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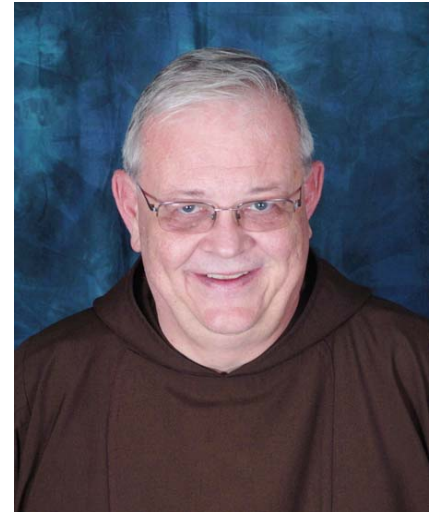
# Capuchin Vocation Update Province of St. Joseph

## Lent 2010: Second Chances and Sacred Changes

by Michael Zuelke, O.F.M. Capuchin

*(Fr. Mike Zuelke has served the Church over the years in a variety of ways but his primary ministry since the early 1970's has been as a preacher. For many years Mike has been part of the Capuchin Preaching Band: a group of friars who preach for parish missions and give talks at various retreat centers. This idea goes back to Bonaventure Frey, one of the founders of the Capuchin Province of St. Joseph, who would often preach for parish missions. Mike is currently stationed at St. Lawrence Friary in Mt. Calvary, Wisconsin and continues to do preaching ministry.)*

An advertisement for a popular dandruff shampoo states: “You never get a second chance to make a first impression”. True enough when it comes to meeting someone for the first time. We all remember a time when we met someone and did not make a good first impression. How hard it was to overcome that first impression the next time we met that person. We never seem to get a second chance to erase a negative first impression. Many times that first impression lasts forever in the mind of the other person.



Fortunately for us God does not follow this prescription. Lent is God’s season for Second Chances. We make so many excuses about why we can’t make changes in the sinful patterns of behavior that are so destructive to our truest and deepest desires for closeness with God. We know deep down that these patterns distance us from God and others, yet there they are, always visible to our mind’s eye. God enters our lives each Lent offering us a Second Chance to begin again to deal with all of these sinful patterns. This season of springtime renewal tells us that God will never give up on us. God showed this over and over again in dealing with the Chosen People of Israel. God showed this by sending Jesus as Savior and Redeemer. The Spirit continues to invite us all to make Sacred Changes out of the Second Chances God offers. We might view the Lenten Scripture readings from this perspective. What new doors might this way of reading the Sacred Texts open for us?

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# Vocation Update

We might use this prayer during Lent 2010: Loving God of Second Chances, you give me this holy season of Lent to help me reclaim original grace. You never fail to offer me a hand when I have fallen, a heart when I am broken and a shoulder when tears flood my life. Your Presence is brought to life in the person of your Son, Jesus the Christ. Through Jesus you invite me to renew and reform my life and to believe again in your goodness and the goodness of each person. You call me to make Sacred Changes by making choices that will reflect the hope you hold in your heart for me, for all people and for all creation. Give me the grace to know the sacred changes I need to make so that my life will be transformed this Easter when the New Life of Springtime floods the world at the Resurrection of Jesus.

## Upcoming Vocation Weekends

**Feb. 26-28** Milwaukee Ministry and Discernment Weekend

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

**April 1-4** Triduum Retreat  
St. Lawrence Friary and Seminary  
Mt. Calvary, Wisconsin

Reservations are required.

New inquirers are welcome!

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and click on <How to Begin>

## Recent Formation Events...

Capuchin postulants MJ Groark, Stephen Greco, and Craig McWade, just returned from a week-long retreat at Mount Alverno Retreat Centre in Orangeville, Ontario near Toronto. The retreat center is operated by the Capuchin Province of Mary, Mother of the Good Shepherd of which Craig is a member. The retreat, organized by Postulant Director Bill Hugo, centered around contemplation, a central Capuchin value. After long periods of inner city ministry in Milwaukee, this was a valuable time to reflect and pray about the experiences and the people they have met.

On Saturday, February 13, MJ, Stephen, Craig and Bill stopped in at St. Clare Friary on their way back to Milwaukee just in time for the celebration of Vietnamese New Year. The friars in post-novitiate formation at St. Clare Friary spent a lot of time preparing for meals and an evening liturgy.

