On Friday, Oct. 11, St. Francis H.S. coach Jim Bonds, his assistants and players braved smoky, congested roads to compete against Paraclete High in its homecoming game in Lancaster, CA. Despite traffic in the San Fernando Valley from the Saddleridge fire, the team arrived safely in Lancaster. Though St. Francis lost 38-33, they saved Paraclete forfeiting their 3rd homecoming in a row. The three and one-half hour bus ride showed “Character counts,” said LA Times sports writer, Sondheimer.

Dear Friends of the Capuchins,

Peace and Good! Once more we come upon Thanksgiving Day and the beginning of Advent, a time of preparation for Christmas. St. Francis always took time to give God thanks for the many gifts of each day, large and small. We Capuchin friars are always grateful for those who support us in our ministries by prayers and donations.

We celebrate our vocation to follow Christ as Capuchin Franciscan friars. This year we mark the 50th anniversary of priestly ordination of two friars: Fr. Alejandro Magallanes and Fr. Alan Wilson. Both friars have served in a variety of ministries including parishes, chaplaincies and formation. Both Fr. Alejandro and Fr. Alan continue to live their life as faithful friars, serving others and praying for all our friends and benefactors. Ad multos annos! Enjoy many years, brothers!

Finally, we thank God for the blessing of two Capuchin friars on loan to us for two years from the Kenya Province: Fr. Moses Khisa, OFM Cap. and Fr. Robert Sewe, OFM Cap. They are assisting the friars at St. Lawrence of Brindisi Parish, Watts. Welcome, Brothers!

As we celebrate the birth of our Savior, I assure you of our prayers for all of you. St. Paul tells us, “Jesus, though rich, became poor for our sakes.” The Babe of Bethlehem, lying in a rough manger and wrapped in swaddling clothes was the image of God’s love that moved St. Francis to tears. May that same Jesus bless all of you!

In Christ,

Fr. Harold Snider, OFM Cap.
Provincial Minister

“Jesus, though rich became poor for our sakes” 2 Cor. 8:9

News Bites

The emperor of Japan awarded Fr. Jude McKenna, OFM Cap. (twin of Fr. Brian) the “Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays” for his work in Zambia teaching Judo to youth for over fifty years.

Commenting on the award, Fr. Jude said, “It’s given to people who make a very significant contribution to the spread of Japanese culture.”

After sixteen years as Vice-President for Advancement, Fr. Donal Burke, OFM Cap. began a year’s sabbatical on October 11, 2019. Enjoy the year, Fr. Donal!

The Capuchins of the Western Province are pleased to announce the addition of Greg Schmidt to the team as Director of Development. Greg comes to the Capuchins from the Fellowship of Catholic University Students where he spent nearly three years as a Philanthropy Officer in the South and North Areas. As a member of the Capuchins’ team, Greg will bring his experience and passion for Catholic philanthropy to build up the development efforts for the Province and to expand its ministry.

CAPUCHIN WEST is a publication of the Capuchin Franciscans, Western America Province. © 2019.
PHOTOGRAPHS: Ray Geir, Michele Privitera, Sr. Jean Evans, Fr. Miguel Ortiz, OFM Cap.
EDITOR: Sr. Jean Evans, RSM
Fr. Alejandro Magallanes, OFM Cap. has faced a variety of challenges since entering the Capuchin Order in 1961. He was ordained on Dec. 20, 1969. He has worked as director of formation, a hospital chaplain, a retreat director, and pastor of a parish.

In 1985 he faced one of his biggest challenges as he led the first group of Capuchin Missionaries from California to the remote town of Yécora, Sonora, their first mission in Northern Mexico.

Fr. Alejandro has been an exemplary Capuchin at San Lorenzo Friary even as he battled illness. He attributes all to God, and to the power of prayer. He now resides at St. John of God Care Center - Los Angeles, CA.

For Fr. Alan Wilson, OFM Cap. spiritual care of the sick, a traditional Capuchin ministry, has been an important part of his life. Born and raised in Southern California, he graduated from St. Francis High School and joined the Order in 1961.

Fr. Alan’s Capuchin formation took place with the Capuchins of the New York/New England Province. He was ordained on December 20, 1969. After ordination and two years of parish ministry, he was assigned to St. Charles Hospital in Bend, Oregon as chaplain, and later served as a chaplain in Fresno, California.

He ministered at the University of California San Francisco Medical Center, finding great joy in bringing spiritual comfort to the sick and their families, sometimes even using magic tricks and jokes to bring that comfort. Currently he is the Guardian at San Buenaventura Friary and helps out at the Shrine of St. Francis in San Francisco, CA.

Reflection of a Lay Brother

When asked to write a reflection on the life of a Brother, my first thought was how thankful I am that God has made me a Capuchin Brother – I just feel so blessed. Traditionally, the life of a Capuchin lay brother is a combination of prayer and manual labor. So whether I am shopping, cooking, cleaning, or sewing habits, I try to always keep a prayer in my heart for all the wonderful people I have met that day. And at my age, I seem to keep meeting new people every day!

People I meet on the street or at the store often say to me “Hello Father” and I smile and say “God bless you” but if they ask for a blessing, then I tell them that I am only a brother and not a priest, but I would be happy to pray for them. So one of my greatest joys is to be able to spend time each day in front of Our Lord in the tabernacle and pray for all the beautiful people who have asked for prayers and in whose faces I have been blessed to see a reflection of God’s Love. Deo gratias.

Br. Peter Ciolino, OFM Cap.

Br. Peter Ciolino, OFM Cap.
at prayer, St. Francis Friary, Burlingame.
Welcome to our Kenyan Brothers, Moses and Robert!

Our brother Fr. Robert Onyango Sewe, above, is a citizen and national of Kenya. He was born in Mombasa, Kenya on Feb. 23, 1975. He joined the Capuchin Franciscan Order in June 2002, made his perpetual profession at Padre Pio Langáta Friary in Nairobi, Kenya on August 8, 2010. Fr. Robert was ordained as a Catholic priest on May 26, 2012 in the Archdiocese of Mombasa.

From March 16 to the present, Fr. Robert served as the Dean of Tonga Deanery. Prior to that, he was Director of St. Joseph’s Girls’ School, Rusinga Island, Homa-Bay Diocese. Fr. Robert served as councilor in the Custody of Kenya, from 2015-2018.

Fr. Moses Munialo Khisa was born on June 6, 1977 in Bungoma, Kenya and entered the Capuchin Order in September 2006. He made Final Profession in August 2013 in the Custody of Kenya. Fr. Moses was ordained a Catholic priest on March 15, 2014 in the Diocese of Bungoma. From March 2016 to the present, Fr. Moses served as Administrator of St. Boniface Parish, Masogo, Kenya. He has been chaplain to the diocesan choirs and was coordinator of the Diocesan Justice and Peace Commission. Fr. Moses was Parochial Vicar at St. Theresa’s Parish, Rusinga Island, Homa-Bay Diocese. Fr. Moses was also Deanery Chaplain of the Ecumenical Movement.

Fr. Bill Trauba reflects on his ministry in N. Mexico

Fr. Bill Trauba, OFM Cap. ministers four days per week in the University of Monterrey, Mexico as a confessor at San Pedro, a school of 2,000 young people, and at St. Nicholas, a smaller preparatory school with four hundred students.

At the end of the month, Fr. Bill takes a week to go and visit Capuchin Convents in N. Mexico. He offers workshops to the sisters on topics related to Human Development. Generally, his workshops develop topics on prayer, healing, love.

He travels from Monterrey, Benito Juarez, to Durango about once a month to offer spiritual direction to parishioners in Durango where he was Postulant Director for many years. It’s an eight hour bus ride over and back, but Fr. Bill doesn’t mind the trip.

He enjoys the fact that more and various people are getting to know Our Lord—to know, love and serve God. “When you see the beauty of God in each person, it’s uniquely expressive of God’s beauty,” says Fr. Bill.
For the Democratic Republic of Congo, the elevation of Fridolin Ambongo Besungu, O.F.M. Cap. as Cardinal, became an event for an unprecedented show of unity and solidarity by the people of the Democratic Republic of Congo. After the ceremony in St Peter’s Basilica on October 5, DRC’s politicians, priests, Bishops, the religious, diaspora community and Catholic laity converged at Rome’s Ergife hotel to celebrate the new Cardinal. Notable was the diversity of the people present. They came from the government, opposition parties and different ethnic groups.

Cardinal Ambongo, the head of one of the largest Archdioceses in Africa, Kinshasa, has been an outspoken defender of human rights in the DRC. As Bishop-Director of the Justice and Peace Commission for the National Episcopal Conference of Congo (Cenco), he received many death threats for speaking out against the unbridled exploitation of Congo’s vast mineral fields and large forest areas by both local and foreign agents. Convinced of the importance of “networking,” he paralleled the plundering of the Amazon with that of his own country, once declaring, “as soon as a resource is discovered, whether they are precious minerals or oil, we already know that a war will break out.”


“Metallica” band raises €35,000 for Capuchin Day Care services to Dublin’s homeless

Q & A with Fr. Bill Trauba
cont’d from p. 5.

“What are your hopes for the Capuchins?” That they can serve the Church. We have hopes to help migrants and our parishioners, but we don’t have the man power to do those things. I hope we can give our charism in the local Church—a loving presence, God’s presence in all the shadows and cobwebs in society. God does all the work. All we have to do is listen and try to cooperate.

Where do you meet God, Fr. Bill? I meet God in people who are seriously trying to find Him. I feel enthusiasm when I see another soul longing for Our Lord and finding him in glimpses of Light.

Who is your favorite spiritual writer? It’s St. John of the Cross.
27th Annual Capuchin Golf Tournament
Sept. 23, 2019
Green Hills Country Club
2019 Tournament Winners

Tom Callen,
Brian Kott, John Gall, Rob Rius
Congratulations!

Fr. Donal and Roy Nickolai present Capuchin Trophy to Diane Magner.

Thanks to our many volunteers, especially:
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Capuchin West, No. 11 Winter 2019
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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.

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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

Greg Schmidt
Director of Development

Development Office
(650) 347-1505 office
(650) 342-5664 fax
development@olacapuchins.org

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

www.olacapuchins.org
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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: development@olacapuchins.org. Many thanks for your continued support.

Greg Schmidt
Director of Development
Capuchin Franciscans Western America Province

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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.