



1 June 2010, #240

Capuchin

# Vocation Update

Province of St. Joseph

## Two-Month Investiture Program Begins

Postulants gather for training before the start of novitiate



**MJ Groark, Stephen Greco, and Craig McWade are three of the fourteen men finishing their year of postulancy and preparing to receive their Capuchin habits for the beginning of the novitiate year on July 25.**

Fourteen postulants from Capuchin provinces across North America and the Pacific Islands began their two-month Investiture Program at St. Fidelis Friary in Victoria, Kansas on Memorial Day. One postulant from Ireland will also participate. The upcoming year of novitiate is a partnership of many Capuchin provinces. Therefore, the Investiture Program is a period where brothers from the different provinces can begin the process of coming to know each other's stories and backgrounds before the start of the novitiate year.

The first year of full-time Capuchin formation is called postulancy. Most Capuchin provinces have their own postulancy. However, the Capuchin Province of St. Joseph (Upper Midwest U.S.) and the Capuchin Province of Mary, Mother of the Good Shepherd (English-speaking Canada) work together for the postulancy year located at St. Conrad Friary in Milwaukee. The second year of full-time Capuchin formation is the novitiate year. The novitiate is located at St. Conrad Friary near Pittsburgh, PA. After the novitiate year, these brothers go back to their respective provinces to make first vows and begin their formal theological studies and continue to integrate the many components of healthy religious life such as prayer, ministry, spiritual direction, community life, and study.

The year of postulancy tends to be more ministry driven while the year of novitiate tends to be more prayer driven. The three to five year period after novitiate is where the brothers learn to integrate and balance the various Capuchin values before making final vows. Of course, this work is never done: It is a lifelong journey. During the short-term Investiture Program, guys will follow a structure of prayer, community life, and ministry. Classes given by the three Capuchin Investiture

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St. Fidelis Friary in Victoria, KS. The church is on the left.

Program directors and guest lecturers will include topics such as contemplative prayer forms, conflict management, Franciscan Spirituality, cultural sensitivity, and personality inventories. The brothers are gathering from a wide variety of ages, economic backgrounds, regions, and cultures. The Investiture Program is designed to help the brothers learn the skills necessary to begin to value these differences among themselves and among the people with whom they will minister in the future. Through these experiences, they will grow more deeply into the Capuchin charisms as they embark on a lifelong journey of service to the Church.



Located in the Mid-America Province of St. Conrad, St. Fidelis Church, popularly known as the "Cathedral of the Plains," draws more than 16,000 visitors every year.



Craig McWade, Stephen Greco, Frank Grinko, MJ Groark and Kent Bauer. Frank is one of the directors of the program and Kent is a friar who helped transport the guys down to Victoria from Chicago. Kent missed the Indy 500, but he did travel for a roundtrip total of 26 hours in less than a 38 hour period. Not bad!

## *How does one begin to discern a religious vocation?*

Contact Fr. John Holly 920-915-4400  
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or visit [www.CapuchinFranciscans.org](http://www.CapuchinFranciscans.org)  
and click on <How to Begin>

## Candidate Rooftop Cookout

Sat. July 3, 2010

St. Clare Friary, Chicago

Arrival: late afternoon

Grill time: around 7 PM

Contact Br. Jerry or Fr. John for reservations