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Brotherhood Update

“Sanctify yourself and you will sanctify society.”
— St. Francis of Assisi

by Brother Conrad Richardson, fbp, Community Servant

Tying their Knots

And the Lord gave me brothers...” These words from a testament of St. Francis continue. Thanks be to God! We are filled with joy that Brother Didacus and Brother Dismas professed first vows of poverty, chastity and obedience on October 4th, the Feast of our Holy Father Saint Francis (pages 4-5). Please pray for our dear brothers as they begin their consecrated life in our community.

Congratulations!

After four years of hard work and considerable discernment, Brother James achieved a lay Master of Divinity degree from the Saint John’s School of Theology and Seminary in Collegeville, MN. While the priesthood was sought initially, the realization sometimes comes naturally that a man is called by God to serve elsewhere. We all look forward with Brother James to what God has in store for him as he presses on in his vocation as a Franciscan Brother of Peace.

Bravo!

On July 28th our community had the extraordinary privilege to present a play on the life of Blessed Solanus Casey, written and produced by Molly Delaney Druffner, directed by Mary Kratz and performed by the John Paul II Players (next page). One of our newly professed, Brother Dismas, painted a beautiful portrait of Blessed Solanus that has been reproduced in limited quantity and is available for a suggested donation (page 8).

Summer Fun

Do brothers vacation together? Yes we do! Every year our community spends a week at our Spiritual Center in northern Minnesota in God’s glorious wilderness for a time of recreation, relaxation, and of course prayer.

Another yearly pastime that we endeavor in is our great Barbecue. Everyone is always invited for this, as it was with the 27th Annual Barbecue that we had in August. Mark your calendars next year for the Saturday of Labor Day weekend so not to miss the “Other” Great Minnesota Get Together — along with the MN State Fair!

NO to Assisted Suicide in MN

On September 11th, several brothers were among other fellow Minnesotans at a hearing to oppose a bill (HF2152) that is seeking to bring assisted suicide to our state (page 7). The Minnesota Alliance for Ethical Care “...believes government should find ways to prioritize proper treatment and management of pain and quality end-of-life care, not hasten death.”

Quotes From Our Holy Father, Saint Francis of Assisi...

“Remember that when you leave this earth, you can take with you nothing that you have received—only what you have given: a full heart, enriched by honest service, love, sacrifice and courage.”

“No one is to be called an enemy. All are your benefactors, and no one does you harm. You have no enemy except yourselves.”

“What does the poor man do at the rich man’s door, the sick man in the presence of his physician, the thirsty man at a limpid stream? What they do, I do before the Eucharistic God. I pray. I adore. I love.”

“May the power of your love, Lord Christ, fiery and sweet as honey, so absorb our hearts as to withdraw them from all that is under heaven. Grant that we may be ready to die for love of your love, as you died for love of our love.”

Visit www.brothersofpeace.org and click on the GiveMN.org logo. May God bless you for your generosity!
On Sunday, July 28th, just two days before the Memorial of Blessed Solanus Casey, a cast and crew of more than thirty performed to a “full house” of nearly three hundred people at St. Patrick’s Church on the East Side of St. Paul. The John Paul II Players, founded by our dear friend, Molly Delaney Druffner, did a stellar job of acting out the life and times of Blessed Solanus. Molly wrote the play nearly twenty years ago around the time when she founded the John Paul II Players — so named due to the Holy Father’s encouragement of bringing Christian and gospel-based moral values into the workplace and culture.

This was a fundraiser to help the brothers meet the amount needed to replace the roof of Blessed Solanus Casey Friary, our newly opened Novitiate in the former convent next to St. Patrick’s Church. Among the cast were two of our very own brothers who played the roles of friars. One could say that Brother Antonio and Brother Didacus were “naturals.” The youngest member of the cast, in his first featured role, was an infant Karen baby who played the part of newborn Bernard “Barney” Casey, later known as Father Solanus.

We were also blessed to have with us the Grandniece, Grandnephew and Great-Grandniece of Blessed Solanus, and the Vice Postulator Emeritus of Blessed Solanus’ cause for beatification.
Two Brothers Profess First Vows

“Conformed to the image of his Son... firstborn among many brothers.” — Romans 8:29

Therefore with all my heart I give myself to this Brotherhood that through the work of the Holy Spirit, the intercession of Mary, Queen of Peace, our Father Francis and all the saints, and with the help of my brothers, I may fulfill my consecration to the service of God and of the Church.”

—from the Roman-Franciscan Rite of Profession
Brother Didacus Gottsacker, fbp

**Hometown:**
Lakeville, Minnesota.

**What I Did Before I Entered:**
I received a Bachelor of Arts in Spanish and Global Studies with a minor in Japanese and had the opportunity to study abroad for one year at Toyo University in Tokyo, Japan. At Winona State University I worked in the Catholic Newman Center and after graduating I was led to working as a substitute Spanish teacher in Catholic schools. I eventually ended up finding a full-time job as a seafood clerk in a grocery store while working part-time in the box office of a movie theater. During my free time, I volunteered as the Financial Secretary for the Knights of Columbus at St. Thomas University and most recently received a Master of Arts in International Development from St. Mary’s University.

**Hobbies and Interests:**
Playing music, reading books, studying, writing, watching movies, playing tennis, and biking.

**Favorite Part of Daily Life:**
Adoration and meeting people who come to the door.

**Most Challenging Part of Daily Life:**
Waking up and exercising… my day does not officially start until I have finished doing it.

**Some Favorite Saints:**
St. Francis of Assisi, Blessed Solanus Casey, St. Maximilian Kolbe, St. Francis-Xavier, St. Didacus of Alcala, St. Teresa of Avila, St. Faustina, and St. Bernadette.

**Advice to Men Interested in Our Way of Life:**
Every call is a gift from God. Open your gift as if you waited all year to receive it on Christmas Day!

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Brother Dismas Paskeiwicz, fbp

**Hometown:**
Kenosha, Wisconsin.

**What I Did Before I Entered:**
I went to school for Fine Art with an emphasis in painting and drawing at UW Stevens Point and Graduate school at the Minneapolis College of Art and Design. I wanted to teach art. I was at the same time becoming more invested in Christ and my interests changed. I worked at a homeless shelter for six months then moved to Minneapolis. I volunteered for many years at a therapeutic preschool for at-risk children. I had a steady job at the Walker Art Center in security and art installation but in my heart I yearned to work in a field that cared for people. I volunteered at an assisted living complex, meeting with men for a few hours a week. I went on six mission trips to Haiti working with the Missionaries of Charity at their wellness center for sick babies and children. I got a job as a PCA in a group home for people with traumatic brain injuries for about three and a half years. I then had a full time job as a preschool teacher at the school I had subbed and volunteered at for seven years. Just after one year there, I decided to apply to the Franciscan Brothers of Peace (after two and a half years of discernment) and entered at thirty–three years old.

**Hobbies and Interests:**
Painting, reading scripture and devotional books, playing guitar and sports.

**Favorite Part of Daily Life:**
After Compline (night prayer), meditating and or praying the prayer of recollection before Jesus in the tabernacle.

**Most Challenging Part of Daily Life:**
Practicing humility and obedience.

**Some Favorite Saints:**

**Advice to Men Interested in Our Way of Life:**
Keep praying that not your will be done, but the Lord’s will be done, in and through you. Ask Virgin Mary, Joseph, the saints, those in Purgatory and holy ones on earth to pray for you—ask this very often and try not to be anxious, but know God is with you wherever you are.
Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Greetings! It is my belief that it is of the nature and purpose of poetry that it be shared, especially among friends. If so, then what better friends to share religious poetry with than among fellow believers like you, dear brothers and sisters in Christ, the holy family of God! I have a collection of prayer-poems and theological reflections that I would like to share with you in the months ahead. I hope that you find them to be both inspiring and beneficial in your walk with the Lord. Thanks for your prayers and support of the Franciscan Brothers of Peace. God bless you!

In the Hearts of Jesus and Mary,
Theophilus*

Remember Me
Noah walked with God... God remembered Noah...

Lord forgive me for the times
I lose track of You
Blessed are they who walk in the way of the Lord...
And wander down a road I’ve tried
Thinking it is new
For broad is the way that leads to destruction...

I know that if You ever
Did not remember me
Remember your mercy, Lord,
and the love you have shown from of old...
I quickly would disintegrate
No longer would I be
You who hold all things together in yourself...

So I thank You
Good and Gracious God
For not forgetting me
O Lord you are gracious and merciful,
abounding in steadfast love...
Even when I turn my face
And choose You not to heed
My soul longs for You...
So I gaze on You in the sanctuary,
to see your strength and your Glory...

(a) Gen. 6:9  (b) Gen. 8:1  (c) Ps. 119:1  (d) Mat. 7:13  (e) Ps. 25:6  
(f) Col. 1:17  (g) Ex. 34:6  (h) Ps. 63:2-3

* A pen name chosen by a dear friend of the Brothers, out of a desire to remain anonymous...
Healthcare professionals, advocates for individuals with disabilities, elder-care workers, faith leaders and many more advocates spoke out in opposition to a bill that would legalize physician-assisted suicide in Minnesota with lawmakers at an informational hearing.

“This is a dangerous bill that threatens to undermine quality, ethical health care in Minnesota,” said Dr. Neal Buddensiek, chief medical officer for Benedictine Health System in Shoreview. “If passed, Minnesota would be added to a small list of states that allows physicians and non-physicians to make life and death decisions for vulnerable patients. Minnesota is better than this.”

In addition to allowing non-physicians to prescribe death-inducing drugs, the bill promotes suicide tourism by not requiring patients to be Minnesota residents. The proposed bill also would distort the doctor-patient relationship by requiring doctors to advise terminally ill patients on assisted suicide as a treatment option.

Several other individuals testified against the bill (HF2152/SF2286) before the House Health and Human Services Policy Committee including powerful and moving testimony from Stephanie Packer who testified about her terminal illness and how she wanted to but couldn’t access life-saving medications. “Instead, insurance offered a co-pay of $1.20 for drugs that would kill me.”

Dr. Brian Callister shared his experience treating those with a life-threatening medical condition that the “solution to a terminal diagnosis is not to give a terminal prescription.”

Imam Asad Zaman spoke about the “need to preserve institutional safeguards because every life is important, dignified and needs to be protected.”

The Minnesota Alliance for Ethical Healthcare, a diverse coalition of healthcare providers, caretakers and community allies, believes government should find ways to prioritize proper treatment and management of pain and quality end-of-life care, not hasten death.
Limited edition print of an original painting of Blessed Solanus Casey by Franciscan Brother of Peace, Brother Dismas Paskiewicz, fbp. The 16” x 22” prints are individually numbered and hand signed by the artist on museum quality paper — ready to frame!

A suggested donation of $20 for the first print and $10 for each additional print will cover shipping and handling and will support the life and apostolates of the Franciscan Brothers of Peace.

Please include a note with your donation of the quantity desired and your mailing address.

www.brothersofpeace.org

Just in Time for Christmas

www.brothersofpeace.org

Franciscan Holy Hour

Every First Friday at 7:00 p.m.
Adoration + Franciscan Crown Rosary
Chanted Compline + Benediction
Refreshments and Fellowship follow.

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