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Saginaw News church briefs published 9.6.08

by The Saginaw News

Friday September 05, 2008, 8:58 PM

Capuchins elect Saginaw pastor

The Detroit-based Provincial Council of the Province of St. Joseph of the Capuchin Order recently elected the Rev. Francis Voris, pastor of Saginaw's St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church, as a member.

More than 148 Capuchin friars attended a four-day meeting, conducted every three years, to elect their governing body and to discuss theological and social/justice issues.

Voris entered the Capuchins in 1969 and made his solemn profession in 1975. He was ordained in 1985 and is serving the Catholic Diocese of Saginaw. In addition, Voris has worked in the Capuchin Soup Kitchen in Detroit and St. Lawrence Seminary in Wisconsin.

The friars of the [Capuchin Province of St. Joseph](#) live as a community of brothers, modeling themselves after St. Francis of Assisi. The men serve in a variety of ministries including social service, schools, chaplaincy, retreat houses and parishes in Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Montana, Minnesota, New Mexico, Arizona, California, Nicaragua and Panama. There are currently 184 friars serving in the province.



Rev. Francis Voris

Club crowns 21st Century Girl

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Rakaya T. Whitehead recently was crowned Little Miss 21st Century Girl at a pageant sponsored by the 21st Century Women's Club of Saginaw at Greater Freewill Missionary Baptist Church, 615 Irving Park in Buena Vista Township.



Rakaya T. Whitehead

The 11-year-old daughter of Nellanita Whitehead and Roland Haymon of Saginaw bested four other contestants, ages 6 to 12, to capture the first-place prize of \$100. Judges determined the winner based on talent, answers to Biblical questions and sponsors. Whitehead, a student at Saginaw's St. Helen Catholic School, raised \$181 in sponsors.

The 21st Century Women's Club is a chapter of the Michigan State Association of Colored Women's Clubs and the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs Inc.

For information, call 249-5440 or 755-3756.

Interim minister speaks Sunday

MIDLAND -- Newly appointed interim minister the Rev. Fran Dew will discuss "And the Pools are Filled With Water" at 10:30 a.m. Sunday at the [Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Midland](#), 6220 Jefferson.

Dew succeeds the Rev. Jane Thickstun, who led the congregation for eight years before answering a call to serve as pastor of Keene Unitarian Universalist Church in Keene, N.H.

The former Yakima, Wash., resident earned a Master of Divinity degree in 1999 from Starr King School for the Ministry in Berkeley, Calif. She has served interim assignments in Davenport, Iowa, Greenville, S.C., San Jose, Calif., and Ann Arbor.

The minister was born in Plymouth, earned a registered nursing degree in 1962 from Bronson Methodist Hospital School of Nursing in Kalamazoo and a bachelor's degree in psychology and English literature in 1969 from Western Michigan University, also in Kalamazoo.

Compiled by staff writer Denise Ford-Mitchell for The Saginaw News.

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