



10 July 2007, #125

Capuchin Vocation Update Province of St. Joseph

Our Capuchin Franciscan Charisms (Reprinted with permission from *Peacemakers*, the vocation publication of the NY/NE Capuchins.)

(Different people have different ways of describing what makes Capuchin Franciscan life distinctive from other forms of religious life. Capuchin Jack Rathschmidt recently spoke on this theme with candidates for the New York/New England Province of Capuchins focusing on five charisms of the Capuchins: Fraternity, Minority, Contemplation, Ministry, and Justice-Peace-Ecology. Jack lives in Boston where he is Provincial Director of Initial Formation.)

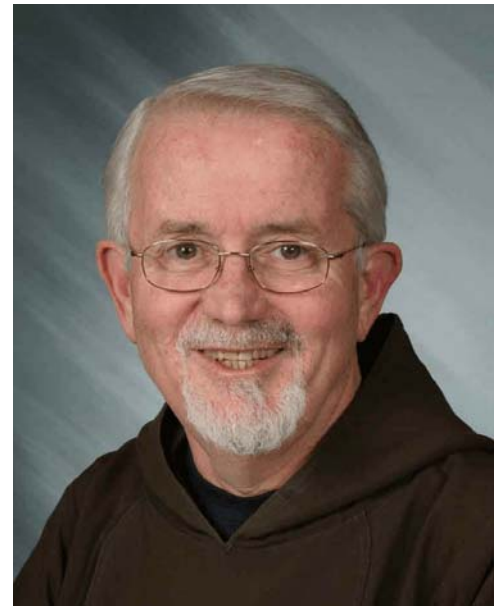
Imaging the Order as a wagon with four wheels, Jack suggested that **Fraternity** was the wagon itself. Having four walls, the wagon of fraternity holds us closely together and protects us with prayer, time together and our vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. The other charisms are the wheels of the wagon which get us from place to place as itinerants.

Minority, the first wheel, is our promise to live in fraternity as equals seeking no power over one another or others, but only power with others. As Francis chose to identify totally with the poorest of the poor (minores), so we do likewise. Therefore minority is about our relationships with one another. We are brothers, equals, men seeking to live transparent and transformative lives, not through the random exercise of power over others, but as a community of believers in whom others find the good news.

Contemplation, the second wheel, is our food. By committing ourselves to quiet prayer, reflection and attentiveness to God in all creation, we protect ourselves from self absorption, accept our faults and gifts alike, and prepare ourselves to be active listeners to all those who seek our counsel and service.

Ministry, our third wheel, is our way of serving. Discerned by the community, our fraternal ministries should always be chosen through the lenses of minority and contemplation. In this way, we can say clearly to the church who we are. Formed as minors and contemplatives, therefore, we seek to serve the poorest of God's holy people and we choose those ministries in concert with the local churches in which we serve.

Justice, Peace, and Ecology, our last wheel, is natural to us. Grounded, as brothers, in minority, and committed to contemplation, our eyes are wide open to injustice. Doing justice and building peace is our way of being in solidarity with the people to whom we are sent, working with them to change the world and build God's reign.



Jack Rathschmidt

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37 people attended the first summer candidate BBQ. We'd like to see you at the next one!

Chicago Candidate BBQ
Supper served at 5:30pm on Sunday,
July 22nd

Please make your reservation with
Vocation Director Bill Hugo

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313-595-2182