

Padres Trail

August 2, 2009 + Official Newsletter of the Franciscans of the Province of Our Lady of Guadalupe + Volume #24, Issue # 5

Special Edition



The Real End of the Beginning

The Chapter of 2009, Albuquerque, New Mexico

Sunday, June 28, to Friday, July 3, 2009

Photos by Brother Andres Gallegos, Fathers Pio O'Connor and Larry Bernard

Father Emanuel Trockur, OFM, early missionary to the Navajo people often said: "The first 500 years are the hardest." Our Province is finishing 25 years of existence. It might be a comma in the long history of the Friars of the Southwest, but something happened at the Chapter of 2009 that made it plain that the beginning is over. A third of our Province is now Hispanic and over half are Spanish speaking. Half of our leadership is Hispanic, including our new Provincial Minister, **Father Gino Correa**, who is also part Native American (Navajo and Aztec). We are proud to have one Afro-American and one Navajo friar.

Our General Visitor and Chapter President, **Father Art Espelage**, OFM, said repeatedly: "You are a daughter Province of Cincinnati in name only." The Chapter began with a roll call Sunday evening.



John Friebel, Gordon Boykin



Juan Montoya, Joe Nelson



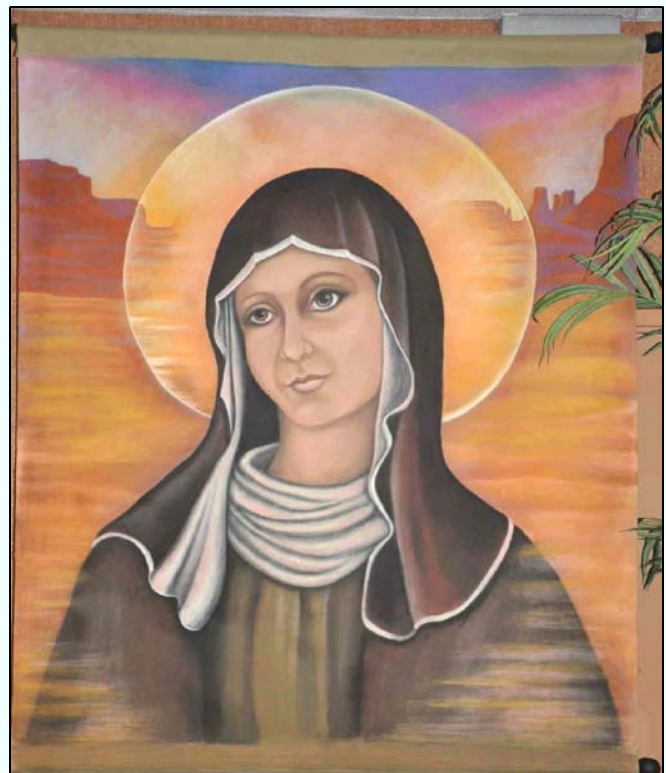
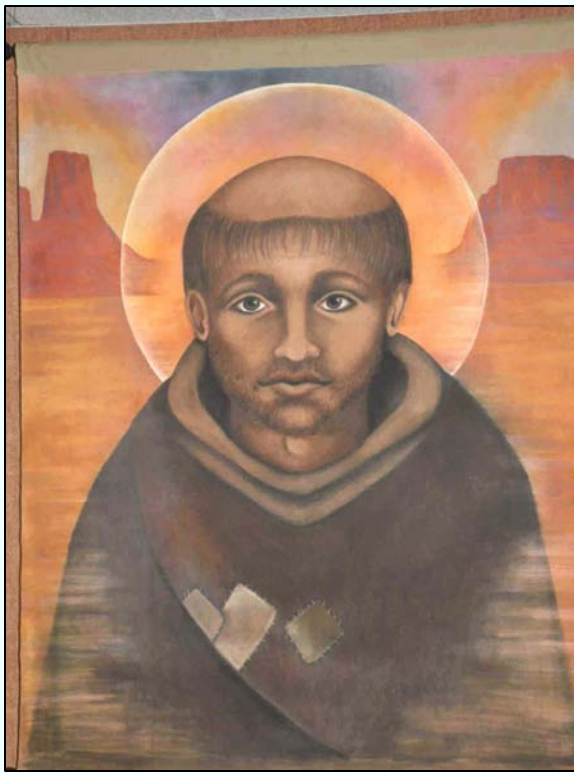
Maynard Shurley



Joe Redinbo, Chris Kerstiens

The Chapter was held at the Nativo Hotel in Albuquerque. 61 members of the Province of Our Lady of Guadalupe were present, including the simply professed and one affiliate, **Archbishop Emeritus Robert Sanchez**. There were 54 voters. Father Richard McManus of the St. Barbara Province was also present as consultant. The accommodations, the food, the meeting rooms, the hospitality were outstanding. The Chapter was well organized by the friars of the Province under the executive secretariat of **Father Ron Walters**, Vicar Provincial. **Father Art Espelage** was the president of the Chapter as General Visitor. **Father Dan Anderson** from the Province of St.; John the Baptist was recording secretary, as he has been many times at our chapters.

A large meeting room was converted into a chapel where liturgies were held Monday through Friday. Two outstanding banners depicting Francis and Clare hung behind the altar. The artist was Dottie Mueller. Organization and music for the divine office and Mass were provided by **Efren Quintero**. There were occasional guest musicians from the area. There was a different celebrant and a different homilist each day.



Two chapel banners - Francis and Clare - painted for the Chapter by Dottie Mueller - she painted five banners.

Monday morning the Chapter Agenda was accepted and the General Visitor, **Father Art Espelage** and the Provincial Minister, **Father Larry Dunham**, read their reports. Both were thorough, optimistic and positive. Copies of both were distributed to all delegates. There was enthusiastic applause for both.

The Chapter broke into small groups to discuss the reports and were asked to bring their conclusions to the full chapter.

In the afternoon the candidates for Provincial Minister each spoke briefly and were later present to a question and answer period. The five candidates approved by the General Definitorium were: **Fathers Ron Walters, Gino Correa, Sean Murnan, Charlie Martinez** and **Jack Clark Robinson**.

Proposals for Chapter consideration began followed by Eucharist in the designated chapel. Elections were scheduled for the next morning, Tuesday, June 30. It was decided that the provincial administration should be in place early in the Chapter so that the friars could speak to the new Definitorium for three days.

After a fitting Eucharist in the chapel, the election for Provincial Minister was held. The Chapter elected **Father Gino Correa** on the second ballot. Afterward there was a straw ballot for Vicar Provincial. After the break, **Father Ron Walters** was elected Provincial Vicar. All four Definitors were elected before lunch, a little more quickly than anticipated. They were **Brothers Duane Torisky, Jose Rodriguez, Fathers Sean Murnan** and **Gonzalo Moreno**. The necessary oaths and professions of faith followed the elections as well as the fraternal greetings. It was a very joyous, calm experience for the most part, without tension or disappointment.

In the afternoon, staff reports were given. **Cathy Pierce, SFO**, Provincial Archivist at St. Michaels, gave a very succinct and interesting report. **Father Nils Thompson** reported on the Peace and Justice efforts of the Province. **Brother Bruce Michalek** shared his four hats: Provincial Development, Franciscan Partners, Interprovincial Retreat Committee, Secretariat for Missionary Evangelization. **Father Ron Walters** had reports on the Franciscan Education Fund and the Secretariat for Formation and Studies.

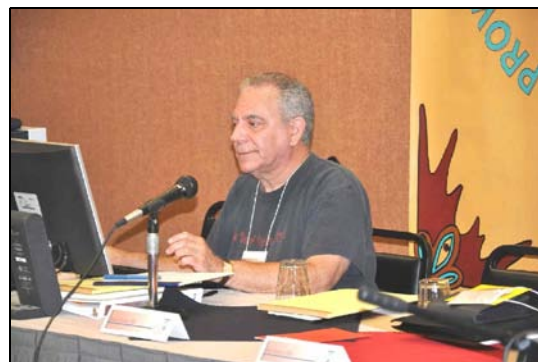
Father Charlie Martinez offered a report on the actual Post Novitiate Formation Program of San Antonio, Texas. He expressed satisfaction with the Oblate Seminary and location of our formation program. **Father Larry Schreiber** offered a report on the Secular Franciscans of our Province. **Father Don Billiard** and lay advisor **Herb Grinnell**, presented a good financial report for our Province. Like nearly every other charitable institution in the nation, the economic slump had a negative effect on our financial situation, but there is no real cause for panic.



Our new Administration: Fathers Ron Walters (Provincial Vicar), Sean Murnan (Definitor), Gonzalo Moreno (Definitor), Brothers Jose Rodriguez (Definitor), Duane Torisky (Definitor), Father Gino Correa (Provincial Minister).



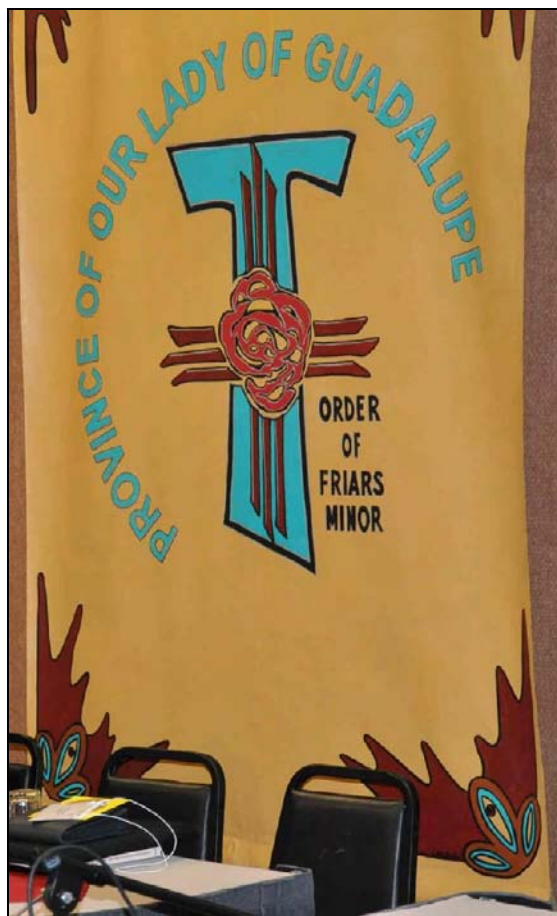
Provincial Minister Emeritus Larry Dunham, and General Visitor Art Espelage, from the Cincinnati Province



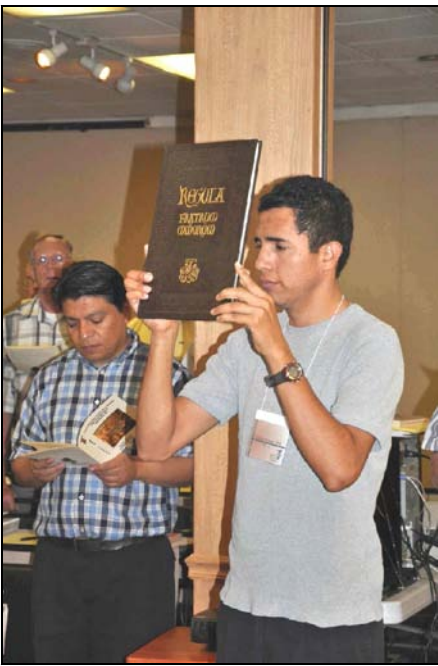
Recording Secretary Dan Anderson from the St. John the Baptist Province, Cincinnati.



Our Lady of Guadalupe Banner

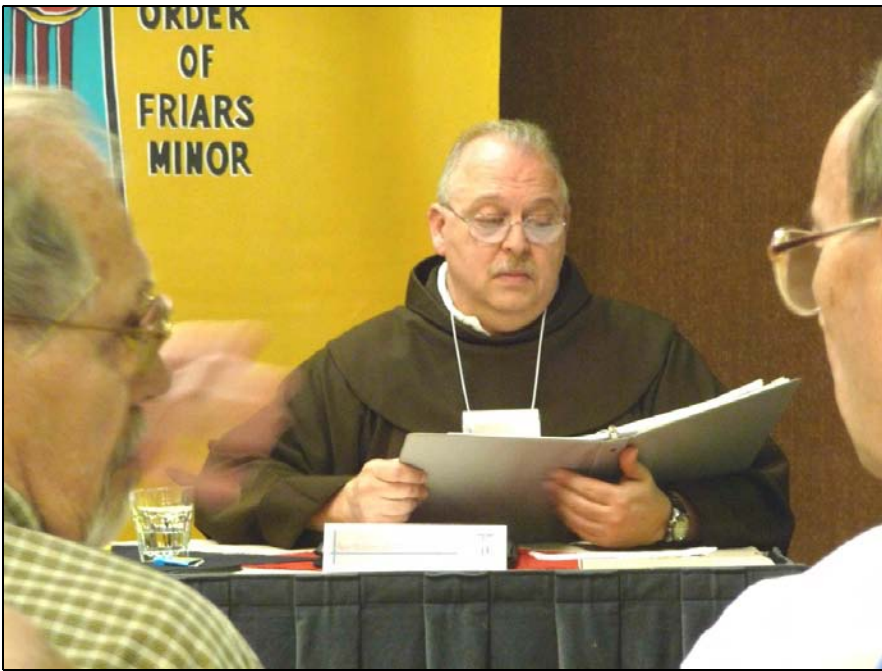
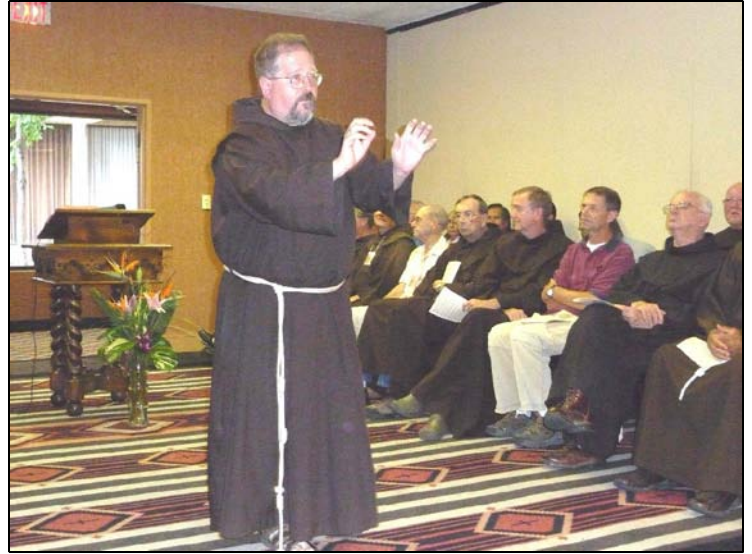


Province Seal Banner

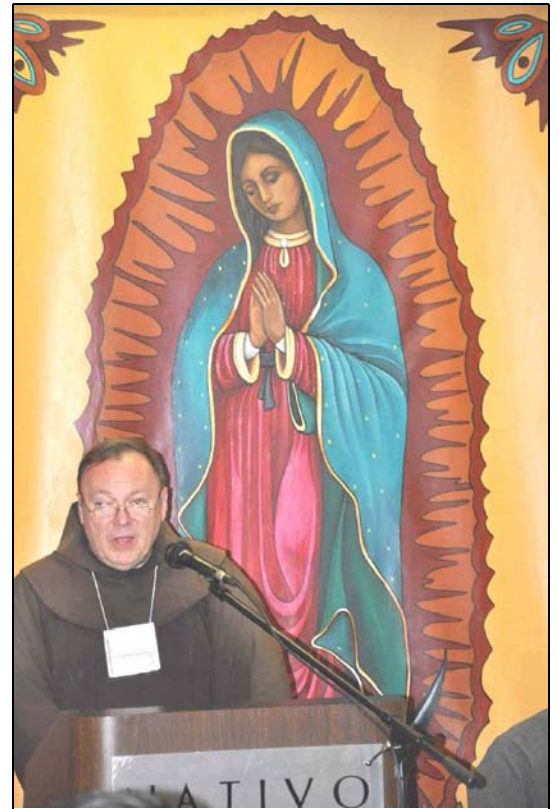


The Enthronement of the Rule: Andres Gallegos, Erasmo Romero

RIGHT: Patrick Schafer gives a spirited homily at one of the liturgies.



Past and future Vicar Provincial Ron Walters gave reports on the Franciscan Education Fund and the Secretariat for Formation and Studies.



Jack Clark Robinson, one of the candidates for Provincial Minister, speaks to the Chapter

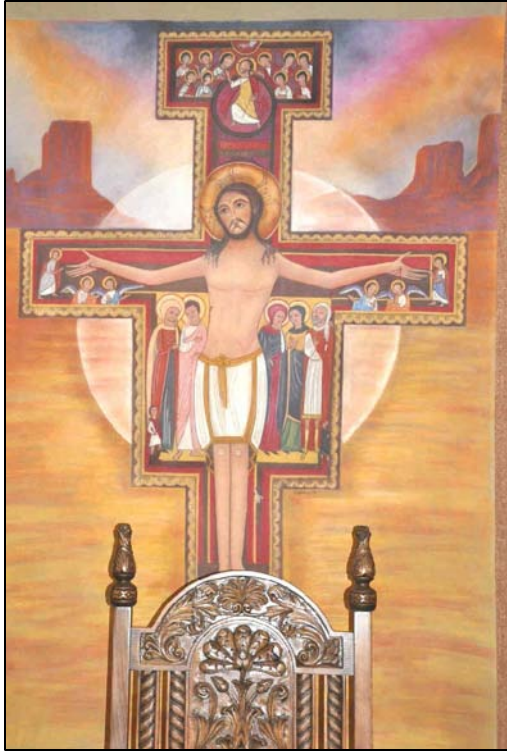


Juan Antonio Gutierrez, Erasmo Romero at Mass in the chapel. The San Damiano Banner is behind them.



Because of term limits, Bruce Michalek was not a candidate for Definitorium this Chapter. Thanks, Bruce, for all your service to the Province!

On Wednesday, July 1, there were two apostolate reports: the Pueblo and Navajo ministries. They were discussed and accepted. That same morning, the Chapter had sessions on the fraternal life. The friars separated into smaller groups for the discussions, which were lively and pertinent. In the afternoon, sessions were on evangelization and ministry. That evening a festive meal was held on the mezzanine with a Quartet Ensemble from the New Mexico Symphony Orchestra playing for the friars.



San Damiano banner



Friars broke into small groups for discussion on evangelization, fraternity and structures. These were some of the best hours of the Chapter.





One of the hardest workers for the Chapter - in setup and music-liturgy ministry: Efren Quintero



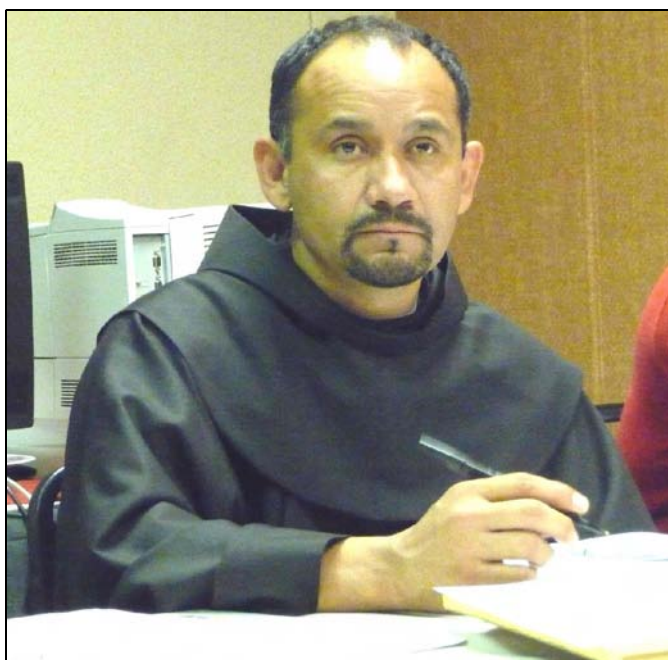
Two senior friars: Chrys Partee and Cecil Kleber

The last full day of Chapter was Thursday, July 2. There was a session on structures in the morning followed by Eucharist. The afternoon was taken up by proposals submitted by the formation team, the government committee, individual friars and the Navajo Apostolate.

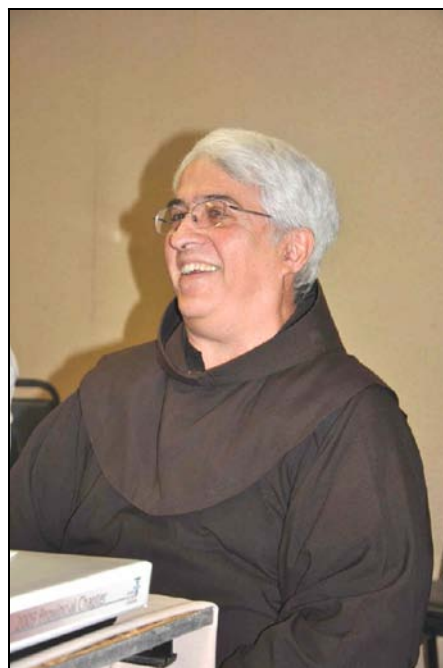
Friday morning brought Eucharist and a meeting of the new administration with the full Chapter. Chapter resolutions and a closure ceremony sent the delegates home to all points of the Province of Our Lady of Guadalupe.



"Habemus Provincialem." The announcement of the second ballot results securing a new Minister Provincial - Gino Correa.



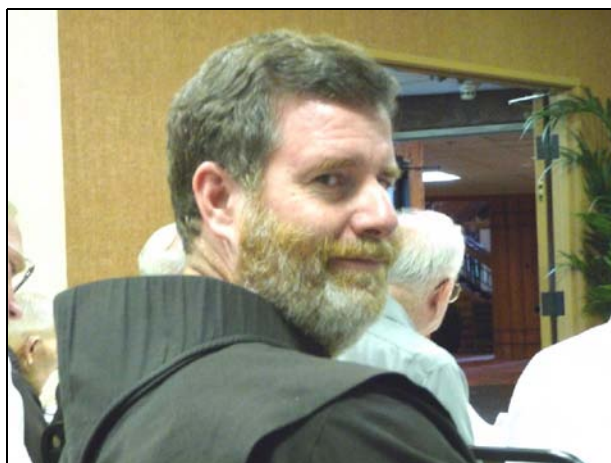
Eduardo "Lalo" Espinosa



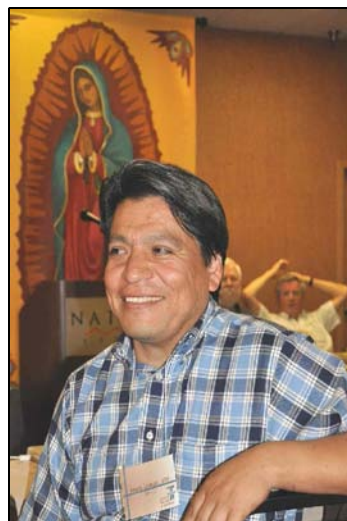
New Provincial Gino Correa



Richard Rohr, one of the homilists



Joseph Gonsalves



Andres Gallegos, Province Web Master, chief sound technician of the Chapter and responsible for most of the photos of the Chapter

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ORDER OF FRIARS MINOR**

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