



10 November 2009, #213

Capuchin Vocation Update

Province of St. Joseph

Br. Todd's Prayer

by Br. Todd Wieschowski, O.F.M. Capuchin

(Br. Todd has been in the Capuchin Formation Program for over five years. He renews his vows of poverty, chastity and obedience with the Capuchins every year and will be discerning his perpetual vows in the near future. He lives at St. Clare Friary in Chicago while continuing his studies and formation in ministry, community, and prayer.)



My name is Br. Todd Wieschowski, and I do my studies in the Certificate Program for Pastoral Ministry and Care at St. Xavier University on the south side of Chicago. In one of the classes I am taking this semester on spirituality, we had to write a prayer while we spent an hour alone after reading the Genesis creation story.

The experience was very beautiful because I chose a very warm and sunny day to begin the assignment. As I read through the story, I was feeling moved inside my heart by the many images of the land in the Big Sky country of Montana where we had visited Capuchins last summer who were stationed there. There were many places that we experienced while we were out there that I could have used to compose a prayer, but one stands out more vividly than the others. To the end of our stay in Ashland, Montana, Charlie Little Old Man brought us to a place where he performed a ritual that is a custom of the Cheyenne.

We went to this place where the many Cheyenne would gather for a Sun Dance to be still and meditate and pray. As I looked out over the vastness of the valley below with mountains to the left and right, I began to really connect with and see the Genesis creation story. It was this experience that moved me to write this prayer for class. I thought that it would be nice to share some of my thoughts and prayers for Vocation Update.



capuchinfranciscans.org

1-773-475-6206

Vocation Update

All praise be to you God of all creation. God, you know that I have always loved that opening to all the prayers that Francis wrote. I am not before you to talk about him. I am before you in humility to say thanks.

Standing in your creation is very hard to understand. We, all people, are just a speck of dust in the vastness of creation. How? Why? Some believe in you and some do not, some call you by different names, yet you love them. You love your creation. No matter if humanity judges it and says it is bad or good, the point is that you love and care. Are you like dad? Sometimes, I try to picture what you look like and end up with the image of this old man with a white beard and long hair dressed in a white robe. Then, I remember that your image is mysterious and in all of humanity. God, you amaze me.

Yes, you amaze me. Here all this time people have been scientifically trying to find you and could not. Instead, you were right there under their noses. I tell people sometimes to go and heartfully enjoy the simple things of life, and that is where you can see the love of God. Yes, you can be found in the irritating mosquito that seems to buzz around my ear at night when I am trying to fall asleep.

I've never told that to anyone though.

One time while I was out in Montana, I know you recall that moment, you were there. I saw you, well, not physically, but I saw what you drew in the sky with your finger. You were like this little kid with finger paints.

You smeared them into a mess in the sky and created the most amazing sunset I have ever seen. You were there also atop the mountain. Do you remember? Of course you do. You know everything by name. Again, you let your hands carve out a path, you pushed the dirt and boulders to make mountains, and took your finger and cut a raging river. Then, to top it off, you painted a misty, hazy rainbow that cascades across to the other side.

I am sure that I have for gotten other things to thank you for, but I know that you will forgive me because perfection is not intended within. You love all that I have done, you have wept for the things I haven't, you pulled me back when I was lost, and rejoiced when I found myself. There isn't a day that goes by that I don't think of this. (Here comes the fatherly image), I love you for that and I thank you as well. You have been there for me all the time, even when I have strayed.

I may never know the answers to all my questions, and there are many. But who cares, you made us, we are here, and thanks. You gave me life.

Seeking more information about
the Capuchin Franciscans?

Call our office at 773-475-6206

or visit

www.CapuchinFranciscans.org

For a visit from Br. Jerry or

Fr. John, click on

["How to Begin"](#)

Wisconsin Ministry and
Discernment Weekend
for Candidates and
Inquirers

February 26 - 28, 2010

Milwaukee and Mt. Calvary

Visit Capuchins and their
ministries, spend time in prayer.

