



Weekly re:Cap

A bene placito

Published for the friars of the Capuchin Franciscan Province of St. Joseph

Contact: TL Michael Auman, editor

Capuchin Communications

1927 N. 4th St., Milwaukee WI 53212

414.803.4449; Email: TLAuman@thecapuchins.org

On the web at: www.sjpccommunications.org

Overheard...

Views expressed in this column do not necessarily reflect the views of the editor or of the St. Joseph Province, and are offered to provoke thought and conversation. Want to submit something for this column? Email us at: tlauman@thecapuchins.org

"The pace of moral progress has accelerated in the last few decades. On issues such as civil rights, the role of women, equality for gays, beating of children and treatment of animals, the attitudes of conservatives have followed the trajectory of liberals, with the result that today's conservatives are more liberal than yesterday's liberals." — Steven Pinker, *The Better Angels of Our Nature*.

"Politics is inherently controversial because human beings are passionately attached to their opinions by interests that have nothing to do with the truth" — Harry Jaffa, *NY Times Book Review*.

Week ending 27 January 2012

Issue Number 903

Retired: yes...Inactive: no way!

At our provincial chapter last June, Mary Hague officially retired after almost two decades of ministry to and with friars. So what's up with her since then? We recently saw an article published in *The Compass* (Green Bay Diocese), which we thought our readers would find especially interesting. The following is re-printed with permission.

Kaukauna woman volunteers

by Steve Wideman

Feelings of freedom and the love of God washed over Mary Hague as the "Quo Vadis" began its 45-minute journey from fish Creek to Chambers Island in the Bay of Green Bay.



Former director of "Wellness," Mary Hague

Each summer for nearly a quarter-century Hague experienced the same emotions as she made the trip to Holy Name Retreat House, located off the shore of Door County.

"I feel a connection with God and a desire to grow spiritually when I am on the island," Hague said.

She also delights in the serenity of the island with its tall trees, many walking paths, gardens and the isolated location surrounded by water.

"I remember my first time on the island. It was in 1988. I sat on the doci the whole afternoon just being still, soaking up the sun and quieting myself. It felt so good to just relax," said Hague, who at the time was going through a painful divorce. She had signed up for a retreat for women who were going through divorce or were divorced.

Twenty-three years later Hague, who lives in Kaukauna and attends Holy Cross Catholic Church, retired in 2011 as a nurse after 19 years of working for



the Capuchin Province of St. Joseph and turned her love for Holy Name Retreat House into a mission of volunteering.

“I feel it is important to give back to this place that has given so much to me,” Hague said. “One of the things I wanted to do when I retired was to volunteer at Holy Name. The retreat center has given me more than any other place in my life.”

Repaying the spiritual strength and peace of mind offered by Holy Name is a common reason for volunteers to offer their time, said Barbara Conder, executive director of Holy Name Retreat House, Inc.

“We’ve heard from some volunteers who experienced retreats that Holy Name Retreat House felt like home and they wanted to stay. They didn’t want to go home. I told them ‘You don’t have to go home. You can stay and volunteer,’” Conder said. “Others find their retreat experiences so amazing they want to stay and offer the experience to others.”

Mary Hague is unique in the length of time she has spent summers on the island, Conder said.

“She’s seen people come and go and seen things change,” Conder said. “Mary felt she had a full understanding of Holy Name Retreat House. As a volunteer now she’s brought her love and dedication for Holy Name full circle.”

Hague said she considers the retreat house “like a spiritual feast that continues to feed me throughout the year. I love the island. It’s a very sacred place to me...they call it holy ground and I really believe it is. There have been so many people that have gone on retreats over the years it’s like all the prayers that have been said and all the spirituality there has enriched the entire retreat house.”

Although many retreats are a week-long silent retreat, that doesn’t prevent the making of friends, Hague said.

“It’s amazing how connected you feel to other people on a silent retreat. You often cross paths and by the end of the week there is a community there. Even though you haven’t talked to each other you know something about them by the way they lived,” she said.

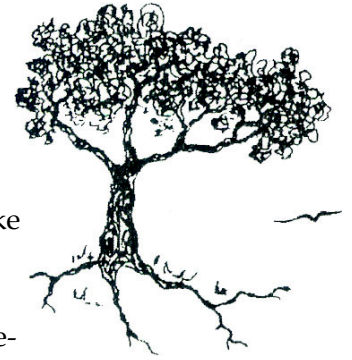
The retreat center and its location on Chambers Island is a special place physically as well as spiritually, Hague said.

“I love the water anyway. Water is such a healing thing for me,” Hague said. “There have been many times on the island that I’ve gone off by myself and just sat on a pile of sand. I watched the water and the birds and felt one with God and nature. It’s just like filling up my cup.”

People find what they need at Holy Name Retreat House, Conder said. “When you are resting it renews your soul. You are strengthening your faith.”

The peace and serenity of the island wipes away the “noise” of everyday life, not only the actual noise but so many other distractions found in life, and allows the spiritual side of life to emerge, Conder said. Simple things take center stage, Hague said.

“There was one time on a retreat that I felt I had seen a tree for the first time. It just stopped me. The island makes your senses more in tune with nature because you are free of so many distractions. The surroundings are so conducive to simply relax and feel God’s presence and his creation. It’s so powerful.”



At night the Northern Lights can put on a brilliant show, “and the moon can seem like it’s 10 feet across,” she said.

Hague has gone on organized retreats and private retreats where she meets daily one-on-one with a spiritual director to read scripture and attend Mass. “What I do during the day (on a private retreat) is up to me,” she said. “I’ve always very deeply felt the presence of God on the island. There are those ‘God moments.’”

As a volunteer, Hague has worked in the kitchen, raked leaves, painted, baked and set tables for meals among other things. One of her favorite times on the island occurred in August when the retreat house staff went to the mainland. “I had the entire island to myself except for a dedicated islander coming to check the generators,” she said. “I feel called to solitude and this island it is the most beautiful place to be in the world. And I’ve traveled all over the world.”

St. Francis Institute announces Spring Series

Events sponsored by the St. Francis Institute-Milwaukee are held from 9-Noon at the St. Francis Capuchin Center, unless otherwise indicated. To register, call 414.374.8841, ext 35 or: sfim@thecapuchins.org. Donations accepted.



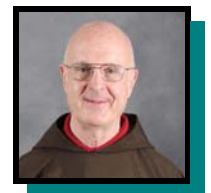
Michael Crosby

February 25: Michael Crosby

“What Gospel is the Franciscan Gospel?” When we talk about “living the gospel” or following “gospel values,” what do we mean? What was Jesus’ “gospel” and how did it speak to the prevailing gospel of Empire in his day? What is our gospel and how do we find it fulfilled in our lives today? Crosby will address these topics in an interactive process.

March 24: Daniel Crosby

“Without Anything of My Own” Many Franciscans vows to live “without anything of my own” in their profession rites. In many ways the phrase captures the heart of Jesus and Franciscan spirituality. But what does it mean and how can we live it in our everyday lives? Dan will help uncover some of its radical beauty and challenges not just for Franciscans but for all who desire to live an authentic gospel life.



Dan Crosby



Bill Hugo

April 28: William Hugo

“Tools for a Study of the Life of St. Francis” Using stories of Francis meeting the leper and the starving friar, Bill will help us understand how these early stories and so many others about Francis took shape with different versions and how vested interests change the stories. Stimulate your study of this saint for all times. (Bill’s workbook, *Studying the Life of St. Francis of Assisi: A Beginner’s Workbook*, will be available for purchase during this event.)



TL Michael Auman was scheduled for surgery to have an abdominal tumor removed.

TL Michael Auman, Capuchin
3124 N. Achilles St., Milwaukee WI 53212

Glenn Gessner was found unconscious at the parish rectory in El Ayote, Nicaragua, and was hospitalized for examination.

Yvonne Gutermann, sister of Alfredo Gundrum, was hospitalized with heart complications, water in her lungs, and swelling in her legs.

Yvonne Gutermann
555 Veteran Ave Apt. 111, West Bend, WI 53090
Alfredo Gundrum, Capuchin
5157 S. California Ave
Chicago, IL 60632

Michael Crosby underwent heart catheterization and angioplasty recently.

Michael Crosby, Capuchin
1015 N. Ninth St., Milwaukee WI 53233

Please pray for religious vocations...And if you know someone who may be considering religious life, refer them to the

*Capuchin Vocation Office:
<http://capuchinfranciscans.org>*

February

- 1 Wed Four black college students began a series of sit-ins at a white-only lunch counter in Woolworth's, Greensboro, NC, 1960
- 2 Thu Candlemas
- 3 Fri **Mary Klotz (B)**
Blaise (F)
- 4 Sat Patricia Hearst was kidnaped by the Symbionese Liberation Army, 1974
- 5 Sun Congress passed the Immigration Act, which restricted Asian immigration, 1917
- 6 Mon **Mark Romanowski (B)**
- 7 Tue **Jerome Higgins (B)**
- 8 Wed Mary Queen of Scots was beheaded, 1587
- 9 Thu Senator Joseph McCarthy claimed he had evidence there were card-carrying members of the Communist Party in the State Department, 1950
- 10 Fri Treaty of Paris signed, ending the French and Indian War, 1763
- 11 Sat Our Lady of Lourdes (F)
- 12 Sun **Paul Craig (B)**
- 13 Mon **Keith Clark (B)**
Brian Braun (B)
Amanda Bossman (B)
- 14 Tue **John Willger (B)**
Cyril, Methodius & ♥ Valentine (F)

Reminder...

Friars are asked to reserve dates for their area "cluster" meetings regarding the pastoral plan.

Meetings are scheduled as follows:

Michigan: Feb 9-10 • Milwaukee: 2-3 March • Chicago: 16-17 March

Montana: 23-24 March • Central Wisconsin: 12-13 April

All gatherings begin at 5 pm on first day and end by 1 pm on second day.