



Spring 2020

Light In The Desert

The Newsletter of the Franciscan Friars of the Holy Spirit

Prayer Requests

- For all those affected directly or indirectly by the COVID-19 virus
- For all parishoners at Native American missions and St. Mary of Redford in Detroit
- For strength and endurance for all friars as they serve their communities
- For Bp. Olmsted and Abp. Vigneron, as they continue to lead the friars

COMING SOON

- **NOV 8** - 3rd Annual St. John's Friar Fall Festival
- **JAN 4-15, 2021** - Pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi
- **SPRING '20** - 4th Annual FriarQ Gala



A New Brother For The Order

It is with joy that the Franciscan Friars of the Holy Spirit announce that we have accepted Br. Andre (David) Beale to the novitiate as of December 19th, 2020.

Baptist Mission on the Gila River Indian Reservation to continue his novitiate under the direction of Fr. Peter Teresa McConnell.

Br. Andre has been living at Greyfriars House of Studies in Detroit, MI since July 2019. His work has consisted of street evangelism, acolyte duties, as well as general maintenance and upkeep of St. Mary of Redford parish where the house of studies is located.

Our Arizona friars, the mission communities, and his family look forward to Br. Andre's return to the Phoenix area.

In May of 2020, Br. Andre will return to St. Kateri Tekakwitha Friary, located at St. John the



Prayer And Formation

Our newest priest friar, Fr. Peter Teresa McConnell, has grown accustomed to the rhythm of life of a first-year priest. He has been grateful to be able to be present in the person of Christ for people, especially in their times of greatest joy as well as their times of trial and sorrow; at baptisms and weddings as well as anointings of the sick and funerals.



Fr. Peter Teresa was recently chosen as the Director of Postulancy and Novitiate for the Franciscan Friars of the Holy Spirit. For the past year, early formation took place at Greyfriars House of Studies in Detroit. With this new position, this stage of formation will be moving back to St. Kateri Tekakwitha Friary on the Gila River Indian Reservation.

This is a significant step, as our young men at the beginning of their journey will be able to spend a year or more working amongst the people that they may eventually be called to serve as brothers and priests. In addition to Br. Andre, there are several young men in application to the order who may be joining this summer.

A Journey Through Time

For fifty-four pilgrims from around the U.S., January 2020 began like any other but ended with a journey of a lifetime. Fr. Antony Tinker and Fr. Peter Teresa, McConnell, with the help of Select International Tours led these pilgrims in the footsteps of Christ through the Holy Land in Israel.

The friars and their companions experienced the reality Gospels in the very places where they occurred: from the place of the multiplication to the tomb of Christ. All returned forever changed.



Married pilgrims who accompanied the friars to the Holy Land in January, 2020 renew their wedding vows in Cana

Soon (travel permitting) we will announce the details of our 2021 pilgrimage to Rome & Assisi.

Friar Q 2020 A Success

It was a leap day like no other. Two hundred friends and benefactors of the Franciscan Friars of the Holy Spirit gathered for the third annual Friar Q. This annual gala is the primary means by which we fund our seminary formation program. It was our honor to have Bp. James Wall of the Diocese of Gallup, NM as our celebrant for mass and honored guest.

Following the liturgy, guests enjoyed live country music, gourmet Sonoran Mexican food, silent and live auctions, and a night of fellowship. And the results are in: thanks to this event, our seminarians have been funded for two more semesters. We are so grateful for the immense generosity of all those who gave.



Bp. James Wall along with other friends and benefactors enjoying the 3rd annual Friar Q

From Our Community Servant

We are living through an unprecedented time in history. Catholic churches throughout the world sat empty for Holy Week. Instead of going to mass and gathering with family and friends, you spent Easter Sunday "sheltered-in-place" watching mass on a device screen. *Why is this happening? Is God punishing us? If so, why? Is this the work of the devil? If so, then why doesn't God stop it?* We can't know the answers to these questions. But we can trust in the Lord's goodness and ability to work all situations for our good. I offer here three ways that He can use this difficult time for our good.



1. God desires to use this time to deepen family relationships. Sr. Lucia, one of the Fatima visionaries, said that the battle between the Lord and Satan would be over marriage and the family. In this current crisis, families are spending quality time together and have the opportunity to eat meals together each day. Don't miss out on this gift of time to connect more profoundly with your spouse, parents, children, or siblings.

2. This is a time to enter into silence and prayer. Our lives are often noisy and filled with constant activity. But now our calendars are clear, and our priorities have changed. While these things we knew gave us structure, they may have also distracted us from experiencing God. If we let Him, he will use this time to deepen our relationship with Him. Spend time each day in silence with God. Pray that you would come to know His heart and will for you and for the world.

3. This is a time to examine our hearts, repent, and do penance. God is stripping us of many idols of the world through this pandemic: sporting events, movie theaters, shopping, even our careers. Examine your heart to see if you have placed idols at the center of your life instead of Christ Jesus. If you have, ask the Lord for His forgiveness and grace to love Him more deeply. Do penance that your heart may be healed and not stray from Him. You are all daily in my prayers. Though physically apart, we are bound together in the Holy Spirit.

May God give you peace,
-Fr. Antony Tinker, F.H.S.