



GOING MY WAY?

PHOTO BY TONI CASHNELLI



Lou Bartko (of "Bartko Boulevard" fame) at Roger Bacon.

Most people achieve about 15 minutes of fame. Thanks to **Tom Dehmer**, **Louis Bartko** will be famous for a whole year. From now until mid-May 2011, the circular driveway at Roger Bacon High School in St. Bernard is sporting two signs identifying it as Bartko Boulevard.

Tom won the right to call the driveway anything he wanted at Roger Bacon's annual Evening for Excellence fund-raising auction in April. "You can bid on naming rights," says Tom, whose \$625 offer bought him the two-sided, Franciscan-brown signs. "One year I named it after myself. This year I got it and named it Bartko Boulevard" in honor of Lou, the spiritual assistant for Tom's SFO fraternity and a friar he greatly admires. "He's a Franciscan who walks the walk."

In Lou's opinion, "He's supporting the school – and me." The honor will be shared with his sibling, Poor Clare **Sr. Ann Bartko**. "At the end of the year the signs will be given to me, and I had in mind that she could keep one."

Tom is already considering contenders for next year. "Fred is campaigning to get 'Fred Link Alley.'"

FROM JEFF

Last Sunday, on the feast of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, former pastor Don Holtgrewe and former associate pastor Bill Farris and I joined Archbishop Dennis Schnurr and the current staff of Corpus Christi Parish in Cincinnati for the celebration of their patronal feast and the dedication of their new baptismal font. At the reception many people asked about other friars who served the parish. Affiliate of the Province Betty Karle (who worked for many years in our Vocation Office) and current St. Anthony Messenger Press employee John Feister sang in the choir. John also wrote a beautiful dedication prayer that was printed on the program. Though the friars no longer staff the parish, the Franciscan spirit and presence is palpable. It struck me as a good example of Franciscan itinerancy. Many friars served at Corpus Christi, but we sadly and painfully decided it was time for us to move on. There is a certain freedom in knowing that although we no longer have a friar presence, the Franciscan spirit endures.

— **Jeff Scheeler, OFM**

Lifting the fog of Alzheimer's



A resident of the Alzheimer's unit makes use of the resources at St. Leonard.

By **Toni Cashnelli**

How do you reach someone who is past knowing, past remembering, and in some cases, past caring? For the friends and families of those affected by Alzheimer's disease or another form of dementia, this is an issue they grapple with daily.

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Puzzles and games are part of the program for patients.

David Crank has seen it firsthand, both as Director of the Office for Senior Friars and as a nine-year board member at St. Leonard, the senior community at the friars' former college in Centerville, Ohio. So he was excited to hear about a program that holds promise for managing the boredom or distress that so often accompany Alzheimer's. Based at St. Leonard's, it was introduced in March by **Dr. Govind Bharwani** of Wright State University and his daughter **Meena**, a consultant, and is already attracting attention. "At our last board meeting Dr. Bharwani presented to us the findings of his study," David says. "The board was impressed and it brought me to tears."

Visiting facilities across the state, the Bharwanis determined that since Alzheimer's patients are all different, they need different stimuli or comfort mechanisms. Standard treatments – one size fits all – do not apply. With funding from the St. Leonard Foundation, father and daughter developed a mini resource center with components to suit patients' specific cognitive abilities, personalities and behaviors – all catalogued for easy access. "The big breakthrough," says Meena, "is the ability to provide individualized activities 24 hours a day." At St. Leonard, the resource center includes DVDs, a music library, puzzles and games and a personal "memory prop box" stocked with objects (from the family) that hold special meaning for the resident. When the need arises, the caregiver can quickly find and pull the indexed "tools" they need to soothe or stimulate the resident.

To the Bharwanis, this is "Behavior-Based Ergonomics." To the staff at St. Leonard, it's a godsend, helping them to reduce both stressful confrontations and the use of behavior-modifying medicines. "I'm completely amazed," says a third-shift aide. "The tough residents were more calm and quiet, and we were able to get more people up before shift change." And according to the daughter of one resident, "The atmosphere is calmer... People can do what they like on their own schedule."



FOCUS ON FRIARS

The Bharwanis and their program have already been featured in a segment on Dayton's Channel 2 news and in an article in the *Centerville Washington Times*. "It's wonderful," David says, "and we're going to hear about it statewide and perhaps nationwide."

■ Last week two friends of St. Francis Retreat House in Easton celebrated milestone birthdays that fell on the same day. Friar **Miles Pfalzer** and volunteer **Nick Pastelyak** were both born on June 5, 1920. "Since Nick was born six hours earlier, Fr. Miles calls him 'The Old Man,'" according to **Mike Markle**, SFRH Executive Director.



"Nick has volunteered at the Retreat House for more than 35 years

Birthday boys Miles and Nick

cutting the grass and doing maintenance work." Friends gathered on June 4 for a lunch and ice cream cake celebration. Nick played the harmonica, and Miles entertained the crowd with stories and jokes.

■ Update from **John "Indiana Jones" Barker** in the Middle East: "I arrived in Israel on Saturday and we started working on the dig at 5 a.m. Sunday morning." The site of excavations is on the coast, a few miles north of the Gaza Strip. "I am working on the dig of the ancient city of Ashkelon, which was inhabited almost continuously from about 1500 BC to 1275 AD, more or less. The dig has been going on here since 1985. The actual digging season lasts for six weeks in June and July. Already it is very hot, just as expected. I haven't found any exciting things yet, but it's still early! After I leave Ashkelon, I will be taking an intensive course in Modern Hebrew in Haifa, which is up at Mt. Carmel, on the northern coast. That will last for two months. I will be back in Boston at the end of August."

■ The **Novices** will be making their first profession at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, June 15 at Our Lady of Lourdes Friary in Cedar Lake, Ind. Please keep them in your prayers as they continue their Franciscan journey.

■ This summer, St. Monica-St. George Parish in Cincinnati and the friars on Howell Avenue (**Don Miller** and **Al Hirt**) are hosting first-year seminarian **Eric Roush**. According to Al, "Eric has been a member of SMSG and has now completed his first year at the Athenaeum, discerning a vocation to the diocesan priesthood. He requested to come to his 'home parish'

for the summer where he is living with us and assisting with various projects in the parish.” Eric was recently the “voice of SMSG” while the secretary was on vacation.

■ **Scott Obrecht** has a six-string Alvarez, acoustic steel guitar (valued at \$125) that is available free to a friar who wants it. Bonus: There’s a canvas carrying case. Contact Scott at scottofm@franciscan.org or at the retreat house, 610-258-3053, Ext. 36.

■ When **David Crank** heard about the new Alzheimer’s program at St. Leonard



(see Page 1), he knew he had found a home for a collection of old-time radio programs that belonged to **James Pajkos**. “For some reason I had held onto them” since Jim’s death in April of 2007. Now, the tapes and CDs will become part of the collection used to comfort residents dealing with Alzheimer’s. Says David, “I know they will bring hours of wonderful memories of days past.”

■ Friars are invited to observe the **Feast of St. John the Baptist** with the community at St. Francis Seraph Friary in Cincinnati on Sunday, June 27. Evening prayer at 5 p.m. in the church will be followed by a social at 5:30 p.m. and dinner at 6:30. Please RSVP by Wednesday, June 23, to 513-721-4700 (**Sr. Bernadette**).

Sisters in spirit

PHOTOS BY SR. VICKIE GRINER, OSC



Right: Sr. Colleen Byrne, Spokane, Wash.; Sr. Therese Reyes, Amarillo, Texas; Kellee Fletcher, Cincinnati; and Sr. Maria De Christo, Denver, Colo.



Above: Sr. Judith Mescher of Cincinnati with Sr. Mary Anthony Nelson of Memphis. Right: Sr. Dianne Short, Cincinnati, with Srs. Catherine Cook and Sr. Jane Sorenson, both from Great Falls, Mont.



Clares from the East Coast Holy Name Federation joined their Bentivoglio Sisters for a combined assembly.

During the May meeting, hosted by the Cincinnati Clares, “We were doing a little bit like the friars are doing [with ABVM Province], looking at the possibility of becoming one federation,” Anna Marie says. The federations first met jointly in 2008 and decided, “We really are one in spirit. There was

such a sense of unity we began to ask, why are we two federations?” Thus began a process of discernment with an eye toward 2012 as a possible date for serious consideration. But even before this meeting, “We realized we wouldn’t be ready by 2012.” Consolidation

“It’s like a family reunion,” says **Sr. Anna Marie Covely, OSC**, describing a typical gathering of the Mother Bentivoglio Federation of Poor Clares. This year’s meeting, May 13-19 at the Jesuit Renewal Center in Milford, Ohio, was an even bigger reunion than usual, as

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Poor Clares gathered for a group portrait outside the chapel at the Jesuit Spiritual Center.





Poor Clare Abbess Sr. Ann Bartko with SJB Provincial Minister Jeff Scheeler, one of about a dozen area friars who visited.

would simplify the governing structure – “you wouldn’t need two presidents and four councilors” – but it would also create more work for each entity, Anna Marie says. “You start thinking of practicalities: How would we do this and how would we do that?”

Unlike friar communities, Poor Clare monasteries are autonomous, “so it’s a very different structure.” Although opportunities for association are limited, “Over the years we have cooperated with formation work,” Anna Marie says. This year’s meeting of 59 sisters ended with “a really good feeling of unity” and a determination to pursue further collaboration. At this point, “We really are getting to know each other quite well.” And no matter what federation they belong to, “We’re just sisters.”

This year’s meeting featured a well-received presentation on vocation and contemplation by Holy Name friar **Michael Blastic**. The federation’s newly elected President is **Sr. Elizabeth Mortell** of New Orleans, and Cincinnati **Srs. Dianne Short** and **Pia Malaborbor** made history, becoming the first two women from the same monastery to be elected to council. The next joint meeting of 2012 will be one to remember, as the two federations celebrate the 800th anniversary of the founding of their order.

Dedicating the Dome

PHOTOS BY DAVID KOBAK, OFM



May 23 was more than Pentecost Sunday in Oldenburg, Ind.; it was the day Holy Family Parish dedicated its new Onion Dome. The dome, replacing a steeple dismantled in 1949 for structural reasons, was installed in February after a fund-raising “Restore the Onion Dome” committee collected funds for its fabrication. Former Pastor Rock Travnika joined current Pastor David Kobak for the picture-perfect dedication ceremonies following the 10 a.m. Mass.

Please support the Franciscans’ efforts to aid earthquake survivors in Haiti. Click to **DONATE NOW.**

Photo: Matthew Marek/American Red Cross

Thanks for giving

“People have been generous!”, Provincial Minister Jeff Scheeler said in announcing the total of funds collected thus far by the province for Haitian relief. This week, contributions totaling \$74,356.27 were sent to Catholic Relief Services (which received \$59,485.02) for direct assistance and to the Franciscan Curia (\$14,871.25) to help friars in Haiti rebuild their community. SJB Province is still accepting contributions through an online form posted at www.franciscan.org, www.stanthony.org and www.americancatholic.org. Thanks for your generosity!



JPIC Alerts

For most of us, water is something we take for granted. We turn it on, we use it, we turn it off. Mission accomplished! But many people around the world have a much different experience. The devastation of the water in the Gulf due to the oil spill and the toll it is taking on both marine and human life should be a reminder to us of the need to take care of our waterways and water supplies, and to decrease our water use. The period 2005-2015 has been proclaimed by the UN as the International Decade for Action on “Water for Life.” Some statistics that may help us think differently about how we use water: 1) One out of every six people in the world lacks access to safe drinking water; 2) Twice as many lack access to improved sanitation; 3) 80 countries, home to 40% of the world’s population, are encountering serious water shortages; 4) One toilet flush in the U.S. uses as much water as the average person in a developing country uses for a whole day’s drinking, cooking, washing and cleaning; 5) Two million people – most of them children – die each year from waterborne disease. For more information about water, faith perspectives on it, and helpful water conservation practices, see a resource book for religious, *Water for Life, In Defense of Our “Sister Water”*, on the website of the Rome JPIC Office at http://www.ofm.org/01docum/jpic/water_en.pdf.

— Donna Graham, OSF



IN GRATITUDE

My deepest thanks to you, my brothers, upon the loss of my sister, **Sue** (my last sibling). Your flood of messages during her brief illness and the many cards, e-mails, prayers and words of sympathy and support upon her death touched me deeply. The family and I especially thank those of you who were close enough to attend her Visitation and Mass of Resurrection in the midst of your busy schedules. The large number of friars present as well as your beautiful singing of the *Ultima* bowled over me and her five children, 11 grandchildren and 14 great grandchildren – and caused many to bawl tears of joy! Thank you, my brothers!

—Tom Speier, OFM



LET US REMEMBER

“**Archbishop Basil [Schott]** was diagnosed with cancer less than a year ago,” **Mike Lenz** wrote in

response to yesterday’s news of the death of the Byzantine bishop. The Archbishop had undergone chemotherapy but had recently declined. “This past week a two-day celebration for all the Byzantine priests of the four dioceses was held here in our byzantine cathedral. Basil spearheaded this event. I was there...really beautiful ceremonies. Good food, great, fraternal spirit among the 150 priests gathered there. Very much like our JPA.” This week, each priest was given a blessing-hand cross, a beautiful and thoughtful last gift from the archbishop. Funeral services are scheduled for next Friday at the cathedral. “May Basil’s memory be a blessing.”

Let us go forth

PHOTOS BY CHRISTOPHER MEYER, OFM



About 120 friends – friars, parishioners and students – joined St. Clement Pastor Fred Link as he led a Corpus Christi Procession through the streets of St. Bernard on June 6, the evening of the feast. “Music, hymns, banners and the sound of church bells all contributed to the reverence and joy,” according to parishioner Jane Sansalone.