



Friar News

SAINT JOSEPH OF CUPERTINO PROVINCE | SPRING 2019 | CONVENTUAL FRANCISCAN FRIARS

My dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

In this Easter season, we are able to celebrate the hope that lives in us. It is a hope that rises from our faith in the saving dedication and commitment of Jesus. Unfortunately, our world is less religious and thus more depressed.

Thankfully, the values that come from living in the knowledge of the love of God transform us and allow us to face, to endure and to overcome the burdens and the challenges of daily life. Our faith lets us look to the future and the great things that God has waiting for us. Jesus walked through the valley of death, obedient to the Father, and triumphed, renewed in the manifestation of a magnificent glory.



Fr. Victor visiting with one of the longtime residents of the Hansen's Disease (Leprosy) Care Center in Van Mon, Vietnam where our Friars minister.

My travels over the last six months have taken me to Rome, to Vietnam and to many points in between. What a joy it has been to see the excitement of the young Friars, the hopes for the future and the hard work of those in the trenches of ministry. Whether they have the peach-fuzz of young Franciscans or the thinning grey hair of bent over elder men, they are our brothers in faith, in hope and in love. They constitute the successes and failures of the past and the vision and bright anticipation of the years to come.

You who have worked with the Friars and supported them through the years deserve to participate in my (our) joy. May the love of God, which Jesus caused to burst forth in our world in a limitless way, be your strength, support and comfort now and in the future, overwhelming any darkness. And may you have a hope that never stops expanding and that gives great light to your lives.

In Francis and Clare,

Rev. Victor P. Abegg, OFM, Conv.
Minister Provincial, Conventual Franciscans of California



Friar George Cherrie (1936 – 2019)



On Easter Sunday the Lord took Friar George Edmond Cherrie, Jr., O.F.M. Conv., to Himself after a sudden and brief illness. Brother George entered the Order in 1992 as a candidate, was simply professed in 1995 and made his lifetime (solemn) vows in 1999.

George had a 35-year career with the Bank of America serving in both South and North America. He rose to one of the highest positions as General Auditor, reporting to the Chief Executive Officer and the Board of Directors. During his last seven years with the Bank, he became active in the ministries in San Francisco. That included the Suicide Prevention effort, the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, parish activities and support for the poor.



As a Friar, Brother George continued his efforts. He was a superior, a Councilor to the Provincial, an advisor on financial matters, including his role as Provincial Treasurer. He was called upon to assist with the annual San Francisco AIDS Walk, the Diabetes Association fund raisers and the needs of

the parishes in which he lived.

His longest service was with Saint Mary's Medical Center. There he began as a volunteer in the pastoral care area. He worked to earn a certification as a Chaplain by the National Catholic Chaplains Association. Rising from volunteer in 1992 to Director of Mission Services in 2002, Brother George became the Vice President for staff and facilities for many years.



The Goals of the Friars

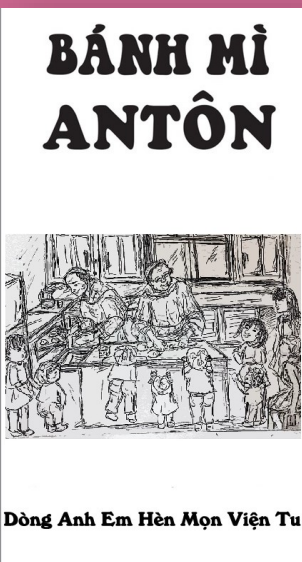
The communities of Friars worldwide have many different goals to accomplish. In our Province and especially in the Vietnam Delegation, a primary goal is to seek those that God is sending us as new brothers in the community. In Vietnam, there are 12 aspirants, 12 postulants, 2 novices and 15 professed students. Obviously it is a country rich in vocations. Stateside, there are 5 students at different levels, one new postulant for next fall and 6 men who participated in our recent "Come and See" weekend at the Novitiate in Arroyo Grande. Vocations are sparse in the traditionally Catholic parts of our world. So we are grateful that we have the numbers that showed up. Please pray that the Lord will send us more men who are interested in our life and fraternity.

A second goal is to be helpful to the poor and to walk with them in their struggles. This is done in the work of our parishes in the United States and other types of outreach. In Vietnam, the needs are different, but real. On Saturday, the Friars make a huge cauldron of soup, which they wheel on a tricycle cart to the local hospital to feed the patients. The hospitals don't supply the food—families or hired assistants do. Also on Saturday, the Friars at another house work with many volunteers to bake "Saint Anthony's Bread," which is

distributed far and wide to the needy. It is amazing to watch 800 to 1200 loaves of six-inch bread being prepared (some with chocolate and some with coconut). Each is put into a paper bag which has on it a picture of Friars distributing bread to children (see picture to the left). And the Friars in northern Vietnam have the leper colony across the street from them.

Beyond the first two goals, the Friars attend to their ministries in parishes, in hospitals, in migrant camps, etc.

There is a strong commitment to education with schools attached to three of our five parishes (600 to 700 students total). Many more public school students come for faith formation to prepare them for their sacraments.



Our Gratitude to our Supporters!

The Friars wish to thank all our supporters who have offered monetary donations during the last year. The matching grant efforts of the Viva Francis Foundation, for example, yielded nearly \$35,000, which paid for 10% of the



construction costs of the new formation house in Vietnam (see picture). That house was dedicated on March 2 and we anticipate that it will be full in the fall (22 students). Donations to the training of the students continues to help us give them experiences that go

beyond the classrooms and the

house in which they live.

Among our older Friars, Father

Allen Ramirez

(pictured to the

right) is now residing

at Nazareth House in



Day of Dedication



Los Angeles. There may be the need for this type of

residential living for others in the future. Your

support gives them the care they deserve after so

many years

of dedicated

ministry.



He is Risen! Alleluia!

Lent and Easter Around Our Parishes:



A Scene from a powerful Passion Play at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish Hermosa Beach.

Below: Ecumenical Taize Prayer Services throughout Lent put on by the Shrine of Saint Anthony Young Adult Community in Ellicott City, MD. This is a ministry run by our student Friars, including our own Friars Israel and Chris.



Pastor of St. Paul's, Pismo Beach Fr. Jacob Carazo with Novices and Novice Director Brother Joseph Wood.

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