

TAGASTE NEWSLETTER
PROVINCE OF ST. NICHOLAS OF TOLENTINE
OAR
JUNE 2022

June greetings to all of 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!

Tagaste hosts Circus. The Zerbini Family Circus came to Suffern on June 2-3 for three shows on the grounds of Tagaste Monastery for the benefit of Sacred Heart Parish. The circus featured acrobats, balancing acts, small performing animals including ponies, donkeys, and dogs, and—of course—clowns as well as an amazing “transformer” car. There were pony rides for the kids and a variety of circus food and drinks for all to enjoy. The Zerbini Family is based in Florida but travels around the country for various fund-raisers. Although Sacred Heart has hosted this event for a number of years this is the first time the Monastery has participated in the fun.



***Big Top at Tagaste:** The Monastery grounds were transformed by a large and colorful circus tent along with bleachers to accommodate performances by the Zerbini Family Circus. The event drew parishioners from Sacred Heart and the surrounding area and was especially designed for families with young children. An evening performance on Thursday, June 2 was followed by two performances on Friday, June 3. Photo is taken from the front porch of Tagaste looking west at the Ramapo Mountains.*



***Welcome to all!** Frs. Michael Rafferty and John Gruben stand outside the circus tent to welcome attendees for the opening performance on June 2. The friars did not perform in the show!*



***Another year gone by!** Fr John (l) celebrates his birthday on June 14 with TWO cakes along with Henry Antonucci, Patt Chester, and Fr. Michael. The Friars from Union City joined in lunch at the Mason Jar Restaurant in Mahwah, NJ, but missed out on cakes since they needed to get back home.*

Corpus Christi, 2022. The parish held a procession honoring the Most Blessed Sacrament on Sunday, June 19, prior to the 1:00 p.m. Mass. Fr. Michael carried the monstrance with the Blessed Sacrament and Fr. John led the singing of various Eucharistic hymns as the procession left the main entrance (Washington Avenue) of Sacred Heart, continued around the block (Clinton Place), and proceeded through the parking lot before reentering the church through the Lafayette Avenue entrance. A brief prayer was held by the main altar before the service concluded, and Fr. Michael proceeded with the Mass. Since the weather was extremely windy, the traditional canopy covering for the Blessed Sacrament was not used.



***“O Sacrament Most Holy”** Michael Formato leads the procession carrying the Cross followed by Fr. Michael with the Blessed Sacrament and lastly by parishioners for the Corpus Christi procession at Sacred Heart on June 19.*



***Fathers’ Day Blessing.** Fr. John offers a prayer for all the fathers present for the 4:00 p.m. Mass at Sacred Heart on June 19.*

Feast of the Sacred Heart. The parish celebrated a bilingual evening Mass on the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart. Fr. Michael presided and Fr. John was the homilist. Following the Mass there was a reception with light refreshments for all of those in attendance.



***Patronal Feast.** Fr. Michael assisted by Fr. John celebrates the Feast of the Sacred Heart on June 24.*



Scholarship fund. Prena Grishaj (c) presents check for \$25,000 to Good Samaritan Hospital for Nurse Practitioner trainees (l to r): Amy Stern, Gift Officer Good Samaritan Hospital; Sister Susan Evelyn, R.S.M. of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas; Sophie Crawford-Rosso, Chief Nursing Officer, GSH., Rosa Gorman, Co-Administrator/Director, of Saint Zita's Villa, Inc. Fr. John Gruben, OAR, Prena Grishaj, President/Director, St. Zita's Villa, Inc., Sisters of Reparation of the Congregation of Mary, Inc., and Advisory Board Member of The Sisters of Reparation Charitable Trust; Mary P. Leahy, MD MPH, CEO Bon Secours Charity Health System; Shpresa Grishaj, President of the Non-Profit "Divine Mercies, Inc." The friars of Tagaste had a long-standing friendship with the Sisters of Reparation and celebrated Mass daily at St. Zita's Villa in Monsey, N.Y. until the Villa closed at the beginning of the Covid pandemic. Photo at the right shows Srs. Maureen Francis and Mary John, both of whom died during the pandemic.

Congratulations to our newly-elected Prior Provincial
of the Province of St. Nicholas of Tolentine
of the Order of Augustinian Recollects!



Fr. Carlos Gonzalez Castellanos, OAR

The 128th Provincial Chapter of St. Nicholas of Tolentine Province opened on June 20, 2022, in Marcilla, Spain, and elected Fr. Carlos Gonzalez Castellanos, OAR, as the new prior provincial. He succeeds **Fr. Sergio Sanchez Moreno, OAR**, who served as provincial from 2015-22. Our best wishes to Fr. Sergio who was always a welcome guest at Tagaste and left many good memories of his visits to Suffern!

The chapter also reelected **Fr. Marlon Beof, OAR** as Vicar for the United States. Our congratulations and prayerful best wishes to Fr. Marlon as he continues his service to our Vicariate!



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



Scenes from the Zerbini Circus at Tagaste, June 2-3, 2022

