Summertime, and the livin’ is easy.” So goes the song from “Porgy and Bess” by George Gershwin. But I wonder how hot it really was that summer long ago, and how easy the “livin” really was. Right now I thank God for the invention of air-conditioning, since predictions indicate that this summer may continue to break heat records and the weather in Manhattan has been particularly oppressive.

Anyway, these are the days you wish you were at the beach, or in a swimming pool, or at the South Pole! Or how about summers in Alaska? Yes, that’s the place to be. The days are sunny and clear, and never hot enough to be uncomfortable or annoying.

People seem to find a host of ways to say cool. Some of us may find refuge at the beach. Usually the first thing on our minds is finding a good spot on the sand, one close enough to the water, but not too crowded with people. Maybe we can rent an umbrella from one of the vendors, pitch a tent, so to speak, and spend a relaxing afternoon out of the direct sunlight. All through the day various people would come by selling cold drinks, ice cream, hot dogs, and other items to eat or drink. We’d spend part of the afternoon in the water, in the surf or laying on a blanket.

There are some things that never change. People seek the beach today just as much as in the past. Even during the time of Jesus, people went to the seashore. If you ever wonder why so much of Jesus’ early ministry takes place at the shores of the Sea of Galilee or the Jordan River, it’s because that’s where people went to cool off. It’s where Jesus called Peter and Andrew and James and John to be his first disciples, walked on the water, preached to the crowds, and worked many miracles.
crowds, and worked many miracles.

Summer can be a relaxing time, but it can also be a time for spirituality. Taking time to pray, or reading a spiritual book, saying a rosary, or even reading the bible can be spiritually refreshing for us. Maybe summer vacation affords us some special time off. Sometimes the summer heat forces us to take it easy and not work as hard. So, let’s face it- we don’t exert a lot of calories, or work up a sweat when we pray.

This month we celebrated the feast of Saint Bonaventure. We know that he wrote: "Whoever wishes to ascend to God must first avoid sin, which deforms our nature; he must pray to receive restoring grace; he must lead a good life to receive purifying justice; he must meditate, to receive illuminating knowledge; he must practice contemplation, to receive perfecting wisdom." Summer affords us an opportunity to take time out of our busy schedules to pursue these things, especially meditation and contemplation. Looking out at the crashing surf or gazing at nature from a lofty mountain can do wonders for our spiritual lives.

It is important for us to take some time off- whether an occasional day off away from the parish or friary, or taking some vacation time at the seashore or the mountains, or even going on a spiritual retreat. But whatever we do, we should take advantage of any “down” time we may have to grow in our spirituality.

So, happy summer, folks, and I hope we all find a way to stay cool.

Blessings and peace,

Fr. Robert Campagna, OFM
Provincial Minister
POSTULANT UPDATE FOR JULY 2018

The three postulants (Jack Sidoti from Winsted, Daniel Cavalieri from Philadelphia, and Carl Green from Toronto) have returned home for their pre-novitiate vacations. They are to report to Convento San Francesco in Rome on August 22, and from August 26 to September 1, will have their pre-novitiate retreat at Monteripido. Then, on September 8, they will be received into the Order and be invested with their Franciscan habits and begin their novitiate at San Damiano Friary in Assisi. We hope they will be able to continue to give us updates during their novitiate year. Best wishes, Jack, Dan, and Carl.

Fr. Robert Campagna, OFM, Provincial Minister; Cardinal Sean O'Malley, OFM Cap., and postulants Daniel, Jack, and Carl.
Twelve provinces within the English Speaking Conference of Friars Minor met from July 1 through July 8 at the Alvernia Retreat Center in Wappinger Falls, NY. Hosted by the friars of the Immaculate Conception Province, the participants included the seven provinces of the United States, along with Christ the King and St. Joseph of Canada, the Province of Ireland, St. Casimir Vice Province of Lithuania and St. Paul the Apostle Province of Malta. Each day began with Morning Prayer followed by Mass, as prepared by various friars within the conference.

Directed by Br. Cesare Vaiani, General Secretary of Formation and Studies and Siniša Balajić, General Vice Secretary of Formation, the meeting was comprised of presentations, feedback and questions from our vocation directors, Secretaries of Formation and Studies and Secretaries of Ongoing Formation.

The opening Mass was celebrated by Br. Robert Campagna, OFM, Provincial Minister of the host Province of the Immaculate Conception, who welcomed the delegates to the congressus.

Preaching at the opening Mass, Br. Romano Almagno of IC encapsulated the Intercontinental Congressus’ theme of accompaniment and ongoing formation when he said, “The friars must form a suitable character before pretending that those who join us can take and personalize Gospel values.”

On Monday, July 2, Br. Ron Gliatta (ICP), our host for the congressus, presented a report highlighting the state of formation in the English Conference. This included the recent vote of six United States provinces to amalgamate into one province. These provinces are already benefiting with a unified initial formation program, including a combined postulancy program in Silver Springs, MD. Collaboration with other novitiate entities of the Franciscan family in Santa Barbara, CA has enhanced the novitiate experience, while the post novitiate in Chicago offers theological and ministerial praxis at Catholic Theological Union as well as other institutions of higher learning. Ron also pointed out several other highlights, including collaboration among our vocation directors, the interprovincial retreats, the development of websites serving our Franciscan family and the recent US Franciscan Policy Guidelines for
In his presentation later that morning on the Reciprocal Accompaniment in Fraternal Life, Cesare Vaiani highlighted the term “accompaniment,” which is used in our Constitutions for formation of friars. Derived from the Latin word comitatus, which is translated as personal contact, he highlighted that this role is not only of those directly responsible for initial formation, but all brothers within the order. “Accompaniment preserves the idea that God is the true formator,” said Vaiani, “but the brother formator is a companion sharing in the journey who must know his place.”

Br. Cesare noted the “Emmaus Methodology” from Luke, as well as the Letter to Brother Leo from St. Francis, where the developing mystery of the person is revealed after time, aided by one’s personal history and attitudes. In our Franciscan formation, there comes a point of integration of Christian and Franciscan values that allows the person to be at the disposal of God’s will. In his letter to Br. Leo, Francis allowed Brother Leo the freedom to discern his response to God’s call, while always being there for support.

“Every friar is a companion to all other friars” stated Vaiani, “and fraternal life is the usual form of accompaniment. It is also a lifelong process.”

On Tuesday, July 3, Br. Siniša Balajić presented “On Going Formation as an Accompaniment in Ordinary Life.” The gist of Br. Siniša’s talk was that for a friar, on-going formation is a lifelong process, not simply our initial formation or specific activities after solemn vows, such as retreats and workshops.

“While formation can correspond to our different stages of life, it is permanent,” said Balajić. “Everyday life is formative, where a positive outlook has to do with faith and recognizing God’s presence.”

Based on his talk, a lively discussion centered on the role of the guardian. While each friar has an individual responsibility in both accompaniment and on-going formation, the guardian’s role is critical to ensure the dynamics of a good, healthy community. This included good calendar planning for house chapters, days of recollection and retreats, and celebration of birthdays and anniversaries to gather the community. As one friar quipped, “We don’t need to make a new document on this, simply strengthen what we already know is good!”

On Wednesday, July 4, the role of the guardian was highlighted by Br. Niall O’Connell, a definitor of the Province of Ireland and guardian of Adam and Eve Friary in Dublin. He pointed out the guardian’s task of animating the fraternity and ensuring the on-going formation of community members. However, “they themselves must be committed to their on-going formation.”

“In Ireland, the guardians meet several times a year,” said O’Connell. “This provides an opportunity for the Guardian to reflect on his current reality and learn more about his role and responsibilities.” After a panel discussion on the Human, Christian and Franciscan Development components of on-going formation, the feedback after the presentation focused on the need to equip our guardians in their often difficult task of animating their fraternities, which included being sensitive to the increasing cultural diversity within our communities.
cultural diversity within our communities.

On Thursday, July 5, Br. Basil Valente of HNP gave a presentation on the role of Vocation Directors (animators), outlining creative ways he and his staff have prepared brothers of his province to be engaged in this important ministry. This involved not only personal contact with inquirers, but also use of the internet and social media. These “organic” communities throughout the province allow the inquirer to see in action a fraternity at prayer and recreation. Basil then introduced a panel of present Vocation Directors, who shared their struggles and hopes in their role as vocation animators.

On Friday July 6, the entire Congressus broke into smaller groups to produce a letter to Michael Perry, the General Council, Provincial Ministers and Custodies. In the letter, the following recommendations were made:

• a pool of formators be formed in each province and custody, as well as adequate training, to accompany our men throughout initial formation;
• the need to address the reality of expectations when a friar leaves initial formation and enters into the ordinary reality of fraternal life;
• the essential need for good accompaniment after initial formation;
• the necessity for on-going formation of our guardians to help them revitalize our fraternities;
• each fraternity to develop their own annual plan for ongoing formation since ongoing formation happens in the daily life of friars;
• training of Vocation Directors every three years within our conferences and
develop programs within our respective entities to foster and encourage younger inquirers during their time of discernment.

While the hope was these recommendations will be brought forth at the next General Chapter in 2020, they could in fact be implemented within our provinces and custodies now.

Later that Friday, the Congressus was treated by our host province to a boat tour around Manhattan, concluded by a wonderful Italian dinner in Yonkers, NY. A special thanks was given to Br. Ron Gliatta as well as some of our men in initial formation who assisted him, for the wonderful hospitality, food and other amenities shown all participants that week.

Brothers,
August Birthdays

Take time to wish our friars a Happy Birthday!

Romano Almagno - August 5, 1939 (79)
James Villa - August 6, 1943 (75)
Maurus Muldoon - August 8, 1938 (80)
Jimmy Zammit - August 11, 1955 - (63)
Regis Gallo - August 19, 1932 (86)
Charles Gingerich - August 24, 1948 (70)
Michael D’Cruz - August 26, 1930 - (88)
Aubert Marie Picardi - August 30, 1930 (88)

CONGRATULATIONS
2018
JUBILARIANS!

25 Years (First Profession)
  Michael Della Penna
  Vit Fiala
  Thomas Washburn
  James Welch II

50 Years (First Profession)
  Robert Camilleri
  Alfonse Ferreira
  James Goode
  Jack Hoak
  Joseph LaGressa
  Joseph Lorenzo
  Pierre Nguyenvan Van Quy
  Robert Siguere

50 Years (Solemn Profession)
  Dominic Poirier

50 Years (Priesthood)
  Amedeo Nardone

60 Years (Profession)
  Michael Travaglione
60 Years (Solemn Profession)
John Bavaro
Robert Caprio
Simeon Distefano
Flavian Mucci
Ralph Paonessa
Michael Travaglione

60 Years (Priesthood)
Alexis Anania
Guy Vellardita

65 Years (Profession)
Giles Barrreda
Albin Fusco
Frederick Mazzarella
Roland Petinge
Claude Scrima
Louis Troiano

65 Years (Solemn Profession)
Alexis Anania
Guy Vellardita

70 Years (Profession)
Roderick Crispo

80 Years (Profession)
Clement Procopio
**Friar Amedeo Nardone, OFM celebrates Fiftieth Anniversary of Priestly Ordination**

On July 7, 2018, Friar Amedeo Nardone, OFM celebrated the Fiftieth Anniversary of his ordination as a priest at Saint Jane Frances Church in North York, Toronto, Canada, where he has served as pastor since 2003. He was joined by friars, local clergy, parishioners, and friends for this joyous occasion. Friar Robert Campagna, OFM, Provincial Minister, joined Friar Amedeo on the altar, and Friar Jimmy Zammit, OFM, Provincial Definitor and Pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Church in Toronto, was entrusted with the homily. After the Mass the congregation gathered in the parish hall to congratulate Friar Amedeo, and afterwards, a dinner was held at DaVinci Hall, where a good number of friends, family, and friars attended.

Friar Amedeo was born in Cassino, Italy, and entered the Collegio Serafico of the friars in 1955. He was invested with the habit of St. Francis and began his novitiate in 1959 and was ordained a priest on July 1, 1968. After working in his home province, he arrived in Toronto in 1977. From 1979 to 1989, Friar Amedeo studied modern languages and literature at the University of Toronto, where he received B.A. and M.A. degrees, as well as a Master of Philosophy. He served as assistant pastor of Immaculate Conception Church in Toronto for 15 years, before becoming Pastor in 1992, a position he held until he was appointed pastor of St. Jane Frances.

As announced in last month's Newsletter, with this celebration Friar Amedeo officially retires as Pastor, but will continue in residence at St. Jane Frances. Friar Charles Grech, OFM, has assumed the duties of Parish Administrator.

Thank you, Friar Amedeo, for your many years of dedication and service.
Friar Mario Julian, OFM, Pastor of the Church of St. Anthony of Padua in New York City, tells us that this plaque has been installed in the church to honor the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany. Last month’s newsletter reported that the Sisters, who had ministered in the parish since 1874 and are
intimately linked with our Franciscan Province, departed from the parish. Much appreciation is given to the sisters for their devotion and service.

Eight Hundred Years of Service to the Holy Land

For 800 years, the Holy Land Franciscans have been entrusted with a sacred duty: guardianship of the most precious sites of the Christian faith. It all started back in 1217, when the founder of the Franciscan Order, St. Francis of Assisi, called the first chapter of his Order of Friars Minor. He sent his brothers out into the world to preach the gospel. Included in the first provinces he established was the Province of the Holy Land. The friars have been living and working in the region ever since.

The world of the Gospels
Fr. David Wathen, OFM, is director of the Franciscan Monastery Pilgrimage Office in Washington, D.C. He has been leading pilgrims through the Holy Land for nearly 30 years, and lived in the Holy Land for nine years. He shared his insights with us. Christians should see the Holy Land, the birthplace of Christianity, for themselves. Fr. Wathen explains: “The Gospel writers wrote with the assumption that their readers were familiar with the setting [of their stories]. These are the things the evangelists assumed. But we aren’t.” When people, “See the land with their own eyes, they ... have a better appreciation for the setting of the Gospel stories. This can enrich their faith. Now they can picture it in their minds.”

A powerful experience
To see the places where Jesus was born, grew to adulthood, led his ministry—all of these lead pilgrims to a greater appreciation and understanding of the mysteries of our faith. Fr. Wathen says, “To see firsthand where salvation history culminated in the life of
Fr. Wathen says, “To see firsthand where salvation history culminated in the life of Jesus Christ, especially in Jerusalem, to be able to walk the same path that Jesus walked, during the final days of his life on this earth—his Passion, death, and resurrection—is a powerful and faith-enriching experience.

“People tell me that the pilgrimage is one of the best experiences, if not the best experience, in their lives. Their faith has been strengthened. People can confront crises in their lives better.”

On a recent trip, Fr. Wathen was leading a woman who had lost her only son in an accident. She was having a difficult time confronting it. At a Mass, she was asked to give the reading about Abraham offering his son Isaac in sacrifice. It was a powerful experience. She saw it as God speaking to her directly, and helping her to better cope with this tragic loss in her life.

The “Fifth Gospel”
St. Jerome called the Holy Land pilgrimage the “fifth gospel.” Biblical scholar Bargil Pixner wrote, “Five gospels record the life of Jesus. Four you will find in books and one you will find in the land they call holy. Read the fifth gospel and the world of the four will open to you.”

It is important that people understand that a pilgrimage is not just another vacation, and the Holy Land friars aren’t merely tour guides—pilgrimage is a spiritual journey. The Holy Land Franciscans offer spiritual direction to pilgrims.

Fr. Wathen says, “Intellectually, you experience a tour. But a pilgrimage is more intimate, in that we’re not really being impressed by a gospel site because of its beauty. We’re not there for the aesthetics, we’re there for the message. And the message is a teaching of Jesus. Listening to the story of Jesus walking on the water on the Sea of Galilee while you’re on a boat in the Sea of Galilee ... Jesus slowly reveals himself to us as the Lord and Savior of the world. We want the pilgrims to have a close encounter with Christ. When you’re on a tour you pass through the site; when you’re on a pilgrimage the site passes through you.”

How safe is a Holy Land pilgrimage?
One of the main concerns of many considering a Holy Land pilgrimage is safety. Fr. Wathen reassures us: “The media typically presents the Middle East as a place where there is a lot of violence, a lot of conflict ... they give the impression that it’s an inherently dangerous place to travel, when in fact it’s very safe, because the area where recent conflicts have broken out is some distance from Jerusalem and Bethlehem. I’ve never seen any violence perpetrated against pilgrims that I have accompanied. And many have been pleasantly surprised to never feel any danger at all at any time.”

Not just pilgrimages
The Holy Land Franciscans have an important mission, and they do much more than lead pilgrimages. Throughout the region, they have established ministries, including the largest Roman Catholic parish church in Jerusalem, and parishes in Syria, Jordan, and Cyprus. They run a nursing home and daycare center in Bethlehem. Their work supports schools, scholarships, and affordable housing for Christians in the Holy Land. With the help of their Franciscan sisters, they run a home for boys.

And in the conflict zone of Aleppo in Syria, the friars are providing food, water, and aid to all they can, regardless of religious affiliation.
St. Francis sent his brothers out into the Holy Land to spread the Gospel. And 800 years later they are still doing this work.
**Journey into God**

*A Centennial Franciscan Retreat Experience*

**August 9-17, 2018**

**Mt. Alvernia Retreat House**  
**Wappingers Falls, NY**

**Friar Andre Cirino, OFM**  
**Josef Reisch, OFS**

For more information check out website:  
www.assisijourney.com

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**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

**RETREAT OPPORTUNITY**

Our Province Retreat has been scheduled for October 14–18, 2018 at Mt. Alvernia Retreat Center, Wappingers Falls NY. This retreat will held together with the Capuchin Franciscans of the St. Mary Province. The theme of the retreat is "From Mercy to Mission: Walking with St. Francis into the 21st Century." Retreat director will be Fr. Jack Rathschmidt, O.F.M.Cap. Retreat will be held Sunday evening through Thursday noon. For reservations, contact Fr. Gabriel Massaro: frgabem@aol.com or 845.489.5117. All our friars are invited to this retreat.
RESULTS OF PROVINCE PROPERTY POLL

110 ballots were mailed out.
80 were returned
2 were invalid because of lack of signature.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION FRIARY:
SELL - 58
DON'T SELL - 6
NOT SURE - 15

ST. CLARE FRIARY:
SELL - 67
DON'T SELL - 7
NOT SURE - 5

ST. JOSEPH FRIARY:
SELL - 56
DON'T SELL - 16
NOT SURE - 6
Transitions

Chaplaincy at Ave Maria University
The Minister Provincial is pleased to announce that our Province has been entrusted with the chaplaincy of Ave Maria University to commence this Fall. Friar Rick Martignetti, OFM has been named Director of Campus Ministry and will be moving to Ave Maria in August. The University is giving our Province a four bedroom house on campus for Rick and other Friars who may feel called to campus ministry.

Ave Maria is a private Catholic university in Southwest Florida, founded in 2003. It is situated 17 miles east of Naples, Florida. The current enrollment of the university is 1100 students, 85 percent of whom are Catholic. The university has an active faith life and sends students out as missionaries to places like Nicaragua and Calcutta. It has competitive sports teams and is a member of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA). AMU offers undergraduate and graduate classes in 34 majors, as well as a Doctoral degree in Sacred Theology.

Rick would love to host any friar who would like to come visit and to see the school. Please keep him and the students at Ave Maria in your prayers as our Province embarks on this exciting new endeavor.

Custody of the Immaculate Conception in Great Britain
Friar Aidan McGrath, OFM, the provincial minister of the Province of Ireland, has announced that Friar Michael Copps, OFM has been elected custos of the Custody of the Immaculate Conception in Great Britain. Friars Patrick Lonsdale, Anthony Jukes, and Michael O'Grady have been
Friars Patrick Lonsdale, Anthony Jukes, and Michael O'Grady have been named to the Custodial Council. Congratulations, brothers.

**Reception of Novices at Old Mission Santa Barbara**

On Monday, July 16, 14 new novices representing the six US provinces involved in the Renewal and Revitalization Process were received into the order at the Interprovincial Novitiate at Old Mission Santa Barbara. Our prayers are with the novices, as well as the novitiate formation team.

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**Down Memory Lane**

St. Nicholas Church, first church of the Province

Built in 1854 in Allegany NY, was a mission parish served by the friars, who traveled by sleigh or horse and buggy from their temporary base in Ellicotville NY. This is a copy of the watercolor painted by Joanne Conroy. The cornerstone for St. Nicholas Church was laid on July 12, 1854, and the church was named for St. Nicholas of Bari, patron of Nicholas Devereux, who donated the land. Mr. Devereux, an entrepreneur from Utica, New York, owned vast tracts of land in western New York and wanted this land to be used by Catholic priests for the local settlers. He made a pledge of $5,000 and 200 acres of land to any religious order who would send priests to serve in Cattaraugus County. The first friars, Friar Panfilo and his companions, arrived in New York on June 20, 1855, and Mr. Devereux met them and accompanied them to Ellicottville, where they stayed until moving to St. Bonaventure College in 1859. The friars commuted to St. Nicholas Church, but after the new monastery was built at St. Bonaventure College, the building was absorbed into the new St. Bonaventure Parish. The building was destroyed by fire in 1930.
St. Anthony Seminary, Catskill, Gardens

Subdeacon ordination, 1948
On
The Fiftieth Anniversary
Of
The Mount Alvernia Retreat Center
The Very Reverend Robert Campagna, O.F.M.
Minister Provincial
and
The Reverend Thomas Garone, O.F.M.
Guardian
Request the Honor of Your Presence
on
Sunday, September 16th, 2018 at 2:00 pm
Celebration of Holy Mass
Mount Alvernia Chapel

Followed by an Outdoor Reception

***********************
RSVP by August 16, 2018
by
Email: MtAlvernia50@gmail.com
or
Phone: Fr. Tom Garone at 845-297-5706 Ext.135
Please leave a message with your name and how many will be attending

Priests are welcome to concelebrate and should bring alb and white stole.

Prayer Requests
PLEASE PRAY FOR THESE FRIARS WHO HAVE RECENTLY DIED

Friar Robert Artman, OFM
Friar Albert McMahon, OFM
Friar William Scully, OFM (Holy Name Province)
Friar Walter Dolan, OFM (Sacred Heart Province)
Friar Method Wilson, OFM (Sacred Heart Province)
Friar Christian Mondor, OFM (St. Barbara Province)
Friar Leonard Lencewicz, OFM (Holy Name Province)
Friar Warren Zeisler, OFM (St. John Baptist Province)
Friar Laurence Dolan, OFM (St Barbara Province)

Recently Deceased Family and Friends
Sheila Washburn, mother of Friar Thomas Washburn, OFM, who passed into eternal life on July 9.
Maria Grazia Nardoianii, mother of Friar Antonio Nardoianii, OFM, who passed into eternal life on April 26.

Let us pray for our infirm friars:
Friar Charles Gingerich, OFM
Friar Daniel Morey, OFM
Friar Daniel Morey, OFM
Friar Amedeo Nardone, OFM
Friar Armand Padula, OFM
Friar Primo Piscitello, OFM
Friar Fabian Grifone, OFM
Friar Flavian Mucci, OFM
Friar Claudio Moser, OFM
Friar Charles Soto, OFM
Friar Clement Procopio, OFM

For our friars in skilled nursing facilities:
Friar Philip Adamo, OFM
Friar Giles Barreda, OFM
Friar Lawrence Stumpo, OFM

For our infirm family and friends:
Patricia Houck, (cousin of Friar Patrick Boyle), serious cancer diagnosis
Maria Tagani (daughter of St. Francis Centre staff member)

Please pray for all friars, families, friends, and benefactors, living and deceased.

BROTHERS:
Please print out a copy of this newsletter to share with those in your community who do not have email. We hope that every friar in our province will have access to the Newsletter and that a printed copy will be posted on your friary bulletin board.
Thank you
The Management