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Faces of Novitiate: Meet Br. Richard Reinhardt

by Br. Brian Stacey

(The inter-provincial Capuchin Novitiate is located at St. Conrad Friary near Pittsburgh, PA. The novitiate is composed of men from English-speaking Capuchin provinces in North America, the Pacific Islands, and Australia. Br. Brian Stacey is a member of the St. Augustine Province of Capuchins and is currently with Br. Rich in the novitiate. Br. Rich is from the Province of St. Joseph and is preparing for the First Profession of Vows ceremony along with the rest of the men in novitiate. After his first profession of vows this summer, Br. Rich will be living at St. Clare Friary in Chicago for a 3-5 year period of formation called post-novitiate. With the grace of God, Br. Rich, along with Br. Vito Martinez, Br. Parker Tiffany, and with Br. Quan Nguyen will be professing their First Vows on July 31 at St. Francis Parish in Milwaukee in the Capuchin Province of St. Joseph.)



Br. Rich Reinhardt

Through bedtime prayers and Bible stories, the Word of God reached the ears of Br. Rich at a young age. During his formative years, that same Word would quickly take root and blossom, guiding him on a journey of faith that would eventually lead him to the doors of the Catholic Church and to the Capuchin Order. Richard credits his first experiences of Christ to his mother's nightly prayers and reading of Bible stories along with his Mennonite schooling.

By the time he entered the first grade, Rich and his family moved to West Chester, PA and eventually began attending the local United Methodist Church. It was here that a firm foundation was laid for his faith in Christ. Bright and precocious, Rich possessed a deep understanding of his faith, especially after being exposed to issues of Christian justice and service in foreign missions by instructors in his local Church community. After much inquiry and exploration of other Christian traditions, Rich's discovered the beauty of Catholicism and eventually entered the Church at age 13. One of the first parish missions he attended was preached by Fr. Scott Seethaler, OFM Cap. Fr. Scott was very well received by the parish and especially by Rich. It was his first interaction with a Capuchin friar, and it certainly wouldn't be his last.

As he grew older, Rich also grew more in love with the Church, most especially with materially and spiritually impoverished people.

While in high school, Rich was able to immerse himself in efforts to help the homeless and elderly in his home town at his own parish. His desire to help the poor didn't cease at the local level. Issues of poverty and justice overseas set his gaze towards Northern Uganda, which led him to the point of traveling there himself. There Rich was able to meet poverty, sickness, and desolation face to face, and his love and compassion for the poor grew stronger. Yet, this wouldn't be his last meeting with Lady Poverty.



The Inter-Provincial Capuchin Novitiate Class 2009/10

Vocation Update

After graduation, from high school he moved to Boston where he lived and worked in the Haley House: a Catholic Worker establishment that gave Rich new experiences of community life, prayer, and the corporeal works of mercy. After a year at Haley House, Rich felt the desire to continue a life lived in a community, prayer, and service, but in a



Here is a photo from the fall of 2008 when Rich began his year of postulancy at St. Conrad Friary in Milwaukee, WI

different manner. He was eventually directed to the Capuchin Franciscans of the St. Joseph Province. "I wanted to lived in community with prayer rooted in the Christian tradition, where these things would help me become a more loving and compassionate person and help me work for justice," Rich recalls.

For Rich, the Capuchins were the ticket. He entered postulancy in the summer of '08 and has continued to learn and grow with his experiences of Church and the Capuchin Franciscan charism. This fall, after professing simple vows, he'll be attending DePaul University to pursue his Bachelor's Degree. In his spare time, Rich loves running, swimming,

reading, and meeting new and interesting people. When he's not listening to Lady Gaga or reading the New York Times, you'll most likely find him immersed in different global issues and spiritualities.

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.
See contact details to the left.
Guest rooms available for travelers

First Profession of Vows Ceremony

Saturday, July 31, 2010
St. Francis Parish, Milwaukee
10:30 AM Mass

How does one begin to discern a religious vocation?

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>