



Meet Our Praeses, Fr. Lawrence Webber OFM Cap

Known more commonly as “Fr. Larry”, he was born on May 7, 1952, the fifth of seven Children in Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin. His maternal Grandparents were from Germany.

He attended Catholic grade school, and entered into the Capuchin Franciscan minor seminary of St. Lawrence at Mount Calvary Wisconsin for High School. At eighteen years of age he entered the Capuchin Novitiate at Huntington, Indiana and in 1971 made his first profession of vows as a Capuchin Friar, and began his Philosophy training at St. Mary Capuchin Seminary in Crown Point Indiana, graduating in 1975 receiving a B.A. from St. Joseph College in Rensselaer, Indiana. In 1979 he received a Masters of Divinity degree from St. Francis De Sales Major Seminary in Milwaukee Wisconsin. In August of that year he made his perpetual Vows as a Capuchin Friar, in September was ordained to the Diaconate and in May of 1980 was Ordained to the Priesthood.

His first two years of Priesthood were spent in Milwaukee Wisconsin, in a Central City parish, as well as assisting in the formation of young men interested in joining the Capuchin Franciscans.

In 1982 Fr. Larry responded to a call for volunteers to help receive and form young Central Americans desiring to enter into the Capuchin Franciscans. This commitment lasted for 27 years, during which he worked in parishes in Nicaragua and Panama for a total of 8 years, as Novice Director and Post Novitiate director in Nicaragua and Honduras for 10 years, and between 1994 and 2000 he was elected to two terms as Viceprovincial of the General Viceprovince of Capuchins in Central America with offices in Costa Rica and Guatemala, and over 100 friars to visit and minister to over the six countries of Central America. From 2000 to 2003 he took a sabbatical at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago where he obtained a Doctorate of Ministry before returning for his last six years in Central America.

In March of 2009 Fr. Larry returned to the United States, and has been working in the Father Solanus Casey Center in Detroit Michigan. Since August of 2009 he has assumed the responsibilities of director of the Center from Fr. Dan Fox, from whom he also received the added distinction of being the new Praeses for the Detroit Kolping group who have been accompanied by a Capuchin Praeses for about the last twenty years, and have been very supportive of the Capuchin outreach to the materially and spiritually poor of the Detroit metropolitan area.

Among Fr. Larry’s other responsibilities over the years has been his annual collaboration for three years on a team of Franciscans in Brussels, Belgium preparing new Missionaries for the Franciscan family. Each of these three years there would be a trip to Cologne, where Fr. Larry first came to know of Blessed Fr. Adolph Kolping, prayed at his tomb and learned of his work. Little did he know that shortly he would know the fruits of his work that had spread around the world, including Detroit.