



8 December 2009, #217

Capuchin

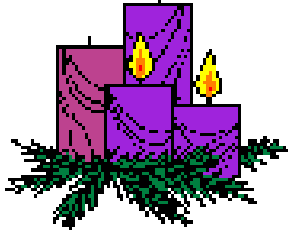
Vocation Update

Province of St. Joseph

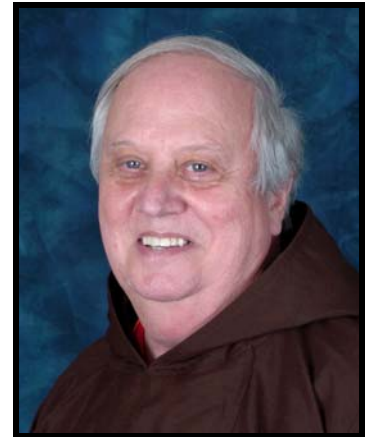
Incarnation: God's Initiative

Fr. Bede Louzon, O.F.M. Capuchin

(Fr. Bede currently serves as pastor at St. Mary Magdalen Parish just north of Detroit in Hazel Park Michigan.)



In this joyous season of the year we anticipate the coming of the Messiah the second time as he promised. We are to reflect upon the reason for this season to prepare the way of the Lord to come again into our hearts.



As a child I remember watching an old movie from the past. As the movie began it was in total darkness and within a few minutes you could see someone in the background lighting the gas street lights. As it drew forward the whole screen was in brilliant light. I was deeply moved by this vision as it reminded me of a world that was, and still is, in darkness awaiting the coming of the Messiah to bring light into the world and to remind us of the fact that we, like John the Baptist, are to announce that the light of Christ would come into this darkened world to bring light once again into our darkness. "Christ our Light" Come Lord Jesus and bring light again into our world of darkness.

There is a beautiful story that we can relate to the coming of the "Incarnation of Christ." It takes place in a small city in Wisconsin on a cold wintery night around the time of Christmas. A gentleman farmer was looking out the window from his farmhouse as he heard the sounds of a flight of geese who had fallen from the sky on their way headed south. They were confused and bewildered, the pond was frozen over and they were sliding and helpless. The farmer gathered his coat and warm gloves in pursuit to help them but they wouldn't follow.

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Vocation Update

He then opened the barn hoping they would come inside, but they were too confused. He felt so helpless and wanted so much to rescue them from their fright. He said if only I could become one of them, and then they would follow me. It was then that the man realized what the meaning of the "Incarnation" was, that we are like the geese who are sometimes lost and confused that he had to become one of them to rescue them and show them the way to safety. So Christ came as a tiny Child to become like us to rescue us from our own falling out of grace and the times that we are confused or bewildered. This is what Christmas is all about, God taking the initiative in love, by becoming one of us, inviting us to love one another as he has loved us.

From Wednesday of the 2nd Week of Advent:

Matthew 11:28-30

Jesus said to the crowds:

"Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened,
and I will give you rest.

Take my yoke upon you and learn from me,
for I am meek and humble of heart;
and you will find rest for yourselves.

For my yoke is easy, and my burden light."

Upcoming Vocation Weekends

Jan 15-17 Weekend for Candidates who are
St. Lawrence Seminary Alumni

Feb. 26-28 Milwaukee Ministry and
Discernment Weekend

March 12-14 Pre-Postulancy Information
Weekend, Milwaukee, WI

April 1-4 Triduum Retreat

New inquirers are welcome!
Contact Fr. John Holly 920-915-4400
jholly1953@yahoo.com or
Br. Jerry Johnson 773-475-6206
vocation@capuchinfranciscans.org
or visit www.CapuchinFranciscans.org
and click on <How to Begin>

ST. LAWRENCE SEMINARY ALUMNI WHO ARE CANDIDATES WEEKEND

To reserve a room, contact Br. Jerry or Fr. John

JANUARY 15-17, 2009

Friday 5 PM Arrival

**Ends with Sunday Brunch
MT. CALVARY, WI**