

AROUND THE PROVINCE

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF THE PROVINCE OF THE SACRED HEART

April 02, 2013 — shpatp@aol.com

Service in the Big Easy

During March 2-8, 2013, while most of their colleagues over at Quincy University were departing to all points for a relaxing, lazy spring break, 51 students, faculty and friars so-journed to the bayous of New Orleans for our spring Mission Trip. They participated in recovery efforts in six different areas of the city, touching the hearts of many with their helping hands. The missionaries' works of charity included serving 3, 4 and 5 year old toddlers at Incarnate Word Head Start; planting gardens for juvenile dropouts at Cafe Hope Life-skills Restaurant; refurbishing a food shelter building and courtyard at St. Mary of the Angels Church in the lower Ninth Ward; distributing energy efficient light bulbs to renovated homes for Green Light New Orleans; organizing storage rooms and providing office assistance for the NO AIDS Task Force; painting damaged chairs at Rosaryville Retreat Center; and picked up debris, scrubbed floors, cleaned windows and blinds, and landscaping for the Sisters of the Holy Family institutions, primarily at their motherhouse with over 60 nuns, where the average age was 80 years old. The Trip began with a gospel liturgy at Our Lady Star of the Sea Church, followed by a taste of New Orleans po'boy sandwiches, a tour of New Orleans ruins in the Ninth Ward to the grand mansions of the garden district. Students marveled about the closeness of devastation to the areas of the wealthy. The trip ended with a feast at Loretta's Praline Shop, where Mrs. Loretta served delicious New Orleans cui-



sine and told her ministry during the Katrina aftermath.

"No matter where you are, there is always some organization or some group of people who need you to act on their behalf," said Greg Carter, a QU student. Listening to the stories of those in the aftermath of Hurricane

Katrina, the students were affected by lives of the young and the elders. Charitable service and volunteering goes a long way as you walk along the path with them. The friendliness of New Orleans folk, especially the Sisters of the Holy Family, made for a rewarding experience of what charity does, blesses the hearts of all.

Quincy University sponsored this Mission Trip as a service learning project, where

students attended an orientation session about key Franciscan and gospel values as the basis for service. It also stressed the call to be a community of missionaries to those we serve. Students reflected on being like Christ and growing as a community together as they performed works of mercy. Students saw first-hand the courage and conviction necessary to

be successful servant leaders in a new age; proclaiming the Gospel to the marginalized and abandoned of the Big Easy.

The trip would not have been possible without the generosity of others. Campus Ministry received assistance from many to supplement the fees paid by each student. Without benefactors, a Mission Trip would never be a reality for students who have little to no family support. There is always room for benefactors and friends to keep service a priority in the lives of our Quincy University family.

Article and photos submitted by:
Ferd Cheri, OFM

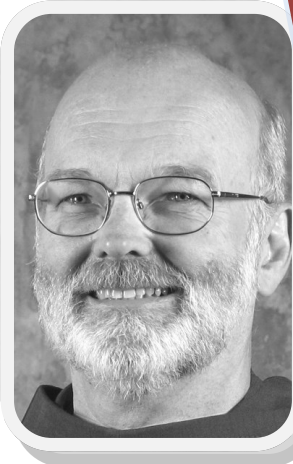




This Week in SHP History

- **April 1, 1904** Province celebrates 25th anniversary - membership grown to include 480 friars and 40 friaries.
- **April 3, 1910** Archbishop of Portland Oregon asks friars to take charge of Parish in Tigard serving Native American and Russo-German Catholics.

Franciscans Making News:



Parish Missions are an annual experience here at St. Francis Solanus in Quincy, and this year the experience was excellent. Justin Belitz, O.F.M., came during the Fifth Week of Lent, and gave us a wonderful Mission on meditative prayer. Having been here previously, many of our faithful parishioners had remembered him, and were excited to hear that he was returning. As best we can figure that was at least 14 years ago.

Using PowerPoint during his presentations, Justin showed the basics of meditation, and showed how modern science and psychology contribute to support the effectiveness of meditation. We had sizeable numbers of people attending the sessions, and many went home with copies of Justin's books and CD's.

One man told me that he came the first evening with his grandsons who are in their teen years. After the first evening the boys asked him, "Are we going back again?" He said, "Yes," and they were delighted. They came together every one of the five evenings, and found it very engaging. They really liked the guided meditation that we did together during each presentation.

I have also received notes, email messages and conversations since the Mission, all telling me that they thought it was terrific, all thanking me for having Fr. Justin come to offer this great help to meditative prayer. In addition to the evening presentations Justin gave a morning session each weekday and visited with the children in our school. In all it was a very full week. It's a blessing that Justin has such good energy. And of course we all enjoyed having fraternal time together.

Any of our parishes and schools would do well to have Justin come to give a mission or a workshop on meditative prayer. I have to admit that I had expected our young people who are so used to constant stimulation to be turned off by this stuff. But I learned that I was misjudging them. Kudos to Justin Belitz.

Submitted by: Donald Blaeser, OFM



Happy Birthday!!

- **April 3** Justin Belitz (78)
- **April 3** James Walton (75)
- **April 3** Vaughn Fayle (53)
- **April 4** Theodore Haag (60)
- **April 7** Albert Haase (58)



Please Pray For:

† **Fr. Noel William, OFM** (age 97), a member of **St. John the Baptist Province**, died on **March 23** in Cincinnati, OH .

Other News



The community of Mt. Irenaeus, HNP's Franciscan Mountain Retreat in western New York, invites friars of all OFM provinces in the United States to participate in the

[2013 Contemplative Days.](#)

DATE: June 24 - 28, 2013

PLACE: Mt. Irenaeus, West Clarksville, N.Y.

(just under two hours from the Buffalo airport).

RSVP: By April 22 by contacting the friars by phone at

585-973-2470 or by emailing staff member

Michele Marcellin at mmarc@sbu.edu

Link to the Mt. Irenaeus website:

http://www.hnp.org/publications/hnp_today_view.cfm?iid=222&aid=4489

[Larry Janezic](#) wants to invite the friars to take a look at the following link where Sacred Heart Parish in Indianapolis was featured in the [Indianapolis Star](#) as one of the most beautiful Churches that reflect

"Diversity in Christian Worship." Check pages 2-3

<http://www.indystar.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?>

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