells us that when the Turks invaded Europe, the Pope sent Marco de Aviano with a special mission, to motivate the troops of the Holy League and to attend to the spiritual needs of the soldiers.

Apparently, when the Turks fled they threw away sacks of coffee. Witnessing this, one of the friars decided to take some beans from the sacks and boil them, hoping to give a drink to the troops. When he tasted the beverage, he noticed that it was very strong and so added a little whipped milk. The color of the drink was like that of his habit. Since then, that coffee is called cappuchino.

- Br. Francisco Jesús Patiño Loya, OFM Cap.

---

CAPUCHIN WEST is a publication of the Capuchin Franciscans, Western America Province. © June, 2018.

We gratefully acknowledge Brian Kirby, Archivist of the Capuchin Archives, Dublin for permission to use the picture of Fr. Albert Bibby and Fr. Dominic O’Connor, OFM Cap., and Theresa Dolan at the Capuchin Day Care Centre, Church St. Dublin, Ireland for photos.


PROOF READERS: Ms. Anna McCracken, Sr. Ellen FitzGerald, RSM

EDITOR: Sr. Jean Evans, RSM

Capuchin West, No. 8 Summer 2018
Fr. Flavion Welstead, OFM Cap. entered the Capuchin Franciscan Friars in Cork 1959 and was ordained a priest in 1967. Flavion served in Zambia, Hermiston, Roseburg, and Bend, Oregon. He taught at St. Francis High School, La Cañada-Flintridge.

For nine years Flavion served as Capuchin Development Director. In 2003 he was assigned to Our Lady of Angels, Burlingame where he remained until God called him home on December 4, 2017.

Amy Costa, Principal of OLA School shares a reflection on Fr. Flavian:

As a student, parishioner, teacher, and now principal of Our Lady of Angels School in Burlingame, I had the immense pleasure of knowing Fr. Flavion Welstead for most of my life. He has been such an integral part of Our Lady of Angels School and Parish for over thirty years, and his passing has been a difficult one for our community. I am honored to reflect on the life of an amazing priest and very dear friend, Fr. Patrick “Flavian” Welstead.

Fr. Flave, as he was lovingly called by most who knew him, lived a prayerful life. He was a man of great faith and affectionately administered the sacraments to countless people.

He had a comfortable relationship with God and passed that relationship on to the people he encountered throughout his ministry. Flave inspired many people by his faith with God. He saw the Father as someone who loves and accepts us all, despite our faults and failings, and in doing so, calls each one of us to do the same.

Fr. Flavion enjoyed preaching the gospel message to our school children here at OLA and always reminded the students about the importance of prayer, love, and acceptance. All of this was given to us as “food for thought.”

If there was one thing Fr. Flavian enjoyed most, it was the relationship he had with his fellow friars. He brought the spirit of fraternity to all he encountered. He enjoyed his pranks and his penchant for “stirring the pot”. He loved his friars, and he loved a good laugh often times at their expense. He valued the importance of his relationships with his brothers.

He brought vitality and laughter everywhere he went. Flave’s laughter and spunk is one that has been, and will continue to be, sorely missed.

One of Fr. Flavian’s greatest gifts was his ability to meet people, wherever they were on life’s journey. His casual acceptance of each and every person made us all feel as if we were Flave’s special friend. He took the time to counsel the struggling teen, to listen to the worried parent, to sit with the elderly or the infirm, and he reminded everyone that we should do the same, with great humility and love.

The world is a better place because of the many people Fr. Flavion encountered, assisted, and cared for throughout his time here on earth. And because of that, it’s also a little bit sadder, and a little less fun without him. I will miss his quick wit, his great faith, his loving heart, and his infectious laughter.

Thank you, Flave for reminding us all how to live out Christ’s message. May we continue to draw upon your wisdom and example for many years to come.

- Amy Costa, Principal, Our Lady of Angels School
Mexico Outreach February 23-25, 2018

Parish, School, and School of Religion welcome Fr. David and Br. Javier to OLA

Our Lady of Angels Parish in Burlingame poured out heartfelt support for Fr. David and the Capuchin friars of Northern Mexico on the weekend of Feb. 23-25. Northern Mexico Mission Day was dedicated to bringing the parish greater awareness of the Capuchin Mission and of the needs of the friars' parishioners.

On Friday, Feb. 23, Fr. David and Br. Javier spoke with the OLA school children at a special assembly in OLA Church where they shared stories of mission life and answered questions.

That night, Fr. David joined parishioners for a special Lenten Soup supper followed by a talk on the great challenges of poverty in a violent society as well as the gifts and blessings he experiences in his work with the people. He regaled us with stories of parishioners' spirituality, faith, and powerful prayer.

On the weekend, Fr. David preached at all the Masses as he shared touching stories, thanking parishioners for the nutritious gift of powdered milk for children.

After the Masses on Feb. 25, parishioners enjoyed chatting with Fr. David and indulging in coffee, churros, and horchata.

At each Mass canisters for Milk Money were distributed to all the parishioners. Canisters filled with donations for powdered milk were returned to OLA after Easter.

Many thanks go to Kathy Holmes, pictured left with Pat Mayer, and Cecilia Aguirre, and to Barbara Trainor, at Fr. Michael’s right, for organizing the parish weekend with Fr. David, and to the Amig@s de los Capuchinos for their hard work and dedication. Viva! Amig@s!

- Barbara Trainor

For twenty-eight years, Fr. David has traveled by horse, mule, and on foot to visit communities of Pima, Yaqui, Seri, Guarajio, and Mayos in the mountains of Sonora, Chihuahua, and Monterrey.

Over 120,000 people in villages with no electricity, running water, and little access to medical care or formal education, welcome Fr. David and the friars as joyful messengers of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
Northern Mexico: Faces & Places

Visit CAPUCHINS NORTHERN MEXICO
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=038ceQSh-ag
Capuchin founder of Dublin Homeless Center to Welcome Pope Francis during Int’l World Meeting of Families August 21-26

Announcing the visit of Pope Francis to Ireland, August 21-26, Archbishop Diarmuid Martin of Dublin said the Holy Father “will want particularly to meet with the poor” at the Capuchin Day Care Centre in Dublin.

Br. Kevin Crowley, OFM Cap. began the center in 1969 to provide a place for about fifty homeless men to go after they had left the night hostels in north Dublin. The center expanded with the help of volunteers who made hot soup and sandwiches and collected and distributed second-hand clothing. Over the years, homelessness has increased due to unemployment and addiction. The Center now welcomes families who leave guest houses and hotels each morning to face life on the street.

“In the mornings, homeless families leave B&B’s or hotels and may have nowhere to go to feed a baby or change a nappy,” said Assistant Director of the Center, Teresa Dolan. From Monday to Saturday, nearly 250 people come for breakfast and up to 600 for dinner. On Wednesdays about 1,800 grocery hampers are distributed to people.

Four days a week, there is a doctor-on-call, nursing service, counseling, dental service, hairdressing, a clothing service, and shower facilities. Volunteers and staff prepared over 3,000 Christmas parcels for homeless and housebound.

While there are many groups doing good work, there is still much to be done. Many people are struggling.

Br. Kevin would readily admit that the real good news story of the Day Centre is of ordinary people who send in donations, who run charitable initiatives, and who volunteer to help make a difference. And many of the volunteers are young people who with their great sense of justice and fair play, want to help too.

- Fr. Bill Shortall, OFM Cap.

(*centre is the spelling for center in the UK and Ireland)

It is easy to spot the “rough sleepers” - those who have spent the night on the streets or slept in cardboard boxes. In an effort to regain their dignity the rough sleepers are usually the first to put their names down for the showers/fresh clothing while others are so dispirited and exhausted they just need a safe place to get in out of the weather and rest before they have their breakfast and face another day.

- Br. Kevin Crowley, OFM Cap.

Here Br. Kevin and helper prepare for Christmas.
Capuchins returned to Ireland for re-burial after decades of “exile”

Two Capuchin priests, Fr. Albert Bibby and Fr. Dominic O’Connor were active supporters of the Irish Republican Army before and after the Anglo-Irish Treaty was signed in 1922. While Fr. Albert ministered to some of the Easter Uprising prisoners before their execution in 1916, Fr. Dominic had enlisted as a chaplain in the IRA in 1920. Both priests were present and ministering to soldiers at the siege of the Four Courts. Both friars were transferred to the West Coast in late 1922.

Fr. Gerald Barron, OFM Cap. shares his recollection of the friars’ return to Ireland:

“Shortly before I entered the Capuchins in 1957,” writes Fr. Gerald Barron, OFM Cap., “I heard the story of Frs. Dominic O’Connor and Albert Bibby from a fellow member of the Legion of Mary in Dublin. His Dad was a member of the old IRA, and he told his son that these two Capuchins would be exhumed from their graves in Bend, Oregon and Solvang, California and brought back to Ireland.

“I was a Novice in June 1958 when their caskets were brought to the Capuchin Monastery in Rochestown in Cork, Ireland. Fellow Capuchin Novice, Sean Cahill, serving today as a Capuchin in South Africa, and I were acolytes at the Graveside. The President of Ireland, Sean T. O’Kelly, Leader of the Government, Eamonn De Valera, former Government leader from the Fine Gael Party and Mr. John Costello were present at the re-burial.

“Fr. Michael’s uncle, Fr. Emilian Meade as Custos Provincial of California and Oregon, accompanied the Capuchin friars’ sacred remains to Ireland. Fr. Albert was one of the first three Capuchins from Ireland, who came here to Solvang in the Fall of 1924, along with Reginald and Columcille. I have read copies of letters that Albert wrote to his family and friends in Ireland and also his sermons and his shared hopes for the development of the parish. Albert became very ill before Christmas 1924 and was hospitalized in St. Francis Hospital in Santa Barbara. He died at age forty-eight years in mid-February 1925 in St. Francis Hospital.”

Fr. Dominic O’Connor spent thirteen years in Oregon, mostly in Hermiston and Bend where he co-founded St. Francis School. In 1935, Fr. Dominic suffered a stroke and died at the relatively young age of fifty-two. In a letter to Fr. Aloysius Travers, Oct. 17, 1935, Fr. Luke Sheehan, Dominic’s uncle and Capuchin superior shared the news of his nephew’s death:

“About 12:40 he passed on to his Creator. God rest his soul. He had a troubled life. He is now at peace....We laid the poor boy on a sweet and peaceful slope amid the tall pines. Whether or not his gentle sleep will be disturbed is for the future. There is talk at this side, and I hear also in Ireland, to the effect that Frs. Albert and Dominic are to be taken back. Both wished to be covered with the green sod of Ireland.”

Dia agus Máire beannacht ort!

God and Mary bless you!

As a former vocation director, I can say that vocations to religious life and priesthood in the U.S. are alive and well, perhaps not in the numbers known in the 1960’s when many “boomers” entered religious life. However, there is a steady stream of people seeking Christ and ways of serving God’s people today as religious and priests.

World Youth Day, first initiated by St. John Paul II in 1985, has been a significant influence on youth, inspiring them to think of a life consecrated to Christ. WYD grew out of the experience of summer camps for Polish youth in the 1960’s when Fr. Karol Wyjtyla was a youth chaplain. WYD has attracted millions over the years--5 million gathered in the Philippines in 1995, while in 2015, 6 million came to the Philippines to see Pope Francis (cf. www.worldyouthday.com).

Pope Francis has asked all bishops worldwide to come to Rome in October 2018 for a Synod on “Young People, the Faith, and Vocation Discernment.” The meeting will look for ways to encourage young people and motivate clergy and families to support young people in their quest to love, follow, and serve Christ as religious or priests, cf. http://www.synod2018.va/content/synod2018/en.html.

A serious challenge to young people as they navigate today’s realities is education debt. Interest on college loans not only burdens students, but also some parents who have their own debts to pay, and prevents youth from entering religious congregations or seminaries.

However, several organizations offer help to those burdened with student debt: The Labouré Society (http://laboure.org) works with a young person to retire the debts (Br. Marvin received assistance), and The Hilton Fund collaborates with religious congregations in conjunction with the NRVC.

Finally, religious and priestly life in the United States mirrors the diversity of the U.S. population as a whole. In 2017, 20% of persons who entered religious orders were born outside of the United States.

May all of us come to resemble the blessed people of God “from every tribe and people, nation and tongue who stand in worship before the throne of the Lamb” (Rev. 7:9).

- Sister Jean Evans, RSM

NRVC releases stats on vocations to religious life and priesthood

The National Religious Vocation Conference is a professional organization of vocation ministers that presents religious life as a viable option in the Catholic Church.

- **2017**
  - 208 women and men professed final vows from 101 religious orders
  - 590 potential ordinands from 32 religious institutes; from 136 arch/dioceses

- **2016**
  - 216 women and men professed final vows from 82 religious institutes
  - 548 potential ordinands from 32 religious institutes; from 140 arch/dioceses

- **2015**
  - 136 women and men professed final vows from 75 religious institutes
  - 595 potential ordinands from 28 religious institutes; 120 arch/dioceses

New entrants to religious life

- **2017**
  - 524 women and men to 182 religious institutes

- **2016**
  - 502 women and men to 185 religious institutes

- **2015**
  - 411 women and men to 143 religious institutes

See: www.NRVC.net
Vietnamese Friars share the stories of their vocations to the Capuchins

One of the features of contemporary religious life is its cultural diversity. Many religious orders came to America from Europe in the late 19th and early 20th centuries following the migration of their people. In the last twenty years, 20% of candidates for religious life and priesthood have come from Asia, the Pacific Islands, Mexico, and Vietnam (www.NRVC.net).

Currently, there are four Vietnamese friars in our Province: Br. Tran Vu, Fr. Hung Nguyen, Fr. Quoc Nguyen, and Fr. Hai Ho. Each friar immigrated to the United States before entering the Capuchins. They came to a religious order in California comprised of Irish, American, and some Hispanic friars.

Fr. Hung ministers with Vietnamese communities in the Bay Area. He believes that a “vocation to the religious life is a personal calling from God and is not dependent on one’s cultural background though culture can have an impact on one’s discernment.”

This was the case for Fr. Quoc, who during his discernment, hesitated joining the Capuchins as there were no other Vietnamese friars in the community.

However, when he learned that Fr. Hung had joined the order, he reconsidered. He felt the possibility of more support. Hung and Quoc attended the same high school in Orange County. Neither knew at that time they would end up in the same Order!

The transition from living as a minority in any dominant culture to a community that recognizes and owns its own diversity requires much patience, understanding, and cultural humility, says Fr. Quoc. He is chaplain at Seton Medical Center, Daly City.

Br. Tran, who ministers at St. Francis High School, La Cañada-Flintridge in the computer and technology labs sees that the brothers “seem to be more open to share gifts, talents, cultures with one another.” He feels a strong bond of camaraderie among the brothers. When he met the friars, “I felt immediately attracted, but I did not know that they would help bring forth into my life a new beginning.”

Fr. Hai who came to California at the age of one month grew up in a culturally diverse Bay Area which has given him the opportunity to integrate his Vietnamese American identity with what it means to be a Capuchin priest with a unique cultural heritage.

Both Fr. Hai and Fr. Hung agree that respecting cultural adaptations is important for friars in the community as well as in the greater Church at large.

- Artie Vasquez and Nick Pearce
New Capuchin Fund Honors Brothers from the Past

New: In-Memoriam Brothers Legacy Circle Fund Donation Form

Name ______________________________________________________
Address ____________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________ Phone _______________________ Email ________________________

I wish to donate $_____________ to the new ‘In-Memoriam Brothers Legacy Circle’ Fund. Attached with my donation form is my check.

Instructions: Please include your donation form in the attached envelope (in the center). Any questions, please call Capuchin Development Office at 650-347-1505.

We appreciate your support and remembrance of our Capuchin friars. If you wish to remember a Capuchin after a funeral, this is a wonderful way to honor a specific Capuchin Brother.

Thank you for your support.
For more than a century, the Capuchin Franciscans have played a vital part in the history of the West Coast of the United States. The Capuchin Franciscan Order of California has been blessed with many individuals and families that have been a very important part of the Capuchin’s mission. For years, countless individuals have demonstrated their commitment to the Capuchin ministries by contributing time, energy, and financial support. Many have committed to the goals and core values of the Capuchins.

Your willingness to include the Capuchins as a part of your overall estate or financial plans will help ensure that the Capuchins will be able to continue to serve.

Your generous gifts designated in your wills, trusts, or other estate planning vehicles will allow this to happen. The simplest and most common forms of Planned Gifts include Bequests and Beneficiary Designations that benefit both the donor and the Capuchins. By including the Capuchins in your estate plans, you are benefiting generations to come.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Some of the most common ways to give include:

- Cash
- Bequests and Trusts
- Appreciated Securities
- Real Estate
- Mutual Funds
- Life Insurance
- Retirement Plan Funds

For more information, please contact:
Fr. Donal Burke OFM Cap. (V. P. for Advancement)
Capuchin Development Office. 650-347-1505.

WHO ARE THE CAPUCHINS?

They are 10,000 priests and brothers inspired by the spirit of St. Francis of Assisi who serve God’s people in 106 countries.

Capuchin Franciscans Western America Province

Fr. Donal Burke, OFM Cap.
Vice President for advancement

www.olacapuchins.org

Provincial Office
(650) 344-8321 office
(650) 342-5664 fax

Development Office
(650) 347-1505 office
(650) 347-9209 fax
ofmcap@comcast.net

www.beafriar.com
OUR GOAL

The goal of the Capuchin Development Office is to fund the domestic and international mission of the Capuchin Franciscans Western America Province. That mission ranges from support for our own Provincial members ministering in California’s Western America Province of Our Lady of Angels, and its Custody in Northern Mexico.

The Capuchin Franciscan Province of Western America also generates support for the works of justice and mercy undertaken by Capuchin Friars across the globe.

If you are interested in supporting our mission, please contact our Capuchin Development Office at 650-347-1505.

LET US KNOW:

The Capuchin West Newsletter is our way of illustrating how the Western America Province fulfills its mission.

You, as part of our community, share this vision of service to those in need.

Through this publication, we demonstrate how we use resources that you generously provide to us and hope the contents of Capuchin West will convey a sense of the work we do and how valuable your contributions are to this work. Please feel free to write us with your comments or suggestions at: ofmcap@comcast.net. Many thanks for your continued support.

Fr. Donal Burke, OFM Cap.
Vice President for Advancement
Capuchin Franciscans Western America Province

PROVINCE MISSION STATEMENT

As Capuchin Franciscans, we follow St. Francis of Assisi as brothers, living the Gospel in prayer, fraternity and ministry, while witnessing simply to Jesus Christ and the Church as a joyful presence of hope and salvation to all, especially to those most in need.