



27 July 2010, #248

Peruvian Capuchins Help Br. Tien Learn Spanish

Student-friars sent to Peru for cross-cultural fraternity experience and language studies



A reality and opportunity that confronts the Church in the United States is the need for Religious Orders to respond to the needs of the Spanish-speaking community. Another no less important reality and opportunity is to experience Capuchin life as it is expressed in different cultures. With these two ideas in mind, the Capuchin Province of St. Joseph has begun sending friars in post-novitiate studies to the Capuchin Province of Peru. Last summer Zoy Garibay spent three months in Peru to live and study with the friars. This summer, it is Tien Dinh's turn. Tien spends some of his time taking formal Spanish classes, but the majority of his learning comes from constant communication with the Peruvian friars in post-novitiate studies while working, praying, studying, and recreating. The timing is perfect for Tien to take part in the normal community schedule in Peru because it is winter there now and classes are in full-swing. The Peruvian friars understand his purpose for being there and they are truly an incredibly warm and hospitable group. Hospitality, a worldwide Capuchin trait, is joyously celebrated by the friars there.

Tien has already completed four full years of Capuchin formation in the Province of St. Joseph in the United States and is scheduled to return to St. Clare Friary in Chicago in mid-August.

Hermano Alfredo Miranda, the Capuchin director of formation for the Province of Peru, states that the two goals for Tien are to experience Capuchin fraternal life within the context of Peru and to improve his Spanish. Hno. Alfredo says that Tien's Spanish has improved and he has integrated well into the Capuchin fraternity of Madre de Misericordia in Arequipa, Peru. Tien has developed good relationships with the friars and is often seen conversing and laughing in his unique humorous style. Because Tien has already had to adapt to American culture from his Vietnamese background, he already had some tools and skills to adapt.

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Standing on the roof of the friary of Madre de Misericordia in Arequipa, one can see the parish on the left and the parish center straight ahead.



Vocation Update

Tien says that his biggest blessing in Peru has been the Capuchin brothers. He says they have been very nice, have made him feel at home, and are always making sure he has what he needs. They include Tien in their church ministries and help him to develop his language skills by constantly asking questions and conversing with him. Tien's first language is Vietnamese, so being immersed in another language context is not new to him. It is clear, however, that the hospitality of the Peruvian friars is making his time much more rich and enjoyable. According to Tien, the Capuchin values of brotherhood and helping the poor are similar to what he finds in the United States. Tien says, "The brothers in Peru enjoy the presence of each other. They spend a lot of time together by eating, praying, watching movies, and playing sports. They have a lot of fun talking, joking, and seeing each other. They build a strong community by interacting with each other."



Some of the Capuchin Friars who are in post-novitiate studies at Arequipa with Tien

On August 19, The Capuchin friars of St. Joseph will welcome Hermano Juan Carlos Vivanco to the United States to study English for the semester and to live at the post-novitiate house of studies, St. Clare Friary, in Chicago. Hno. Juan Carlos is in the post-novitiate stage of formation in his province in Peru and he knows Zoy and Tien from Arequipa. Juan Carlos will be a wonderful addition to the local Capuchin fraternity in Chicago. Hno. Alfredo Miranda will accompany Juan Carlos on the flight to Chicago and will also visit the province for a number of days. We joyfully wait for Tien's return, and we give a big hearty welcome to Juan Carlos and Alfredo!



Hno. Alfredo Miranda, left, and Hno. Juan Carlos Vivanco, right.



Birthday celebrations for Tien!



Tien's Aunt, Sr. Teresa, and two other sisters from the Congregation of Nuestra Señora de las Misiones stop by for a visit on Tien's birthday

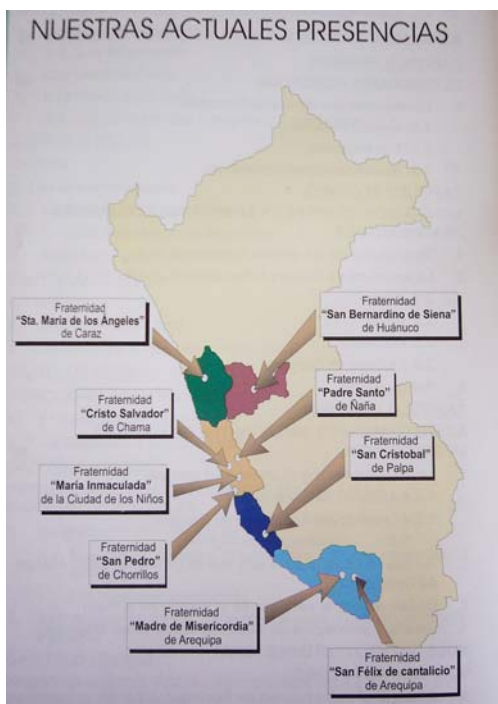


Solemnly professed friars along with those friars in temporary vows who live in Arequipa travelled to Lima for a visit with the Capuchin General Minister, Mauro Jöhri, who flew in from Rome.



"Welcome Br. Mauro Jöhri" Br. Mauro came to Lima to have a fraternal visit with the Province of Peru.

Vocation Update



Director of Formation Bill Hugo and Vocation Director Jerry Johnson were graciously welcomed at the Novitiate in Caraz after visiting Tien in Arequipa.



Some things don't change. Tien working hard at dishes in Arequipa



Cap Corps Volunteers from the Province of St. Joseph work with the Peruvian friars to help run a school for disadvantaged children called "Ciudad de Los Niños" in Lima. Pictured from left to right are Alyssa Welch, Br. Bill Hugo, Br. Hugo Mejia (director of the school), Br. Jerry Johnson, Br. Tien Dinh, Tania Brown, and Michael Beard.



"Es Mi Peru!" The friars celebrate life along with the visit of Br. Mauro.



The post-novitiate friar computer lab at the friary where Tien lives in Arequipa. Friars study at the nearby Universidad Católica de Santa Maria.



First Profession of Vows Ceremony

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

Discerners who would like to attend, please contact:

Fr. John Holly 920-915-4400
jholly1953@yahoo.com or
Br. Jerry Johnson 773-475-6206
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or visit www.CapuchinFranciscans.org
and click on <How to Begin>