The Blessed Solanus Casey Newsletter

Continuing the cause
New Vice-postulator leads next stage on road to canonization

The 2017 beatification of Blessed Solanus Casey signaled a major milestone on the path to sainthood. With Father Solanus now declared “Blessed” by Pope Francis, Br. Richard Merling and Fr. Larry Webber, Co-vice-postulators for the Cause of Canonization for Blessed Solanus, are moving on to new ministry roles. Fr. Ed Foley will lead the next phase, culminating in, if God wills it, a new saint for the universal Church: Father Solanus Casey.

The outgoing Vice Postulators have taken on new assignments with the Capuchin Franciscan Province of St. Joseph. Br. Richard Merling, OFM Cap will spearhead the Blessed Solanus Casey Heritage Project, where he will work alongside the newly-hired Capuchin Archivist, Ms. Junia Yasenov. Br. Richard and Ms. Yasenov will work to analyze and catalogue items in the Solanus Casey Center museum and the Capuchin Archives. In the future, relics and other items from the archives and other sources could be brought out on rotating exhibitions at the Solanus Casey Center. Fr. Larry Webber, outgoing Vice-postulator, has taken on a new ministerial role at the St. Labre Community in Ashland, Montana.

Although Fr. Ed is new to the cause, he has a great deal of familiarity with Blessed Solanus. Fr. Ed was instrumental in planning and executing the beatification liturgy for Blessed Solanus Casey at Ford Field last November. In addition, Fr. Ed directed the 300-strong choir that sang at the Beatification Mass. In addition to his new role as Vice-postulator, Fr. Ed is a distinguished faculty member at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago. Among his roles at CTU, Fr. Ed holds the Duns Scotus professorship of spirituality and is professor of liturgy and music. In addition, Fr. Ed is the founding director of CTU’s Ecumenical Doctor of Ministry Program.

As Vice-Postulator, Fr. Ed will be the principal liaison with his counterpart, the Capuchin Postulator in Rome, who coordinates and reports to the Congregation for the Causes of Saints. The Congregation is the body advising Pope Francis on
St. Bonaventure Chapel renovations completed

Following several months of interior and exterior renovations, Masses returned to St. Bonaventure Chapel in time for the fourth Sunday of Advent on December 23, 2018.

Made possible through a $550,000 gift from the A.A. Van Elslander Foundation, exterior improvements include a new metal roof on the Chapel and new asphalt shingles on St. Bonaventure Monastery. The Chapel steeples and stone trim were scraped and repainted a brilliant bright white.

Inside, the Chapel was reconfigured to conform more closely to what the Chapel is believed to have looked like in the time of Blessed Solanus Casey’s ministry in Detroit, while remaining suited to norms surrounding contemporary Catholic worship. The project team consulted historic photos from the Capuchin Franciscan Province of St. Joseph. This realignment of our activities allows us to bring Blessed Solanus’ healing message of mercy to ever growing numbers of people, and positions us for a future that may, God willing, include his future canonization.”

We ask for your prayers, and we ask for the intercession of Blessed Solanus Casey, for all friars and staff as they move into their new roles.
Capuchin Archives. Skilled carpenters, including Joe Kach from the Capuchin Franciscan Province of St. Joseph maintenance team, reconstructed a side altar dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The Capuchin friars of the Province of St. Joseph were among the first to bring devotion to the Sacred Heart to North America from Europe in the mid-19th century.

Join the Capuchins for worship at the newly-restored St. Bonaventure Chapel. Daily Masses are held at 7:45am Monday through Friday in the friars’ chapel, with Sunday Mass at 9:00am in the main chapel.
Solanus Casey Center
1780 Mt. Elliott St.
Detroit, MI 48207
(313) 579-2100

Center Hours:
Daily: 9:00am to 5:00pm
Closed on these major holidays: Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year’s Day, Martin Luther King Day, Easter Sunday, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day

Reconciliation (Confession) Schedule:
Monday through Saturday on the hour at: 10am, 11am, Noon, 2pm, 3pm, 4pm
Sunday: No confessions
Spanish confession available Saturdays: 10, 11, Noon
and Wednesdays: 2pm, 3pm, 4pm

Blessing of the Sick Service:
Every Wednesday and Sunday at 2:00pm
Bilingual Spanish Blessing of the Sick Service, First Sunday of the month at 2:00pm
Un servicio para la bendición de enfermos ocurrirá cada Miercoles a las 2pm y el Segundo y Cuarto de cada mes.
Bilingual Spanish Blessing of the Sick Service, Third Sunday of the month at 2:00pm

Solanus Casey Center Gift Shop: (313) 579-2100, ext. 145
Gift Shop Hours:
Monday - Saturday: 9:30am - 4:30am
Sunday: 10am - 2:00pm
Prayer requests: https://www.solanuscenter.org/ or (313) 579-2100, option 5
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Friars and faithful share spiritual reflections with #SolanusStories

Capuchin brothers and enthusiastic disciples with a devotion to Blessed Solanus Casey have begun sharing their reflections on the spirituality and ministry of Father Solanus on social media through a new video series called #SolanusStories produced by the Preaching and Evangelization Commission of the Capuchin Franciscan Province of St. Joseph.

Each short reflection is shared weekly on Capuchin Facebook, YouTube, Vimeo and Twitter accounts. Follow Blessed Solanus Casey on social media to watch these reflections to help grow in your devotion to Blessed Solanus Casey and in your discipleship.

New Blessed Solanus Casey book, Celebrate Solanus documentary hits shelves

Penned by former Detroit Free Press religion reporter Patricia Montemurri, Blessed Solanus Casey arrived at the Solanus Casey Center gift shop and at other retailers in November. The illustrated book, part of the Arcadia Publishing Images of America series, tells the story of the life, ministry and road to sainthood of the humble Capuchin friar and doorkeeper of St. Bonaventure monastery. The book includes never-before-seen photographs, including the first-ever feast day of Blessed Solanus Casey in July 2018.

Proceeds from books sold through the Solanus Casey Center benefit Capuchin ministries and help the friars in their mission of building sister-brotherhood in the world.

In addition, Celebrate Solanus, a new 30-minute documentary has just been released. The program features testimony and recollections of friars and others who have been touched by Blessed Solanus Casey’s ministry and example. The documentary is available now on DVD in the Solanus Casey Center.

Calendar of Events

- March 6 – April 21, 2019 – Lenten Series
- April 21, 2019 – Easter Sunday
- July 22-30, 2019 – Novena and Feast of Blessed Solanus Casey

Have a reflection you’d like to share? Contact Tim Hinkle, PR director for the Province at thinkle@thecapuchins.org.