

FRANCISCAN BROTHERS OF PEACE

Newsmagazine A.D. 2009 Volume 23 / 4th Edition



*Brother Michael,
pray for us!*



Celebrating the Season of Love



A New Saint for the Church... Damien of Moloka'i

Brotherhood Update

by Brother Paul, Guardian Overall



Glory to Jesus Christ!

I would like to thank everyone who has contacted me by letter, phone call, or e-mail with kind words of support as I celebrate my Jubilee year as a Franciscan Brother of Peace. May God bless you for your kindness. Thank you so very much!

New Ecclesiastical Representative

In accord with the statutes of the Franciscan Brothers of Peace, the Most Reverend Archbishop John C. Nienstedt of the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis appointed the Most Reverend Lee A. Piche, Auxiliary Bishop and Vicar General, as his Ecclesiastical Representative to the Franciscan Brothers of Peace on September 11, 2009. Sister Dominica Brennan, OP, former Chancellor for Canonical Affairs of the archdiocese, held this position previously under Archbishop Emeritus Harry J. Flynn.

Bishop Piche will visit the community on a biannual basis and make an annual report to the archbishop. This role also helps foster communication between the archdiocese and the Franciscan Brothers of Peace. We are grateful to Archbishop Nienstedt for Bishop Piche's appointment, and for continued good relations with the archdiocese.



Photo by Richard L. Granger

Father Paul Sirba Named Bishop-Elect of Duluth



My very good friend, Father Paul Sirba (the main celebrant and homilist for my Jubilee Mass on August 22, 2009) was named Bishop of the Diocese of Duluth, Minnesota, by His Holiness Benedict the XVI on September 23, 2009, a decision made public at 5:00 a.m. on October 15, 2009. The people of Duluth are getting a solid man of faith, and a wonderful, loving, pastoral father as their bishop.

To my dear friend of over 27 years, I wish you God's blessings, congratulations and many happy, healthy years! Ad Multos Annos!

Thanksgiving & Christmas Outreach

Please help us with our Holiday food programs for families in need. See how you can help on page 8, and pray for the success of these programs during these tough economic times.

A New Novice

On September 8, 2009, the Feast of the Nativity of Mary, Matthew Connolly, age 27, of Duluth, Minnesota, entered the novitiate of the Franciscan Brothers of Peace. A simple ceremony was held at Queen of

Peace Friary with all the brothers present. It is traditional for a brother to receive a new religious name and be invested in the habit. Matthew's new name is Brother Maximilian. Please keep our new brother in your prayers as he enters this time of formation and seeks God's will for his life.



Our Apostolates

Please pray for our resident torture survivors as they heal and for their loved ones back home who so often remain in grave danger.

Our emergency food shelf for families in need is operating at full capacity. However more food is always needed.

As you can see from the articles in this newsletter our Pro-Life apostolate is also keeping us very busy these days. Thank you for helping us to help others in need!

May God bless you richly for your generosity, and grant you His Peace!

A New Saint for the Church... Damien of Moloka'i



ON OCTOBER 11, 2009, OUR HOLY FATHER POPE BENEDICT XVI CANONIZED FIVE NEW SAINTS FOR THE CHURCH, INCLUDING FATHER DAMIEN OF MOLOKA'I.

Father Damien was born at Tremeloo, Belgium on January 3, 1840. Both Damien and his brother entered the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and

Mary. In 1863 his brother was scheduled to go to the Hawaiian Island of Moloka'i to be a missionary to the lepers. His brother fell ill and Damien obtained permission from the Superior General to take his brother's place.

Father Damien landed at Honolulu on March 19, 1864 and was ordained to the priesthood the following May 21, 1864. The Bishop of Honolulu did not want to send anyone in the name of obedience to the leper colony on the Kalaupapa Peninsula on Moloka'i since he knew it would be a certain death sentence. Damien was the first priest to volunteer and left for Kalaupapa in 1873.

He was an outstanding Catholic missionary who brought peace, joy, and happiness to a place that, when he arrived, was a living hell. Father Damien is universally known for having freely shared the life of the lepers in quarantine at Kalaupapa. After accomplishing much good on the island (many books have been written and movies made about his life) it was announced in 1884 that he himself had contracted the deadly disease. When he died four years later, the news spread around the world and deeply impressed his contemporaries of all denominations.

Father Damien respected the religious views of others. In his parish ministry or in his works of charity he found a place for everyone. Among his closest friends were a Lutheran educator, an Anglican painter, a Free Thinker doctor and a Japanese Buddhist and leprologist.

Father Damien today is known as a hero of charity because he identified so closely with the victims of leprosy. He continues to inspire people of all faiths and creeds as an example of heroism and Christ-like virtues.

As Franciscan Brothers of Peace we recognize Saint Damien of Moloka'i as an example for our day as we proclaim and defend the Gospel of Life. His call to love others despite their condition of dependency or ability is one we must embrace in this culture of death. He is also a prime example of a lover of those who are outcast and rejected by society. A true missionary, he proclaimed the truth and yet reached out with compassion to the sinner; a true shepherd, he remained to the end a loving pastor and a forgiving father. His passion was for the salvation of souls.

Brother Paul, fbp of our community has had a life-long devotion to Father Damien, and as a gift from his now deceased parents he was able to visit the people of Moloka'i and the colony at Kalaupapa, where those with Hansen's Disease, as leprosy is now called, were loved and served by Father Damien. He and Brother Conrad were also able to travel to Rome for



the Canonization of Father Damien and celebrated his wonderful life with thousands of pilgrims. Our dear friends, the Little Sisters of the Poor, were also in Rome by the thousands. Their Founder, Jeanne Jugan, was canonized at the same liturgy, and is another great example of selfless love for the vulnerable, elderly poor of our world.

So at 6:00 a.m. on that cold, dark, and rainy Roman morning, the two brothers went to wait in line for the Canonization Mass which was to be held at Saint Peter's Basilica at 10:00 a.m. Needless to say there was great excitement in the air and the crowd swelled. However, no one was admitted through the barriers until about 8:30 a.m. Then, seventy-five thousand people attempted to rush through three small entrances. It reminded the brothers of a rock concert crowd, but slightly different! Then the gates were opened and the sisters and brothers were off to get a good seat. The brothers were in row twenty-five inside the basilica. What a blessing... the wet habits, the sore feet, the tight crowds... they were all worth it!

The Liturgy was beautiful and the brothers shared that they experienced a little bit of heaven on earth as they celebrated with all the Saints in Glory. Even though Rome has millions of people walking her streets each day, the brothers discovered what a small world we live in. They visited with people they knew from Minnesota, our friends the Little Sisters of the Poor, some priests from our archdiocese, and had a wonderful meeting with our good friend Archbishop Raymond Burke. At the canonization even strangers became friends, like the 92 year-old married Hawaiian couple the brothers met.

While in Italy Brother Paul and Brother Conrad also visited the birthplace of our Holy Father, Saint Francis of Assisi. In our next publication the brothers will share about their pilgrimage to that holy city.

For your own growth and faith formation, check into the life of Saint Damien of Moloka'i, one of the newest saints of the Church! Saint Damien, Pray for us!



The brothers arrive early for the Mass of Canonization.

Saint Damien of Moloka'i

God of mercy,
We thank you for Damien,
brother to all,
father to lepers,
child of the Sacred Hearts.

You inspired in him
a passionate love for the life,
health and dignity
of those he found fallen
by the side of the road.

Thank you, for like Jesus
he knew how to love until the end.
Thank you, for like Mary
he knew how to give himself without reserve.

Thank you Father, for through Damien
you still inspire holiness
and passion for your kingdom.
Amen

Damien, brother on the journey,
happy and generous missionary,
who loved the Gospel more than your own life,
who for love of Jesus left your family, your homeland, your security
and your dreams,

Teach us to give our lives
with a joy like yours,
to be lepers with the lepers of our world,
to celebrate and contemplate the Eucharist
as the source of our own commitment.

Help us to love to the very end
and, in the strength of the Spirit, to persevere in compassion
for the poor and forgotten
so that we might be
good disciples of Jesus and Mary.

Amen. —Prayer of today's Superiors of St. Damien's community

Pope Benedict X ...excerpt

“Jozef De Veuster received the name of the Congregation of the Sacred Heart of Mary. When he was 23 years old, in 1857, he left his homeland, the land of his birth, to proclaim the Gospel on the other side of the world in the Hawaiian Islands.”

His missionary activity, which gave it a special character, reached its peak in charity. Not without sacrifice, he chose to go to the Island of Moloka'i, where the lepers who lived there, abandoned by their families, were exposed to the disease from which they suffered. The servant of the Word became a suffering servant, a leper with the lepers for the last four years of his life. In order to be able to minister to Fr Damien not only left his homeland but also his health: therefore as the word of Jesus proclaims today's Gospel says he received eternal life (John 1: 30).

On this 20th anniversary of the Canonization of another Belgian Saint, Bro. Mutien-Marie, the Belgian people has once again come together to thank God for the recognition of one of its sons, a true servant of God. Let us remember before all else that it is charity which makes unity, brings peace, makes it desirable. Following in St Paul's footsteps, St Damien prompts us to choose the good (1 Cor 1: 18), not the kind that brings division but that gathers people together. He invites us to be faithful to the forms of leprosy that disfigure the faces of our brethren and still today call for the charity of the Holy Spirit.



VI Praises Saint Damien

ated from his homily at the Mass of Canonization

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Fr. Damien's grave in Kalawao, Molokai.



Brs. Paul & Conrad await the Mass of Canonization.



The Holy Father, Benedict XVI, processes to the High Altar of St. Peter's Basilica at the beginning of the Mass of Canonization.



“Fr Damien displayed a particular form of holiness in his ministry; he was at once a priest, religious and missionary. With these three qualities, he revealed the face of Christ, showing the path of salvation, teaching the Gospel and working tirelessly for development.

“He organized religious, social and fraternal life on Molokai, at the time an island of banishment from society; with him everyone had a place, each one was recognized and loved by his brothers and sisters... While Damien was among the sick, he could say in his heart: ‘Our Lord will give me the graces I need to carry my cross and follow him, even to our special Calvary at Kalawao’.

“The certainty that the only things that count are love and the gift of self was his inspiration and the source of his happiness. The apostle of the lepers is a shining example of how the love of God does not take us away from the world. Far from it: the love of Christ makes us love our brothers and sisters even to the point of giving up our lives for them.”

— POPE JOHN PAUL II

HOMILY EXCERPT FROM THE MASS OF FR. DAMIEN’S BEATIFICATION

A New Saint for the Church... Damien of Moloka'i

"The story of Damien, like the lives of so many saints, can seem while noble, largely irrelevant to our own. Yet by reading the saints' lives carefully one can always find profound resonances with the lives of everyday believers.

What parent is not called upon to minister to a child when he or she falls ill, even at the risk of contracting an illness? Who among us is not called to stand with the outcast, with those whom polite society shuns either literally or metaphorically? Who is not called to do works of charity and love that may remain utterly hidden from the rest of the world. Think of the husband or wife caring for the spouse with Alzheimer's. Is this not a hidden act of charity? Think of the parent caring for a child with a cancer or an incurable illness. Even if the parent does not contract the illness, is this not a heroic deed? Damien is not as far from us as many would think.

When the faithful used to visit Mother Teresa and ask to work alongside her in Calcutta, she would sometimes say, 'Find your own Calcutta.' That is, care for the poor where you are. Perhaps the story of St. Damien says to us, 'Find your own Moloka'i.'"

By James Martin, SJ



Above Left: Brs. Paul and Conrad in Saint Peter's Square.



Left: The brothers with our dear friends Sister Louise (L) and Sister Margarit (R) of the Little Sisters of the Poor. The two sisters were previously stationed in St. Paul.



Right: Br. Paul gets ready for Christmas with some roasted chestnuts!

In Loving Memory



Robert S. Schindler, Sr.

OCTOBER 23, 1937 — AUGUST 29, 2009

Speak Out For Life on Roe v. Wade Anniversary

January 22, 2010 will mark the 37th anniversary of the 1973 Supreme Court Ruling, Roe vs. Wade, permitting abortions to be preformed into the ninth month of pregnancy here in the United States.

In more than 500 cities and in the nation's capitol various events will be occurring to commemorate this infamous day. There will be rallies for life, prayer services, special education gatherings, and a host of other activities.

We encourage everyone to participate in one of these many events. Check in your local area to see the time, date and place of the event nearest you.

Let us unite together and give witness to the inestimable gift of life each day, but especially this upcoming January 22, 2010.

Let us speak out for those who cannot speak for themselves. Let us proclaim the Gospel of Life with our lives and actions, for the love of God, and for the love of all made in His Image.



March 31, 2010: The International Day of Prayer and Remembrance for Terri Schiavo, and All Our Vulnerable Brothers and Sisters

On March 31, 2010, the Fifth Anniversary of the death of Terri Schindler Schiavo, the annual international day of prayer and remembrance for Terri Schiavo and all our vulnerable bothers and sisters will be held in major cities across the nation. A National Mass will be celebrated at Ave Maria University's Oratory near Naples, Florida at 5:15 p.m.

The Terri Schindler Schiavo Foundation, along with Priests for Life and the Franciscan Brothers of Peace, have established this day as a way to foster education, prayer, and activism to stop the discrimination perpetrated against disabled and otherwise vulnerable persons.

We invite all believers, places of worship and educational institutions to remember Terri Schiavo and to hold memorials to raise awareness and build support for the dignity

and protection of every human life, without regard for ability or "perceived value".

For more information on this special day of remembrance please visit the Terri Schindler Schiavo Foundation website:

www.terrisfight.org

"Euthanasia is a false solution to the drama of suffering, a solution unworthy of man.

We are certain that no tear, whether it be of those who suffer or those who stand by them, goes unnoticed before God"

— POPE BENEDICT XVI, FEBRUARY 1, 2009



Thanksgiving & Christmas Program

The Holiday Season can be very hard for our families in need, particularly during this time of economic crisis. To ease their burden we help them with emergency food for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Like last year, we humbly ask for your help with this important apostolate. **This year we need: Holiday turkeys and hams (we have the storage capacity!), instant mashed potatoes and stuffing mix, canned sweet potatoes, cranberries, corn, and pumpkin pie filling. Gift certificates come in handy for special cases and supplemental food needs. Thank you very much for your generosity, and may God bless you!**



FRANCISCAN BROTHERS OF PEACE

*As Catholic Religious Brothers,
we are united in reverence for the Father's gift of life to all
and seek to honor His Son, Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,
by sharing the Good News of Life, Love, Mercy and Compassion.*

*We invoke the Holy Spirit — Lord and Giver of Life,
the Infinite Font of light and life, strength and consolation.*

*Inspired by the life of Saint Francis of Assisi
and of our beloved founder, Brother Michael Gaworski, fbp,
we dedicate our lives to advancing the Gospel of Life
as proclaimed by our Holy Father of blessed memory,
Pope John Paul the Great, and in union with
His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI and his successors.*

*We recognize the inestimable value of each and every human life
from conception to natural death.*

*We pray for God's grace and strength as we strive
to give witness to the sanctity of life.*

*And we pray that all we do, both in word and in action,
will be holy, true, and according to His most perfect will.*

*May Father, Son and Holy Spirit — the GOD of LIFE
reign in our hearts forever! Amen.*

**Franciscan
Holy
Hour**

Every First Friday at 7:00 p.m.
Adoration + Franciscan Crown Rosary
Chanted Compline + Benediction
Refreshments and Fellowship follow.
Free-will offerings gratefully accepted.