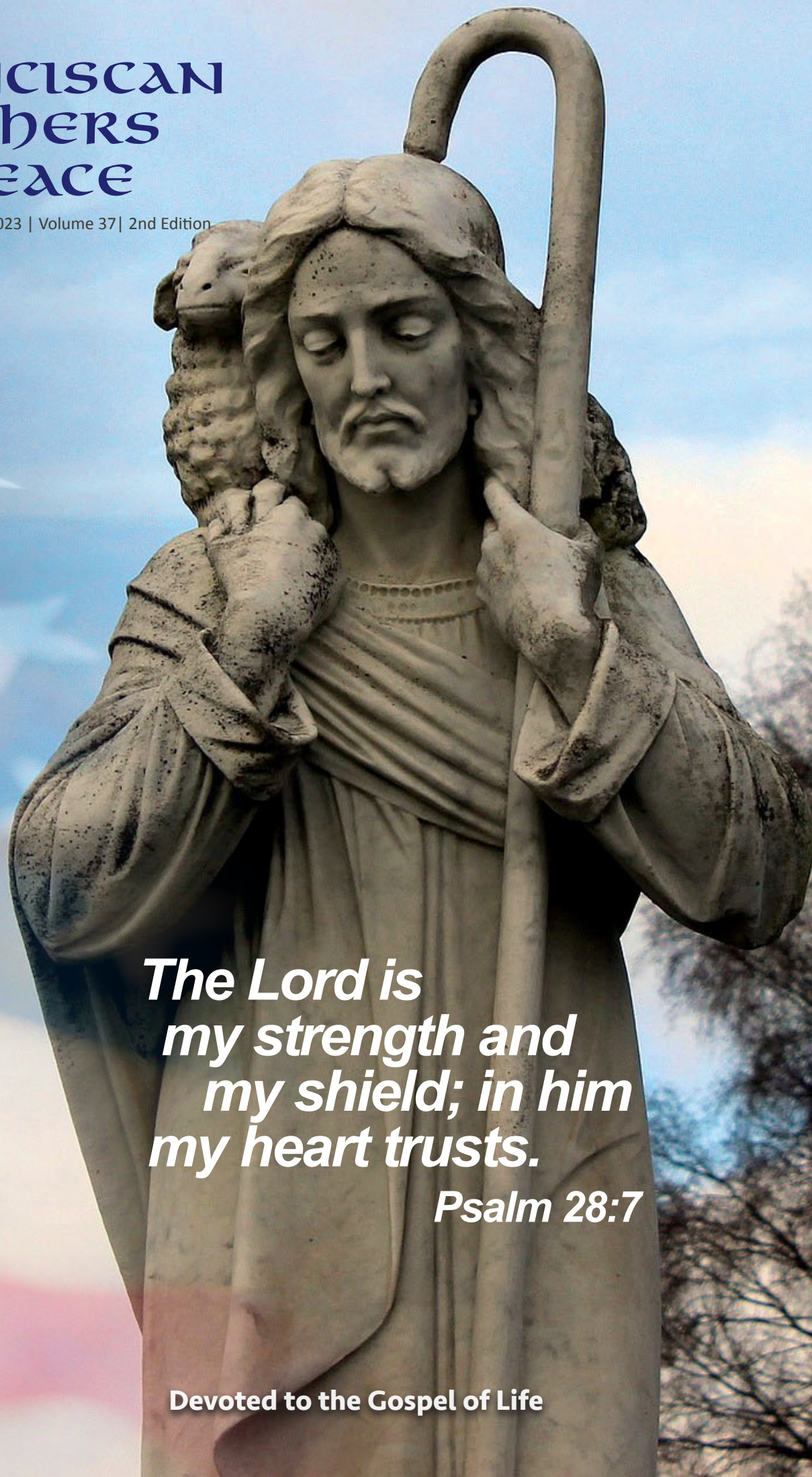


FRANCISCAN BROTHERS OF PEACE

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***The Lord is
my strength and
my shield; in him
my heart trusts.***

Psalm 28:7

Devoted to the Gospel of Life



Brotherhood Update

By Father Seraphim Wirth, fbp
Community Servant

We send you all our heartfelt Easter greetings and a wholehearted thank you for your prayers and financial support. Please be assured that we remember you in our daily prayers and Holy Hour.

In our life as Franciscan Brother of Peace we strive to be docile to the Holy Spirit's direction in our community's missions. Always promoting the 'Gospel of Life' in the apostolates that the Holy Spirit sends our way.

One of those apostolates highlighted in this newsletter is our outreach to members of the US Military and Veterans who have served our country so heroically.

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1. *Servant of God Chaplain Fr. Kapaun. Canonization Prayer.*

2. *Photo collection of some of our Easter activities.*

3. *Br. John Mary's article about Tom, a Vietnam War veteran.*

4. *Br. Dominic Michael's article written by Pablo a Marine Corps pilot who was blessed by a rosary received from Br. Dominic.*

5. *Br. Conrad's announcement for his Silver Jubilee.*

Fr. Emil J. Kapaun Chaplain United States Army
"Servant of God"



Prayer for the Beatification and Canonization of Father Kapaun



Lord Jesus, in the midst of the folly of war, your servant Chaplain Emil Kapaun, spent himself in total service to you on the battlefields and in the prison camps of Korea, until his death at the hands of his captors.

We now ask you, Lord Jesus, if it be your will, to make known to all the world in the holiness of Chaplain Kapaun and the glory of his complete sacrifice for you by signs of miracles and peace.

In your name, Lord, we ask, for you are the source of peace, the strength of our service to others, and our final hope. Amen.

Source: frkapaun.org

Easter Blessings and Memories



Brothers singing at the Solemn Good Friday Prayer Vigil



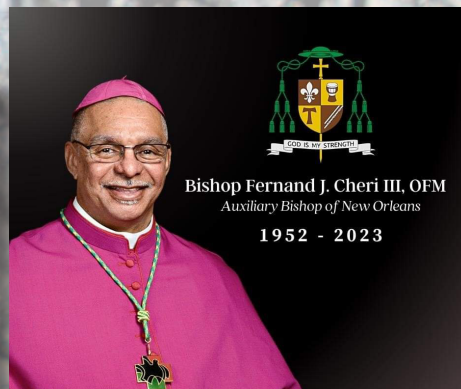
Celebrating the Easter Vigil with the Karen Community at St. Casimir parish



Brothers enjoyed celebrating the 15th birthday, "friar style," of our new honorary little brother, Angelo Pio, on the Feast of St. Fidelis, OFM Cap. Photo by Angelo's mother, Gina LeVeque. "May God bless these holy men."



Brothers praying at the Minnesota State Capitol. United for Life event



Prayers for Bishop Cheri, OFM . He was a friend of the Brothers and a blessing to so many



Blessing of Br. Dominic's newly made rosaries. Brothers continue to spread devotion to Our Lady Queen of Peace .

American Veteran, One of many heroes

By Br. John Mary, fbp

Tom is a survivor. Having met and befriended Vietnam War veteran Tom five plus years ago as an inpatient at the Minneapolis VA Medical Center via my ministry there as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, a friendship developed. He was moved recently to donate his Toyota minivan to the Franciscan Brothers of Peace, giving me the impetus and the inspiration to highlight in this article his story of faithful perseverance, a trait I am privileged to witness among innumerable veterans I get to know during my rounds at the hospital. In this regard Tom and countless other veterans are American heroes.



Tom was sent to the war front as a young 20 year-old US Army private in 1967, describing himself as a computer technician for a room sized computer on a base in Qui Nhon, Vietnam. Practically, though, one of his primary responsibilities was as night guardsman guarding the gate to the base at which this computer was housed. It must not be infiltrated by the enemy. Then in late January 1968 the Tet Offensive broke out, a coordinated attack by North Vietnamese forces

of all surrounding hamlets near and surrounding Tom's base resulting in 12,727 South Vietnamese and American casualties; and here he is pulling guard duty. Tom was afraid but dutifully maintained his post. He survived his war experience.

After a one year stint Tom, though, was cynical. "The whole thing was worthless," lamenting the 58,000 plus American soldiers killed during the Vietnam War. He was angry with God, angry with life. Coming home to finish his Army service in Texas, he was angry at the cold reception, being even spit on at the airport, upon his return to state-side. Though he still had a belief in the existence of God, he stopped practicing any formal faith life for five years, not returning to a life of prayer and Mass attendance until he began raising his family.

And in raising his children in the faith, Tom realized that he was experiencing his own spiritual awaking in small increments. "God started to do little things to and for me that only pertained to me," praying that God would "fix" his finger that had experienced a paralysis. His finger was healed and is fully mobile. He has kept his faith, relied on his faith in God in more dramatic ways. Tom is diabetic (a result, the VA acknowledges, of being sprayed with Agent Orange during his military experience) resulting ultimately in the amputation of his right leg. He is grateful that God has awarded him with a high-tech prosthesis. We believe most miraculous, though, was when Tom relayed his experience of being clinically dead during two unsuccessful surgeries for the extractions of blood clots in his heart. These clots were unsuccessfully retrieved, floated up to his brain and led to strokes and cardiac arrests, once for 7 minutes, once for 13 minutes. The doctors believed he should have experienced brain damage on both of these occasions. After both of these surgeries, Tom awoke during post-op with no brain damage whatsoever. He attributes it to God, saying "God didn't want me, and the devil didn't know I was dead".

Again quoting Tom, "I'm back believing in God, He keeps working on me. He didn't give up on me; I won't give up on him." His witness of faith is why I keep ministering at the VA Medical Center after 20 years. In my attempts to witness Christ to such veterans as Tom, I find myself having Christ witnessed to me via these heroes of faith, perseverance and courage. God bless Tom and all his comrades in arms.

Servant of God , Fr. Capodanno (Grunt Padre)



A Vietnam War hero (1929-1967), a Catholic U.S. Navy chaplain who was killed in action while supporting Marines.

Prayer to Obtain a Favor Through the Intercession of Servant of God Father Vincent R. Capodanno, M.M.

by Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio

Almighty and merciful God, look with Love on those who plead for Your help. Through the intercession of your servant, Father Vincent Capodanno, missionary and Catholic Navy Chaplain, grant the favor I earnestly seek (mention the request). May Vincent, who died bringing consolation to the Marines he was privileged to serve on the field of battle, intercede in my need as I pray in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

“The greatest weapon against the Devil we have is the Rosary.”

-Saint Padre Pio

Written by Lieutenant Colonel P. J. Torres

I’m a United States Marine proudly serving this country for the past 23 years. I’ve spent most of my time in the Marine Corps either flying attack helicopters (i.e., the AH-1W/Z), performing the duties of a Forward Air Controller, or as a staff member sitting behind a computer, winning the war one keystroke at a time. I’ve had the privilege of serving alongside great Americans from every military service.



The Marine Corps has taken me to many countries, including Iraq and Afghanistan. Even with my background, my story is not a unique one. There are countless stories (and even more untold stories) from those who came before me about the Rosary’s impact on their lives. I’m glad I can share a short story about how the Rosary has impacted my life, fully knowing and admitting that our Lord Jesus Christ has blessed countless others with more enlightening and profound accounts through the Rosary.

My affinity with the Rosary began well before my time in the Marine Corps. I was raised in a devout catholic family. As a young child, I remember my family religiously praying the Rosary. Yet, in those days, I didn’t quite grasp the magnitude of importance the

Rosary possessed. I saw the Rosary as something someone would wear around their necks or carry in their pocket -- more of a lucky charm than anything else. I would still recite the Rosary, not comprehending what I was saying, yet fully appreciating its perceived protection on those wearing it.

I’m aware that the Rosary is more than a lucky charm. I know countless books have been written on the Rosary and how it has changed people’s lives. I can attest that it has saved my life on numerous occasions. I now know that reciting the Rosary enables you to become closer to Jesus through the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Unfortunately, there was a time when my life’s priority diverged exponentially from how I was raised. I never stopped believing in God, Jesus, or the Holy Spirit, but I did stop going to mass, never finished the sacraments of



Brother Dominic Michael with Rosary ministry volunteers Pam Keuler and Teresa Bellows

initiation (i.e., confirmation), and questioned the catholic faith (well, any religion, for that matter). I ultimately formed a belief that there was no requirement to associate myself with any religious faith. Don't get me wrong; I was not a malicious person. I still acted upon my ethical and moral values to be what I thought a good human should be. I just didn't have a healthy relationship with God. I went a long time without praying. When I did pray, it was because I needed something. I'm ashamed to admit it, but I even forgot how to "pray" the Rosary. Yet, there was always something mysterious when I held a Rosary, and more often than not, I felt a sense of wanting a more meaningful relationship with Jesus and a feeling that He was there waiting for me to come to him.

My time in the military has taken me on five combat deployments (some to Iraq and some to Afghanistan). On each deployment, I carried a Rosary with me. Through the Rosary, I believe God protected me from danger and allowed me to return to my family safely. I've been through frightening, sorrowful, and exhilarating times. I've taken enemy fire, been in a helicopter crash, and had fragments from an improvised explosive device land inches from my head. Unfortunately, I've also lost great friends who paid the ultimate price while protecting this nation. Again, please let me reemphasize that my story is not unique. I know countless more have endured greater pains than I could ever imagine.

Through the Rosary, I've been blessed with God's grace, mercy, and protection. Without the Rosary, I may not be here today. I owe it all to Jesus and the countless times he has answered my prayers - either praying the Rosary or any prayer- to keep my family (my blood family and my military family) and me safe from the daily perils we all face. I will continue to carry the Rosary for the rest of my life and pray that God gives me the fortitude to endure life's challenges while guarding me from danger. *"Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me."* - Psalm 23

God has not only blessed me with the Rosary, but he has also blessed me with those who surround me. One of those people is Brother Dominic Michael. I first met him through social media — we have a mutual friend. His passion for Jesus and his ministry through Regina Pacis Rosaries and Chaplets intrigued me. I messaged him, gave him a brief background on who I was, and requested to purchase a Rosary from his repertoire. I also requested that he give me a mode of pur-

chase (e.g., Venmo, cash, check, etc.). Surprisingly, he answered my message and asked which one I wanted. I received various rosaries after a couple of weeks, all perfect in their own way. God works in mysterious ways because Brother Dominic Michael was adamant that he would not accept any payment.

Since my initial contact with him, he has made it a point to check on me to see how I and my family were doing. There have been some fantastic times, such as when I was confirmed in April 2022. And there have been some challenging and sorrowful times, such as when my mother, who suffered from Alzheimer's, was called to be with the Holy Father. My most precious gift from Brother Dominic has been the chaplets he specifically made for my family (my father, two sisters, and myself) commemorating my mother's passing. I carry the chaplet every day, and through it, I give thanks to our Lord Jesus Christ for all the blessings he has showered me with, and with the chaplet, I will continue to pray the beloved Rosary.

I firmly believe that some people (me being one of them) go through life pondering if they've positively impacted others. Brother Dominic, through his ministry, doesn't have to wonder. I, and many more, will always cherish his generosity and thoughtfulness. As I've experienced with Brother Dominic, a simple act of kindness will have an unfathomable rippling effect that will touch many people's lives. We pray that Regina Pacis Rosaries and Chaplets continue to bless others as it has blessed us.



Celebrate
COME CELEBRATE WITH US!
Silver
Jubilee



Mass
Save the Date!
Brother Conrad's
SILVER JUBILEE MASS
October 4, 2023 at 7pm
1095 Desoto Street
St. Paul MN, 55130



The Mary statue at 'Queen of Peace Friary' has been fully restored and painted. Let us continue to pray for the conversion of the vandals.

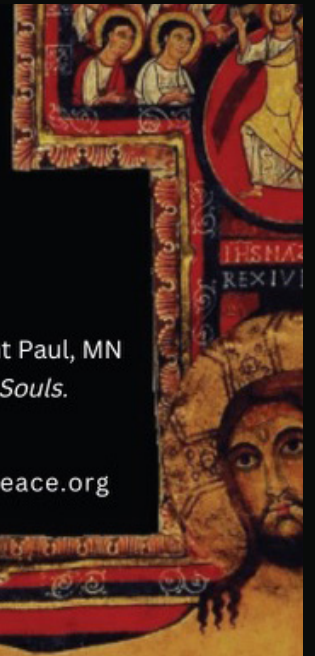
Men 18-35 considering
life as a Priest or Brother:

"Come and see" -Jn 1:39

June 16-19 (Fri - Mon)
Discernment Weekend

Franciscan Brothers of Peace, Saint Paul, MN
For CHRIST. For Brothers. For Souls.

RSVP: vocation@brothersofpeace.org



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