

Our Lady of Guadalupe

Issue 16

Summer 2015

Special points of interest:

- This special Easter edition of the Guadalupe Newsletter features an article from our brother, Fr. Michael at the Franciscans of the Primitive Observance. Fr. Michael generously wrote six articles detailing his trip to Brazil which will be featured in upcoming newsletters over next few months. We thank him for his generosity and look forward to sharing his story with our community.
- Many thanks to the Catholic Leagues, John Mulvey and Bill Donohue for the article of the Pope meeting detainees in the Vatican City.
- As always thank you to our many volunteers who allow us to see the humanity in others and in so doing, see it in ourselves.



How Would Saint Francis Go Visit Pope Francis?

By Fr. Michael F. Sheehan, FPO

In the spring of 2013, at the beginning of his pontificate Pope Francis announced his plans to make a Pilgrimage of Faith to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil for World Youth Day. When we friars heard this fact, we were very excited. As priests and brothers of the Franciscans of the Primitive Observance, we considered how St. Francis, if he were alive with us in Boston today, might travel to visit Pope Francis. We excluded travel by plane and imagined him hitchhiking down the highways,

byways, and waterways of the hemisphere. All of these thoughts were a dream until Br. James and I decided to ask permission to make a land-sea pilgrimage through fourteen countries.

With the joy of the Gospel in our hearts, that St. Francis lived, we started preparing for the trip. Some generous friends obtained for us the \$150 visa necessary to enter Brazil and the many maps we would need. Wait a minute! There's no road between Central



and South America. The internet offered stories and videos of the dangers present in the Darien Gap; the huge jungle separating the continents. We knew this obstacle would add time to what we projected to be a *(continued on back page)*

The Pope meets detainees

On March 22, 2015, Pope Francis visited the Giuseppe Salvia Penitentiary in Poggioreale, Vatican City. The Holy Father handed a brief discourse, some of which is reproduced below: "At times we fell disillusioned, discouraged,

abandoned by everyone, but God does not forget His children—He never abandons them. He is always at our side especially in times of difficulty; the Father is 'rich in mercy'... This is a certainty that gives comfort and hope... Although we

have erred in life, the Lord never tires of showing us the way back to the path and encounter Him... It is a fundamental certainty for us: nothing can separate us from the love of God! Not even the bars of *(continued on page 2)*

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OUR MISSION

We are a community that acknowledges the workings of the Holy Spirit in our midst as we reach out to all through Eucharist, Prayer, Education and Worship.

Our call to faith challenges us to live and celebrate love and forgiveness. Always mindful that service to God is service to others. We regard our community as family. We seek to facilitate the development of a cooperative spirit and to assist each other in facing the joys and sorrows of everyday life. Committed to the teachings of Jesus Christ, We join other faith based communities in fulfilling the mission of the church.

You are invited, Welcomed, Accepted and Respected.



Deacons Corner

As time moves on I am more and more amazed at just how blessed our Catholic Community here really is. With our development of the International Thomas Merton group and the new Pax Christi chapter that is taking shape it has become abundantly clear to me that the Holy Spirit is moving our community closer to God. I welcome your ideas and input as those ideas and input have sparked many of the new happenings we are able to enjoy here. Much more is on the horizon as well. We have a Divine Mercy talk scheduled as well as a forgiveness seminar. We need as many folks as possible to take advantage of these offerings as that displays our dedication while showing that this community takes inspired change very seriously. The RCIA program has been in full swing and I am actively working to get the Bishop here for the confirmations. We have more Priests making dates to celebrate Mass with us now than we have in a very long time, and it looks like more may be coming soon. God is truly good to us and we will praise His glory with joy in our hearts! δ

Pope meets detainees

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a prison".

Dear brothers. I know your painful situations: I receive many letters—some truly moving—from prisons around the world. Inmates often live in conditions unworthy of human beings, and subsequently are unable to reintegrate into society. But, thanks be to God, there are also leaders, chaplains, educators, pastoral workers who know how to stay

close to you in the right way. There are some good and meaningful experiences of reintegration. We must work on this. At the basis of this commitment is the conviction that love can always transform the human person. And so, a place of marginalization, as a prison may be, in a negative sense, can then become a place of inclusion and stimulus for society as a whole, so that it be-

comes just and I invite you to live every day, every moment in the presence of God, to Whom the future of the world and of man belong. This is Christian hope: the future is in God's hands. History makes sense because it is inhabited by God's goodness". \uparrow

—Reprinted from Vatican News sources NEWS.VA

How Would Saint Francis Go Visit Pope Francis?

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four month round trip journey.

Means of travel was not the only challenge facing us. We also resolved to follow a Franciscan method for receiving our daily needs. Not relying on any kind of bank account, we would beg; beg for food; beg for shelter; beg



for rides; and, if necessary, we could beg for the money to get these things. Despite these perimeters, we were confident the he who gave St. Francis courage to live these hardships, would also be our loving Heavenly Father fulfilling our needs. At our departure, we considered how the pains of pov-

erty are in fact true riches and the shame of begging is the greatest honor, when done in the name of Christ.

Our Year of Faith pilgrimage would also be a great opportunity to evangelize. The Lord would bring us into lives of people: we would need their help and they would need ours. The following six articles recall three men and three women the Lord placed in our path along our Franciscan Pilgrimage of Faith. \spadesuit