



# Holy Cross Missionary News

## Franciscan Missionaries of the Holy Cross

29 September 2012 – Michaelmas

Volume 1, Issue 1

### Special points of interest:

- Friars move to St. Louis Area
- Provincial General Chapter Coming
- Feast of St. Francis of Assisi
- Three Men Discerning Religious Life

## Friars Move to St. Louis Area

On 1 July 2012, the friars moved to Shiloh, IL, which is a suburb of St. Louis. After completing 18 months of ministry in Dayton, the friars were invited to plant the Mother House of the Order in the St. Louis area and Fr. Greg was asked to become Vicar of Christ Anglican Church, O'Fallon, IL, a mission of the Diocese of Quincy.

The move from Dayton was especially difficult for the friars. The friendships that developed during their ministry there are especially important to them, making the decision to move a heart wrenching matter.

The Holy Spirit had been impressing upon the friars the need to prepare for a move for several months. That decision was presented in February 2012, after which the friars began to prepare for a ministry transition for the parish in Dayton, and began packing for the move.

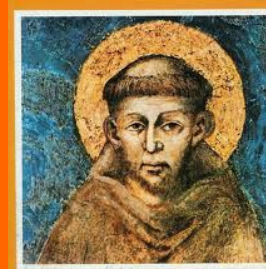
Fr. Greg and Br. Antony are currently living in a small apartment with Br. Rusty and

Br. Guido, their K-9 counterparts, whilst slowly unpacking and settling into the new ministry at Christ Anglican Church. The people of Christ our Hope in Dayton and Church in O'Fallon have made this transition seamless. The friars want to thank everyone who so graciously helped with the loading and unloading, especially on the St. Louis end where it was 108 degrees when they arrived and unloaded the truck.

Fr. Greg and Br. Antony look forward to ministry in their new location and to putting down deep roots in the community.



## Feast of St. Francis of Assisi



The Feast of St. Francis of Assisi is celebrated on 4 October. Most parishes which have a local Third Order

Fellowship will observe this day with either the Transitus of St. Francis the night before, or a Mass on the day of the feast. You are encouraged to renew your commitment to your rule of prayer and our way of life on this great day. **“O God, you ever delight to reveal yourself to the childlike and lowly of heart: grant that, following the example of the blessed Francis, we may count the wisdom of this world as foolishness and know only Jesus Christ and him crucified, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.”**

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# St. Michael the Archangel, Advocate in Spiritual Warfare

From a Sermon by St. Gregory the Pope, Homily 34

We are accustomed to speak of nine choirs of Angels, because Scripture seems to witness to that number when it speaks of Angels, Archangels, Might, Powers, Principalities, Dominions, Thrones, Cherubim, and Seraphim. Many pages of Scripture witness to Angels and Archangels. The books of the Prophets, as is well known, do often make mention of Cherubim and Seraphim. Paul, writing to the Ephesians, counts up the names of four choirs, where he says that Christ is set far above all Principality, and Power, and Might, and Dominion. Again, writing to the Colossians, he speaks of Thrones as well as of Dominions, Principalities, and Powers. If then we add the Thrones to the four choirs mentioned to the Ephesians, we have five choirs. And when we add to them the Angels and Archangels, the Cherubim and the Seraphim, we come to the final conclusion that there are nine choirs of Angels.

Now it must be understood that the word Angel is the name of an office rather than the designation of the nature of these beings. For those holy ones of heaven are always spirits, but they are not always accurately called Angels, which is, being interpreted, Messengers, for they are Angels only when they are sent as Messengers. Hence also it is said by the

Psalmist, "He makes his Angels spirits, and his Ministers..." as if to indicate that he has made them spirits, and that of these spirits he sometimes makes some to minister in the office of messenger. They that go on a lesser embassy are called Angels, that is Messengers. They that go on a great embassy are called Archangels, that is Chief Messengers. Hence it is that to the Virgin Mary was sent no common Angel, but the Archangel Gabriel. For the delivery of this, the highest message, it was meet that there should be sent one of the highest Angels. Their individual names also are so given as to signify the kind of ministry wherein each is powerful. Michael is by interpretation, "Who is like unto God." Gabriel, "The Strength of God." Raphael, "The Medicine of God."

As often as anything very mighty is to be done, we see that Michael is sent, that by that very thing, and by his name, we may remember that none is able to do as God does. Hence that old enemy, whose pride has puffed him up, so that he is fain to be like unto God, is reported by the Prophet Isaiah to have said, "I will ascend into heaven; I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will be like the Most High." But this old enemy, when at the end of the world he is about to perish in the last death, having no strength but his own, is shown unto us fighting with Michael the Archangel, even as John says in the Apocalypse, "There was a war

in heaven; Michael and his Angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels." Unto Mary is sent Gabriel, whose name signifies Strength of God, for he came to herald the coming of him who was content to appear lowly that he might fight down the powers of the air. Raphael, whose name signifies Medicine of God, is the one who, as a physician, treated the eyes of Tobit, so that his blindness was cleared away.

O EVERLASTING God, who hast ordained and constituted the services of Angels and men in a wonderful order: mercifully grant that as thy holy Angels always do thee service in heaven, so by thy appointment they may succor and defend us on earth. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do Thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host—by the Divine Power of God—cast into hell, satan and all the evil spirits, who roam throughout the world seeking the ruin of souls.







# THIRD ORDER FELLOWSHIPS

Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

We are now beginning a major campaign to raise money for the purchase of a Mother House for the Order. We are currently negotiating with a local school district for the purchase of a grade school that has not been in use for the past three years. We have also retained a Real Estate Agent who is working with us on additional properties of potential interest in the event there are any problems with negotiations with the school district.

Along with the purchase of a property will be the eventual need to rehab the facility. We would need space to hold retreats, a monastery church/chapel, adequate kitchen and refectory space, a food pantry and clothing closet for those in need, monastic library space, etc. The rehabilitation of any property will provide space for our members to come on individual and group retreats, and give us a place where we can reach out to the local community as well.

We are asking for your generous financial support to make this a reality. Your donations may be sent to:

Franciscan Friary of St. Louis

Attn: Fr. Gregory Mashburn, OFM

120 N. Main St., #2

Shiloh, IL 62269

Please make your cheques out to "Franciscan Friary of St. Louis," and please write "For Mother House" in the remarks.

Once we secure a contract on a property, we will provide additional information through our website and this newsletter including pictures. Until then, please keep us in your prayers as we prayerfully seek to put down our roots in the place God would have us be.

The members of our Third Order Fellowships have been busy. Regular meetings and study continues in Springdale, AR, and Dayton, OH, with regular meetings beginning in St. Louis Metro and Evansville, IN. Below are some of the faces of our Third Order.



Next July the First Order and Third Order of the Franciscan Missionaries of the Holy Cross will hold the **first Provincial General Chapter**. Our General Chapter will be held in conjunction with the Forward in Faith Annual Assembly July 2013 at Our Lady of the Snows Shrine, Belleville, Illinois. Please keep an eye out for complete details in the Advent edition of this newsletter.





We're on the Web!  
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**“We’ve been called to heal wounds, reunite what has fallen apart, and bring home those who have lost their way.” - St. Francis of Assisi**

## Pray For Vocations!!!

Over the past year three men have come forward seeking to discern a call to the First Order as a Friar within the Franciscan Missionaries of the Holy Cross. I ask that you pray daily for these men as they seek God's will.

Joe McNamara lives in Dayton, OH. He is the son of a priest and a member of Christ the King Anglican Church where his father is Rector. Joe is current a member of our Third Order Secular.

Eric Moeller lives in Evansville, IN. He is a member of Trinity Anglican Church. Eric previously ministered for a number of years in prison ministry.

Kyle Potter currently lives in South Bend, IN, where he is pursuing a Masters Degree in Liturgical Theology. He already holds a Master's Degree from Oxford University in Applied Theology.

Lord God, we ask that generous people might give themselves to the service of Jesus' Church as religious. This we do in response to Jesus Himself, Who told us to pray that labourers might be sent to gather in the harvest. With trust we present this prayer in Jesus' name. Amen.

