

TAGASTE NEWSLETTER
PROVINCE OF ST. NICHOLAS OF TOLENTINE
OAR
SEPTEMBER, 2021

Early fall greetings to all of our brothers in the Province of St. Nicholas and 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!

September 4. **Our Lady of Consolation.** Fr. Michael, assisted by Frs. John and Eric, presided at the Mass honoring Our Lady at the 9:00 a.m. liturgy. Beginning today, the Spanish Mass which had been offered every Sunday at 10:00 a.m. at Sacred Heart since the beginning of the pandemic (when it was transferred from Tagaste), is being celebrated at 7:15 p.m. on Saturdays.

After the Spanish Mass on September 4, all participants were invited to the school cafeteria to elect new members to the **Hispanic Committee**. The following were elected by secret ballot: *President:* Lucero Rodriguez; *Vice President:* Alex Carreño; *Secretary:* Victor Ramirez; *Treasurer:* Fredy Morales. Our thanks to the outgoing committee members Aura Ramirez, and Cynthia Muñoz.



New Hispanic Committee with the friars (l to r): Fr. John Gruben, Fredy Morales (Treasurer); Victor Ramirez (Secretary); Alex Carreño (Vice President); Lucero Rodriguez (President); and Frs. Michael Rafferty and Eric Crelencia.

The Parish Council of Sacred Heart met on September 8 for the first time since the onset of the pandemic. Several new members were welcomed to the meeting which focused, for the most part, on reviewing various elements of the “Renew and Rebuild” plan for the parish.



***Sacred Heart Parish Council, 2021** (l to r, seated): Jean Bolton, Charlene Graff-Bukowski, Janis Batewell (religious education coordinator), Kathleen Witt, and Jim Dugandzic; (standing) Ray and Donna Miller, Jack Meyers, Fr. Michael, Scott Bisig (Council President), Christine Schnabel (Parish Manager) and Veronique Hazell.*



***Blessing St. Nicholas Bread.** Fr. Michael blesses bread to be distributed to the faithful on September 10. Fr. Eliseo Gonzalez, OAR, visiting the Suffern community for several days, stands to the right.*

Feast of St. Nicholas of Tolentine. Fr. Michael, assisted by Frs. John and Eric, celebrated Mass at Sacred Heart in honor of our Province patron, St. Nicholas, on September 10. At the conclusion of Mass there was a blessing and distribution of St. Nicholas bread to the faithful. Later that morning, Frs. John and Eric joined the community in Union City for a noon Mass at Holy Family parish, with Fr. John Docherty as main celebrant. At the end of Mass there was an identical distribution of bread to the faithful. After the Mass all joined for a festive dinner at the residence. Meanwhile, Fr. Michael celebrated the Funeral Mass of a very dear Sacred Heart parishioner, Barbara Ellsworth.

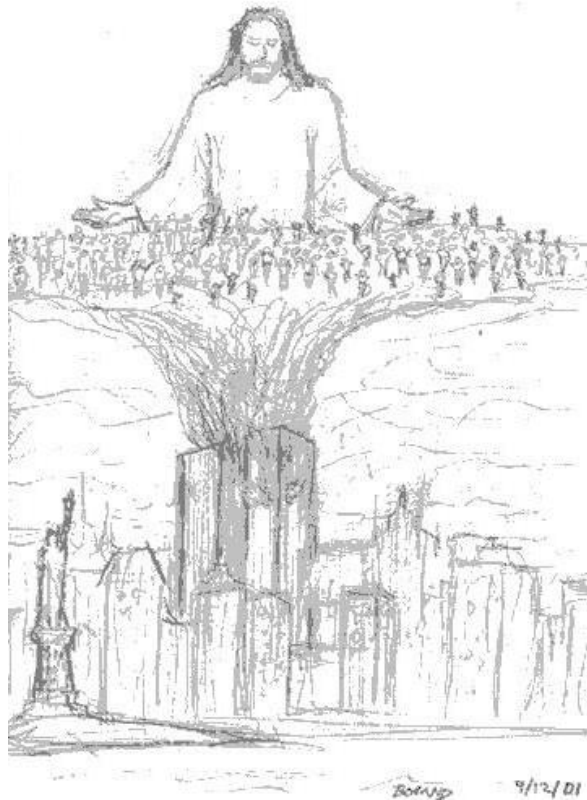


Frs. Eliseo (c) and Eric distribute St. Nicholas Bread to the community at Sacred Heart.



Invocation for 9/11: Fr. Michael offers a prayer for victims of the 9/11 attack at a memorial service at the monument in Suffern.

20th anniversary of terrorist attack on World Trade Center and Pentagon, September 11. Fr. Eric presided at recitation of the Rosary with Benediction at 12 noon at Sacred Heart, remembering all the victims of 9/11, their families, and first responders who died or were injured. Fr. Michael gave the benediction at the annual Suffern 9/11 memorial service at 2:00 p.m. at the village monument, joining civic officials and local residents.



From the Archives: 9/11 image of Christ receiving the souls of all those who died on September 11, 2001. The image appeared on the front page of the St. Augustine Province Newsletter, July - September, 2001.

Provincial Visit. Fr. Sergio Sánchez, OAR, Prior Provincial, arrived in Suffern on September 21 to begin the official Provincial Visit to Tagaste/Sacred Heart, staying overnight in the rectory of the parish. He was joined the following day by Fr. Benjamin Miguélez, OAR, Provincial Secretary. On the first day of the visit, Fr. Provincial celebrated the opening of the visit along with Midday Prayer. In the afternoon he spent time with each religious in the community; all went for an enjoyable dinner at Tonayan Mexican restaurant in Suffern, which Fr. Eric had previously blessed for the owners, the Brambila family. On the second day of the visit Fr. Provincial joined the friars for the 9 a.m. Mass at the parish. The community offered Midday Prayer at Ascension Cemetery with a visit to the community plot and prayers for our deceased friars. In the afternoon there was a review of recent documents from the Province including forms for durable power of attorney and living wills. These documents are to be adapted to the legal requirements of the state of New York. After dinner, Fr. Eric took Frs. Sergio and Benjamin to Union City where they were scheduled to begin the local visit the following day.



Mass of Blessed Josephine, martyr (l to r): Frs. Eric, John, Michael, Sergio Sánchez (Prior Provincial), and Benjamin Miguélez (Provincial Secretary) on September 22 in the sanctuary of Sacred Heart.



Dinner out with Fr. Provincial (l to r): Frs. Eric, Sergio, John, and Michael at Tonayan Mexican Restaurant in Suffern, which Fr. Eric had blessed when the family-owned restaurant first opened.

Confirmations, 2021. Most Rev. Gerald Walsh, Auxiliary Bishop of New York, assisted by Frs. Michael, and John, bestowed the Sacrament of Confirmation on 44 candidates from the Sacred Heart religious education program on September 25. Confirmation was conferred during two prayer services (11 a.m. and 1 p.m.) conforming with Archdiocesan Covid restrictions. Ms. Janis Batewell directed the students, who gave the readings and offered the prayers of the faithful.



Bishop Gerald Walsh with Frs. John (l) and Michael (r) offers prayer for new confirmed candidates on September 25 at Sacred Heart Church.



Confirmation group after 11:00 a.m. service with Bishop Walsh and friars.



Light of Christ! Photo of the moon perfectly framing the cross over the cupula at Sacred Heart Church on the evening of September 18. Photo taken by Alex Carreño, a member of the Hispanic committee of the parish.



Celebration of St. Nicholas at St. Augustine Church, Union City, New Jersey (l to r): Frs. Eric Crelencia, Charles Huse, John Gruben, John Docherty (principal celebrant), Miguel Echeverria, and José Maria Martínez on September 10.



Distribution of St. Nicholas bread to the faithful following the Mass.



Regional gathering during Provincial Visit (l to r): Frs. Paco Legarra, Miguel Echeverria, Sergio Sánchez (Prior Provincial) Anthony Palos, John Gruben, Eric Crelencia, Dionisio Gutiérrez, Michael Rafferty, Charles Huse, Benjamin Miguélez (Provincial Secretary), John Docherty, and Jose Maria Martinez enjoy lunch at St. Nicholas Monastery in Union City, New Jersey, on September 24.

Feast of St. Magdalen of Nagasaki, 2021. It has been our hope since the beginning of the Covid pandemic, when our SAR meetings were suspended, that we would be able to resume our regular activities in both English and Spanish. We wish to announce that we will begin our meetings once again on October 20, the feast of St. Magdalen of Nagasaki, patroness of our Third Order. We will have Mass on that day at 7:00 p.m. in Sacred Heart Church. The Mass can be seen on the parish website for those who can't be here in person (see link below). After the Mass there will be light refreshments served in the school cafeteria. Fr. John will meet with the professed English-speaking group and guests; Fr. Eric will meet with our Spanish-speaking group to project a future formation program. We hope to see you then to continue our study of St. Augustine and the Augustinian tradition!

Please pray for: all of those who are ill among our SAR and Guild members as well as our parishioners at Sacred Heart, and in particular for Fr. Frank Cregan, OAR.

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

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

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



*To All Secular Augustinian Recollects and Friends of
Tagaste and Sacred Heart:*

*Please join us for a bilingual Evening Mass in Celebration
of the Feast of St. Magdalen of Nagasaki*



*Bilingual Mass at 7:00 p.m. at Sacred Heart Church to be followed
by light refreshments and meeting of Tagaste SAR chapter in the
cafeteria. Guests welcome!*

**Mass can be viewed at: www.sacredheartparish.org*

