



Volume 31 ❖ Number 9 ❖ September 2017
Official Newsletter of Our Lady of Guadalupe Province, Order of Friars Minor, Albuquerque NM

Into Our Tradition

– *A monthly Reflection from Our Franciscan Heritage #14*
September 2017

“Our local communities, *when we work to make them truly day-to-day lived fraternities*, will become the single most privileged places for our encounter with the Gospel and with God!” I have ended the last two installments of *Into Our Tradition* with that thought. Our local communities become that privileged place of encounter through three sorts of dialogue: 1) Dialogue with God in prayer; 2) Dialogue with each other through chapters and sharing our stories, and 3) Dialogue with the world through ministry. Each and every one of them is important, for God speaks to us directly, through our brothers, and through others in the world.



Article 112 of the General Constitutions, §2, says: *The activities to be taken on by the friars are to be defined by consultation in local chapters, with a view to the real needs of mankind, the Church, the Order, and of individual friars, this is to be done, however, without prejudice to the faculty of Ministers and Guardians to determine which works are to be chosen and to which friars they are to be entrusted.*

Then Article 175 of the same Constitutions, §3, says: *The Guardian rules his house with ordinary authority, alone or with the local Chapter, or respectively and in the cases specified by law, with the Discretorium if there is one, in accordance with these Constitutions and the*

Statutes.

But before we start to think that the dialogue in the local House of the friars, or the Province or the Order is one-sided, the Constitutions immediately correct that notion, with Article 176:

§1 When universal or proper law requires the consent of his council, the Minister General or Provincial acts invalidly contrary to the vote of the General or Provincial Definitory respectively. So too the Guardian acts invalidly contrary to the vote of the local Chapter or discretorium. §2 However, if for valid action, they are required only to ask advice, Ministers and Guardians are bound to seek the opinion of their Definitory and local Chapter or discretorium, but they are not obliged to follow it if they think the matter should be decided otherwise.

At every level of our fraternity, dialogue is essential to coming to an ever-greater understanding of the will of God for us as friars and in our ministry, and on that subject, the General Constitutions conclude in Article 177: ***Even when consent or consultation is not prescribed by law, the Ministers and Guardians are to listen willingly to the friars in matters which concern the fraternity, and, though it is up to them to decide in such cases, they are not to act too easily against a consensus of the friars.***

Let's go back to Article 112, which spoke of "activities to be taken on by the friars ... with a view to the real needs of mankind." So we are always called not only to fraternity, but also to ministry. In our fraternal life, we are to model for others a means of going through the world as brothers. We also must heed the necessity of having structures in place to support that brotherhood so that as brothers we can undertake actions for the good of others. Many times we have spoken of fraternity as our mission, and it is, but it is a fraternity not only for ourselves, but for others. It was the spirit of fraternal mission which others saw in Francis as he repaired Churches and cared for the lepers, that attracted and sustained the brotherhood in his time. His local community then, and our local communities now, our Houses, are meant to be the cells from which the body of the Order grows, in a like manner to the way that the Church itself speaks of growing from Christian families. The vitality of our local communities, which in turn depends heavily upon the strength, wisdom, faithfulness, energy, and leadership of our Guardians and our local Chapters, will determine the future of our Provinces and Order.

As John Vaughn once said to me, "Friars do not exist to serve structures. Our fraternal structures, such as they are, exist to serve the Franciscan life and ministry of the friars." Healthy Houses, healthy local communities, are the cells, the structures from which our fraternal life and ministry can grow, not to build the Kingdom of God, but to help ourselves and others discover what our life of prayer, our life of fraternal dialogue and our life of ministry with others is meant to help us see clearly and share with others: *God's reign is already in our midst!*

Mystery of History: Lotario Ortega [Part I]

— Brother Bernard Keele

Sometimes, we do not seek mystery, but rather, mystery seeks and finds us. This can happen quite unexpectedly. Such was the case, when two months ago, a 95-year-old man, amicable, resolute, strong yet humble, a true gentleman radiating honesty and good will, walked into the administrative offices of the province of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Order of Friars Minor, bearing two large boxes obviously intended as a gift. Lotario Ortega was his name and inside the boxes were a lifelong collection of colorful stamps dating as far back in United States History as 1861. Intrigued, our provincial, Jack Clark Robinson O.F.M. extended an invitation to share a little of his story as Lotario's esteem for the Franciscans and an appreciation for history seemed to lead him right to our doorstep.



Lotario Ortega: retired lawyer for the Bureau of Indian Affairs and WWII Navy veteran. Lived on the Navajo Reservation during childhood.

In familiar surroundings on a warm late-summer morning in Albuquerque, NM, at a patio table adorned with two coffee cups and a plate of freshly baked croissants, Lotario Ortega generously imparted to his listener the following tale in his own words:



Don Lorenzo Hubbel home in Ganado

“I was born in Gallup, New Mexico. [This is] the reason I was born in Gallup. My parents lived in a - they call it - a ranch. That is a glorified term, but a ranch is just an old, rough dwelling out in the country. And [we] never had any running water [and] never had any electricity. My mother was expecting, so we were about 20 miles from St. Johns in Arizona, and that would be the nearest doctor. Gallup was closer, in a sense, 30 or so miles north to Gallup, and she could get medical attention there.”

“My grandfather, her father, had a cattle business. They would raise cattle. Then they would take them to Gallup, slaughter them, and sell the meat. [It was a] simple arrangement, but every thing had to be done real fast, 'cause there was no refrigeration. So my grandfather had this place which right now was almost on the edge of Gallup. It is in the city limits today, but in my time it was about a mile and a half [to] 2 miles from the city itself. So anyway, that's how I came to be born there.”

“Times were tough. My father’s cattle business didn't flourish, and he was looking for work. Somehow he ran into Don Lorenzo Hubbell who had a - well we will call it a trading post - because that is really what it was - in Ganado.”

Don Lorenzo Hubbell (1853 – 1930) was a well-known trader in the Southwest, especially Arizona, where he established many trading posts throughout the Navajo Nation and beyond. The trading post in Ganado was headquarters for his commodity exchange and also where he maintained permanent residence. Don Lorenzo's success and popularity largely grew out of his knowledge of the Navajo language and Navajo culture. Respected for his hospitality and generosity, his fairness and honesty, he counted between his friends and acquaintances many strong figures of Navajo history such as Ganado Mucho, Manuelito, Henry Chee Dodge, and others.



Portraits of Native American Leaders in the home of Don Lorenzo Hubbell.

“Ganado was a name given to this little - I would not even call it a village. It is, [at that time] just a group of dwellings, and they were named after Ganado Mucho, which means many cattle in Spanish [and] apparently the name of a Navajo man who was the head man in that area. You have to understand that Navajos never had any chiefs.”



The “hallway” of which Lotario Ortega speaks in the home of Don Lorenzo. The door to the “annex” is behind the viewer where the bedrooms for the workers were.

[*Ganado Mucho was a well-respected Navajo born into the Big Water Clan of the Dine' in the early 1800's. Alongside the famous Barboncito and Manuelito, Ganado Mucho was propelled into leadership during the Navajos' captivity at Ft. Sumner and painful transition to reservation life. He was also one of the signers of the Navajo peace treaty of 1868.*]

“Navajos never had any communities. Families lived together in groups and anyway, this particular community was called Ganado (Mucho). [In] Ganado, there is a lake there. It was maintained by the Bureau of Indian Affairs or somebody, or some government agency. And my father went there to work for Mr. Hubbell in the store - in the trading post - and that's where he began. He worked there for, oh, several years. We lived in a little bit of an annex if you want to call it that. It was probably just a couple of rooms. Last time I was in Ganado. The buildings were still there. I don't know if they are today.”

“You have to understand that at the time that we were in Ganado would be around 1924

or thereabouts. I am maybe two years old - somewhere between two and four years old. I remember Don Lorenzo, and I remember one of his daughters named LaCharles. I forget the other one. Anyway he had a son named Roman and another one by the name Lorenzo Jr.”

Don Lorenzo Hubbell married Lina Rubi and had four children, two daughters and two sons. The daughters' names were Barbara and Adele. LaCharles were the daughters of Barbara and Charles Goodman, and thus, the granddaughter of Don Lorenzo. She was named after her father who passed away tragically five months before she was born in the year 1909.

“Of course the most imposing thing was the storage room - if you want to call it that - that Don Lorenzo had where he accumulated and acquired a whole bunch of Navajo Indian rugs, and not too much silver, but mostly rugs. And there was this room - and you could always tell - because there was this smell of - what do you call - mothballs to make sure that there weren't any moths eating the wool. And always going into that room you had that smell of the mothballs. But on the way to that room from the living quarters and the store, you passed a hall - a hallway. And I don't know if it is still there or not, but along the wall there were a bunch of several portraits - if you want to call it that - of Navajo men, now, no women that I can recall, but mostly men. Looking back on it now, I wish I had had a camera. Anyhow, this was very imposing to see all these Navajo men.” “The store ran no particular hours. More like daylight hours. And Don Lorenzo had a very first class store. He had electricity. He had running water because there is a lake right near Ganado; and [this was] very comfortable living for somebody who never had running water or electricity. Dad would be in the store until it closed and then there was not much else to do. There was no TV, or radio, or anything like that. We had a very comfortable living, and we lived there like I said, a few years. And then we went to - I think the name was Cross Canyon. It's on the road from St. Michael's to Ganado.”



Worker bedroom in the annexed portion of the Don Lorenzo home. Very likely the room in which Lotario Ortega and his parents occupied as concluded by one of the Park Rangers. The Hubbell home has been preserved intact as it was in the year 1930 when Don Lorenzo passed away.

To Be Continued . . .

Six Provincial Administrations Gather . . .

The Ministers Provincial and members of the six different Provincial Councils of the Franciscan Provinces of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Holy Name, Our Lady of Guadalupe, Sacred Heart, Saint Barbara and St. John the Baptist, **over forty friars in all, met at Mt. Alvernia Retreat in Wappingers Falls, New York from the 21st to the 25th of August 2017.** They continued their work of planning the revitalization and restructuring of their six Provinces. This work has been ongoing since these six Provincial Councils met as a group for the first time in Milwaukee, Wisconsin in 2012.

Last year at a similar meeting in Techny, Illinois, the Provincial Councils had decided to prepare, with the help of friar experts, a document entitled “Making Fraternity our Mission” to examine how to pursue the revitalization of their fraternal life and mission. Besides leading extensive discussion of that paper throughout their Provinces, the Ministers Provincial asked several existing groups of friars and lay cooperators engaged in the same administrative and internal ministries of the Provinces, such as communicators, vocation and formation directors, and JPIC animation to come together to explore how to take a national approach to their work. Among the groups reporting to the friars were their Provincial treasurers and chief financial officers, who concluded that each of the Provinces is individually financially stable, while also having the funds to support any collective action they wish to take. They also explored demographic and actuarial information which showed all of the Provinces facing the same critical challenges with regard to the aging of their membership over the next five to twenty years.

After careful consideration, the six Ministers Provincial, in the midst of prayer and ritual on Wednesday morning, voted unanimously to place before simultaneous chapters of their six Provinces late next May a resolution requesting that the General Minister and his Definitorium restructure their fraternal governance so as to create one new Province from the six provinces engaged in this process. As they voted, the Ministers Provincial each made simple statements of why they voted as they did.

Kevin Mullen of Holy Name said, “One new Province provides us with the opportunity to have a vital fraternal experience. With regard to mission, one new Province allows us to take the core values of Franciscan life and implement them in a unified way, and with regard to the Church and the Kingdom, to make us more responsible to the promptings of the Spirit in the world and in the Church.” **David Gaa of Saint Barbara** stated, “True

revitalization requires a critical mass of younger brothers which one new Province will make possible.” **Tom Nairn of Sacred Heart** explained how listening to members of other provinces and the quality of the input on the first day of the Wappingers Falls meeting led several members of his Provincial Council to change their minds to favor one new Province rather than two. **James Gannon of Assumption** added that voting for one new Province acknowledges what is already happening as, “Our initial formation programs are united and that lines us up to move this way.” **Mark Soehner of St. John the Baptist** remarked, “One new Province will

increase opportunities for strong guardians and dynamic communities, broaden our perspective as a national group, and finally we do this because God is inviting us to become more of a ‘joyful band of missionary disciples,’ as Pope Francis has invited all Christians to be. Finally, **Jack Clark Robinson of Our Lady of Guadalupe** said, “As John David Vaughn (first-elected U.S. Minister General) once said to me, ‘Friars do not exist to serve structures. Franciscan structures – such as they are – exist to support Franciscan life and ministry. It is time for the least structure to serve the most friars.’”

The day after the vote, friars were still talking about the power of the voting and attendant prayer ritual which concluded with friars, most often of different Provinces, blessing and fraternally embracing



Provincial Ministers with Minister General and English Speaking General Definitior

One another, after praying, “Lord, You have given us the gift of. You’re call to Franciscan life, to Franciscan community and to Franciscan ministry. This day, You have called us to a great work as brothers. So we ask. You’re help to strengthen one another, that our work may be a good work, that it may truly be. You’re work.”

The friars were encouraged to pursue ongoing renewal by taking time for prayer and reflection by **Michael A. Perry, the Minister General of the Order of Friars Minor** who came from Rome in order to be a part of the meeting. **Caoimhin O Laoide, the English-speaking General Definitor of the Order** spent the entire week with the friars and reflected powerfully for them at Thursday celebration of the Eucharist. Father Michael led a morning of recollection Thursday after the vote. He shared his joy



Provincial Leadership teams of the six OFM Provinces

and excitement at seeing the leadership teams of these six Provinces coming together. “Your work is important for the future of the worldwide Order as a demonstration of our ability to build bridges and cross boundaries in a world which seems too often divided.” Later Father Michael went through the mechanics of the process which will follow the votes at the Provincial Chapters next May. As he outlined it, that process will include the appointment of an official Delegate of the Minister General who will conduct at least two visitations of the friars and those with whom they work in various ways. Those visitations will result in reports to be considered by the General Definitorium. After consideration of those

reports, the General Minister and Definitorium will name an initial administration and set the time for the formal establishment of the new Province, probably no earlier than the fall of 2022.

One of the next means of the continuing the national conversation among the friars with regard to continued renewal and restructuring will be a national survey of every friar in the six Provinces regarding what they see as necessary to move the process forward. Before the vote of the six Provinces next May, the Ministers Provincial will also invite their friars to attend one of two large regional gatherings of friars, as well as numerous other face-to-face gatherings of smaller groups, to participate in numerous local discussions of what is proposed with the help of discussion materials prepared for use across the country, as well as to interact with distant friars through the use of videos, YouTube, Facebook and other social media. The nine hundred friars of the six Provinces will also have various possibilities to discuss in a variety of smaller groups the revitalization of their life and ministries. These small groups will not only talk about our internal life, but also especially about ways to go to the peripheries and margins where friars are not currently engaged. The friar leadership of the six provinces left Wappingers Falls with a clear, agreed-upon plan of action for the next nine months.

After the vote in May, the Ministers are already looking forward to gathering next summer to continue what everyone gathered in Wappingers Falls this year found to be an exciting and life-giving fresh start to Franciscan life in the United States. As one friar reflected, “Ignatius Brady (a very distinguished late Franciscan scholar) once said that ‘Every novice must refound the Franciscan Order in

May You Be Blessed With Many More Years . . .

— Jose Gutay, ofm

On August 16th, during the Holy Mass which I presided, we celebrated the **50th anniversary of Religious profession of Brother John Friebe, Brother Bart Wolf and Sister Joleen,**



CSA (Congregation of St. Agnes). Attached are two photos. One, with

Brothers John and Bart and Sister Joleen, was taken last Wednesday. The other older photo was taken on the same day twenty-five years ago on the occasion of their 25th anniversary of religious profession. Sister Joleen is the lady on the extreme right next to Brother John.



Jack's Journeys

Friday 01 September Gathering of Guardians

Monday, 04 September, Play Day @ Casa San Juan Diego

Tuesday-Wednesday, 05-06 September Definitorium Meeting, Albuquerque

Sunday -Saturday, 10-30 September, Visit with Australian Friars, give their Provincial Retreat

Saturday -Monday, 07-16 October, Host ESC, General Minister and Definitorium in the Province

Monday-Thursday, 16-19 October, Juntos como Hermanos, Albuquerque

Saturday, 21 October, Santa Barbara Mission Archive Library 50th Anniversary Celebration

Tuesday, 24 October, Eucharistic Day with the Poor Clares, Roswell NM

Thursday, 26 October, Business Advisory Committee, Albuquerque

Friday, 27 October, Academy of American Franciscan History Meeting

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS!

13 September 1964 – *Patrick Schafer*

30 September 1932 – *Lawrence Schreiber*

Annual Wheatfields Picnic a Big Success!

Judging from the satisfied looks on the faces of the friars attending the annual feast, “a good time was had by all!” Approximately twenty-one friars were in attendance. Jack Clark and Bruce Michalek drove in from Albuquerque to enjoy the good company and good food. The gathering took place on August 19th.



Please consider sending in articles for the Padre’s Trail Newsletter. Pictures are very much appreciated but you should also include descriptions of the people or places in the pictures. I have not yet mastered the art of mind reading! Thanks . . .

Bruce Michalek, OFM — Editor Pro-tem, Padre’s Trail