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Capuchin Vocation Update Province of St. Joseph

4 accepted as Capuchin postulants!

The admissions board for the Postulancy Program of the Midwest Capuchins met May 23-24 to consider four applications, all of which were accepted by provincial minister Daniel Anholzer. Julio Gallegos, David Hirt, Suedi Murekezi, and Eric Renaud are the members of the new class which ties for the second largest Midwest Capuchin postulancy class in twenty years. Only the previous postulancy class had more, beginning with eight members.

The new class represents both typical vocational patterns from the past 30 years and new trends that are increasingly emerging with greater strength. Thus, this class has men close to thirty who have considered other careers and lifestyles before returning to a religious interest first implanted during their youth. Others are about 20 years old, from recent immigrant families, for whom the exploration of religious life is the first serious consideration of an adult lifestyle.

This issue of *Vocation Update* introduces these four men to our readers, celebrates their acceptance, and promises to support them in the deeper exploration of Capuchin life and ministry.

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The young David Hirt was always involved in religious activities. His religious interest also surfaced through his involvement in theater, as he often played the roles of religious characters. David received a Masters of Fine Arts in theater scenic design from Wayne State University in Detroit, where he had a scholarship from the Hillberry Theater. After graduation, David worked in scenic design in Interlaken, Michigan; Moscow, Russia; community theater in Indiana; and Chicago. However, David began to consider a religious vocation while studying in Detroit. His religious interests led him to devote great amounts of volunteer time at Rosary Parish in Southeast Chicago and writing religious poetry.



Suedi Murekezi was born in Rwanda, from where his family fled as political refugees during that country's horrific civil wars. After seeking refuge in four other African nations, Suedi's father brought the family first to Boston and then Brooklyn Park, Minnesota outside Minneapolis. Suedi grew up in a Moslem family, but cannot remember a time when Christianity was not his primary religious interest. While in Africa, he attended Catholic schools and snuck into as many Catholic services as he could. Prevented from entering the Catholic Church while in Africa, Suedi achieved his goal upon entering the USA and subsequently developed an interest in Franciscan religious life.

Vocation Update



Eric Renaud never thought of a vocation as a priest or religious as a child, but had a great interest in everything that was religious. After high school, he abandoned this interest temporarily to explore the world, traveling as far as Thailand on this path of discovery. Returning to Milwaukee, Eric completed his bachelors degree at the University of Wisconsin in the field of criminal justice. It was then that his already reawakened faith life increasingly focused on the Franciscan way of life. Having first taken steps to move closer to other forms of Franciscan life, Eric decided to seriously try Capuchin life because of the Midwest Capuchins' commitment to justice and peace in the world.

Julio Gallegos reconsidered a Capuchin vocation when he stopped into St. Clare of Assisi Friary in Chicago last October to visit his close friend, Capuchin postulant Mitch Frantz. The visit re-kindled in Julio the feelings and values he learned at St. Lawrence Seminary in Mt. Calvary, Wisconsin. These included treating others with respect, commitment in relationships, accepting people as God made them, and having Jesus as the center of life. Julio realized he needed a break from the SLS experience to find these priorities in his own life. Having taken that break for the past two years, Julio is now ready to immerse himself in the Capuchin experience once again, open to it changing him even more.



Some are entering postulancy and others are completing the program. On May 26th, the province's 7 current postulants drove from St. Clare Friary in Chicago to Victoria, Kansas where they met the other 18 soon-to-be novices from the English-speaking provinces of North America, Guam and Australia to begin a 9-week preparation program for novitiate. Our prayers go with them.

Capuchin Candidates are invited to join in the 150th anniversary celebration of the establishment of the oldest permanent Capuchin foundation in the Western Hemisphere at Mt. Calvary, Wisconsin. Preliminary activities begin Sunday afternoon, June 24th, with the major celebration on Monday morning, June 25th. Sleeping accommodations are available in the student dorms. To make the required reservation, contact

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