

TAGASTE NEWSLETTER
PROVINCE OF ST. NICHOLAS OF TOLENTINE
OAR
JANUARY, 2022

New Year's greetings to all our brothers in the Province of St. Nicholas, the Order, the Augustinian Recollect Sisters, our Secular Augustinian Recollects, Guild members, and the Hispanic Committee, as well as our parishioners at Sacred Heart Church!

Christmas festivities, 2021. The friars were doubly busy with the Feast of the Holy Family following immediately after Christmas this year. After celebrating Vigil Masses in English and Spanish, Frs. John, Michael, and Eric joined in a traditional Midnight Mass with Fr. Michael main celebrant and homilist. The Sacred Heart choir accompanied the Mass with a variety of carols. Vigil Masses on Christmas Day were already being celebrated for the Holy Family. Attendance at all Masses was down with new warnings about Covid and many people still watching from home.

Lots of presents. With many families still struggling to make ends meet, parishioners were more generous than ever in donating gifts for children this Christmas. Instead of the traditional Christmas party, gifts were given out as families were leaving Mass on Dec. 18 and 24. A great many more gifts were distributed to the Sisters of Life in Manhattan, Good Counsel Homes in Nanuet, and the Willows at Ramapo Rehabilitation and Nursing Home in Suffern.



***"O Holy Night":** The sanctuary of Sacred Heart Church, transformed for Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve. As usual, parishioners were generous in donating to the Christmas flower collection, assuring an abundance of poinsettias to celebrate the Christmas Season, 2021.*

Belvidere celebration. The Suffern friars joined those from Union City on December 30, 2021, for the annual post-Christmas celebration with the Augustinian Recollect Sisters in Belvidere, New Jersey. As usual, the Sisters served a wonderful meal including *caldo de res con verduras*, chicken with rice and beans, followed by flan, *gelatina*, and a beautiful Christmas cake. After lunch the Sisters brought out all the percussion instruments for a lively sing-along, after which there were Christmas presents for all the friars. Our prayers for the Sisters and for their new postulant, Sr. Fidelfa Lourdes.



After missing the 2020 get together with the AR Sisters because of Covid restrictions, the friars once again enjoy the hospitality of our Recollect Sisters in Belvidere, New Jersey.



Sisters' Chapel at Christmas (l to r): Fr. Eric, Srs. Beatriz and Betty, and Fr. John gather around the manger for post-Christmas get together.



Holy Innocents? Friars and Sisters still have a bit of fun in the tradition of Holy Innocents' Day as they look forward to the New Year, 2022.

Due to the continuing Covid restrictions the parish staff Christmas party as well as the SAR Epiphany party were cancelled. On the positive side, the first volume of the new SAR manual in English entitled *Let Us Begin!* has been received and will be distributed to the Tagaste fraternity members as soon as we can safely schedule a meeting.



"We three kings" Fr. Michael (c) joins the wise men, so well disguised this year that we will simply call them Balthasar, Gaspar, and Melchior, for the Solemnity of the Epiphany, January 2, 2022, at Sacred Heart Church.

New Year and the Epiphany. Once again, the liturgical calendar brought together two major solemnities back-to-back: the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (January 1) and the Epiphany (January 2). The Hispanic community continued the tradition of the visit of the Magi, which is always a favorite of the children.



***Feast Day.** Fr. Eric (r) with a number of the Sisters of Charity (New York) at St. Patrick's Villa in Nanuet, on the Feast of Elizabeth Seton (January 4). The Tagaste community has offered Mass at St. Pat's for many years and had a strong relationship with the Sisters.*

Protect Life, 2022. Sacred Heart Parish held a prayer vigil before the Blessed Sacrament on Friday, January 21, beginning with the 9:00 a.m. Mass and continuing until 3:00 p.m. when Fr. Eric led parishioners in the Chaplet of Mercy and Fr. Michael prayed the Rosary of Life in solidarity with the 49th annual March on Washington, D.C. against legalized abortion. The slogan for this year's march was "Equality begins in the Womb." Prayers continued the following day, the anniversary of the Supreme Court decision *Roe vs. Wade*.



Fraternal get-together. Friars from Suffern joined the Union City community for a celebration of Fr. Miguel Echeverría's birthday on January 26. Now that the pandemic is beginning to recede it is possible to enjoy more communication and visits here in the Eastern region of the Vicariate. Birthday blessings to Fr. Miguel!



***To your good health!** Toasting Fr. Miguel on his 84th birthday (clockwise) Frs. Paco Legarra, Miguel, John Gruben, Anthony Palos, Michael Rafferty, Antonio Ciordia, Eric Crelencia, Charles Huse, John Docherty, and José María Martínez.*



Fr. Charles Huse (c) accepts a “copita” from Fr. Paco Legarra as Fr. Eric waits his turn following the meal for Fr. Miguel Echeverría’s birthday.

Please pray for:

Irene Wanamaker a professed member of our SAR fraternity who died on December 27, 2021. Fr. John Gruben led the wake service and was celebrant for the funeral Mass at Sacred Heart on January 3, 2022.

Fr. Marlon Beof, Vicar Provincial, who celebrated his 25th anniversary of priestly ordination on January 19, 2022.

Fr. John Oldfield on the 1st anniversary of his death (January 20, 2021).



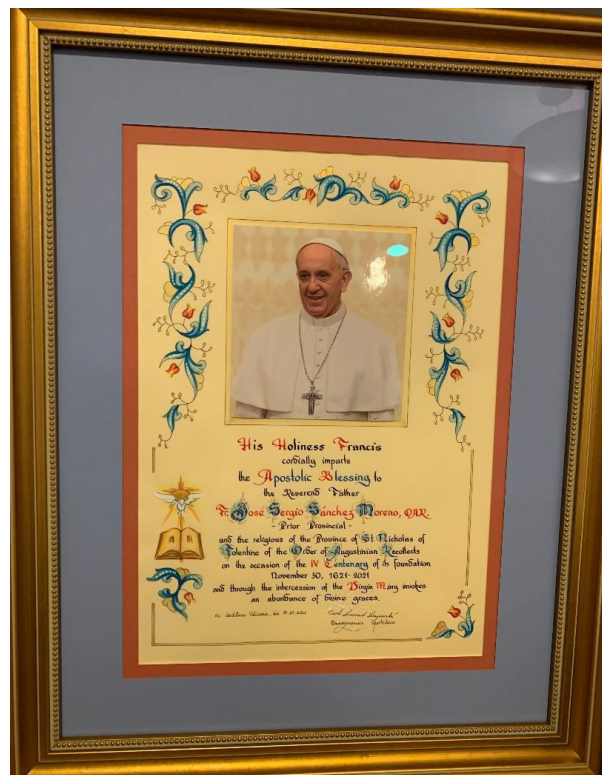
***Fraternal Visit:** Fr. Marlon joins (l to r) Frs. Eric, Michael, and John for the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, December 12, 2021.*



***New setting for St. Augustine.** Fr. Eric stands before statue of St. Augustine, newly installed at the entrance to the convent of the Augustinian Recollect Sisters in Belvidere, NJ. This statue together with statues of Our Lady of Consolation, St. Joseph, and St. Michael the Archangel, formerly at St. Cloud Monastery in West Orange, NJ, have found a new home with the Belvidere Sisters. The St. Augustine statue was originally sculpted by Georgina (“Gogy”) Arellano, SAR, of the Mexico City fraternity. Small versions of this statue reside in most houses of the USA Vicariate.*



Sr. Betty serves dessert following post-Christmas get together in Belvidere on January 30. No hidden Niño in the cake this time!



A Papal Blessing was received by the Tagaste/Sacred Heart community (along with all the other houses of St. Nicholas Province) on the occasion of the 400th Anniversary of the Province, 1621-2021. “Always on Mission!”

For all parish news, upcoming events, and Mass schedules, see
www.sacredheartparish.org

For the latest news on Venerable Bishop Alphonse Gallegos, OAR, see
www.bishopgallegos.org

EWTN, Spanish, will soon be airing documentary *Podrían Ser Santos*, life and sanctity of Venerable Bishop Alphonse Gallegos, OAR, native of Barelás, NM. English version aired in 2021, found at: [**scd.org/Gallegos**](http://scd.org/Gallegos)

If you wish to donate towards the cause of canonization of Bishop Gallegos donations can be sent to: Fr. Fredric Abiera, OAR, 1022 W. Cleveland Ave Montebello, CA 90640;

Checks payable to: **The Augustinian Recollects of NJ INC;**
Memo: **Bishop Gallegos**



Fr. John Gruben, OAR, prior
Theresa Giampaglia, SAR president
Connie Montanye, Guild president

