



Servites Today



“The Order of Friar Servants of Mary is a community of men gathered together in the name of Jesus the Lord. Moved by the Spirit, we commit ourselves, as did our First Fathers, to witness the gospel in fraternal communion and to be at the service of God and all people, drawing abiding inspiration from Mary, Mother and Servant of the Lord. “

Servite Constitutions, #1

When you write or review your will, please consider making a charitable bequest. Your bequest to the Servants of Mary will help us spread devotion to the Blessed Virgin; serve the Church in parishes, schools, hospitals, and foreign missions; train future priests and brothers; and provide for the elderly religious. Your charity will be a lasting memorial that will grow and prosper in the minds and hearts of all who are touched by the work of the Servants of Mary.

For more information, please contact Fr. Lawrence at the Servite Development Office: 1439 South Harlem Avenue, Berwyn, IL 60402, 708-795-8885 or visit www.servite.org (the Gifts/Giftshop link).

From the Editor

Faith.

The Lord told us that if we had faith the size of a mustard seed, we would be able to move mountains. But what exactly is faith? What does having faith mean? Is it merely positive, upbeat thinking? Confidence or hope?

St. Augustine says that “Faith is to believe what you do not see.” More importantly, he adds, “... the reward of this faith is to see what you believe.” In other words, faith is belief in Christ with the goal of seeing Him. So faith requires conversion: the continual practice of turning our eyes and hearts to the Christ in whom we profess belief.

In this issue, we see various examples of faith in practice: lay Diakonia families making a promise of Christian living; the Blessed Virgin’s rewarded faith through the sorrows in her life; a school founded on faith and placing faith in plans for future success and growth; and the rewarding of a Servite friar for his service in the Archdiocese of Portland.

While mountains haven’t literally been moved, faith remains the foundation that underlies the Christian and Servite life. As C.S. Lewis so aptly stated, “I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen: not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else.”

On behalf of all the friars of the US Province and beyond, we extend a heartfelt thanks to all of you who have supported our work throughout the year and we wish you and all our extended family a Blessed Christmas and joyful New Year. You and loved ones remain in our prayers.

The Servites Today newsletter is published four times a year by the Order of Friar Servants of Mary, USA Province.
James Foerster, Editor

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Cover photo: Madonna and Child window, Choir Chapel, Our Lady of Sorrows Basilica, Chicago

Lay Diakonia

PROMISE IN WISCONSIN

On Sunday, September 16, 2012, three families made the Promise of Evangelical Life in the Servants of Mary Lay Diakonia movement. The event took place at St. Francis de Sales parish in Spooner, Wisconsin, in the presence of his eminence Peter F. Christensen, bishop of Superior, Wisconsin. Also present were Fr. John Fontana, OSM, prior provincial, and Fr. Vidal Martinez, OSM, general secretary for the Secular Order and Lay Groups. The newest Diakonia families are:

Alan and Loree Nauertz and their six sons, Mark, John, Andrew, James, Luke, and Joseph

Victor and Jacqueline Sacco and their sons Jacob and Aaron

Curt and Jacene Silvis and their children Evan, Ryan, and Anna.

The Servite Lay Diakonia movement began in Italy in 1982. A Diakonia is a nuclear family that follows a particular rule of life and shares the spirituality of the Servants of Mary. Their life involves the practice of human and Christian values and the sharing of those values with others. Weekly and daily prayer is central to the lives of the diakonia. They are dedicated to daily Liturgy of the Hours, open to all who wish to join them. Saturdays are dedicated to domestic prayers in honor of Mary. Additionally, every member also strives to live in a habitual climate of interior, continuous prayer which leads to conversion and is a source of growth and inner peace.

There are thirty-one diakonia in Italy, where the movement was born. The first family to embrace this way of life in the US is Ed and Mercedes Thrush from the Servite parish of Our Lady of Sorrows in El Paso, Texas. Their profession was made in February of 2011.





LIVING THE YEAR OF FAITH WITH

Mary

"On their arrival, they assembled the church and gave an account of all that God had done with them, and how he had opened the door of faith..." (Acts 14:27)

In his apostolic letter *Porta Fidei*, Pope Benedict XVI declared a Year of Faith. The year opened on October 11, 2012, and will end on the feast of Christ the King, November 24, 2013. What is this "Year of Faith," and how can the average believer participate in it?

Historically, these special "years" are declared when the Church desires the faithful to focus on an issue or some aspect of the faith. The years are usually proclaimed in response to an event. The Year for Priests (2009-2010) is a recent example. The pope called this year on the anniversary of the birth of St. John Vianney, the patron saint of priests. The current Year of Faith was declared to coincide with the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council as well as the twentieth anniversary of the publication of the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

The pope is calling the faithful to "an authentic and renewed conversion to the Lord, the One Savior of the world (*Porta Fidei* 6)," to rediscover the faith so that it may be transmitted to future generations. He also asks us to remember the social responsibilities that spring forth from belief because

it is in community that faith is practiced. Through helping the lonely, marginalized, and excluded, the face of God is revealed. At the close of his letter, Benedict XVI entrusts the Year of Faith to Mary, the Mother of God who is "blessed because she believed (Lk 1:45)."

To fully participate in this Year of Faith, it is recommended that one read and study the Documents of Vatican II and revisit the Catechism. These are available online at the Vatican website. Volunteering for your church or a local charity is another way. And to cement our work and study, one should also participate through prayer, reflection and devotion.

The following reflections on the Seven Sorrows of Mary, whether used with the Servite rosary or the Via Matris, another devotion particularly Servite, serve as an example to us of a life lived with deep faith as well as the actions inspired by that faith.

†Mary Accepts in Faith the Prophecy of Simeon (Lk 2:25-35)

Many of us are parents. We know that only by sharing life with God is life fulfilled. That is why we joyfully present our children to Him in baptism, though we also sense a fear about the future of our loved ones. Simeon's prophecy was a blessing for all humanity, but foretold much grief for Mary.





‡**Mary Flees into Egypt with Jesus and Joseph (Mt 2:13-15)**

What can a mother do when the life her child is threatened? When Herod decreed death for all those innocent children, God warned Joseph. With no time for packing or goodbyes, they escaped into the night. Homeless and tired, with an uncertain future before them, they were secure in nothing but the love of each other.

‡**Mary Seeks Jesus Lost in Jerusalem (Lk 2:41-49)**

A child is lost. What panic grips the hearts of parents at such a time. They wonder, "Is he safe?" "Will I ever see him again?" And they imagine things too terrible to express. It was the same for Mary and Joseph. For three days they sought Jesus. It took faith to continue the search in the pain of separation.

‡**Mary Meets Jesus on the Way to Calvary (Lk 23:27-28)**

What mother called suddenly to the hospital to see her sick or injured child has not wished: "If only I could suffer instead of you!" But Mary remains only a spectator. She sees her Son beaten and bloody. She was powerless to help him and yet through her love she shared his pain.

‡**Mary Stands near the Cross of Her Son (Jn 19:26-27)**

It has often been said that to lose a child is the worst thing for a parent to endure. Mary stood by the cross of her dying son for long, painful hours. Perhaps Mary, who pondered in her heart, thought of earlier and happier days. How horrible now to face the reality of death. And yet Jesus still spoke to console her. By dying, he gave life to others and made Mary the mother of all. Like Mary, our faith requires us also to stand by the crosses of sick, suffering, and dying.

‡**Mary Receives the Body of Jesus Taken down from the Cross**

(Mt 27:57-61)

Jesus is dead. It hardly seems real. How many of us have knelt before the body of a loved one and thought, "Can this really be happening?" Death is real. As she received the body of her dead son wrapped for burial, did she think back to the days with her baby on her lap in swaddling clothes? Did she now wonder if this was the end of everything?

‡**Mary Places the Body of Jesus in the Tomb, Awaiting the Resurrection (Jn 39-42)**

The garden and the tomb... there is something strangely consoling about the burial of Jesus. Perhaps a blade of grass or flower reminded Mary of his words "Unless a seed falls to the ground and dies, it cannot produce new life." It is always difficult to see death and life together, but Mary continued to believe, to love, and to have faith. A faith that would soon be rewarded.

It is appropriate to study the faith we profess. But in order for our faith to become integral in our lives, we must also reflect upon it and act upon it. Faith needs to be practiced. Mary, the mother of Jesus, is the exemplar of a faith-filled life. Looking to and following her example can serve to strengthen our faith during this Year of Faith.



SERVITE HIGH SCHOOL CREDO CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

In 1958, the Archdiocese of Los Angeles asked a group of Servite friars to come to Orange County and establish an all-boys Catholic high school. His offer was accepted and Servite High School was founded on the charism of the Order of Friar Servants of Mary: community, service, and dedication to the Blessed Virgin.

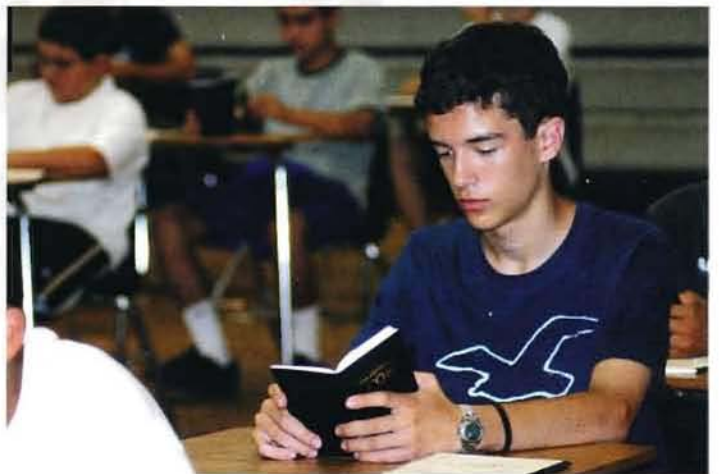
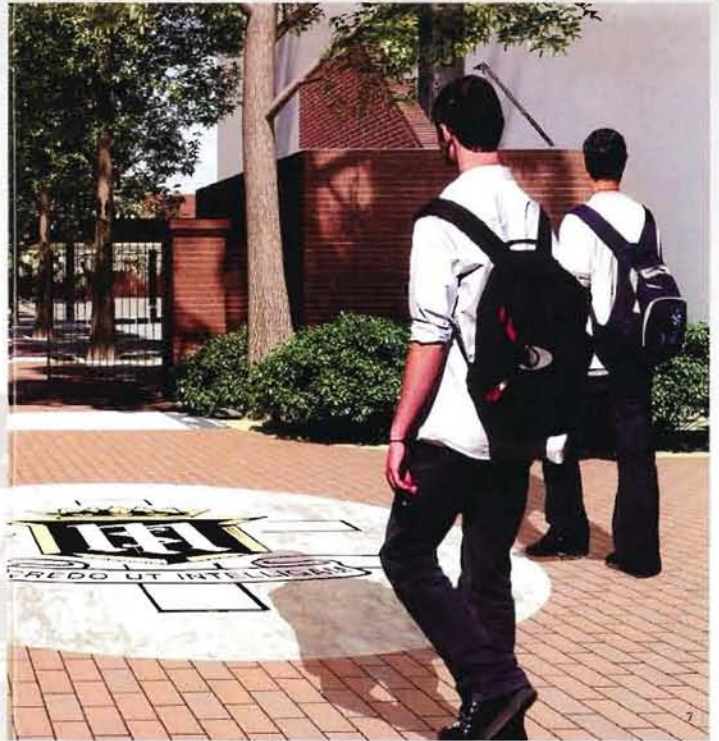
The first classes were held in the nearby St. Philip Benizi Elementary School, and the first building was dedicated on February 12, 1959 by James, Cardinal MacIntyre. Since that day, the school has had to expand many times to meet needs. Through the years, Servite has become one of the top high schools in California with a focus on forming leaders for the nation, community, church, families, and business.

Servite High School launched a 5-year capital campaign last summer for new facilities and financial aid endowment. While a majority of campaign funds will be directed toward development of new facilities, one of the greatest challenges Servite faces is assuring there will be funds for families needing financial aid. With tuition at \$12,700 and projected to increase in future years, more and more families need financial aid for their sons to attend Servite. Over 250, or 27% of students are scheduled to receive \$1.1 million in financial aid for the 2012-13 academic year.

Historically, the need for financial aid has been met through fundraisers, appeals and revenue generated by the student-led Trinity Corporation. In recent years, the amount of financial aid provided to students has increased from \$300,000 to \$1.1 million. As part of Servite's Credo Capital Campaign, Servite is working to develop a permanent fund for financial aid, called the St. Alexis Endowment. The purpose of the St. Alexis Fund is to create an ongoing, stable source of funding to meet the growing need for financial aid. The initial goal is to build the fund to the \$3 million level.

The A. Gary Anderson Family Foundation made a \$500,000 challenge grant for the St. Alexis Endowment and will match all donations up to \$500,000. Other components of the Capital Campaign include a new student quad, Grotto, Alumni Garden, Aquatics Center, Multi-Sport Field/Baseball Complex.

For more information, contact: Steve Beaird, VP of Advancement, Servite High School, 1952 W. La Palma Avenue, Anaheim, CA 92801; sbeaird@servitehs.org or 714-774-7575.



L to R: Mr. Rob Hoertz, President, Board of Directors; Fr. Edward Penonzek, OSM; Fr. Perry McCoy, OSM; and Mr. Peter Bowen, President of Servite High School

US PROVINCE JUBILARIANS



Fr. Conrad Borntrager, O.S.M.
55 Years Solemn Profession
December 9, 2012



Fr. John Topper, O.S.M.
25 Years Ordination
December 19, 2012



Fr. Michael Doyle, O.S.M.
50 Years Solemn Profession
December 8, 2012



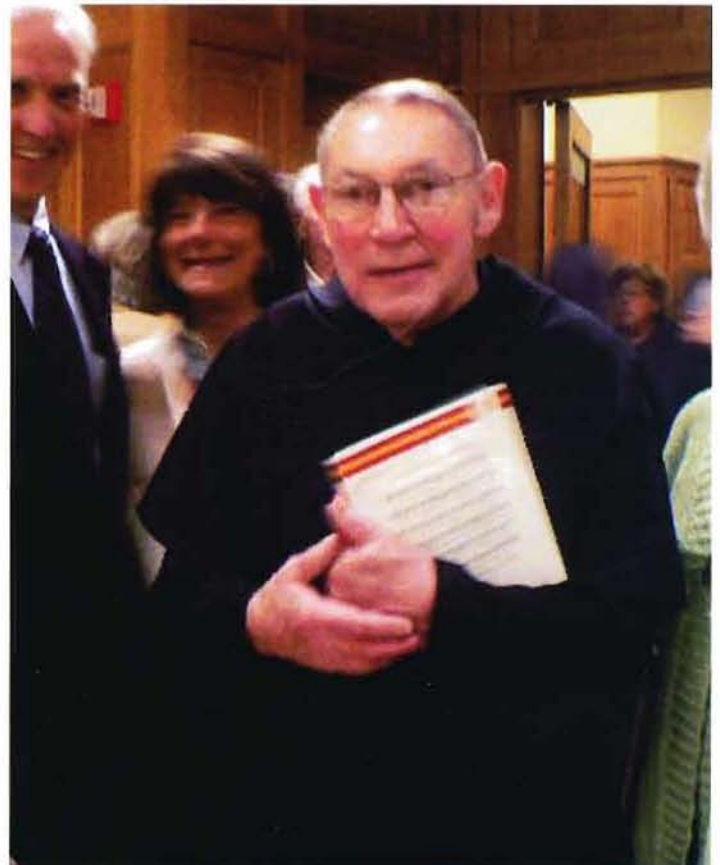
Fr. Robert Anderson, O.S.M.
50 Years Solemn Profession
December 8, 2012

FR. JOHN (JACK) TOPPER, OSM RECEIVES PAPAL AWARD

At a Vespers service on Thursday, October 11, 2012, to mark the opening of the Year of Faith, Fr. John (Jack) Topper, O.S.M., executive director of The Grotto in Portland, OR, received the Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice medal. The award was presented to Fr. Topper and six others by Archbishop John Vlazny.

The Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice (for the Church and Pope) medal, is also known as the Cross of Honor and is given by the papacy to clergy and lay people in recognition of outstanding service to the Church. In his homily, the archbishop stated that the six awardees “have been special helpers to Jesus and this church in establishing and strengthening our God’s covenant relationship with His people. The Holy Father has conferred upon them the Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice Medal in appreciation for their living faith.”

Fr. Topper is the second Servite to receive this award in recent years. Fr. Gerald Horan, O.S.M., vicar of faith formation for the Diocese of Orange, was a recipient in 2009.





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Notes

from the National Shrine of St. Peregrine



•Bishop Alberto Rojas, auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Chicago, celebrated the Mass in honor of St. Peregrine on September 8, 2012, at Our Lady of Sorrows Basilica. The Spanish-language celebration featured lively music and prayers for those who came to ask for God's healing grace and blessing. Special intentions were prayed for Cardinal Francis George whose cancer has returned and who has asked for all of our prayers for his healing.

At the Mass, Bishop Rojas was presented with a first class relic of St. Peregrine for use in his ministry to the sick and suffering.

At the National Shrine of St Peregrine (Our Lady of Sorrows Basilica in Chicago), a healing Mass and blessing with relic of St. Peregrine is celebrated at 11:00am on the third Saturday of the month. There is a healing Mass and blessing in Spanish on the second Saturday of each month, also at 11:00am.

SAINT PEREGRINE
"The Cancer Saint"

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PLEASE OR REQUEST

THE IMPORTANCE OF ST PEREGRINE TODAY

Visit: www.stperegrine.org

Visit the new official St. Peregrine Ministry website: stperegrine.org

To connect with a St. Peregrine prayer partner: prayerpartner@stperegrine.org

Like us on facebook and please join our social media circles

