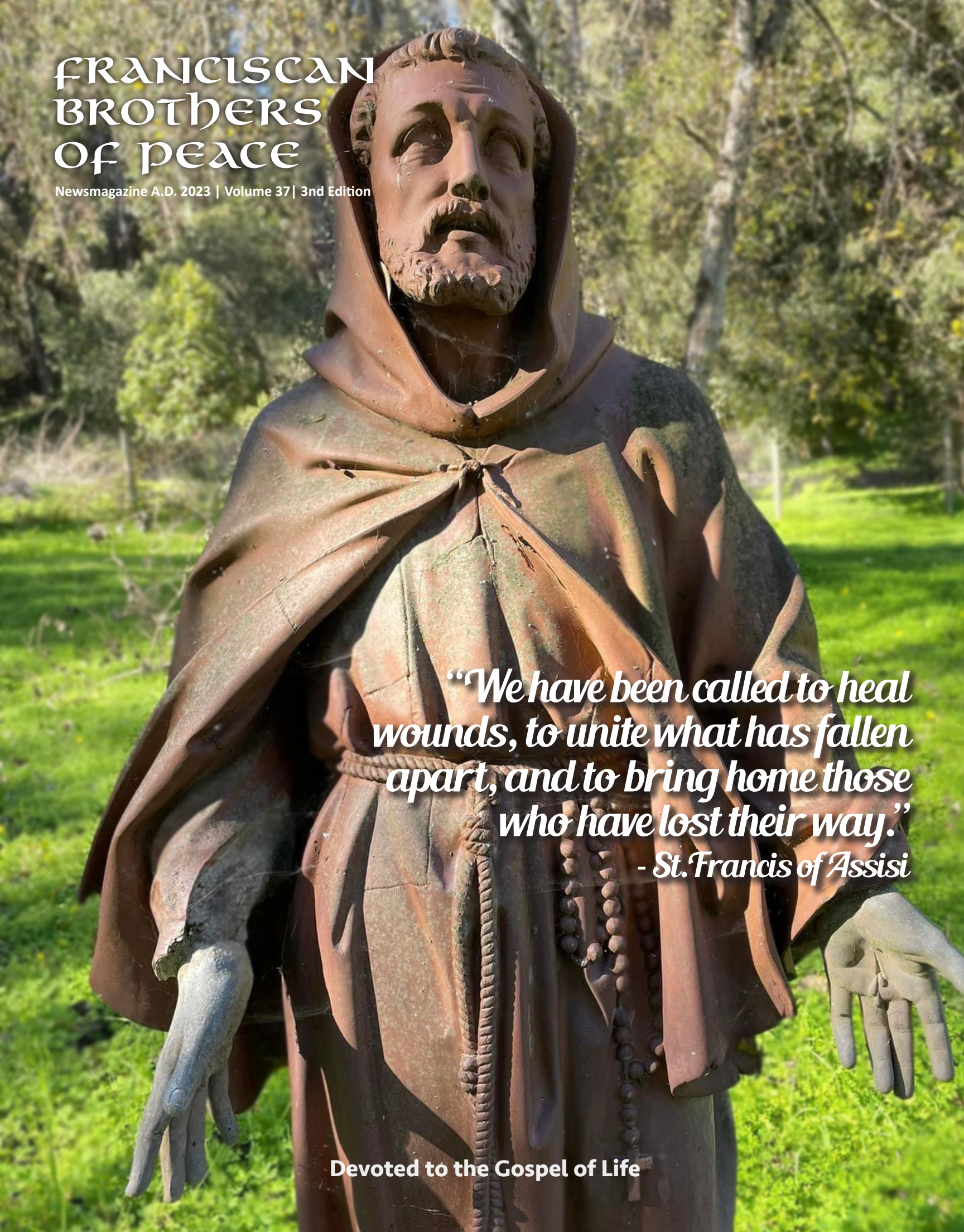


FRANCISCAN BROTHERS OF PEACE

Newsmagazine A.D. 2023 | Volume 37 | 3rd Edition



*“We have been called to heal
wounds, to unite what has fallen
apart, and to bring home those
who have lost their way.”*

- St. Francis of Assisi

Devoted to the Gospel of Life



Brotherhood Update

By Father Seraphim Wirth, fbp
Community Servant

Summer 2023

Once again the summer has stretched us in many different areas and thanks, to your prayers and support, we are able to share some of the fruits with you.

This summer has been a pilgrimage for us all. We have been journeying from one activity to the next and trying to follow the Holy Spirit's guidance in all that we do. Much of this pilgrimage that we have been on has brought about change in the life of the Brothers. It's all for God's glory, but change is not easy at times.

Some changes include...

1. This newsletter. We are switching over to direct mailing, which means no more stuffing envelopes. We have had many faithful volunteers throughout the years that have helped us with this, and we thank you for your generosity and faithfulness to serve.
2. Bringing in some outside help for Br. Joseph's medical needs.
3. Continuing education for Br. Dominic Michael and Br. James in various areas.
4. Br. Didacus is going to St. Paul Seminary to discern his call to the priesthood.
5. Br. Pio's involvement in Native American ministry.
6. Starting a new year partnering with NET ministries for our youth program.

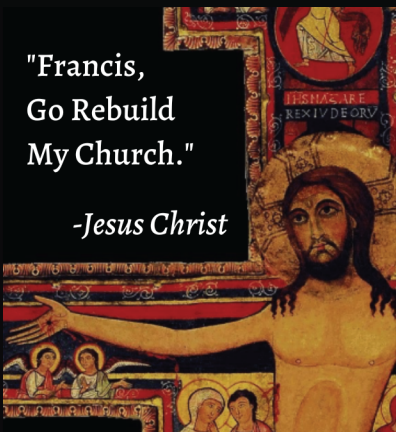
Through this pilgrimage process God reveals Himself to us in new ways. We learn to trust Him more in our life and to listen closely to how the Holy Spirit is leading us.

I wholeheartedly thank you in advance for all your prayers and support for our community. Please be assured that we keep you and your intentions in our daily prayers.

God Bless,
Fr. Seraphim, fbp

"Francis,
Go Rebuild
My Church."

-Jesus Christ



Franciscan Brothers of Peace

*Zealous for Jesus Christ + Zealous for their Dignity:
the Unborn, the Poor, the Veteran, the Refugee...*

www.brothersofpeace.org

Discern Religious Brotherhood / Priesthood
Br. Paschal, Vocations Director
Br. Didacus, Vocations Assistant
651-340-2552 (landline)

NEW SITE

A Pilgrims' Journey to Iona

by Brother Conrad Richardson, fbp

Due to the generosity of a good friend of the brothers, I was blessed with the opportunity to make a pilgrimage to the Hebrides Islands and visit the ancient shrines of the Celtic Saints. The pilgrimage was a gift for my silver jubilee and was led by a community of Orthodox monks and nuns who are striving to revitalize the Apostolic Faith on these islands.



'Martyr's Bay'. Is the place where many Monks were martyred

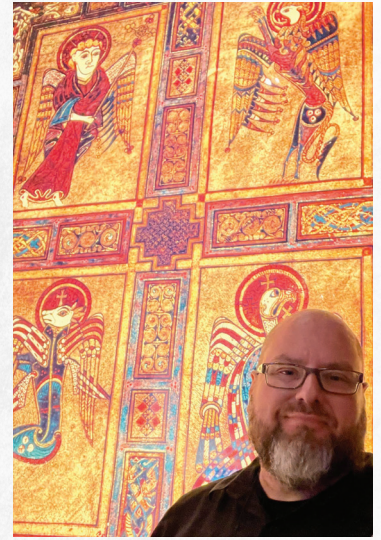
One saint in particular I have been wanting to become closer to and learn more about is St. Columba, also known as St. Colmcille, which means, "Dove of the Church." Our home, Queen of Peace Friary here in St. Paul, Minnesota is right next door to a Catholic Church named after him. St. Columba is venerated in both the Catholic and Eastern Orthodox Churches.

Columba was born in Ireland in 521 of royal lineage. As a monk and priest, in 563 he sailed to the Isle of Iona with twelve companions in a wicker boat and established a monastic community on this island which is no larger than one and a half miles wide by three miles long.

Iona Abbey



Burial site of St. Columba.



The Book of Kells-Four Evangelists

The way these monks lived and survived in such a harsh climate of cold and rain, using only things of the land and sea for shelter and food, is unimaginable. In the sixth century, no less!

Through St. Columba's zeal for God and missionary spirit, the Druidic

Picts were converted to Christianity from paganism. He founded many churches and monasteries, his own monastery on Iona became a school for missionaries and is where the famous illuminated manuscript of the Gospels, the Book of Kells, originated from. St. Columba died in 597 and later his relics were divided between Ireland and Scotland. Later, monks who lived on the island would suffer several bloody attacks by Vikings, who were also ultimately converted after witnessing the docile martyrdom of these holy men.

Since my return, I have a deeper appreciation and reverence when walking into St. Columba's Church next door to the friary. God's glory shines through His saints who model for us Christian virtue and true devotion, which if we strive to imitate, can be transformative, helping us to become more like Jesus. St. Columba of Iona, pray for us!



NOT TO US, LORD, NOT TO US BUT BECAUSE OF YOU



Fr. Paschal helping out with a craft project at the Bible camp this July. Hosted by the Brothers and the Missionary of Charity Sister. This years theme was the Holy Eucharist



Fr. Seraphim will be going back to Thailand and Myanmar in October 2023. The Franciscan Brothers of Peace have opened up 3 Catholic boarding houses in these countries. The 3 sites provide for 80 children to be given the chance to go to school and a safe place to stay. Each year Fr. Seraphim goes back to check on things and to administer first communions and other sacraments at the missions. Thank you in advance for your prayers for safety



Fr. Dominic Michael is taking some continuing education classes and is receiving an Advanced Certification in Media Literacy and Faith formation. The skills he learns in this course would further his capacity for outreach in his ministry. Thank you in advance for your prayers



Fr. Didacus will be entering St. Paul Seminary in September 2023 as a Theology 1 seminarian. Please pray for him as he begins his time of formal discernment for the priesthood



Fr. Pio attends the 84th Tekakwitha Conference that was held in the Archdiocese this year. The photo was taken with members of the St. Francis Solanus mission located in Wisconsin. The brothers bring food and hygiene donations to the mission



This year we were blessed to send 15 youth from the Karen Community to the Stubenville North conference. It was a blessed time for all with many opportunities to grow closer to God. Fr. Seraphim attend the conference and helped with the many confessions



On May 15, 2023. Confirmation the Karen Community received

BUT TO YOUR NAME GIVE THE GLORY YOUR MERCY AND FAITHFULNESS!

PSALM 115:1



We had the Sisters of St. Francis Xavier and priests visiting us from Myanmar this summer. They were helping us minister to the Karen people. We also had a good visit with Archbishop Hebda, Bishop Williams and Bishop Izen



Br. James and Fr. Seraphim participate in a young adult retreat in Northern Minnesota. We experienced God in nature through long hikes and canoeing trips



Confirmations at the Cathedral of St. Paul, 15 young people from [unclear] received the gifts of the Holy Spirit



A wonderful pilgrimage to Bishop Baraga's Cross in northern Minnesota. Much of his ministry was to the Native American people's of the Midwest



NET Ministries inspired Franciscan Brother of Peace Paschal Listi's vocation discernment

Written by Barb Umberger, (Catholic Spirit)

West St. Paul-based NET Ministries “ruined my life in all the best of ways,” said Brother Paschal Listi, vocations director for the Franciscan Brothers of Peace in St. Paul. NET Ministries, a Catholic youth ministry, trains and sends teams of missionaries across the country to facilitate retreats and other evangelistic events.

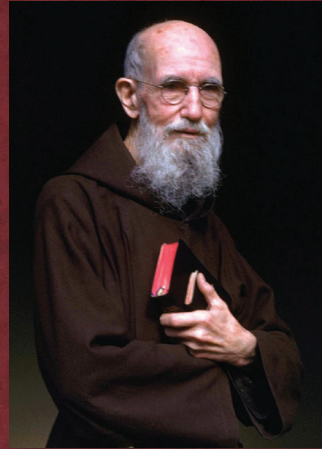
It did so by teaching him about personal prayer, brotherhood and sisterhood, “and inspired me to discern my vocation very seriously and joyfully”. Brother Paschal said he is grateful to have found the call through spiritual direction.



Born in Texas, he believes “God has a sense of humor to bring me up here to Minnesota.” He visited Franciscan orders around

the country that were “tugging at his heart,” but said the order in St. Paul “just resonated with my soul like the strings on a cello, you could say.”

Brother Paschal recently joined “Practicing Catholic” radio show producer Kayla Mayer to discuss the Franciscan Brothers of Peace and the recent 18-mile walking pilgrimage in honor of Blessed Solanus Casey.



Blessed Solanus was born in 1870, baptized in Prescott, Wisconsin, and confirmed at St. Michael in Stillwater. Brother Paschal said that where Blessed Solanus really shone was “helping people to trust in God’s providence, teaching them to thank God ahead of time for however he would be working in their lives and answering their prayers.”

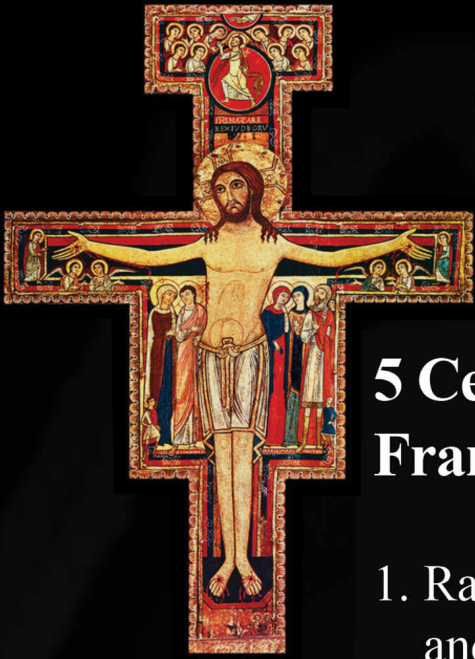
“I think he’s a great example for all of us ... anyone striving for the kingdom, especially in humility, just accepting God’s providence in our lives and flowering and growing right where we’re planted,” Brother Paschal said. The Franciscan Brothers of Peace partnered with Modern Catholic Pilgrim (<https://www.moderncatholicpilgrim.com/>) offering the 2nd Annual Bl. Solanus Casey pilgrimage. The pilgrimage began at Blessed Solanus friary friary with Mass, morning prayer and breakfast. The walk was 18 miles to St. Michael’s Catholic Church in Stillwater where Blessed Solanus Casey was Confirmed. The event was a blessed time praying for his canonization and for personal intentions.



We have been partnering with a NET team for the past five years to supplement our youth ministry outreach. We have been very blessed to have ministered with so many missionaries these years. We are looking forward to meeting the new NET team in September

In July 29th the Brothers participated in the 2nd Annual Bl. Solanus Casey Pilgrimage. A group of about 30 young adults gathered at Solanus friary for mass and breakfast and then started the walk to St. Michael church in Stillwater. It was a blessed event time of prayer and fellowship





char · ism (noun)
/'ker,izəm/

1. supernatural grace for mission
2. a missionary gift from the Holy Spirit at the founding of a religious community

5 Central Charisms of the Franciscan Brothers of Peace

1. Radical love and zeal for Jesus Christ and the service of His Kingdom
2. Ambassadors & missionaries of Christ's peace & mercy
3. Prayer, & the cultivation of prayer among all people
4. Franciscan simplicity through a life of poverty, chastity, & obedience to the Lord & the Roman Catholic Church
5. Called to be prophetic witnesses, whether it is popular or not

www.brothersofpeace.org
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

