

NEWS FROM OUR DOMINICAN STUDENT BROTHER

Hello and Happy Advent! It has been a long while since I last wrote to you all. Life has been full! But, as my mom reminds me regularly, folks from the parish have not forgotten about me, and ask about me frequently. So, I thought it would be good to give you an update on my life and vocation journey over the past couple of years.

The last time I wrote, I was in the midst of a pastoral internship year at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Center at Purdue University, which is a university parish run by us Dominican friars. After completing that year, I returned to St. Louis, Missouri for my last three years of formal studies. My time has been mostly consumed with full time (and more!) of graduate level courses in philosophy, theology, and ministry. During the summers, I've focused more on some specialized courses and workshops, and in helping with our pre-novitiate program, which is the orientation for the new class of brothers entering the Order. Last summer, I especially worked on some continuing education in liturgy and music, to prepare myself for my new duty as liturgist for my community. It's a busy job, with prayer and Mass 3 to 6 times a day! It helps that my brothers are always supportive and appreciative (and forgiving), as I try to balance community responsibilities with study.



This fall marked an important milestone in my vocation as a friar. On September 5, my four classmates and I professed solemn vows, promising to live our lives as Dominicans until death. It was an experience akin to a wedding, with much of the similar emotions and planning and details that go along with big ceremonies. I am very appreciative of the many parishioners from St. Joe's who offered prayers and sent cards for the occasion. Although I had to return to "school mode" just days after, I still have the beautiful cards on my desk and look them over from time to time.

So life goes on in a similar way for the next several months. Then, in May, I hope to be ordained as a transitional deacon. This will lead into a summer yet-to-be-planned, and then into my final year of initial formation and classes, culminating with ordination to the priesthood in May of 2017. It's coming closer and closer by the minute! From there, only God knows what will be.

I hope to see many of you when I come home for a visit after Christmas. In the meantime, God bless you and your families as you draw closer to Christ, who loved us to the point of entering into human life 2000 years ago, and who still enters each of our lives each day.

— Br. James Peter Trares, O.P.

RECEPTIONS TO HONOR BR. JAMES-PETER TRARES, O.P.

St. Joseph Parish wishes to celebrate
Br. James-Peter Trares'
commitment to the Dominican Order.

Everyone is cordially invited to
attend a reception hosted by
the K of C Women's Auxiliary
after Masses January 2/3, 2016.

Let us extend our prayers and blessings
to him in his life of prayer and service.

