

# FRANCISCAN BROTHERS of peace

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## 2019 + The Year in Review



*Devoted to the Gospel of Life*



# Brotherhood Update:

## 2019 + The Year in Review

by Brother Conrad Richardson, fbp, Community Servant

### With Gratitude...

...for each and every one of you who make it possible for us to witness the love of Jesus Christ to others and to sustain our life of prayer and brotherhood by your prayers and financial support. We pray that the Lord blesses you throughout this New Year with an abundance of goodness and peace. And while we are well into the New Year, the amount of goodness that occurred in 2019 is just astonishing.

### Moving to the East Side

In addition to our headquarters, Queen of Peace Friary, those brothers who moved into our new Novitiate last January, Blessed Solanus Friary, on St. Paul's East Side, are doing great. Pray for vocations, we have rooms to fill!

### A Priest Forever

History was made earlier this year on May 25th when our community had its first brother ordained to the priesthood. Father Seraphim is acclimating quite well to the



added sacramental ministry of his vocation as a brother. In addition to offering daily Mass for the brothers, he was given the assignment from Archbishop Bernard Hebda to oversee the spiritual and sacramental needs of the Catholic Karen refugees within the Archdiocese and as chaplain at St. Jerome's School on the east side of St. Paul.

### Deo Gratias!

Who could forget the splendid performance from the John Paul II Players of *Thank God Ahead of Time: A Drama about the Life and Times of Blessed Solanus Casey*. We were able to raise enough money from the proceeds to replace the roof of our Novitiate, Blessed Solanus Friary. In addition, it was an extraordinary blessing to have members of Blessed Solanus' family with us, as well as Brother Richard Merling, OFM Cap., Vice Postulator for the cause of Blessed Solanus' beatification.

### I Will Pay My Vows to the Lord

On October 4th, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, Brother Didacus Gottsacker, fbp and Brother Dismas Paskeiwicz, fbp professed their first vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. They are two wonderful brothers who have given all to serve Christ and His Church. Please continue to keep them in your prayers as well as Brother Paschal Listi, fbp and Brother Antonio Pagba, fbp who are discerning their lifetime profession of vows which, God willing, will also be on October 4th of this year.

### The Holy Rosary

Brother Antonio organized two rosary events that drew many to meditate on the life of Jesus through the praying of the rosary. First, a Public Square Rosary Rally drew around fifty people to pray as part of the America Needs Fatima crusade. The other inspiring event was the Living Rosary, using blue bal-



loons to represent the prayers of the rosary.

### Feast of All Saints

Our brothers at Blessed Solanus Friary welcomed a number of our Karen Catholic community to celebrate this great Solemnity with Holy Mass. Guess which Saint all of the brothers dressed up as? Now how did you know?

### Mission Trip to South Dakota



Also in November, Father Seraphim and Brother Dismas led a group of six to South Dakota to minister to a number of Karen refugee families who are a bit more isolated than Karen refugee families in the Twin Cities. Aside from fellowship, there was time set aside for prayer in the homes, Masses and of course sharing a meal.



### "For I was hungry and you gave me food."

*Matt. 25:35* — Just before Thanksgiving and ending at Christmas, we were able to distribute holiday meals for 2,038 people from 400 families. We never cease to be amazed at how God's providence brings all



is to have their spouse and any dependent children join them here in the US. The brothers rejoiced and were able to witness two of our recent residents welcome their families when they arrived at the Minneapolis/St. Paul airport. As always, it is a truly profound and emotional experience to behold. May God richly bless these dear families and have mercy and save all those who still endure tremendous strife and persecution in the world.



### Our Lady Of Guadalupe at St. Jerome's



to the Karen community on Sunday mornings before Mass at St. Casimir's Catholic Church. On the Fourth Sunday of Advent, in appreciation for all of the teachers, everyone was thrilled to have Archbishop Hebda join them for a full morning of activities. It began with a wonderful meal provided by the Karen while Father Seraphim gave a Power Point presentation on the history of the Karen people from Myanmar (Burma) and their arrival in Minnesota, as well as the current situation back in the refugee camps from where they came. Next, a number of youth performed the account of Christ's birth as well as some cultural dances. The morning concluded with Archbishop celebrating Mass and Father Seraphim concelebrating to a packed church of exuberant Karen parishioners, catechism teachers and religious sisters and brothers.

that we need to our doorstep to help every person who comes to that same doorstep seeking help. God's providence works through you! Let us never tire of serving Jesus in the stranger, the prisoner, the hungry, thirsty, naked or the sick. May God bless you.

Students at St. Jerome's Catholic School under the direction of Brother Antonio and assisted by Brother Dismas and Father Seraphim, performed the account of how Our Lady of Guadalupe appeared to St. Juan Diego on Tepyac Hill in Mexico City in 1531.

### Reunited at Last

The brothers have offered sanctuary to international victims of torture since the mid 90's. We have come to know dozens of remarkably faith-filled men who have endured more hardship and trauma than most could imagine. And that is all aside from being separated from their families. Waiting for asylum can be a long and grueling process. However, once it happens, then the ultimate goal can be realized and that



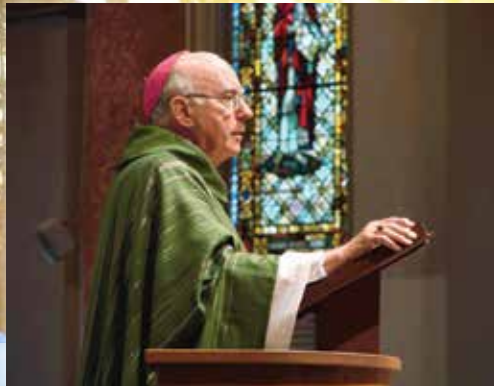
### A Karen Christmas

The brothers along with other religious and a number of lay volunteers, teach catechesis

**May God bless you and give you peace!**

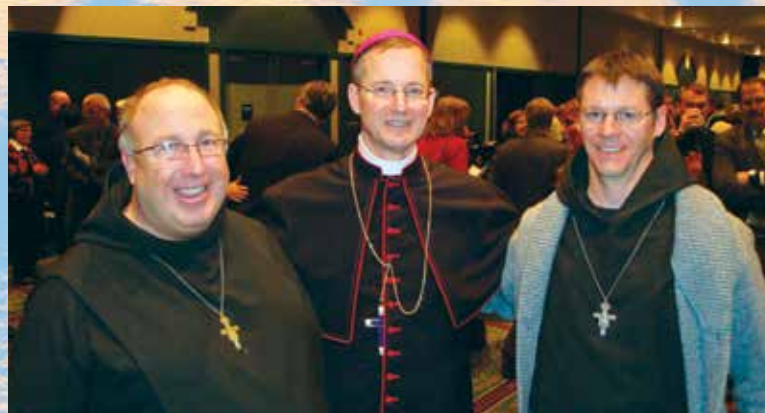


# REQUIESCAT IN PACE + REST IN PEACE +



Of course not all of 2019 was joyful, at least for the Church Militant. Sadly, Minnesota lost two of its Shepherds. Archbishop Harry J. Flynn (above), Archbishop Emeritus of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, on September 22nd, and Bishop Paul D. Sirba (below), Bishop of Duluth, on December 1st. While the health of Archbishop Flynn had been declining, it was a devastating shock to hear of Bishop Sirba's sudden passing at age 59. Both had been supportive of our community over the years. Bishop Sirba in particular, invited our community to the Duluth Diocese to establish our Spiritual Center, a place of retreat for the brothers. He had also been a long-time close friend of our dear late Brother Paul O'Donnell, fbp, after their meeting in seminary in the late 70's.

REQUIEM  
AETERNAM  
DONA EIS  
DOMINE;



ET LUX  
PERPETUA  
LUCEAT EIS.  
AMEN.

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



## FRANCISCAN HOLY HOUR

EVERY FIRST FRIDAY AT 7:00 P.M.  
Adoration + Franciscan Crown Rosary  
Chanted Compline + Benediction  
*Refreshments and Fellowship follow.*

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