



16 June 2009, #193

## Capuchin Vocation Update Province of St. Joseph

### Three Candidates Accepted for Postulancy! Plus two more from Canada

After formally meeting on June 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, the combined Admissions Board from Mary, Mother of the Good Shepherd Province of Canada and our Province of St. Joseph formally announced the acceptance of a total of five men for the 2009-2010 postulancy year. Postulancy is the first full-time year of living the Capuchin life in formation. Most Capuchin provinces in North America have their own postulancy programs followed by a common novitiate year where all the provinces send their men to one friary in Pittsburgh. Mary, Mother of the Good Shepherd and our Province of St. Joseph have a combined Postulancy Program. Prior to applying for postulancy, the candidates normally spend at least one year visiting Capuchin friaries and ministries on various discernment weekends and meeting with vocation directors. After much discernment and a thorough application process we heartily welcome these men into the Postulancy Program located at St. Conrad Friary in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.



**Stephen Greco**, 20, hails from Dearborn, Michigan and has just completed his AA from Henry Ford College. Stephen has spent almost two years in steady discernment with the Capuchins. Being very active in church ministry, Stephen has taught religious education classes, worked through St. Vincent De Paul, was an assistant to a Youth Ministry Director, attended the last two World Youth Day celebrations, and has frequently visited the Capuchin Soup Kitchens and Solanus Center in Detroit. An avid soccer fan, he recently visited Chicago with his brother, Chris, in order to watch the World Cup preliminary soccer match between the U.S. and Honduras. Stephen's positive outlook and endless energy are welcomed by all.



**Phillip Gardner**, 23, comes to us from the northwest suburbs of Chicago and has spent the last year living in closer affiliation (resident candidacy) at St. Clare Friary in Chicago in order to discern more closely the Capuchin way of living. Phillip is the youngest of three boys and hosted a large family and friar gathering at St. Clare's after earning his B.A. from Loyola University in May. The St. Clare community appreciated his fraternal energy and initiative. Deeply drawn to work with our brothers and sisters who find themselves in poverty and on the edge of society, Phil has been seeking a life with the Capuchins in order to continue and deepen that call.



**MJ Groark**, 25, grew up in California, Washington, and Oregon before moving to Wisconsin a few years ago. MJ, along with Phil, spent the last year living in closer affiliation with the friars at St. Clare Friary. Talented in so many ways, MJ was active in football, wrestling, and hockey in high school. By the time he finished high school he was already manager of a camera store. Being the middle child of three brothers, MJ's family has been a constant support in his life and discernment. The artistic touch of MJ's photos have graced the pages of Vocation Update for the last year and a half. Very serious about dedicating his life and talents for suffering people of God and the loving message of the Gospel, MJ seeks a life of brotherhood and loyalty.

# Vocation Update

*From the Canadian Capuchin Province of Mary, Mother of the Good Shepherd...*



**Ryan Thibert** is a 27 year old man from Strathroy, Ontario. Aaron, his fraternal twin brother, is older by only one minute. He also has an older sister, Jennifer. He comes from a very close knit and devout Catholic family. Attending high school in London, Ontario, Ryan learned trades such as welding, automotive repair, chef and restaurant service training, and painting. His work experience has likewise been varied being recently employed with Rona. He was part of the group which Br. Louis took to Eucharistic Congress this past summer. There he was introduced to a large number of friars in both Ontario and Quebec. In the past, Ryan also took part in Core weekends which further enriched his faith. His ever deepening faith in God has urged and prompted him to give himself completely as a Capuchin friar. Ryan is currently living as a candidate in one of the Capuchin communities in Toronto.



**Craig Anthony McWade** is a 41 year old man who was born in Montreal. He later moved to Winnipeg where he attended both junior and senior high school. During this time he also joined the Royal Canadian Sea Cadet Corp where he became an award winning marksman and also learned sailing skills. As a young adult he worked in reforestation, in the hospitality industry, as a ski patrolman, with Parks Canada, and then with Statistics Canada. Craig is fully bilingual. His faith story is one of conversion and one which is informed by his family's values and beliefs. As a parishioner at St. Mary's Cathedral in Winnipeg, he was asked to be a sponsor in their R.C.I.A. program and then later as a catechist. He developed great friendships with both Franciscan and Jesuit priests. Later, he attended the Eucharistic Congress along with Ken, Ryan, and Br. Louis. Craig was deeply moved when Pope Benedict XVI, during his address, challenged young men not to fear the priesthood and religious life. He will begin this process along with Ryan by living as a candidate in a Capuchin community in Toronto before moving on to Milwaukee.

## Candidate Rooftop Cookout!

Saturday, July 11,

4 P.M.

St. Clare Friary in Chicago

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For more information about the process to become a Capuchin:

[www.CapuchinFranciscans.org](http://www.CapuchinFranciscans.org)

and click on << [How to Begin](#) >>