

THE ROMEO OBSERVER

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Breaking News

Local capuchins celebrate anniversaries

by CHRIS GRAY
Observer Staff Writer

Some jubilarians with local ties celebrated a combined time of 110 years of service as Capuchin friars.

Friars Robert Udulutsch and Joseph Howe, who have served at retreat centers in the local area, celebrated along with 21 other friars during a jubilee celebration at the founding site of the Capuchin Order in America in Wisconsin on Aug. 7.

The Capuchins are an international community of friars who look to St. Francis of Assisi as a role model. Those with the Capuchin Province of St. Joseph, headquartered in Detroit, serve in a number of ministries, such as social service, parishes and retreat houses.

"We were celebrating life as a Capuchin, and as many who could come to celebrate did, it's a milestone event," said Colleen Crane, public relations for the St. Joseph Capuchin Province. "By the time we counted guests, there were about 500 people out there celebrating."

Udulutsch and Howe have both served with retreat houses, and celebrated 60 years and 50 years in the order, respectively.

Udulutsch served at the Capuchin Retreat Center in Washington Township during the early 70s, where men and women go to have meditative getaways. He also taught a seminary for the first 13 years after he was ordained.

"One of the things that attracted me to the order to begin with was the commitment that we made to help the needy and the poor," he said.

He said he thought the celebration was elegant, and was glad he could celebrate with other friars.

"I believe we are a community of friars that enjoy each other's company, and we find a lot of support in our community," he said. "We tend to be collaboratives in our efforts rather than working individually for our parishes."

Howe, who couldn't be reached for comment, has served on the ministerial staff of the Capuchin Retreat Center since 2003.

Other anniversaries that were celebrated included one friar who celebrated 70 years in the Capuchin order, and four friars who have served for 65 years. The combined total of years between the 21 friars was tallied at 1,140 years.

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ELIZABETH JONES	ELMA WEBB
GEORGIA SCHADEWALD	LILLIAN LONGEVILLE
LUELLA PRANGE	MARION DOMMENICK
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