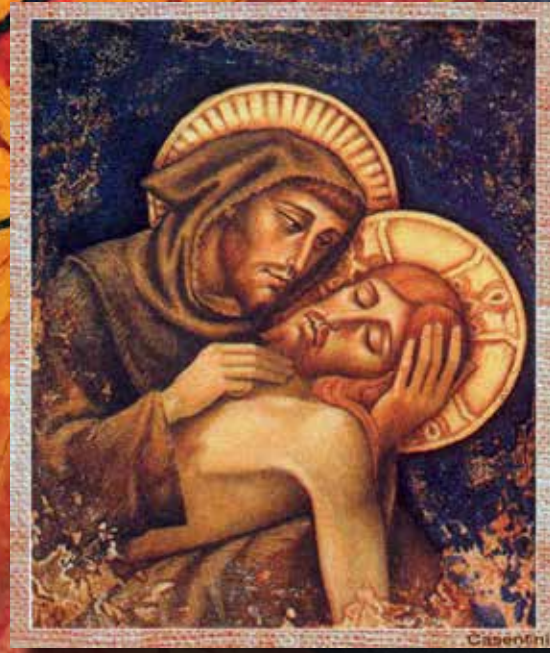


THE FRANCISCAN BROTHERS OF PEACE



invite you to share in their joy
by celebrating the Lifetime Profession of Vows of
BR. DIDACUS GOTTSACKER, fbp

Tuesday, October 4th, 2022, at 4:00 p.m.
Church of Saint Patrick
1095 Desoto Street, St. Paul, MN 55130
(Located next to Blessed Solanus Casey Friary)

Please RSVP via email to Brother Didacus at:
didacusbrothersofpeace@gmail.com

In keeping with our vow of poverty, the newly Professed Brother cannot accept personal monetary gifts. Please consider directing a general donation to the Franciscan Brothers of Peace to support the Brothers and those we serve. Together we will strengthen: hungry persons and families, expectant mothers and fathers, refugees and victims of violence, students and parents, the shut-in and lonely, veterans and new vocations.

Stream available on Facebook (live) and YouTube (10/05/22)

More photos from the Brothers' summer...



Internally Displaced students living at St. Francis Mission in Myanmar — supported by the Franciscan Brothers of Peace.



Summer camp with the Missionaries of Charity.



Home Mass while visiting Karen Catholic families in other states.



FRANCISCAN HOLY HOUR

Every First Friday at 7:00 P.M.
Church of St. Columba
1327 Lafond Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55104

Please Join Us via LiveStream on YouTube or Facebook!

Adoration + Franciscan Crown Rosary
Chanted Compline + Benediction

www.brothersofpeace.org

FRANCISCAN BROTHERS OF PEACE

News magazine A.D. 2022 | Volume 36 | 3rd Edition



A Victory for Life

PLEASE REMEMBER TO



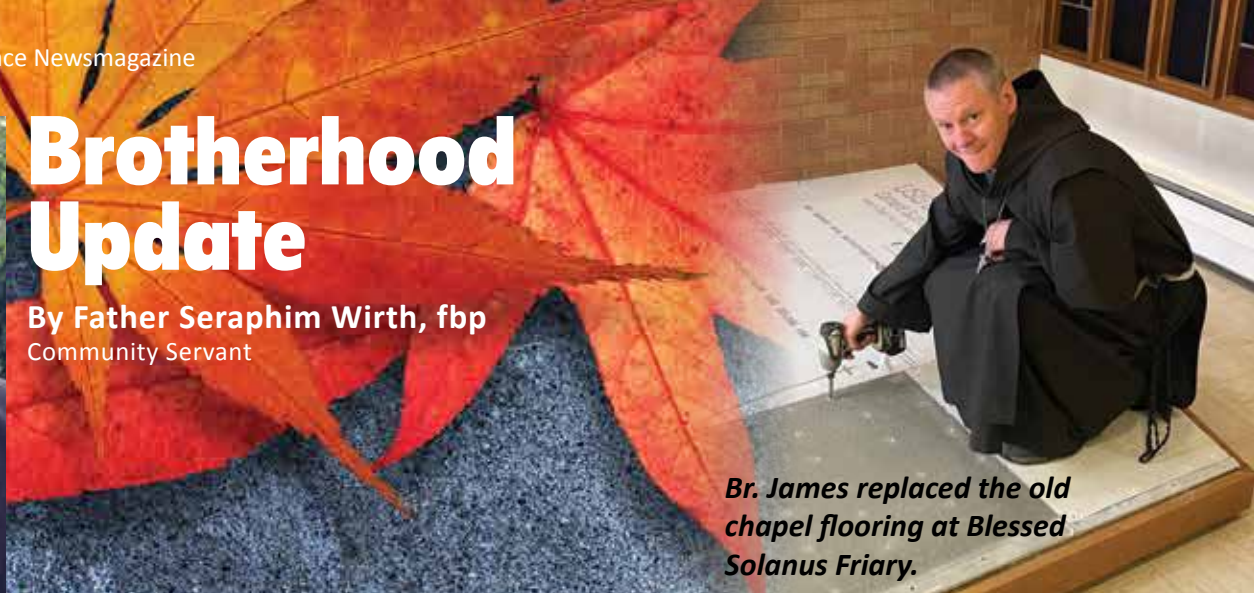
visit brothersofpeace.org

Devoted to the Gospel of Life

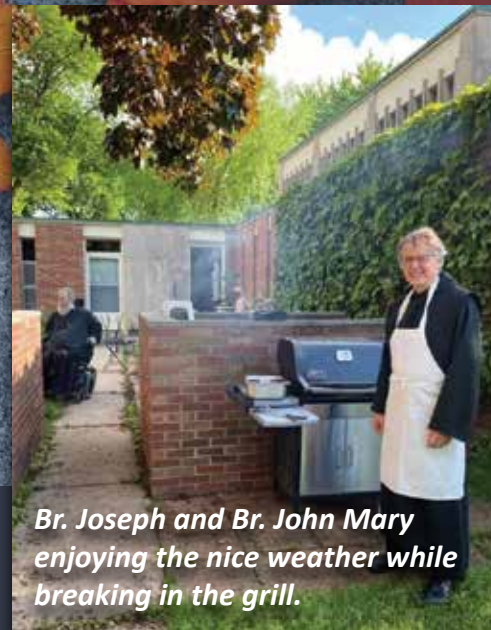


Brotherhood Update

By Father Seraphim Wirth, fbp
Community Servant



Br. James replaced the old chapel flooring at Blessed Solanus Friary.



Br. Joseph and Br. John Mary enjoying the nice weather while breaking in the grill.



Br. Antonio (assigned to the Philippines) is keeping busy training new Altar servers.



Br. Dominic ministering to youth at the Karen Conference in Milwaukee.

Summer 2022

The summer has been filled with many exciting and fruitful events, most especially the celebration of our 40th Anniversary on August 2nd, 2022. We had a wonderful mass and reception at St. Patrick's Church, with about 200 people in attendance.

Please enjoy these photos of some of the things that the Brothers were involved in this summer.

Fall 2022

This fall also has some exciting events coming up! Br. Didacus will be making his Lifetime Vows (see your invitation on page 8) — and Casey Mckee from South Dakota will be entering as a Pre-Postulant. Both events will occur on October 4th, 2022, the great Feast of St. Francis of Assisi. Please join us at the celebration!

Some photos from the Brothers' summer...



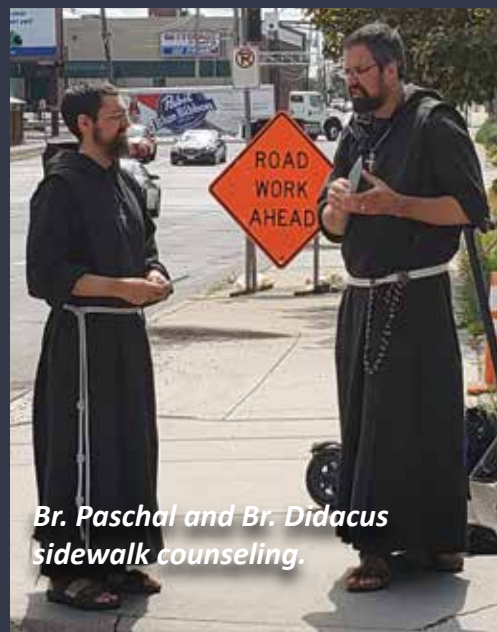
First Communion and Confirmations for the Karen Community.



Many Baptisms and Marriages this summer for the Brothers' ministry to the Karen Community.



Br. James praying with Karen families.



Br. Paschal and Br. Didacus sidewalk counseling.



Br. Pio and Br. Paschal spoke to the youth at the 'National Conference of Burmese-American Catholics' (NCBAC), hosted this year in the Diocese of Owensboro, Kentucky.



Br. Dominic and Fr. Seraphim attended the Karen Catholic Community Conference (KACC) hosted in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee this year. Sisters of St. Francis Xavier in photo.



Fr. Seraphim and Br. Dominic participated in the Archdiocese 2022 Synod. A grace-filled time for us all. We are eagerly awaiting Archbishop Hebda's pastoral letter to be released on the Feast of Christ the King.

By Br. Didacus, fbp

Most people I have met universally agree that slavery is wrong. Murder and genocide are wrong. Racism and segregation are wrong. Although, some still argue that abortion, which has some connection to all of these things in its history and current application, is somehow permissible.

Margaret Sanger, one of the leading members of the Eugenics movement and promoter of the practice of abortion in its early days in the United States, had this to say about the poor and uneducated of her time, namely newly freed black persons: “[...] we are paying for and even submitting to the dictates of an ever increasing, unceasingly spawning class of human beings who never should have been born at all.” (1922).

While birth control, contraception and abortion at least initially began as a means to control particular races, classes and people, for many it has taken on a new meaning as somehow a fundamental right for a woman to choose what to do with her own body. These ideological developments “progressed” mostly in the 20th century after the introduction of philosophical heroes like Charles Darwin and his cousin Francis Galton, both founders of Eugenics; Karl Marx, Stalin and Hitler, who were all disciples that borrowed from their ideas.

Considering the aftermath of the damage that was inflicted by some of these influential figures, it is incredible (though not surprising) how abortion took root in our culture in much of the Western world. Yet, it still remains a shock as to how it has remained a sensitive issue when so many of the acts carried out by these “heroes of history” were (and still are by a majority of the population) condemned.

Here we stand 50 years after the legalization of abortion under the auspices of a loving God who has made His love known to us by sending His Son Jesus to die on the Cross for our salvation. His love encompasses all, even the smallest, most fragile of human beings that we know exist from the moment of fertilization, furthermore with the aid of scientific observation. We recognize that the dignity of the human person has taken a leap forward in our country, which we hope will have an effect on the states who still mire themselves deeply in these corrosive ideologies. Not only that, but we pray for every human being that their self-worth may be acknowledged from the very moment that life begins to form in a mother’s womb.

Although I have been alive for only the latter half of the road to Roe’s reversal, my family did well to enrich me in the understanding and importance of life, even in the darkest of times. Like so many, there have been times in my life where I have fallen or sank to the depths of despair, but the close encounter with a constant, loving and abiding God saved me when nothing or no one else could. In these moments, I am grateful I did not trade my life for a fleeting thought, for if I had, I would be in no place to even preach about the value of human life.

May God have mercy on all of us and bring healing to those who still believe that abortion is the best and only practice for a mother in a crisis pregnancy.



The moment I received the news of the overturning of the federal law, I remember where I was precisely and involuntarily embraced my companion who shared the news with me. Any victory for life, from the most innocent child spared to a whole institutional law being overturned, arouses in my heart the most ecstatic and indescribable joy. All I can think is, “Another one of our children – God’s children – has been spared.” As I reflected on the 62 million lost to this abhorrent slaughter, I also breathed a sigh of relief knowing that the carnage was one pivotal step closer to coming to an end. Who knows what future saints will be born to glorify God in their lives, whether they come to know their Creator or not?

A rally of 400 people in St. Paul on the day of the decision attested to the mercy and conviction that when one places faith and trust in God, all things are possible. Indeed, like so many, I consider myself one who had no expectations for the law to be overturned even in my lifetime. I was not here to see the beginning of its destruction, but I was grateful to play a role in God’s divine plan in helping to bring about its end and give every child the life and freedom they deserve to have in this blessed country.

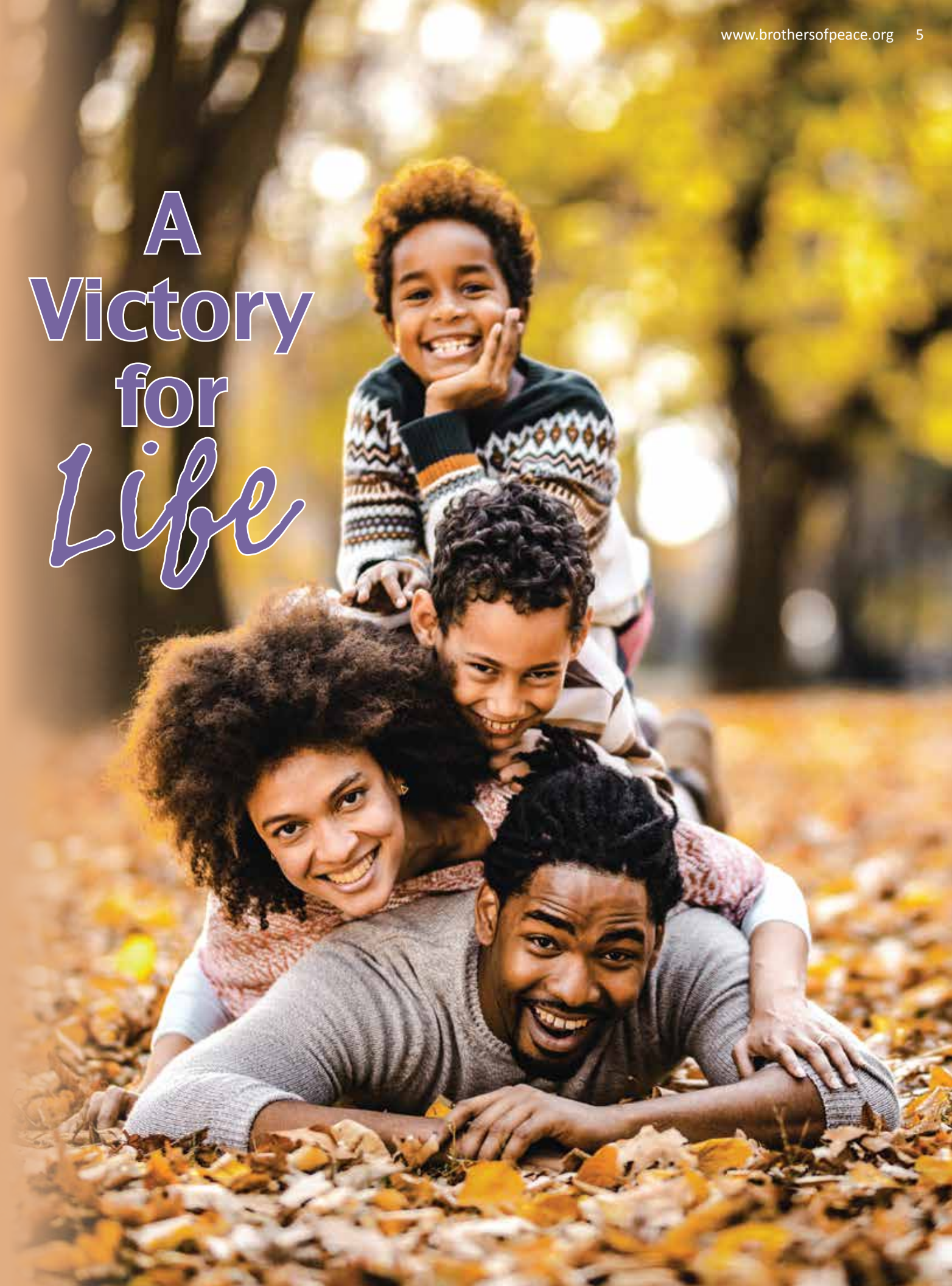
The opposition, of course, has already reacted fiercely even before the decision came in. Christ’s victory is our victory and it compels us. The battle is won, but there is still fighting to do to preserve and keep His just law. It is no coincidence that we received the news on the Solemnity and Feast of the Sacred and Immaculate Hearts. God speaks clearly for His people and we must with even greater vigor and confidence offer those sacrifices for the salvation of souls. Mary, His tender mother, guards each of her children safely and affectionately in her bosom as her foot presses even harder onto the head of the serpent.

May God have mercy on all of us and bring healing to those who still believe that abortion is the best and only practice for a mother in a crisis pregnancy. The wealth of resources and availability has grown exponentially so that mothers too receive the support, love and care they deserve in the midst of their distress. The attitude of the surrounding culture is not bound to change overnight. In fact, it historically has only intensified after such major reversals (like freedom granted to slaves). Though, like all evil, it will eventually subside in time as the power of grace overwhelms us.

As I look out upon the millions who devoted themselves to serving as instruments of peace, I thank you from the depths of my heart for your commitment in caring for the pre-born, their mothers and their fathers.

To effect change in a culture and be true apostolic witnesses, we must be willing to abandon ourselves and risk our lives for the Cross, just as our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ had. I know that our founders, Brs. Michael and Paul are smiling from Heaven alongside all the saints. Moving forward, may their intercession continue to work powerfully in order to bring about a true restoration of God’s Kingdom for the lives and souls of every human being on earth.

A Victory for Life



CELEBRATE, AND “OUTCOMPASSIONATE”



By Br. Paschal Listi, fbp

Can you imagine how much Br Michael and Br Paul must be rejoicing right now, at the end of Roe v. Wade?

What a day! June 24th, annually the Nativity of St John the Baptist, was a “giant ‘leap’ for mankind”. This year it was also the Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. What a triumph of the Heart of Christ Who conquered death, alive and beating for us and those yet unborn!

Pro-Life Action Ministries (PLAM) promised an evening rally to be held on the day of the Supreme Court’s decision, but Jane’s Revenge also promised riot and revenge on that day if Roe was overturned. The day was here. Would I attend? Brothers Michael and Paul would go if they were here... in them I found the courage to go. I took the bus and met Br. Didacus downtown St. Paul at the Warren E. Burger building, named for the infamous Minnesota Justice who championed the original Roe decision.

What an awesome word, “outcompassionate:” to suffer longest with the pregnant mothers and children in need.

The crowd of lifers easily reached 300, outnumbering the pro-aborts 10:1. I was offered a sign that read “I Am Human” with a pre-born baby picture; a clear, scientific statement of human dignity. I was relieved and held it high. Most rallies for the unborn have an air of sorrow and concern, but this rally was filled with excitement and joy. Roe had fallen! We sang praise and worship at the top of our lungs: a day of Amazing Grace!

The speakers were outstanding. Archbishop Hebda spoke first. “That’s my Archbishop!” I hollered proudly. Our Shepherd didn’t let Jane’s Revenge stop him! And, Hal-



Br. Michael and Br. Paul.



Archbishop Bernard Hebda.



Br. Paschal and Br. Didacus sidewalk counseling.

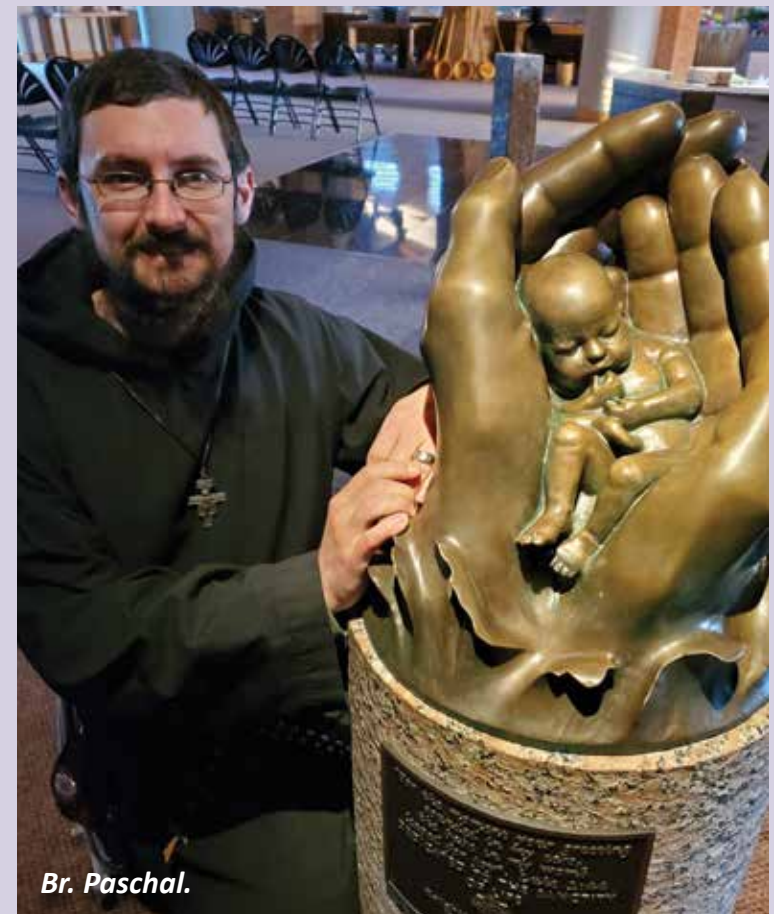
lelujah, Reverend Mrs. Walker! She reminded us that we need a whole host of healing centers for the MILLIONS of post-abortive women (and men) who have been lied to by the abortion industry. Amen, Sister!

Another speaker was an articulate young woman named Grace Evans of the Minnesota Family Council. She said, although we will likely be outspent, we are on the winning side “because we can outnumber and we can outcompassionate the opposition!”

What an awesome word, *outcompassionate*: to suffer longest with the pregnant mothers and children in need. When I’m out sidewalk counseling, faced with angry cursing from certain PP Escorts, “outcompassionate” points me to Jesus’ courageous Beatitudes. Holy Spirit: I forgive them, please convert them, guard my peace, and embolden me to reach these mothers and babies with truth and love!

Since June 24th, not much has changed on the sidewalks of abortion mills in Minnesota. Trucks still honk in our support; middle fingers still bring us the blessings of the persecuted. Some mothers accept our help; some buy the lie. There are still hour-long gaps each week where PLAM needs volunteers to reach those women and children in immediate danger. Babies are still dying. Women still need healing.

Dear Church: now is the time to celebrate a huge victory, yes, but now is also the time to outcompassionate. We must all up our game to rebuild a culture of life in a dying Minnesota where laws will be slow to change. How? Learn to sidewalk counsel with PLAM. Fill these gaps. Come and pray. Vote for life. Volunteer at a Pregnancy Resource Center. Be the arms of mercy for the post-abortive, or seek healing yourself. We must be on those sidewalks and in those PRCs and healing centers. We will outcompassionate them. I am a Minnesota citizen, and I will defend her women and children from the violence of abortion. Celebrate, and then outcompassionate.



Br. Paschal.



Rally at the Warren E. Berger building.

