

GATHERED INSPIRED SENT



The months of June, July and August find most religious communities and congregations gathering for meetings and for celebrations. Whenever a community of consecrated persons gathers, it is always a deep expression of community shared among the members. Being community is one of the essential expressions of religious life. Together with profession of vows and mission, community forms the third essential element of consecrated

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ORDER OF FRIAR SERVANTS OF MARY

Vocation Newsletter

religious life. The Church understands and promotes the consecrated life of religious women and men as the guide for the search for God, which forms the reason for religious life.

The great father of Western religious life, St. Anthony, left the comforts of the city and familial wealth for a simple and austere life in the desert. Profoundly touched by the Lord's command to "follow me," St. Anthony was moved to center his life on the search for the Lord, to be ever vigilant for the in-breaking of the Lord in his life. Through a life of simple work, prayer and constant study of the sacred scriptures, he met the Lord in the quiet of his heart and in the lives of those who sought the wisdom of the saint. St. Anthony's vigilance for the presence of the Lord gave him the wisdom to help others on the spiritual journey. The search for God in vigilance for the Lord's in-breaking continues to be the reason for religious community. As brothers to each other, we search for God as a community while witnessing the Lord's love to all we encounter in our ministry. Building community is the process of praying and working together to prepare, nurture and encourage each other in finding Christ in the center of life and witnessing Christ's love to others. An important part of building and being community is gathering together to discuss our life and witness





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and to celebrate significant moments in the community's life. Our USA Servites held such gatherings in June as well as earlier this month.

In June, the friars of this province gathered outside Chicago to celebrate our provincial chapter. The chapter is the highest expression of governance within the Servite Order. At the chapter we reflected on what it means to be a mendicant friar at this time in the history of the Church and the country. This time away from the usual day to day routine assisted us in our search for ways to better witness Jesus' love to others. Gathering in chapter also offered us the opportunity to discuss our religious life and to hear reports of some of the ministries undertaken by the province. Ultimately, being in chapter was a moment for each friar to prayer together, renew our friendships and strengthen our fraternity.

The vocation of being a Servite Friar begins by discerning the call of Jesus to consecrated religious life. This discernment continues throughout the initial formation process where the candidate deepens his experience of our fraternity by living with us in community and by his study of our Servite history, tradition and charism. When a man desires to deepen his discernment with us, his advancement through the formation process is a

moment of great celebration for our community. On August 12, we welcomed two young men into the novitiate. Br. Thomas Kremer is a novice for the USA Servite Province and Bro. André Cibaka is a novice for the Servite Province of the Isles (the UK and Ireland). In the novitiate, Bros. André and Thomas will continue to discern what it means to be a Servite Friar through life in community and study. Once a novice finishes the novitiate, he makes First Profession of Temporary Vows. On August 15, the friars gathered to witness and celebrate Bro. Cole Dryden's First Profession. Vowing to live a life of witness to Christ in poverty, obedience, and celibate chastity, Bro. Cole will continue his formation as a friar while undertaking theological studies as well. Both celebrations were joyous moments in the life of the community. The vocations of Brothers Cole, Thomas and André remind the community that our 789 year old story is ever new and inspiring to a new generation of friars.

As you discern your vocation, please know that we Servites are praying for you. Please contact us with any questions you might have. God bless.

Called to Serve, #57

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