



Justin Belitz OFM:

Bringing Success to Full Living

Justin Belitz OFM profiles his special ministry in a Franciscan tradition which is based at the Franciscan Hermitage in Indianapolis, Indiana:

I was teaching a theology class at Padua in the '60s trying to figure out how to connect with high-school boys. In an effort to help them understand that they could take control of their lives, I put together a program that came to be called *Success: Full Living*. It is a contemporary approach to Franciscan Spirituality with an introduction into meditation. This program became so popular that I was asked to put it

When I moved to Alverna Retreat Center in Indianapolis, I carried *Success: Full Living* (SFL) to many parishes in both the Indianapolis and Lafayette dioceses. In 1974, I was invited to speak at an international conference, which led to invitations abroad.

I recently returned from another tour of Europe where my books and CDs have been published. I did



Justin Belitz OFM's recent SFL class in Brussels, Belgium; Gian Francesco OFM is on the bottom left (in white shirt), Justin OFM is in the far right center (in habit).

into an adult education format. Adult students then invited me into businesses, other schools, parishes, hospitals, etc.

SFL workshops in Paris, Brussels, Geneva, Naples, and Malta. In Brussels, I gave the workshop at the Franciscan Center where young friars, from all over

the world, are being prepared for the missions (Gianfrancisco Sisto OFM is presently being coached by Damian Isabell OFM for the job of Program Director). Fr. Gianfrancisco sat in on my workshop and is interested in using some of that material for the mission program.

In Malta, I connected with Fr. Richard Grech OFM who is presently the Vicar Provincial. Fr. Richard was in my class when I was teaching in Jerusalem (30 years ago) when he was in the seminary preparing for the priesthood. He is very interested in inviting me back to give the SFL program at the Retreat Center in Malta.

The SFL program led me to Australia in 1982, where I have been teaching almost every year, in all of the major cities downunder. My materials are published there also. I will be returning for Lent 2011 to do parish renewals, workshops for hospitals, single evening, and one-day programs in non-Catholic churches and secular centers.

Success: Full Living is the signature program of the Franciscan Hermitage, which is located in Indianapolis. Because we are an inter-faith center, we use more scientific language than theological language. Over the years we have had a cross-section of the population in our workshops including people of all ages, races and religions, even agnostics and atheists.

My hope is that the Franciscan Hermitage and especially the SFL program will continue long after I am gone. It is a wonderful tool we give the world, exposing our Franciscan ideals as well as practical tools for creating personal and global peace.

For further information, please see our website www.FrJustin-Hermitage.org.

+ PLEASE PRAY FOR ...

+ ... **Michael (Joseph) Janiak OFM**, 91, a professed friar of Assumption Province since 1949 – a friary cook for 56 years known for his humor and hospitality – who died on November 30, 2010;

+ ...**Nick Meyer OFM**, who is recovering at Villa East in Sherman after the surgery to repair his fractured foot;

+ ...**Dennis Koopman OFM**, who is recovering at home (St. Gratian Friary, Countryside) after his hospitalization for blood clots in the lungs;

♥ Franciscans Making News:

♥ **Chris Reuter OFM** continues his work for the Province and also develops his prison ministry in the Diocese of Belleville, Illinois. He is currently working with a group to establish a full RCIA program at Southwest Correctional Facility in East St. Louis, Illinois, that involves a number of laity, priests, and deacons. It is hoped that this may form a model that can be used at other institutions. Chris is also beginning some discussions with others about the possibility of a Christian sponsored “half-way” house in the Diocese to help prisoners transition back into society after they are released.



♥ **Phil Hoebing OFM** celebrated the 60th anniversary of priesthood with a special Mass in the Quincy University Chapel on Saturday, December 4, 2010, and a reception following at Holy Cross Friary.



♥ On Sunday, December 5, 2010, **Doug Collins OFM** (left in the photo below) was installed as guardian of Our Lady of Angels Friary



at Greccio in Springfield and Villa West in Sherman. Greg Bumm OFM (r) presided.

♥ **Lester Kochlin OFM** has moved into St. Clare's Villa in Alton, Illinois. His contact information is

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AROUND THE PROVINCE is the weekly newsletter of the Franciscan Province of the Sacred Heart, edited by Benet A. Fonck OFM from the Office of Communications, 422 North Dixon Avenue, Joliet IL 60435-7050; phone: 314.603.3951; email: fonckbenet@aol.com. Web site: www.thefriars.org.