

Padres Trail

June 24, 2009 + Official Newsletter of the Franciscans of the Province of Our Lady of Guadalupe + Volume #24, Issue # 4



Vicar Provincial Ron Walters, Father Lalo Espinosa, Archbishop Robert Sanchez, Brother Duane Torisky, Provincial Larry Dunham blessing the fountain in the courtyard of the new Casa Guadalupe Friary, Albuquerque, May 6, 2009

Blessing of the New Casa Guadalupe Consecration of the Altar

It was a perfect late Spring day on Stinson Street, Albuquerque, in the 25th year of the Province. Well over half the Province of Our Lady of Guadalupe gathered with friends and benefactors outside the door of Casa Guadalupe, new friary for the Provincial Curia. **Provincial Minister Larry Dunham** and the **Archbishop Emeritus of Santa Fe, Robert Sanchez, Affiliate of the Province**, were poised to bless the friary and consecrate the altar in the chapel.

Father Larry Dunham began by ceremonially knocking on the front door, entering the new building and courtyard. He introduced distinguished friends and guests. He explained the various colors of the friary - the four direction-colors of the Native Americans, the purple of the Passion (beloved by St. Francis), the Franciscan brown, the rose of Our Lady of Guadalupe. He then blessed the fountain and its water. He sent the members of our provincial council with water to bless the various rooms of the friary.

Then the friars and guests gathered in the chapel for the consecration of the altar by Archbishop Robert Sanchez, friend of the friars and affiliate member of our Province. The Litany of the Saints included the names of deceased friars of the Province - **Brother Pancratius Candalaria, Father John Uhl, Brother Art Puthoff, Father Caron Vollmer, Father Meldon Hickey.** It was very moving.

Principal celebrant of the Mass was Father Provincial. In his homily he stressed the fact that we were not just blessing a building but a "band of brothers" who go out into the villages and reservations to live and preach the Gospel as Franciscans do it. Father Larry thanked Brother Bart Wolf for the beautiful altar and sanctuary furnishings.

After the last blessing there was the traditional "Ultima" dear to our Province. Brother Bruce Michalek, *chef extraordinaire*, furnished a wonderful meal for everyone in the dining room and outside in one of the the friary courtyards - Cincinnati Chile and *Chile de Nuevo Mexico*.



Father Larry blessing the water from the courtyard fountain. He gave water to each member of the provincial council to bless the rooms of the friary.



Archbishop Robert Sanchez consecrating the altar: Father Chrysostom Partee, Affiliate Bob Ketelsen, Brother Duane Torisky, Archbishop Sanchez, Fathers Larry Dunham, Eduardo Lalo Espinosa, Ron Walters

Some of Our Special Guests

Ralph Baldwin - Owner/CEO, Enterprise Builders Inc.

Chris Baca - Project Manager for Enterprise Builders Inc.

Rick & wife Eleanor Harris - Rick is Warranty Superintendent for Enterprise Builders Inc.

Darren Lewis - Chief Superintendent. for Enterprise Builders Inc.

Tom Gifford & wife Jodi - Architect

Bob Ketelsen - Affiliate from Tohatchi, NM

Marta Ortiz - State Police Chaplain & Benefactor of the OFM's

John Trujillo & wife Ivonne - Superintendent for new Friary & Contractor for Offices Renovation

Mary Romero - OLG Treasurer's Office



Friars and Archbishop Sanchez preparing for the consecration of the altar



Father Larry Dunham blessing the chapel and furnishings



Father Larry Dunham at the passionate homily: "not just a building, but a band of Franciscan brothers..."



Cincinnati and New Mexico Chile served in the dining room and the patio



Carpet with the provincial seal



Bouquet on the altar with all the colors of the new friary



Brother Bruce Michalek preparing the sumptuous chile lunch

The Birdman of Tohatchi

By Father John Mittelstadt, OFM



Father Terence Rhoades at sunrise: filling up the birdfeeders and the birdbath

Father Terence Rhoades, who is almost 93, is a very busy friar at Tohatchi. With the help of our deacon, **Marcellino Morris**, and our Franciscan Partner, **Don Frank**, he is taken to celebrate Sunday Mass at one of the three churches.

He does extensive gardening at the mission in Tohatchi. His fruit trees and roses, his newly planted trees and grass, his lilies and tulips are rich and bountiful.

His main interest and daily duties center on the birds - the ubiquitous sparrows, the busy finches, the bullying redwing blackbirds, the helicopter hummingbirds. You can see them all right out the dining room window, where Terry watches a few minutes each morning.



Mr. Friendly: waiting to catch Father Terence's goldfinch



He lectures to eager listeners - friars, sisters, laity - who happen to be near when the birds are feeding. There is no one in the Province who knows more about ornithology than Terry.

There is only one enemy in the neighborhood - a cat by the name of **Mr. Friendly**, nurtured by our Jesuit resident missionary, **Father Bob Ross**.

Mr. Friendly hangs around the bird feeders hoping to catch an unsuspecting sparrow or finch, which he has done a couple of times.

Once Father Terence caught the cat playing with a seemingly dead goldfinch. He snatched it out of his paws and noticed one eye was open. He took the poor bird to his bathroom and set him on the floor. When he returned later, the finch was flying around the room.

He had risen from the dead. Terry released him back into the safety of nature.

Yesterday, I asked Father Terence: "Did you work today?"

He indignantly replied: "I work every day!" And so he does. Next year he celebrates 75 years in vows...August 16, 2010. *Ad multos annos!*

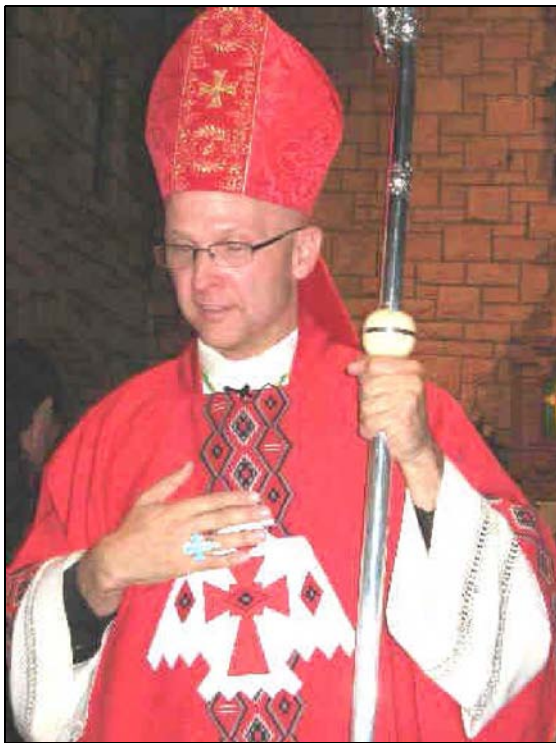


Father Terence Rhoades and the author trading haircuts in June. He has not lost his touch. Come on over for a haircut.



Band of Brothers
Short Notices
from all over the Province

ST. MICHAELS, ARIZONA - FATHER GILBERT SCHNEIDER - We had confirmation and a pastoral visit by the new Bishop of Gallup, James S. Wall, on April 28, 7 PM. We were one of the first parishes of the Diocese to have Confirmation conferred by Bishop Wall. He arrived for dinner a little late driving a Ford 150 pickup. The church was full. There were ten candidates for Confirmation from St. Michaels, Ft. Defiance, and Klagetoh in Arizona, and Navajo, New Mexico. The liturgy was especially spirited, combining choirs from the four parishes. The bishop was as enthusiastic as the people and friars were. He barely made it to the hall for the reception because of all the pictures that were taken after the ceremonies. He paid a brief and cordial visit to the friary and promised to return as he boarded his pickup truck.



Bishop James S. Wall at St. Michaels for Confirmation. He is the new Bishop of Gallup and the youngest local ordinary in the U.S. This was his first Confirmation on the Navajo Reservation.

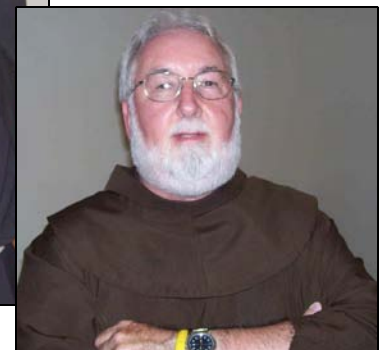
FROM SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS - BROTHER GERALD GRANTNER - Provincial Larry Dunham made a special trip to San Antonio on May 1, to receive the renewal of vows of our temporary professed friars: Andres Hernandez, Chris Kerstiens, Erasmo Romero, and Joseph Gonsalves. Brother Scott Obrecht (SJB), who was making a sabbatical at the Ministry to Ministers Program, was present for the renewal of vows. The Provincial gave an inspiring reflection and there was a festive meal following.



Father Juan Arellano, Brothers Chris Kerstiens, Abel Olivas, Father Larry Dunham, Brothers Gerald Grantner, Andres Hernandez, Erasmo, Father Charlie Martinez, Brother Joseph Gonsalves



Brother Andres Hernandez renewing simple vows with Fathers Larry Dunham and Charlie Martinez



Brother Scott Obrecht, a visitor from St. John the Baptist Province.

FROM FATHER RON WALTERS - SANTA BARBARA CALIFORNIA - Jack Clark Robinson received his doctorate on June 14, 2009, from the University of California, Santa Barbara. The field of study was History. Duane Torisky, Nils Thompson and I were in attendance. Congratulations, Jack!



Doctor Jack Clark Robinson in his doctoral hood flanked by Fathers Nils Thompson and Ron Walters.

FROM THE PUEBLO OF LAGUNA, FATHER LARRY BERNARD - I am sending you photos from three files. On April 21, 2009, we had our provincial Area Regional Assembly at Holy Family in Albuquerque. On May 3, we celebrated our feast day at Santa Maria in McCartys. The new Bishop of Gallup, James E. Wall was the principal celebrant. On May 10, we had First Communion, May Crowning and the investiture with the scapular at St. Anne Church, Acomita.



Brothers Mark Schornack and Michael Burns at the Area Regional Assembly, Holy Family Hall, Albuquerque, April 21



Father Larry Bernard with first communicants at St. Anne Church, Acomita, New Mexico

Happy Birt hday

June 28 - **Paul Juniet.**

July 2 - **Wayne Gibbeaut.** July 4 - **Jack Clark Robinson, Andres Gallegos.** July 11 - **Timon Cook, Paul O'Brien.** July 14 - **Gerald Steinmetz.** July 26 - **John Mittelstadt.** July 28 - **Don Billiard.**

August 1 - **George Ward, Robert Sprott.** August 6 - **Terence Rhoades.** August 7 - **Eduardo (Lalo) Espinosa.**

FROM PROVINCIAL HEADQUARTERS, ALBUQUERQUE > The Provincial Council has assigned **Abel Olivas** to San Juan Diego Friary, Albuquerque, NM effective June 8, 2009 for summer internship to finish his M.Div. work and help out at Isleta Pueblo.

>The Provincial Council has assigned **Flann O'Neil** to St. Michaels Friary, St. Michaels, AZ, effective immediately.

> The Provincial Council has assigned **Jack Clark Robinson** to Casa Guadalupe Friary, Albuquerque, NM effective June 16, 2009.

> The Provincial Council has assigned **Juan Antonio Gutierrez** pastor of St. John's Parish, Roswell, NM effective November 23, 2009.

>The Provincial Council has assigned **Juan Montoya** to be in residence at Immaculate Conception Friary, Alamogordo, NM effective November 23, 2009. Juan is assigned for rest, to assist the ministry at Immaculate Conception and continue occasional work with Cursillo, RCIA, parish missions, etc. in the Diocese of Las Cruces.

>The Provincial Council has assigned **Salvador Aragon** to Our Lady of Guadalupe Friary as retired, effective June 22, 2009.

> **The 25th Anniversary of the Founding of OLG Province** will be commemorated in 2010. If you would like to be a part of a committee that will plan the celebrations, contact Bruce Michalek (505/980-9409)

OLG Chapter 2009 takes place June 28-July 3 2009 at the Nativo Hotel in Albuquerque.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER: +**Janice (Hausfeld) Sucher**, sister of Bruce and Bryant Hausfeld, mother of Brother Tim Sucher (SJB), died May 13. +**Austin (James) Budnik (ABVM)**, died May 31. +**Laurence Raionville (HNP)**, died April 13. +**Wenceslalus Farlow (SBP)**, age 90.

Hilarion Kistner and **Bart Pax** of SJB. Both are seriously ill

**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;

Chapter of Mats - Assisi - 2009

By Father Patrick Schafer, OFM

By now, most of us have read articles and seen pictures of the 2009 Chapter of Mats which occurred in Assisi from April 15th through April 18th. I was one of the four friars selected by lottery, along with Gonzalo, Bart, and Larry Schreiber, to attend this unique event. The intention of this article is not so much to give a detailed account of the content of the Chapter, but rather, it is a reflection of my personal observations and feelings as an OLG participant in this gathering of friars from around the world.



Father Gonzalo Moreno (center) with friars from different branches of the Order

We arrived in Rome on Wednesday morning after a very lengthy and uneventful (praise God) flight. I was wary before our arrival, having been given dire warnings about the hordes of pick-pockets and gangs of child thieves that preyed on the unsuspecting tourists in Rome. Thankfully, we did not run into any such things as we took the train from the airport to the main terminal in Rome and boarded our train for Assisi. On the train we met many friars from the U.S. and other countries. I was delighted to find Brother Marco Mendoza on the train with a group of friars from the Jalisco Province. We arrived in Assisi and were taken by shuttle buses to our various hotels. At our hotel, the Hotel Panda, we registered and settled into our rooms.

I learned that there were over 2000 friars attending the Chapter from around the world. This thought was awesome enough on its own, but the experience of being in the midst of all these friars was amazing. As we made our way to the Basilica of Our Lady of the Angels, we joined an ever growing stream of friars converging on the Basilica, the center for the Chapter. Having some time before the opening ceremony, I entered the Basilica for a look around and saw the Portiuncula for the first time. I just stopped and stared for a few minutes. This was the actual Portiuncula; not a replica but the place Francis called home. That is the overwhelming feeling I had everywhere we went in Assisi, a sense of authenticity. The Chapter opened with the enthronement of the Rule, the actual *Regula Bullata*. I prayed in front of the San Damiano Cross. Surrounding all these things and imbuing all these different places was the spirit of our Father Francis, a tangible sense of our charism. I remember sitting in the Portiuncula and looking over at the floor and thinking that right here is where Francis died. It was overwhelming. This feeling accompanied me just about everywhere we went, and in every activity and talk I attended during the Chapter; Mass at the Basilica of St. Clare, meditating at the tomb, walking to San Damiano, listening to the Ministers General of the different branches of the Franciscan Family.



Fathers Gonzalo Moreno, Larry Schreiber, Brother Bart Wolf, Father Patrick Schaefer



Brother Marco Mendoza, former member of OLG Province, now of Jalisco, Mexico

The other feeling that I experienced during the Chapter was one of community. At the opening ceremony, I was sitting near the back of the pavilion, being a good Catholic who always sits near the back of the Church. I watched as the pavilion filled with 2000 friars from the four corners of the globe, listening to the cacophony of languages too numerous to identify, and thinking we are all Franciscans. Francis is what brings us here and binds us into this diverse but unified family. I then realized that I recognized many of the faces I saw; friars I had met at different gatherings and places; the inter-provincial novitiate, St. Bonaventure University, my solemn vow retreat, friars from Mexico and Guatemala, OFMs, Conventuals, Capuchins, and TORs.

I realized that while I sometimes obsess on dwindling numbers in our Province, feeling isolated and alone, I am part of a much bigger community that encompasses the world. We have each other to rely on, to find strength and support, to continue doing the work that is ours to do. On the last day of the Chapter, that sense of community was enlarged. We traveled to Albano, to *Castel Gandolfo*, for an audience with Pope Benedict XVI. I walked into the courtyard and saw the chair and seal of the Pope. As I stood there the courtyard quickly filled. Now I must say that Europeans seem to have no sense of personal space. We were pressed right against each other, constantly fighting the pushing from the back as people wanted to get closer to where the Pope would give his address. There was no anger or animosity in the crowd, only a sense of excitement and anticipation. I was lucky to be only 30 to 40 feet from where the Pope sat for his address. I felt a sense of history; here was the successor of St. Peter, the Roman Pontiff, the leader of the over 1 billion Catholics in the world, standing within talking distance to me. My Italian is not what it should be, but I did get the gist of what he was saying.

As I look back on the experience of the Chapter, I feel very privileged that I was given the opportunity to attend this wonderful event. It also made me hungry to spend more time in Assisi, drinking in the aura of Francis and his unique expression of our faith. I also find myself calmed and confident of our future here in the Southwest. I know that we are not alone in the work God has given us to do among the peoples of the Southwestern United States. We may not know what form this work will take, or even how we will do it, but I know that with God's will and Francis' inspiration, we will succeed.



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