

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

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!



Winter dusting, 2022. *This year's winter weather here in Suffern has been nothing like 2021, at least as of this publication, although an early February storm was enough to make the bushes in front of St. Augustine statue in front of Tagaste look like big, powered donuts—especially if you are hungry!*

Coming out of the pandemic. As the number of Covid-19 cases continues to drop in the greater New York area and both the State of New York and the Archdiocese have begun to lift some of the restrictions for group gatherings, the Tagaste/Sacred Heart community is once again scheduling various parish activities. The parish C.C.D. program has resumed in-school classes (although following the required safety protocols) and various groups including the *Cursillo de Cristiandad*, *Grupo Biblico*, and *Grupo de Oracion Carismatico* are now holding weekly meetings at Tagaste and in the parish. Although the mask mandate has been lifted by Cardinal Dolan the parish continues disinfecting the church after each service and the majority of people come with their masks, especially for Holy Communion.

Candelaria/St. Blaise. On the Feast of the Presentation (Candelaria), February 2, Fr. Eric Crelencia celebrated an evening Mass for the Hispanic community with blessing of images of “La Virgin” as well as blessing of throats for the Feast of St. Blaise. The blessing of St. Blaise, one of the many devotions discontinued during the pandemic, was also offered at the morning Mass on February 3 and again on Sunday, February 6, at all the Masses.



Fr. Eric invites the people to come forward for the blessing of throats on the Feast of the Presentation of Jesus.



7th Grade C.C.D. students with Fr. Michael Rafferty and Janis Batewell (r), parish religious education Coordinator, gathers after Sunday Mass on February 6. Each month a different C.C.D. class is present as a group for Mass and helps with the readings and gifts.

Vicariate Visit. Fr. Marlon Beof, OAR, Vicar Provincial, conducted the official Visitation to the Suffern community, February 10-11. Opening the Visit with a prayer service on the morning of February 10, Fr. Marlon then joined the community for the Liturgy of the Hours, a community discussion, and individual interviews, as well as reviewing the house books. That evening the friars went to dinner with Mr. Derek Nolan, a long-time friend of the Recollects. The following morning after a concelebrated Mass with the parish community and another round of meetings Fr. Marlon left Suffern to continue his Visit to the friars in Union City, New Jersey.



Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. Fr. Marlon (main celebrant) joins Frs. John, Michael, and Eric for Mass on February 11, the second day of the Visitation.

Regional OAR Day of Recollection. The friars from Union City came to Suffern on February 16 for the monthly day of recollection which was held at Sacred Heart rectory. The group reviewed the summary of the State of the Province Report prepared by Fr. Alberto Fuentes, OAR, to facilitate proposals for the upcoming Provincial Chapter of St. Nicholas Province. After the discussion the group enjoyed a Mexican lunch (with plenty of guacamole!) at La Hacienda Restaurant, whose owners are members of the Hispanic community of Tagaste and parishioners of Sacred Heart.



Regional gathering (l to r): Frs. Fidel Hernández, Antonio Ciordia, Eric Crelencia, John Gruben, Miguel Echeverría, José María Martínez, John Docherty, Michael Rafferty, Anthony Palos, and Charles Huse.



Out on the town. Friars from Suffern and Union City enjoy la comida at La Hacienda Mexican Restaurant in beautiful, downtown Suffern, just a five-minute walk from the parish.



¿Nuestra Señora del Camino? No, it's actually Our Lady of Consolation, although she has traveled quite a distance over the years, beginning at St. Nicholas of Tolentine Seminary, in Norfolk, Connecticut, continuing at St. Cloud Monastery, our former Provincial Residence in West Orange, New Jersey, and now presiding at the A.R. Sisters in Belvidere, NJ. In the foreground (l to r): Fr. Eric, Sr. Betty, and Fr. John.

**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**

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

