



# Provincial PORTER

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a newsletter of the Capuchin Province of Mid-America

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## Capuchins Gather in Victoria and Italy

by Fr. John Toepfer, O.F.M.Cap.

Forty-four brothers of the Capuchin Province of Mid-America gathered April 13-17 for their annual assembly at the

*“The friars really appreciated the depth and variety of the discussions. As always, the assembly also included important fraternal time.”*

Fr. Charles Polifka, O.F.M.Cap.  
Provincial Minister

historic St. Fidelis Friary and the adjoining Cathedral of the Plains. Brothers from across the Province and from as far away as Rome, Italy and Monterrey, Mexico traveled to Victoria, Kansas for the gathering. The meeting began with a social and delicious dinner prepared by Br. Joseph McGlynn. Afterwards, the friars

gathered for a holy hour that traditionally marks the official beginning of the assembly.

A central theme for the assembly honored the 800th anniversary of Pope Innocent III’s approval of the *Rule of Life (Forma Vitae)* written by St. Francis of Assisi in 1223. Throughout the week, readings were excerpted from the *Rule* and the *Testament of St. Francis*.

The daily assembly schedule included guest speakers, status reports and discussions among the friars. Status reports were presented on various aspects of the Province’s Capuchin life. Frs. Gene Emrisek, Christopher Popravak and Jeff Ernst (novice master) reported on the Province’s participation and commitment to the inter-continental novitiate in Allison Park, Pennsylvania. Fr. John Lager, the Province’s Director of Vocations, offered encouraging news that several young men have applied to enter the postulancy, the first year of formation, this fall. Other presentations focused on the Province’s financial position and annual report, the state of the corporate structures that support the Capuchins’ life and ministries, the flourishing of the Secular Franciscan Order within the territory of the Province and the life of the Capuchin Poor Clare Sisters in Denver and Pueblo, Colorado.

In an effort to understand the friars’ feelings regarding the Province’s re-envisioning process of the past two years,

Fr. Duane Reinert reviewed a summary of a survey sent to the friars of the Province of Mid-America in November 2008. The survey focused on the closing of friaries and ministries in St. Louis, Missouri and the opening of new friaries in Denver and Colorado Springs, Colorado. There was lively discussion about the results of this survey. In the discussion, it was noted that 27 of the Province’s 42 stateside friars have made a shift to a new fraternity within the past year.

The agenda also brought an informative presentation by Fr. Christopher who currently serves on an international commission of friars who meet regularly at the Capuchin



During their annual assembly, friars of the Capuchin Province of Mid-America celebrate Mass at St. Fidelis Church in Victoria, Kansas. Also known as the Cathedral of the Plains, the Church was recently named one of the “Eight Wonders of Kansas.”

Curia in Rome to review and propose revisions to the Capuchin Constitutions. Fr. Christopher explained a number of changes being proposed to more clearly highlight such important Capuchin values as our fraternal gospel life, our commitment to contemplation and our aspirations to imitate St. Francis in his manner of imitating Christ.

During Wednesday evening’s prayer and dinner, the friars welcomed Jean Ross as an affiliate of the Order. Jean has had a life-long

association with the friars and for the last 10 years has served, without compensation, as president of Thomas More Prep-

Marian High School in Hays, Kansas. Jean was recognized by Provincial Minister Fr. Charles Polifka for her role in preserving the spirit and mission of the school to which so many friars have dedicated their lives. Fr. Charles joked that the Province was somewhat “selfish” in its motives for affiliating Jean as the Province hopes to benefit from her prayers for the Capuchin family as much as she will benefit from the prayers of the friars!



During the Assembly, Fr. Blaine Burkey, Fr. John Schmeidler, Fr. Jeff Ernst and Br. Barnabas Eichor diligently work on a “mystery” auction item for this year’s Brown Robe Benefit, the Province’s annual fundraising event. A collaboration among the friars, this item will debut at the event and is sure to be a top seller on the auction block!

Wednesday evening also brought a prayerful remembrance of five Capuchins of the Mid-America Province who joined the Eternity Fraternity over the past year. Fr. Gilmary Tallman was the main celebrant for the Eucharist remembering our brothers, Fr. Joseph Schreck, Fr. Malachy McBride, Br. Eugene Pellegrino, Fr. Thomas More Janeck and Fr. Valentine Young.

This year, Br. Felix Shinsky and Frs. Julian Haas and Cyrus Gallagher celebrate 50 years of Capuchin life. On Thursday evening, Fr. Cyrus presided at a special Mass honoring these friars. He preached about recognizing Christ in His many disguises – whether as a gardener to Mary Magdalene, as a companion on the road for the two disciples walking to Emmaus, in fellow Capuchin brothers and sisters or in those encountered every day in life and ministry. During the dinner that followed, Br. Felix quoted St. Francis who said, “Brothers, let us begin, for up to now, we have done nothing.”

When the Province gathers again in April 2010, it will be time for the triennial Chapter, a time when the brothers elect a new Provincial Council to lead the Province. To help with preparations, the friars elected five brothers, Br. Joseph Mary Elder and Frs. Jeff, John Lager, Duane (chair) and John Toepfer, to the Chapter 2010 Steering Committee. Through a prayerful process of meditation, listening, and small and large group interactions, the friars discerned that the theme

of Chapter 2010 will focus on identifying and clarifying Capuchin values with a special emphasis on “where the rubber meets the road” – that is, how Capuchin values are lived out concretely in daily fraternal life and ministries.

During the same week of the assembly in Victoria, two Mid-American friars, Br. Mark Schenk (General Councilor) and Fr. Julian Haas represented the Province at the “Chapter of Mats” at the Portiuncula in Assisi, Italy celebrating the 800th anniversary of Pope Innocent III’s approval of the *Rule* for St. Francis and his first brothers. Nearly 2,000 friars from every branch of the Franciscan family gathered to celebrate this anniversary in a historic moment near the little church of Our Lady of the Angels where St. Francis lived and died.

The stateside assembly concluded Friday morning with meditation, Mass and morning prayer. Fr. Charles presided at the Mass that included a reading from the *Testament of St. Francis* and noted in his homily that when the apostles obeyed the command of the Lord Jesus they caught more fish than they could hold in their boats. He recalled Fr. Jeff’s homily during the assembly’s opening Mass when he spoke of how obedience to the Holy Spirit can be difficult, but can bring about great blessings in the life of a friar and the mission of the Church. Fr. Charles encouraged the friars to be obedient in their life and ministry so the Lord continues to bless them. And through them, the Lord will do wonderful things.



The Capuchin friars of the Mid-America Province gathered in Victoria, Kansas for their Provincial Assembly in April. The annual gathering consisted of time for prayer, personal reflection and fraternal discussion. Work sessions featured status reports from many of the friars as well as guest speaker presentations that focused on topics that affect the daily lives of a Capuchin.

# Annunciation Catholic Church

*Celebrating 125 Years of Faith, Service & Community: A Reflection*

by Fr. Francisco Ramirez, O.F.M.Cap. – Pastor, Annunciation Catholic Church

Some prayer around the Capuchin Province of Mid-America is focused on the renewal and re-envisioning of our Capuchin life and ministry. It is evident by looking around, that God has been active in His response to us. At Annunciation Catholic Church, one of the Province's inner-city ministries near downtown Denver, we look around and are astounded by the great and marvelous works the Lord has done for us and through us. The people of Annunciation have truly embraced the spirit of renewal and re-envisioning.

So, what did we do? We had a party! On March 25, 2008, we declared a Jubilee Year: a celebration of 125 years of faith, service and community. We concluded the jubilee celebration this Spring.



Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M.Cap., Fr. Blaine Burkey and Fr. Francisco Ramirez (partially hidden) approach the altar at Annunciation Church on Palm Sunday. Annunciation's Palm Sunday Mass was attended by approximately 500 people including the parish's colorful folk dancers, *Los Matachines*.

Our Jubilee Celebration was highlighted by two novenas centered on our patronal feast day, the Solemnity of the Annunciation, on March 25. The novenas – one to open the Jubilee Year and the other to close it – were punctuated by a daily religious event or prayer focus culminating with the solemn feast day. We celebrated an ecumenical prayer service for peace that was well attended by parishioners, pastors from neighboring churches as well as active and former gang members. Of course, our famous parish folk dancers, *Los Matachines*, led us in procession around the neighborhood – the beat of their drums pulsating like a heartbeat, steady and strong.

We also celebrated special Eucharistic liturgies for married and family life, a healing Mass with sacramental Anointing of the Sick, a youth Mass and a Eucharistic vigil. We declared a

special day specifically for Annunciation's children and youth that was highlighted by a Kids Rally. Our parish is alive and well. We could not help but celebrate!

Now, a year later, it seems like a long time ago when we announced that we were going to celebrate a Jubilee Year. When we made the announcement, we embarked on a holy pilgrim-



On Palm Sunday, Annunciation's congregation began the day by gathering at Annunciation School and processing through the neighborhood. The procession later assembled in the overflowing church to celebrate Mass.

age on the first day of our novena, as we did the first day of the novena at year's end.

In many ways, each pilgrimage best reflects who we are as a parish

and our many hopes and dreams. Ours is a parish in motion, an immigrant parish, a community of believers. Some are literally strangers in a strange land; we are all pilgrims. Although we are all different – different nations, cultures, languages – we are on a quest for that common horizon of who we are, where we came from, where we hope to go.

We are companions on a journey. We pray with our feet. This is to say that we are aware that Jesus walks alongside us,



Fr. Paulinus Karlin, Fr. Thomas More Janeck, Fr. John Cousins and Fr. Bill Kraus are four of the 26 Capuchins who have served Annunciation Church and community since 1970.

from holy site to holy site... from Galilee to Jerusalem to Bethany and beyond...together, we journey – young and old, recent immigrants and long-time parishioners.

We are a community of faith and a pilgrim people. Our longing is to be close to Jesus, our Vine. This is the hope and the vision that has risen out of this Jubilee Celebration: to orient our lives by His Gospel. The journey, to be sure, continues. The road that lies ahead is long and oftentimes

treacherous. We do marvel, nonetheless, at God's wondrous deeds. We give praise and thanksgiving to the Living God in our midst.

The journey itself, is a prayer.

# Fr. Thomas More Janeck, Our Man for All Seasons

by Fr. Blaine Burkey, O.F.M.Cap.

In the carefree Springtime of his life, George Janecek embraced a dual vocation as a Capuchin religious man who was also called to the priesthood. In July 1940, after 16 years of schooling, George entered the Capuchin novitiate and adopted a religious name, Thomas More, honoring a 16th century English martyr saint, whom Hollywood would memorialize as “A Man for All Seasons.” George embraced not only the saint’s name, but also many traits of his life. Confreres of our Fr. Thomas More shortened “Thomas More” to “T. More” and he himself afterwards shortened “Janecek” to “Janeck.”

T. More consecrated his life as a Capuchin in 1941, was ordained a priest in 1947, and began teaching at St. Joseph’s Military Academy in Hays, Kansas in 1951. Meanwhile, he completed 10 more years of study in philosophy, theology and physical science, earning a Master of Arts degree in physics.

From 1959-1962, T. More served on the Council of the original Capuchin Province of Pennsylvania. As Vatican Council II opened in Rome in 1962, T. More moved to Herman, Pennsylvania, where he served as Provincial Vicar and Director of St. Fidelis College.

The hot Summer of his life started in 1964, with his seven years of service in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania as Provincial Minister. With the end of Vatican Council II in 1965, a period of great turmoil opened for both the Church and the Order, and T. More carefully led the Province up a narrow



Fr. Thomas More Janeck hears confession at the Deacon’s reconciliation rite in February 1988.

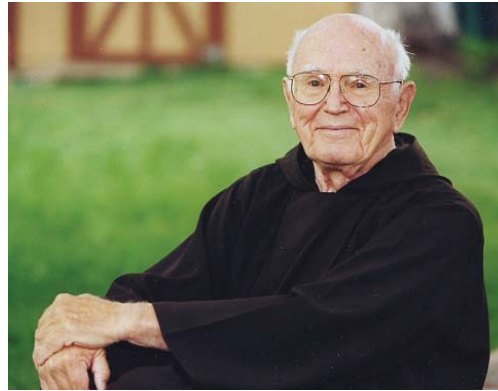
path beset with challenges. His greatest heart-ache was to see many friars leave the Order during those years. Fr. Simon Conrad, T. More’s Communications Director from 1968-1971, recalled, “T. More remained calm

and level-headed during some very difficult decision-making. He maintained his wit and sense of humor throughout.”

T. More was deeply involved in the 1977 establishment of the Mid-America Province. First, by helping arrange to have

Colorado added to the Province’s territory. Then, as Provincial Minister in 1970, he sent the first friars to Denver, Colorado and the Kansas City area. The following year, the Provincial Chapter called for a review of the possibility of dividing the Province, and in 1977, the Province of Mid-America was formed.

T. More convened the North American Capuchin Conference in 1969, served as its first president, and represented it at



Fr. Thomas More Janeck received the Cross Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice in 2000. Bestowed by Pope John Paul II, this award honored his nearly three decades of service to northern Colorado’s Hispanic community.

the Order’s first Plenary Council in Quito, Ecuador, where the Capuchins took a hard look at the place of poverty in their lives.

Following T. More’s seven years as Provincial Minister, he began his more pleasant Autumn years,

by serving first as assistant novice master in Annapolis, Maryland, then as a missionary in Puerto Rico. His study of Spanish during this period prepared him for the last 33 years of his life which he spent physically helping and spiritually guiding ethnic Mexicans in Colorado.

T. More’s love for the poor blossomed during his pastorate at Denver’s Annunciation Church and School from 1975-1981. T. More truly enjoyed his time at Annunciation and fondly remembered his hard work on behalf of its parishioners and students. Fr. Cyrus Gallagher, who lived with T. More from 1979-1980, recalled a poor man at the friary door who said he was cold. “T. More took off his sweater, then and there, and gave it to the man,” Fr. Cyrus said.

At the age of 62, T. More developed a demanding new ministry serving migrant field workers throughout northeastern Colorado, at times even traveling to their winter quarters in Texas and Mexico. Fr. Michael Suchnicki, T. More’s occasional companion, said of one trip to the migrant camps, “We had the car loaded with clothes, especially for the children. T. More was scheduled to offer Mass with the migrants followed by a potluck dinner...the gym was packed. It was the first time I saw T. More involved with the migrants. They loved him – and he them.”

In 1988, T. More began 20 years of service as the first chaplain, English teacher and chief cheerleader for 10 Capuchin Poor

(continued on back cover)

# Secular Franciscans Live Gospel as Lay Women and Men

by Fr. Felix Petrovsky, O.F.M.Cap.

Most Catholics, when they hear the word “Franciscan,” generally think of friars or sisters who live in a religious community and take religious vows. These Catholics may be surprised to learn that most Franciscans live and work in the everyday world and are members of traditional families. Franciscans can be recognized by the tau cross they wear as a lapel pin or pendant. They are members of the Secular Franciscan Order (SFO), formerly the Third Order of St. Francis.

*“...the SFO gives me specific direction. It gives me focus, discipline and a community to trust. Because of the constant conversion, it always gives me great hope.”*

Jean Finch, recently professed member of a Secular Franciscan Order in Lawrence, Kansas

After at least 27 months of formation or preparation, the Secular Franciscans profess to live “the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Secular Franciscan Order by observing its rule of life.” The Order is identified as “secular” because it is lived, not in a cloister, monastery, convent or friary, but among the lay community.

At the beginning of the 13th century, St. Francis began his life of conversion as an oblate. An oblate is someone who dedicates their life to the service of God and the Church without belonging to an order. Soon others imitated St. Francis’ life as an oblate, but with little organization.

After several years, with the approval of St. Francis’ *Rule of Life (Forma Vitae)*, those with the freedom to do so left their families and their homes to join St. Francis’ new religious



Members of the Secular Franciscan’s Santa Maria de las Montanas Regional Executive Council meet at the Capuchin Provincial Offices in Denver in June. Pictured: Julieta Bauseman, Kathy Smith, Fr. Felix Petrovsky, Mary Anne Lenzi, D.J. Walker, Diana Rivers and Tom McMahan.

brotherhood, sometimes referred to as the First Order of St. Francis. St. Clare of Assisi, guided by St. Francis, established a community of cloistered nuns known as the Second Order of St. Francis. Others, with family commitments and other responsibilities, continued to live in the secular world as members of the Third Order. With the passage of time, some members of the Third Order came together in religious

communities, known as the Third Order Regular. Those who continued to live outside of such communities were known as the Third Order Secular.

Belonging to the Franciscan family as an autonomous branch, the Secular Franciscans are guided at various levels by elected



Jean Finch, Susan Tabor and Monica Olivera stand before Fr. John Schmeidler and witnesses of their final profession to the Secular Franciscan Order on May 31 at St. John’s Church in Lawrence, Kansas.

councils and ministers. Living a rule that is rooted in the charism of St. Francis of Assisi, the Secular Franciscans call on Franciscan friars for spiritual assistance

and pastoral care. The Capuchin Province of Mid-America provides this care to SFO fraternities throughout the Midwest with the assistance of diocesan priests, deacons, religious sisters and specially prepared Secular Franciscans.

The primary task of a Spiritual Assistant to the SFO, according to *Franciscan Family Connections* handbook for Spiritual Assistants, is to “communicate Franciscan spirituality and to cooperate in the initial and ongoing formation of the brothers and sisters” and is “specifically responsible for the animation of liturgical celebrations and spiritual reflections during meetings of the Council or of the Chapter.”

Fr. Felix Petrovsky serves as a Regional Spiritual Assistant to two Secular Franciscan regions. These regions are the Santa Maria de las Montanas region of Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, Nebraska and South Dakota and the Juan de Padilla region of Kansas, Oklahoma and portions of Missouri. Santa Maria includes 16 established, emerging and newly forming units with approximately 175 professed members and 17 candidates. The Juan de Padilla region boasts 17 units with approximately 200 professed members and 20 candidates. Throughout the year, each region hosts activities including professions, retreats and council meetings. This summer, each region will hold its annual retreat and, similar to the First and Second Orders of St. Francis, will celebrate the 800th anniversary of the establishment of the Order.

With the ongoing growth of the Secular Franciscan Order, the Capuchin Province of Mid-America welcomes the opportunity to assist its faith-filled members of the Midwest.

## Porter glimpses

### St. Fidelis Friary, Victoria

Fr. Simon Conrad began writing a series of short inspirational reflections entitled “Simon Sez” for the Province website. The site plans to post a new reflection each week. They can be accessed at [www.capuchins.org/simonsez](http://www.capuchins.org/simonsez).

On May 31, the Capuchin Center for Spiritual Life received the new Capuchin pre-novitiate class. Eighteen young men from across the United States as well as from Australia, Canada and Guam will study at the Center until the end of July. Fr. Frank Grinko and two other friars serve as directors of the pre-novitiate program. The Province of Mid-America’s Anthony Monahan participates in this program.

### St. Conrad Friary, Lawrence

Fr. Duane Reinert recently participated in an art project at Conception Seminary College. The project invited individuals with a digital camera – monk, seminarian, faculty or staff – to shoot photographs on one particular day. The photos were taken on the property of Conception Abbey and give a panoramic view of life on campus over the course of one single day. On May 7, 16 photographers snapped over a thousand photos. A selection panel reviewed the photos and a sample were selected and published in a booklet titled “Conception 360.” All of the selected photos can be seen electronically on Conception’s website [www.conception.edu](http://www.conception.edu).

### St. Joseph Friary, Hays

As pastor of St. Mary Church in Ellis, Fr. Curtis Carlson regularly visits and shares lunch with students at the parochial school. St. Mary’s will celebrate the centennial of the church building in July.



Fr. Curtis Carlson enjoys lunch with students at St. Mary’s School.



Fr. Didacus Dunn smiles during a visit from his Capuchin brothers during their annual Provincial Assembly in April.

Fr. Didacus Dunn continues to recover from hip surgery performed in March. He is undergoing comprehensive rehabilitation at St. John’s Rest Home in Victoria, Kansas. He is doing well, is in good spirits and hopes to return to St. Joseph’s Friary soon.

### Our Lady of the Angels Friary, Colorado Springs

Br. Felix Shinsky celebrated his 50th anniversary of profession on May 17 in Youngstown, Pennsylvania. Approximately 100 family members and friends joined Br. Felix in this celebration including Frs. Charles Polifka, Blaine Burkey, Gilmary Tallman and Jeff Ernst and Brs. Joseph McGlynn and Benignus Scarry from the Mid-America Province and many other friars from the Pennsylvania Province. Fr. Charles was the main celebrant and homilist.

The friars of Our Lady of the Angels, with help from a few of the Denver-based friars, recently erected a statue of the Blessed Virgin Mother on the friary grounds. The statue was brought to Colorado Springs from St. Louis, Missouri earlier this year.



Friars from Denver and Colorado Springs position the statue of the Blessed Virgin Mother outside Our Lady of the Angels Friary.

### Solanus Casey Friary, Colorado Springs

Fr. Felix Petrovsky will host a 10-day Imperial Cities Tour in July 2010. The tour will visit Budapest, Vienna, Prague, Salzburg and culminate with a stop in Oberammergau to attend the renowned Passion Play. During the Thirty Year War, the Bavarian village of Oberammergau was spared from the Black Plague. In gratitude, the citizens vowed to offer a play every 10 years to honor the life of Jesus. The Passion Play of Oberammergau was first performed in 1634.

Fr. Cyrus Gallagher’s ministry to those incarcerated at the maximum-security Federal Prison Complex in Florence, Colorado has been approved. Fr. Cyrus recently participated in a Marriage Encounter weekend with 19 couples. He also traveled on a peace-building journey to Jerusalem and the West Bank with Catholic Relief Services.

### San Damiano Friary, Denver

The student friars are participating in special programs this summer. Br. Barnabas Eichor is studying spirituality at Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska; Br. Joseph Mary Elder is taking Clinical Pastoral Education at Porter Adventist Hospital in Denver, Colorado; Br. Larry Bowers is studying Latin in Berkeley, California; and Br. Ryan Tidball is studying Spanish in Antigua, Guatemala. Br. Christopher Gama helped at a college missionary training session in Champaign, Illinois and will make an extended silent retreat in the Boston, Massachusetts area.

## Porter glimpses *(continued)*

### Fraternidad San Antonio, Denver

A statue of St. Anthony was recently erected in the front garden of Fraternidad San Antonio. Similar to the statue of the Blessed Virgin Mother at Our Lady of the Angels Friary, this statue had graced St. Patrick's Friary in St. Louis, Missouri but came to Denver once the Capuchins discontinued ministries there.

The fraternity recently sent Anthony Monahan to the pre-novitiate program in Victoria, Kansas and is preparing for the August arrival of Fr. Bill Kraus.

### St. Francis of Assisi Friary, Denver

In an April ceremony, Archbishop of Denver Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M.Cap. blessed the new Capuchin Administration Building. A dinner prepared by Fr. David Gottschalk followed for the approximately 25 benefactors, friends and friars in attendance.

Fr. Blaine Burkey traveled to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania to present a history of the Capuchin Province of Mid-America to the novices who are studying there.

Fr. John Lager, member of the Spiritual Director's staff for Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS), served two weeks on the New Staff Training Team for FOCUS's missionaries on the campus of Illinois University.

### Administration Offices

The Capuchin Province of Mid-America has accepted five young men for the Province's postulancy program which begins this fall under the direction of Postulancy Director Fr. Bill Kraus.

Plans are underway for the 2009 Brown Robe Benefit that will be held in Denver on October 23. This annual event raises funds to support the friars, their ministries and programs that form future priests and brothers. Those interested in being part of the volunteer team that brings this event to life can contact Gina Francis at 303.564.9476 or [events@capuchins.org](mailto:events@capuchins.org)

## Visitor Renews Friars' International Brotherhood

by Charles Polifka, O.F.M.Cap. – Provincial Minister

On April 28, Br. Peter Rodgers, O.F.M.Cap. arrived in Denver from our Capuchin Curia in Rome for a visitation of the friars of the Capuchin Province of Mid-America.

Br. Peter is one of the eight General Councilors of the Order of Friars Minor, Capuchin. Our own Br. Mark Schenk is a member of the same Council and represents the North American Capuchins. The Capuchin Constitutions require that the General Minister, as leader of the worldwide Capuchin Order, visit all the friars of the Order – either personally or through one of his elected Council members. Given the large number of worldwide fraternities and friars the task would be impossible for one man during his six-year term. Very often, a member of the Council performs these visitations.

A visitation from a General Councilor (or in some cases, the General Minister) allows the friars to meet with someone who has a sense of the entire Order and lets each friar reflect on how his life and fraternity is meeting the expectations and values of the Order. It also gives the General Councilor a sense of how Capuchin life is lived in each part of the world as well as the difficulties and obstacles friars face on a daily basis. Capuchins are not men who are only members of a Province; they are men of 1,800 worldwide fraternities who strive to live the life of St. Francis in cultures around the globe. The 11,000 Capuchins living in 101 countries are all brothers.



Br. Peter Rodgers, O.F.M.Cap. visits with the friars of Our Lady of the Angels Friary. Pictured: Fr. Frank Grinko, Br. Peter, Br. Felix Shinsky. Not Pictured: Fr. John Toepfer.

In addition to the visitation by the General Minister, the Capuchin Constitutions require that each Provincial Minister visit each friar and friary at least twice during a three-year term. Often these formal visitations take place annually and informal visitations take place even more regularly. At these visitations, the Provincial Minister checks on the physical and spiritual well being of the friars as well as the life of the fraternity. In addition, the Provincial Minister and friars discuss the opportunities and challenges of their ministries. Provincial visitations are times of renewal, correction and future planning for individuals and fraternities.

Br. Peter's visit in the Province makes us intensely aware that we are not Capuchins alone in Kansas and Colorado. His visit expands our minds and hearts to embrace our Capuchin brothers everywhere. The world with all its cultures, languages and social structures is our brotherhood. Likewise, Br. Peter's visitation has called us to a deeper sense of who we are and what God has called us to do in this part of our world.



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The *Provincial Porter* is a quarterly publication of the Capuchin Province of Mid-America. The *Provincial Porter* is named for St. Conrad of Parzham (1818-1894), a Capuchin lay brother who spent most of his life as the friary's porter, or doorkeeper, in Altoetting, Bavaria. As the porter, St. Conrad welcomed people into the friary, received supplies and generously prepared and offered food to Altoetting's poor who would come to the friary door daily. Similar to St. Francis, he treated everyone with love, patience and a kind heart.

In many different ways, the Capuchin Province of Mid-America serves as a "porter"—welcoming everyone and providing for those in need. The *Provincial Porter* strives to keep our relatives and friends informed about the lives of the Mid-American friars.

## Fr. Thomas More Janeck

(continued from page 4)

Clares who moved from Irapuato, Mexico and consecrated their lives to prayer in north Denver.

The short Winter of T. More's life began at the age of 84, when a weakening heart forced him to relinquish his migrant ministry and eventually took his car keys. He continued serving the nuns but spent more and more time in the friary, praying thousands of rosaries for those who sought his intercession. Many friends, especially Sr. Lavonne Guidoni, S.C.L. visited him regularly, and every month he enjoyed playing cards with a loyal group of friends.

T. More's life was truly an affair of the heart. In 2000, he had a stent implant; in 2002, a heart valve implant; and on June 8, 2008, at age 88, his physical heart stopped beating. Ironically, it was T. More's spiritual and emotional heart that was his strongest gift, and he served with full heart in every one of the important positions he held during his long life. T. More's confreres and friends deeply miss Mid-America's own 'man for all seasons.'

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