



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Happy Independence Day!

This weekend we welcome Bro. Michael Thangwah to our friar community and parish. Bro. Mike is a Franciscan Friar and student at the Washington Theological Union (WTU). He will be with us for July and August as a summer intern as a part of his studies for priesthood. Michael was born in 1972 in his homeland of Kenya. Last month at St. Benedict Church in Shreveport Louisiana, he professed solemn vows in his religious community, the Franciscan Missionaries of Hope (Lyke Community) a branch of the Franciscan Third Order Regular (TOR). The following day he was ordained a deacon. In addition to his undergraduate studies in Kenya, Mike has also studied at The Franciscan Institute of St. Bonaventure University. Upon his completion of studies at the WTU, Mike looks forward to returning to Kenya to serve as a priest.

The past year Fr. Antoine Carlioz lived with the friars while completing a degree at Duke University. Last month Antoine returned to his homeland of France. With Mike from Kenya, Frank from Canada, Julian from the Philippines, David of Scottish heritage, Bill's Irish inheritance, and my own German ancestry – our friary has an international flavor, much like the Franciscan Order to which we belong. The richness and diversity of our backgrounds is reflective of the people of many nations that have created the United States of America as we celebrate Independence Day this weekend. Our parish Strategic Initiative on diversity will help us to celebrate the diversity of people within our parish as well.

This past week Dave Sprissler departed as Coordinator of Facilities and Scheduling for our parish. He has decided to return to private industry. Dave was a key member of our parish Building Committee as we planned for our current construction and has worked closely with our construction contractor, Clancy and Theys. He has been a tremendous asset to the pastoral staff and will be greatly missed. Fortunately for us he will continue to be an active member of the parish including continued service on the Building Committee. Marc Kielty, Coordinator of Communications will assume the responsibilities of facilities and scheduling with the support of Facilities Manager, Jim Anderson and Facilities Technician, Rob Stachewicz.

In the peace of Christ,