



2 Oct 2007, #137

Capuchin Vocation Update

Province of St. Joseph

The Renaissance of Capuchin vocations from St. Lawrence Seminary

Before the Vatican Council II, the vast majority of men joining the Midwest Capuchins attended St. Lawrence Seminary High School or Junior College (SLS). Even in the early 1980's, about half of those joining the province attended SLS. Many Capuchins on the "Hill" (an affectionate name for SLS) are alumni, including the current rector, Fr. Dennis Druggan. But the SLS class of 1986 was the last to send an alum to either novitiate or postulancy.

That changed with the Midwest Capuchin postulancy class of 2006, which included 6 SLS alums out of the total class of 8. The current class of postulants also includes an SLS alum.



Five of the current seven Midwest Capuchin novices in Burlington WI are SLS alums. From left to right, the novices are Mark Romanowski, Tom Nguyen (SLS 04), Mitch Frantz (05), Don Bosco Tran (05), Joe Lindzius, Tien Dinh (05), George Real Bird (02).



Julio Gallegos (SLS 05) is a Capuchin postulant.

The change seems to be occurring for several reasons. First, the Midwest Capuchins have worked hard to reach out to recent SLS alums with the Capuchin College Program at St. Joseph College Seminary on the campus of Loyola University in Chicago. Second, studies indicate that members of the Millennial Generation are considering life commitments earlier, a trend the Midwest Capuchins see in those inquiring in general. Finally, it seems that sons of recent immigrants to the USA are more open to a religious vocation. The Midwest Capuchins also experience this trend.

The new generation of inquirers also comes with it's unique interests. In general, they seek out external signs of interior faith. In short, they look for a vibrant way to live their faith and see the Capuchins as an important option.



SLS rector, Fr. Dennis Druggan (SLS 74), and the academic dean, Mr. David Bartel (78), are both SLS alums.

capuchinfranciscans.org
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Vocation Update

Currently, 20 of the Midwest Capuchins' 39 candidates are alums of SLS.

Luis Badillo (SLS 07)
Kevin Berlanga (07)
Kyle Birkenmeier (07)
Stephen Brannan (07)
David Bui (07)
Ed Colosky (07)
Vinh Dang (02)
Roberto Flores (03)
Alberto Gomez (07)
Anthony Horzen (07)
Hector Leyva (07)
David Lopez (03)
Quan Nguyen (04)
Quang Nguyen (04)
Alberto Rodriguez (06)
Bryant Romero (04)
Alfonso Ruelas (04)
Tyler Stamm (07)
Luis Tinoco (07)
Joseph Voell (04)



Cap. candidate Kyle Birkenmeier (SLS 07) is living at St. Benedict the Moor Capuchin Friary while attending the Milwaukee School of Engineering.



Capuchin candidate Roberto Flores (SLS 03) studies international studies at DePaul in Chicago, and David Lopez (03) has begun his masters in social work.



Candidate Ed Colosky (07) recently visited the Capuchins in Venice, here in Piazza S. Marco.



Candidate Vinh Dang (SLS 02) often meets with vocation director Bill Hugo to talk about theology, spirituality, psychology and food.

SLS students interested in becoming a Capuchin Candidate should talk to Fr. Dennis Druggan.

SLS alums who are interested in checking out the options to be a Capuchin Candidate should contact Fr. John Holly:

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Veteran Capuchin candidates, many of them SLS alums, gathered in Chicago shortly after the May 2007 SLS graduation to welcome recent grads becoming candidates.