

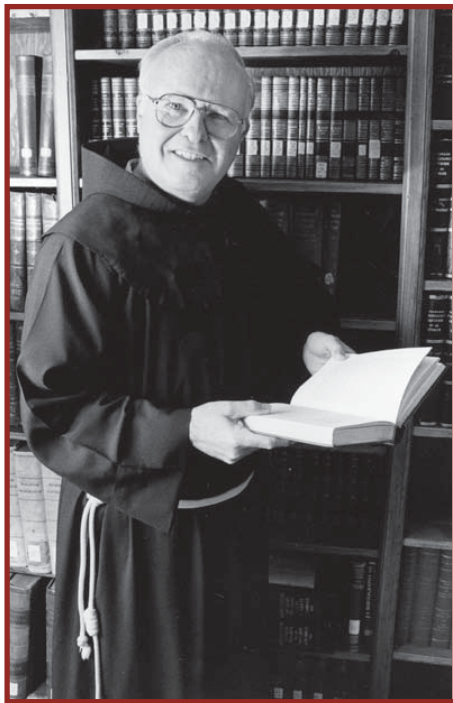
Many Colored Coats

Fr. Joseph Chinnici, OFM, is truly an exceptional administrator, charismatic leader and visionary. In the November issue of this newsletter, Fr. Mario DiCicco, OFM announced Joe would resign as Academic Dean at the end of the 2004 - 2005 school year. It has been an honor and a privilege for all of us here at the Franciscan School of Theology (FST) to have worked so closely with a person as gifted as Joe.

Joe is very quiet and reserved, but his exemplary life of service to the Order of Friars Minor (OFM), FST, the Graduate Theological Union (GTU) and to God speaks volumes. Joe has been a part of this institution since its beginnings in Berkeley in 1968 when it moved to Berkeley from Old Mission Santa Barbara. Joe experienced a lot of “firsts” at FST. He was a member of FST’s first incoming class. He was FST’s first four year Master of Divinity student. He was FST’s first Master of Arts student. He was also a student in the first Old Testament class Fr. Michael Guinan, OFM taught. He tells us, “now, that was an experience.” Mike, we might add, still slips his first student the latest in Old Testament studies. Joe considers this a lifelong gift.

Once Joe completed his studies at FST and the GTU he accidentally

stumbled into Oxford University in England where he completed his Doctorate of Philosophy in 1976. He was helped considerably there by the Sisters of Mercy in Abingdon and still counts some of them as his best friends. Also in 1976 he returned to FST to teach until he was elected Provincial Minister of

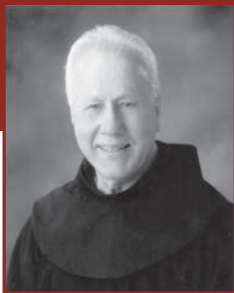


the St. Barbara Province in June 1988. While teaching Church History at FST, Joe also served as a Retreat Director, the Director of Formation for Franciscan friars, and as a Provincial Definitor for the Province of Saint Barbara. Mentored in a lifelong way by Fr. Kenan Osborne, OFM, he became Assistant Academic Dean at FST,

and served as Vicar Provincial under Fr. Louis Vitale, OFM. He counts these two “teachers in life and administration,” so different yet both so charismatic and inspiring, as true gifts from God. Inspired in some measure by Kenan’s great theological vision, he has written two books and has co-edited two more. Joe served on several Doctoral Committees at the GTU. Sisters Christine Athans and Angelyn Dries, his first and last doctoral students, went on to great honors in American Catholic studies. Joe learned a lot from both of them. His friendship with significant friars has sustained him in so many ways, and special mention are due to Fr. Michael Doherty, OFM and Fr. Mel Jurisich, OFM, his contemporaries, and to Fathers Giles Valcovich and Godfrey McSweeney, his spiritual guides.

Joe began his work as FST’s Academic Dean in July 2000 and was faced with many challenges at this particular time. FST had just successfully completed a ten year accreditation process through the guidance of the former Dean, Br. Bill Short, OFM. Joe stated, “...because that process was handled so successfully, the tasks for me as the new Dean were clear.” Joe was faced with the restructuring of two of FST’s degree programs, the Master of Arts in Ministry for a Multicultural

From the President



Dear Alums and Friends of FST,

It is a blessing for any institution of higher learning to have at any one time a dynamic teacher, a published scholar, or a superb administrator. But when all three talents are combined in one man, as they are in Fr. Joseph Chinnici, OFM, then you know you have a person of extraordinary value. Joe will step down as Academic Dean at the end of December 2004, having occupied that office since January 2000. Joe, at his own request, is going on a much needed and much delayed sabbatical. My wish is that he would stay on permanently as Dean so proficiently has he performed his complex duties, earned the profound respect and gratitude of the faculty, been the competent academic voice of FST, and initiated the on-going academic assessment of the school so important for our accreditation. Joe will spend his sabbatical year researching several book projects for publication and then return to the faculty as a full-time professor.

Joe is typical of the high quality of faculty FST is privileged to have. He earned his doctorate in church history at Oxford University, served as Provincial Minister of the Saint Barbara Province for nine years, has been one of the guiding lights of the retrieval of the Franciscan Intellectual Tradition in the world, was appointed by the Minister General of the Franciscans to refashion the administrative structures of the Order, was Acting President of FST for one semester, to name just a few of his accomplishments, and with all this has managed to teach, lecture here and abroad, and publish. And he has done it all with such class, competence, and calm.

I am going to miss Joe since I could always be assured that he would perform his job with consummate skill and devotion. Since my arrival on the scene July 1 as president, Joe has been an invaluable mentor for me, patiently instructing me in the details of the office and guiding me through the maze of my duties. He made my entry so much easier. I will be forever grateful to Joe for his guidance of me and especially of FST.

Fr. Richard Gula, SS, Professor of Moral Theology, will become Acting Dean to continue Joe's outstanding legacy. I am most grateful to Rich for assuming this difficult task in the midst of his own teaching duties and scholarly pursuits. Rich's tenure as Acting Dean will extend only through the Spring 2005 semester. We are in the process of naming a permanent Dean from an internal search of our existing faculty.

On behalf of all of us here, I thank Joe for his dedicated service to FST and wish him a satisfying and productive sabbatical. For all of our readers, especially alums, we will be having an Appreciation Event for Joe on Saturday, February 26. You are invited to come and show your appreciation for the exceptional gift that Joe has been to FST.

Well done, Joe, and thanks from a grateful school!

Honor Roll

On behalf of the faculty, students and staff, I want to express my sincerest thanks to all of you, our friends and benefactors who continue to show your support of our important ministry. Without your generosity we would not exist or continue to graduate full-time pastoral leaders for the Church.

- FST received a gift of \$5,000 for its Annual Fund.
- FST received a gift of \$2,000 from one of its Regents.
- FST received a gift of \$2,120 to the FST Building Fund.
- Mr. Paul Canavese, an FST student, gave \$1,500 to the FST Annual Fund.
- Ms. Patricia Pierce donated \$1,000 to the FST Annual Fund.
- Mr. & Mrs. William Stephens donated \$1,000 to the FST Annual Fund.

- Fr. Mario DiCicco, OFM



FST Tidings is published monthly for the FST community of friends, faculty, students and alumni/ae. Readers are encouraged to send items of interest, photos or news to Angie Brown at FST, 1712 Euclid Ave., Berkeley, CA 94709. Our phone is (510) 848-5232 or (800) 793-1FST. You are also welcome to email items of interest directly to Angie Brown at: abrown@fst.edu. Please write "FST Tidings" in the subject line of your message. Remember to notify us when you change your address. You may send change of address information to: info@fst.edu and please write "Address Change" in the subject line of your message.

Hats off to you, Joe

We asked the Franciscan School of Theology faculty, staff, and alumni what they would miss most about Fr. Joe Chinnici, OFM leaving the school as Academic Dean. The response was so overwhelming that, unfortunately, there is not enough room to include all of them in this issue.

"We all recognize that Joe is a gifted administrator, but what I think makes him so is his mastery at telling a story. Although I came to FST as a student, I didn't realize until I worked there how incredibly charismatic this man could be when he was 'on fire.' He can have a whole lunch crowd literally splitting a gut or an FST chapel full of people drawn in by a rich tapestry of images. And so why does this have anything to do with his administrative contribution at FST? He is one of the finest

purveyors of the Franciscan story. In his role as Academic Dean he has articulated this story in a way that firmly institutionalizes it as the basis for a Franciscan education as well as an administrative style. I feel very privileged to have been a beneficiary of the story both as a student and now as an alum and former employee of FST. Thanks, Joe."

- Angela Munoz

"Of all the people I have to come to love and admire at FST, Joe stands out."

- Joyce McConeghey

"I will miss his unwavering support, encouraging me intentionally as a new faculty member to develop my potential as a teacher-minister and scholar."

- Fr. Tito Cruz

As Academic Dean of FST, Joe Chinnici has made our school an international focal point for retrieving our Franciscan Intellectual Tradition. I will miss his constant reminders at faculty meetings of how that tradition shapes our school identity. But I have a sneaking suspicion that as he returns to his regular faculty position he will keep up that good work. As a former Dean myself, I'm so grateful for the generosity he has shown all of us in serving the school in this office.

- Br. Bill Short, OFM, former Dean

"I will miss the way Joe has been articulating the mission and vision of FST for us and leading us through to its realization."

- Fr. Rich Gula, SS

Many Colored Coats, continued from cover Church, and the Master of Theological Studies. Through a grant from The Lilly Foundation, and guided by the faculty, Joe helped develop a multicultural pedagogy at FST and assisted Sr. Paschal Hocum, OSF and Sr. Ramona Miller, OSF in instituting our very successful Lay Ministry program. He saw the FST Faculty and Personnel Handbooks through to completion. Joe was drafted to serve as a member on two subcommittees of FST's Board of Regents, as Convener of the GTU Council of Deans, as Representative of the Doctoral Faculty to the GTU Board of Trustees, and as a member of the GTU long range planning committee. While juggling all of his administrative tasks, Joe was, at times, able to share his knowledge with students by teaching one course each semester. Teaching was one of his

first passions, that and the Franciscan vision of God's goodness.

Joe not only supports the Franciscan Order with his service at FST but also in several other ways. He served on an international commission for the restructuring of the Order of Friars Minor and currently serves as Chairman of the Commission for the Retrieval of the Franciscan Intellectual Tradition.

Joe will be on sabbatical during the Spring 2005 semester and through the summer months. During his time off he wants to rest and to continue work on a project, *Church Society and Change 1965 – 1996*. He hopes to receive a grant to continue this work through the Fall 2005 semester. He will return to teaching Spring 2006 if all goes as planned.

When asked what he will miss most as Academic Dean his reply was

very simple, "The people. I have enjoyed working so well with our great staff, especially Sr. Rita Dougherty, OSF, and our stellar faculty, and the wonderful people in the recruitment and development offices. I am very grateful for what Fr. Bill Cieslak, OFM, Cap. contributed to the school. I will miss working with Mario." There is a quote he refers to quite often and that is: "A leader is someone who enables the color to come out in other people's clothes." Most of us, here at FST are very familiar with that quote and we all agree that Joe truly allowed our many and varied colors to shine.

When asked what he wanted to achieve in the future, he said, among other things, "to be a good guy, preach, teach, write, strengthen people's faith, and to grow in love." ■

- Staff Writers



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Email: MarioD@aol.com

All proceeds benefit FST

FST EVENTS

Wednesday, February 9

*Ash Wednesday Eucharistic Service
 PSR Chapel 12:40 PM*

Monday, February 21

President's Day - FST Offices closed

Saturday, February 26

*Vespers Service & Reception to honor
 Fr. Joe Chinnici, OFM
 5:00-8:00 PM*

All are welcome to join our free

Franciscan Vision Lecture Series

Lectures are Tuesdays from

1:00 - 2:00 PM in the FST Classroom

Tuesday, February 15

Franciscans in the Holy Land

Fr. Mario DiCicco, OFM

President and Rector of FST

Tuesday, February 22

Historical Models of the Lay

Franciscan Vocation

Dr. Darleen Pryds

Associate Professor of Christian Spirituality