



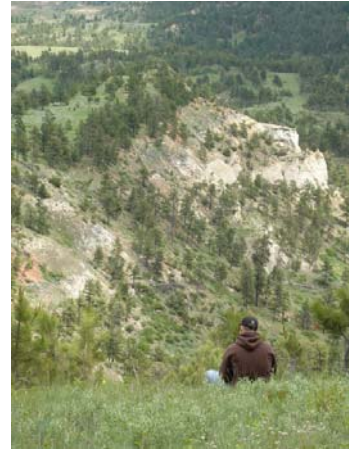
2 July 2009, #195

Post-Novices Return from Montana

By Mark Joseph Costello, Post-Novitiate Co-Director

Six of the seven friars in post novitiate gathered recently with their formation directors for their twice-yearly Integration Seminar. The seminar, held in Montana, took place from June 1st through the 15th. Hosted mainly at St. Labre Mission in Ashland, the seminar was coordinated by **Mark Joseph Costello** and **Peter Kutch**, the post novitiate directors. This Integrating Seminar is a time for the men in post novitiate formation to step back from their academic programs and ministry in order to reflect on these experiences in light of their discernment process.

The gathering addressed the topic of *Crossing Cultural Boundaries*, using direct experience, witness talks by ministers and Native Americans who addressed the group. Other activities included a number of prayer experiences including two Sweats – one in the Cheyenne tradition and the other “Crow style”.



After settling in at Ashland, **Paschal Siler** showed the friars the School and parish facilities. Prayer was held at the St. Labre Church and some parishioners joined the “Chicago crowd” during the two-week period that Ashland served as the base for the trip. The group traveled to Lame Deer and participated in a Sweat after an introduction to the area by Deacon Joseph Kristufek. Charles Little Old Man shared prayer and wisdom with the friars before conducting their first sweat.



Charles Robinson welcomed the friars to St. Dennis Church in Crow Agency where they got the opportunity to see the Crow Series painting by John Guilianni. Though damaged by the church fire from a few years ago, their sensitive portrayal of the life of Mary and Christ in Crow forms and figures still shine. Charles also accompanied the group to the nearby *Battle of the Little Big Horn* site. The group was impressed with their experience at the site. Presented by the Park Service using the words of four of the participants, the presentation of the battle as the culmination of two cultures in conflict seemed

balanced. A recent monument to the Native Americans who also perished at this site offered another opportunity to reflect on the tragedy of the history of relations between the United States government and Native Americans.



Paschal Siler (standing) & Jim Antoine (right)



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Vocation Update



Jim Antoine, Mitch Frantz, Mark Romanowski, and Kent Bauer

The group traveled to Pryor where **Randolph Graczyk** prepared the Crow styled sweat. The group was joined by Crows from the area and afterward the group enjoyed a wonderful meal prepared by Dolph. The group “camped out” at his house and the house next door. The following day Dolph toured the friars and gave a very informative presentation on Crow culture and his ministry over the years in Montana since 1975. The group traveled to St. Xavier and celebrated mass in the 1888 church (donated by Saint Katherine Drexel). **Charles Robinson** was on hand to introduce the friars to this significant place of ministry to the Crows. He also prepared a meal for the friars at Crow agency, before they made their way back to Ashland.



Randolph Graczyk

One resource for discussion and reflection that the seminar utilized was the Eric Law’s book *The Wolf Shall Dwell with the Lamb – A Spirituality for Leadership in a Multicultural Community*. The group reflected on the film *Two Rivers* – a documentary about Euro and Native Americans in Northern Washington state working at understanding and appreciating each other after years of mistrust and separation.

Other contemporary films by Native American filmmakers - *Powwow Highway*, *Smoke Signals*, *Skins*, *Dance me Outside* - were shown to allow the group to immerse themselves in the themes, humor and culture of contemporary reservation life. *The West*, a PBS documentary and *500 Nations* were two other excellent films that were made available to flesh out the historical treatment of Native Americans. The friars reflected on a number of issues and themes aided by a combination of personal witnesses, firsthand experiences, reading, Native prayer, discussions and film.

The friars in post novitiate formation were then led on a five retreat by **James Antoine** and Deacon Joseph Kristufek. Entitled *Living in the Christ Mystery*, the days together focused on five moments in the Christ Event. Each day James shared prayer, scripture, Franciscan sources and personal experiences working with Crow and Cheyenne people. The events of Christ’s incarnation, baptism, temptation, passion and resurrection formed the structure for the five days. The grandeur of Montana vistas and landscape provided spectacular places to pray and reflect. Charles Little Old Man also was on hand to lead prayer, share stories and insights from the Cheyenne tradition.

On their final day the Integrating Seminar group traveled to St. Xavier once more to join in celebrating Corpus Christi with the Crow people. Impressed with the hospitality of the friars and the depth of spirituality shared by the presenters, the post novitiate friars made the long drive back to Chicago, only to travel a day later to their summer ministry experiences.



Charlie Robinson in St. Xavier Parish

Vocation Update

WHERE ARE THEY NOW? – *summer activities for the friars in post-novitiate*

Zoilo Garribay is in Peru studying Spanish and living at Fraternidad Madre de Misericordia in Arequipa.

Todd Wieschowski is living at St. Bonaventure's, Detroit volunteering at the Soup Kitchen

Mark Romanowski is living at St. Benedict's Community working at the House of Peace and St. Ben's Meal Program.

Tom Nguyen and **Mitchell Frantz** are living and working with our senior friars at St. Fidelis Friary in Appleton, Wisconsin.

Joseph Lindzius is living and ministering at St. Clare of Montefalco Parish, Chicago.

Tien Dinh is living at St. Bonaventure's in Detroit while volunteering at the Solanus Center.



Candidate Rooftop Cookout!

Saturday, July 11,
4 P.M.
St. Clare Friary in Chicago

Contact Fr. John Holly 920-915-4400

jholly1953@yahoo.com or

Br. Jerry Johnson 773-475-6206

Vocation@capuchinfranciscans.org

For more information about the process to become a
Capuchin:

www.CapuchinFranciscans.org

