

# The Generosity of God



**May God bless you for providing the Red Lake Nation  
Band of Ojibwa with food for their Reservation Food Shelf,  
and many others in our community!**



# Brotherhood Update

By Father Seraphim Wirth, fbp  
Community Servant

I am pleased to share with you that all of the brothers are doing well and are in good spirits. We are hopeful for more vocations coming soon. Br. Paschal who is our new vocation director has been busy reaching out to men inquiring about our community. We are also developing our new website that will be launched sometime in April.

### What the Brothers are up to...

Our ministries have been busy, blessed and fruitful. I am blessed to serve as chaplain for the Karen community at St. Casimir's and for St. Jerome's School. I am experiencing the joy of preparing many couples for marriage. **Br. Didacus** is enjoying teaching a religion class at St. Jerome's School and is doing a great job instructing the children. He also is a faithful prayer supporter outside the abortion clinic. His article on page 7 will explain more.

**Br. Paschal** organizes the NET Ministries (National Evangelization Team netusa.org) youth and confirmation program. We have partnered with NET Ministries again this year for our 7th to 12th-grader's program. The program has been fruitful on many levels.

**Br. James** is doing a great job directing the food shelf, and with the help of **Br. Pio** and **Br. Conrad** they are finding new ways to reach out to other communities. Most recently we reached out to Red Lake Indian Reservation. See his article on pages 3 & 8.

**Br. Joseph** continues to be our strong prayer warrior. Be assured that he offers his daily sufferings up for you all. **Br. Dominic** is finding joy in our new rosary ministry and continues to pray for all your intentions. His article on pages 4 & 5 will tell more.

**Br. John Mary** and **Br. James** both serve at the VA Medical Center visiting patients and

bringing Holy Communion to them. **Br. Antonio** is still in the Philippines continuing his funeral visit ministry. We are praying that he can come back soon!

### Thank You

I would like to express our wholehearted thank you to all those who contributed and volunteered so generously towards all our ministries this past year. Your generosity showed the face of Christ to so many in need.

I know that the Covid-19 pandemic has affected so many people this year but your generosity and prayers have shown how God can work through the most difficult situations. The light of His grace is seen in the darkness that surrounds us. We continue to follow this light and to help others see it. Please be assured that we pray for your intentions and remember them during our times of prayer and daily Mass.

*“The Lord bless you  
and keep you. May He  
show His face to you and  
have mercy. May He turn  
His countenance to you  
and give you peace.  
The Lord bless you!”*

— ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

**Franciscan Discernment Series**  
Catholic Men ages 18-35 praying about:  
Religious Life - Priesthood - Brotherhood

Hosted by the Priests & Brothers of the  
Franciscan Brothers of Peace (fbp)

6:00 Dinner  
6:45 Talk  
7:15 Adoration  
8:00 Compline

Monthly Thursday Nights:  
Feb 10, Mar 10, Apr 28, May 12  
@ Blessed Solanus Friary  
1101 DeSoto St., St. Paul, MN  
RSVP: Br. Paschal, Vocations Dir.  
paschal@brothersofpeace.org  
651.470.2171 (text/VM)

Lands and waters in Northern Minnesota surrounding and including Upper and Lower Red Lake (below), and the Northwest Angle and related islands in Lake of the Woods (above), are where the Red Lake Nation of Ojibwa call home.

# The Generosity of God

Your help for the Brothers' food shelf apostolate continues to provide nutrition for those in need.

By Brother James Voeller, fbp

This writing of St Francis gives us inspiration for the food shelf ministry:

**"Whenever you see a poor man, remember Christ in whose Name he comes, and how He took upon Himself our poverty and weakness." (Omnibus – Mirror of Perfection #37)**

There has been a continual operation of a food shelf for as long as the Franciscan Brothers of Peace have been in their main friary (1989) in the Midway of St. Paul. This was seen as a need at that time and a way for the community to stay connected to the poor. The focus has varied over the decades from a significant Christmas toy distribution to hundreds of Thanksgiving turkeys. Currently, we continue to support local or East Side residents. Having been away from this work and returning to it I immediately feel part of it knowing visitors from the past ten and twenty years.

We are always touched by those we serve and it's not hard for me to think back to some of those moments. The people we meet bear witness to God's presence by finding joy in our devotions (Creche scene), humble need for prayers, conversion, and charitable works. Some of our new brothers have spent several years at the front door and found inspiration for their continued vocation discernment. There are many other food shelves, and we are part of a vast network of people who are caring for those in need and less fortunate than ourselves.

We are inspired and privileged to be engaged with everyday people who humbly depend on our surplus and Catholic presence — always offered as a free gift. They are welcomed without prior attachment to the goods and their willing acceptance is met with respect. Many brothers and outside volunteers willingly join in to make this effort continue and feel like a normal part of our everyday life at Queen of Peace Friary.

Continued on Page 8...



Our friends from the Red Lake Band of Ojibwe recently came to the friary to pick up food for their food shelf on the reservation.



Sharing our resources with a patron and his personal charitable work.

# GRACE

## THROUGH A GRANDMOTHER'S ROSARY

*The Story of Regina Pacis  
Handmade Rosaries & Chaplets*



By Br. Dominic Michael, fbp

**M**y dear grandmother Hart was from Ireland. A devout and holy woman, she cared for me as a child while my mother was ill. Nightly, I would sway back-and-forth in my little crib — following her as she walked back-and-forth in my mother’s bedroom saying her rosary.

One night I had a tantrum, because I didn’t have that wonderful thing that I saw in her hand. The next day she went to a little religious article store and got me a big glow-in-the-dark rosary! Only a toddler, I believe our Lady was already drawing me to her Son and herself through that devotion. Time passed, and by the time I was five I knew every Mystery.

Years later, as I entered Religious life, I took the name Brother Dominic — after Saint Dominic, the receiver of the Rosary. And so about four years ago I was going through a very difficult time. Always wanting to make rosaries but never having the confidence, a dear Dominican sister friend of mine taught me how to make cord rosaries as a prayer and meditation. It was as if Christmas came again for me — it brought such joy to my heart!

### A Culture Hungry For the Rosary



Sharing some of my rosaries with people on social media, the response was simply overwhelming. As I spoke with more and more people via email or otherwise, it became clear that there’s a huge need out there. In this day and age we’re all so hungry for peace, but not as the

world gives it. Our Lady — *Queen of Peace* | *Regina Pacis* — leads us always to her Son, the True and Living Prince of Peace.

And so people were wanting rosaries for loved ones, but also customized a little; making their gift even more spiritually and aesthetically meaningful, if that were possible. And so — using only cord, beads, and an assortment of medals and crucifixes — I’ve been making personalized rosaries for people in the traditional format, but with a contemporary feel. Since starting this small ministry, I’ve been astounded at how hungry people are for the rosary — and given my personal love for this beautiful prayer since childhood, I realized that Our Lady is asking me to be a missionary of sorts; promoting the rosary and the love and peace of Christ and His Mother that it so gently yet powerfully brings to us and our hurting world.

### A Gift of Continual Prayer

With the encouragement of Fr Seraphim to continue this ministry, *Regina Pacis Handmade Rosaries & Chaplets* was born. I take this responsibility very seriously. I want everyone to know that if you order a rosary from me, you’ll be getting much, much more than your typical “catalog” rosary. I want to know the names of everyone involved — the recipient, the gift-giver, your special needs, etc. — so I can pray for you while making your rosary, and of course so we can also include you in our brotherhood’s ongoing prayer before the Lord. Our Fr. Seraphim blesses each rosary for you before shipment. In a unique way, the “beads” of our lives will be united through prayer.

As St. Therese of Lisieux says, “*Nothing is small in the eyes of God. Do all that you do with love.*”

The prayerful use of these simple gifts will hopefully bring you and your dear ones to a deeper level of love for our glorious Lord and His Mother, our Queen of Peace — and for one another. May she intercede for us all before the Throne of her Son!

Please feel free to contact me if you are interested in a unique rosary for yourself or a loved one. We do suggest a \$30 donation per rosary — which will cover materials and postage. And at this time we can only ship within North America.



Br. Dominic Michael prayerfully at work.

PLEASE CONTACT:

**REGINA PACIS**  
HANDMADE ROSARIES & CHAPLETS

email: [reginapacisrosary@gmail.com](mailto:reginapacisrosary@gmail.com)

or call (651) 208-7374

*leave a message and I will be happy to get back to you!*

*“Recently I gave my mother a rosary that Br. Dominic made. She loved it and showed it to my brothers. They loved it too, and requested one each. The miracle in all this is that I was unaware my brothers were devoted to the Rosary and the Virgin Mary. They were so thankful to receive the rosaries and thought they were beautiful. It made me happy to see them practicing their faith in their little way and I know that the rosaries will be a blessing for them and others. It made me very happy and grateful that Br. Dominic and the Franciscan Brothers of Peace have this rosary ministry as it has blessed my family! I’m waiting for more miracles to happen because of the rosaries, especially spiritual miracles!”*

— Miriam C.

# Secular Franciscan Profession Mass

by Anne Keller, ofs

The profession Mass was a moving experience for newly professed members as well as for our entire fraternity.

**Nini Milbraith, ofs:** “As I look back on my profession I am moved with emotion, honor and awe as I am reminded of the evening. The reverence at the Mass was impressive and reminded me of the importance and impact it would have on my life as I professed my vows to become a Secular Franciscan. My everyday life and prayer life have grown since that evening. My fraternity has been my backbone and will continue to be so. I in turn want to be there for my fraternity members and the Franciscan Brothers. I hope to carry their mission in my heart. I want to thank my family, friends and fraternity as I walked through my formation for the last 3 years.”

**Karen Nelson, ofs:** “I have come to grow in love, knowledge and understanding of the person and the writings of St. Francis of Assisi by attending First Friday Holy Hours and ongoing OFS Fraternity formation meetings. This is where I prayed my very first rosary ever; and it was the Franciscan Crown Rosary. (Over the years), through all this time of study, prayer and contemplation... I have discerned (through) the call of the Holy Spirit that it is the appointed vocation for my life to become permanently professed as a Secular Franciscan in the OFS... I embrace fully the spirit of St. Francis in imitation of Our Lord Jesus Christ.”

**Scott Rooney, ofs:** “I believe the greatest impact that being professed has had for me is a deep and profound desire to seek humility — just as Saint Francis and so many of the lay and religious Franciscans display so beautifully — that has left an indelible mark upon my heart. I struggle with pride like so many others, too, as well. Being professed has been a great pathway to humility and love. I am eternally grateful to all my Franciscan Brothers and Sisters.”

*“Plant seeds in the lives of others through the crosses you carry. You won’t see the full completion until the next life.*

*Francis always pointed to the Cross and to Jesus.”*

— Fr. Seraphim



*Thank you to Br. John Mary, spiritual assistant!*

*Fraternity of Mary, Queen of Peace welcomed three newly-professed members at Profession Mass on the Solemnity of the Exultation of the Holy Cross, September 14, 2021. Fr. Seraphim Wirth, fbp, Presider.*



*Thank you to Jeannie Kratzer, formation minister and Steve Smith, minister!*



*Thank you Brothers Pio and Didacus for the music!*



*Thank you to Br. Paschal for serving and to Fr. Seraphim for presiding!*

*Fr. Seraphim offered the following inspiring homily for all of us!*

## **Planting seeds; a humble vocation.**

“Reflect on your calling. When was that seed for your vocation planted in your heart? Who planted it? When was God calling you to something else? The seeds of your vocation are planted in secret. You may not know how it got there, but you knew it was there and you allowed it to grow. It was planted in a moment of time. It is a gift from Jesus; it grew over the years. It will bear fruit in your life, in the life of the Church, and all those God sends you to.

“Secretly planting seeds is a humble vocation. You have a great mission in the world today, planting seeds of faith in others. Be faithful in your prayer life. Plant seeds of prayer which build up the deposit of grace that is distributed around the world. Plant seeds of penance. Offer up your sacrifices for conversion of others. Our world needs our sacrifice and penance. Plant seeds of ministry in your work life, home and families. Enter into something much bigger than yourselves. You are not working alone. You have the power of the Holy Spirit and many saints with you.

“Plant seeds in the lives of others through the crosses you carry. You won’t see the full completion until the next life. Francis always pointed to the Cross and to Jesus. Continue on the long tradition of Saint Francis and let that seed grow within you to bring in a great harvest for God’s kingdom.”

**See Profession Mass on YouTube, thanks to Br. Didacus:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L0m0OrgIE9A>

WHO  
-JPII

# Opening the Gates of Heaven

Br. Didacus Gottsacker, fbp



**B**efore becoming a Franciscan Brother, I used to work as a teacher. Recently, I asked God if it would be His will that I should return to the classroom. His answer came back a resounding, “Yes.”

Already affiliated with St. Jerome’s school, I was directed there to begin a new opportunity. I met with both the principal, Anne Gattman, and the teacher whose classroom I would be using, Mr. Matthew Michaels, a teacher of both Language Arts and Religion. Needless to say, these were already two of my favorite subjects and so I felt immediately that the Holy Spirit had guided me to the right place.

Having been assigned to teach Middle School, I felt very much in my element. The reason why I feel most comfortable with these grades is because they tend to express a keen interest in learning new things while also developing critical thinking.

So far, the students seem to be very engaged and look forward to learning each week. Initially, there were some disciplinary issues that needed to be resolved, but only because it can be difficult to balance between learning enthusiastically and exercising respect in the classroom. After all, once the gears start turning and connections are being made, it can be hard to maintain one’s composure! The thing I have most enjoyed is getting to know the students and hearing their questions, which have honestly helped refine my ability to teach and grow in knowledge of the faith.

I am most grateful to have received the opportunity to share my gift of teaching at St. Jerome’s. All the staff and students have provided an enormous blessing to me and have proffered a spirit of fulfillment. Mr. Michaels has certainly shared his gifts of knowledge and love of the faith in the classroom to fill in some of the gaps and help the students at St. Jerome’s to embrace their Catholic identity in all respects.

How often do we see our schools today competing and focusing on material subjects that do not directly lead us towards Heaven? Indeed, we should be able to take what we learn, see God in His mercy and then enrich the lives of others with that message, including the students of today and tomorrow. After all, they will be the torchbearers of the faith, so we must do everything we can to emphasize how deeply compatible our faith

is with the subjects we teach.

I pray that as we continue forward together, renewing and enriching the spirit of the Catholic schools in our country, that we may entrust ourselves more deeply to the Blessed Mother and her spouse St. Joseph, as well as their Son, Our Lord, Jesus Christ.

St. Jerome, Pray for Us.

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Pray for Us.

Most Blessed Mother and Queen of Heaven, Pray for Us.

St. Joseph, Pray for Us.



Archbishop Hebda made a visit to St. Jerome's school to visit the students recently. Please keep all the teachers and students in your prayers.

# The Generosity of God Continued...

*Br John Mary Kaspari, fbp visits with Barbara, an immigrant & long-time patron.*



By maintaining this outreach, we partner with local parishes and schools who find joy and fulfillment in incorporating collections into their programs. It provides a place for volunteers to give their time and support our presence in the local Church. With the abundance we have we can share with other programs including some of the Native American Reservations.

Over the years of operation, the efficiency has increased, and the quality of supplies has improved. Meat, veg oil, household items, hygiene and baby supplies are offered in abundance. Donation suggestions include the full range of people's needs. Small donations (2-3 bags) can be dropped off in an outside bin or ring the bell between the hours of 9 AM – 3 PM, or make prior arrangements.

We thank you and your families for continued support of our Thanksgiving and Christmas food distribution. May God continue to bless you during these difficult times.



*Br Pio King, fbp talking with Robert, a volunteer & food shelf patron.*



"I am Khoi, I live in the Frogtown area of St Paul. I would like to thank all Brothers at St Francis, year-round giving things we need for our life. And thank you for your prayers for us, now my wife has recovered by God — that's our belief. Thank you."  
—Khoi, all my children and our foster and grandchildren!



Please Join Us via LiveStream on YouTube or Facebook!

## FRANCISCAN holy hour

Every First Friday at 7:00 P.M. | Church of St. Columba, St. Paul, MN  
Adoration + Franciscan Crown Rosary + Chanted Compline + Benediction

www.brothersofpeace.org