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Faces of Novitiate: Meet Br. Vito Martinez

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. Vito in the novitiate. Br. Vito 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. Vito will be living at St. Clare Friary in Chicago for a 3-5 year period of formation called post-novitiate. One of the main activities during post-novitiate is formal ministerial and theological studies. With the grace of God, Br. Vito, along with Br. Rich Reinhardt, 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.)



While selling used cars in Kentwood, Michigan (a suburb of Grand Rapids) Vito Martinez had one of those God moments. After a long, bad day at work, Vito was surfing on the internet and came across the Vocation page for the Diocese of Grand Rapids. “I had a good job, apartment, girl-friend, and things I was told would lead to happiness, but obviously I was miserable,” recalled Vito. Seeing the web site brought him a moment of clarity and direction.

Vito, an Iowa City, Iowa native, began to write a blog about his search for God and a vocation. “I didn’t know to whom to talk with about my experience since I was not going to church regularly,” commented Vito.

After this conversion experience a parish priest, who knew Vito was looking into religious life, suggested the



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Capuchins because of their well known work with the Capuchin Soup Kitchen. It was the fraternal spirit of the Capuchins that drew Vito to the Capuchins of St. Joseph Province. “When I went to Chicago the hospitality and the example they showed really stuck with me,” Vito noted.

Vocation Update

Vito has been keeping himself busy by kicking around the soccer ball, blogging, hitting golf balls and more recently making rosaries. “I found rosary making as a prayerful way to stay out of trouble,” Vito joked. His hobby of making rosaries has gone from making them for the novices, then friars from various provinces and now even perfect strangers who have sought out the rare find of habit rosaries.

In the future Vito hopes to use his talents and abilities with computers and the internet to reach out to others, “I think if we are a missionary Order, we need to go to where the people are.”



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>

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**