

November 2010

As 2010 approaches its conclusion, the Congar Institute moves forward into 2011. Even as we continue our formation work in several dioceses, we are pushing forward our efforts on other fronts. Here is a quick update on our new and continuing efforts. We appreciate your assistance of all that we are trying to do to support the church in under-served regions, today and tomorrow.

Sincerely,
Wayne Cavalier, OP

TRINITARIANS BRING BLESSINGS TO SALT LAKE CITY

I based the day on the paragraph that begins: "A personal experience...of the love of the Father in Christ and through his Spirit is foundational for all ministry, as it is for true discipleship." (Co-Workers in the Vineyard p. 38). With my Trinitarian bias, I explained that this is probably the most important sentence in the entire Co-Workers book! Since this was a retreat format, there were small and large group sharing that were on a more personal level. I found the participants willing to enter into the entire process and to be highly responsive. Susan Northway is clearly the heart and servant leader of this program. Susan and the Congar Institute are God's gift to one another.

Sr. Chris Wiltrakis

BISHOP WESTER IN COLLABORATION

Frs. Luis R. and Wayne met with Bishop Wester of Salt Lake City, when he was in San Antonio recently, to ask for his assistance in getting the word out about Congar Institute to other Bishops who can use our services. He is extremely supportive and willing to help us in any way he can. We made some immediate and long-range plans and we hope you'll see him soon in a video endorsement on our upgraded website.

Fr. Wayne Cavalier, OP

GETTING TO KNOW EACH OTHER

The Congar Staff is committed to growing in teamwork. Fr. Rocky Grimard, OMI recently led us in a very helpful workshop to identify our preferred working styles to better understand ourselves, one another, and how we can improve our shared work habits.

Fr. Wayne Cavalier

SALT LAKE CITY UPDATE

Recent events include planning days for English and Spanish programs, a spiritual formation and community-building event for English-language program participants and guests led by Fr. Wayne, and a Spanish-language Emaus program weekend course, "Introduction to the Old Testament" presented by Resource Person Dr. David Cortes.

Fr. Wayne Cavalier

BEAUMONT UPDATE

Fr. Luis Roberto met recently with the Director of Lifelong Faith Formation and the Director of Hispanic Ministry to plan for a Spanish language formation program there. He continues his pastoral skills development series. This month the focus is on Jesus as a Leader.

Fr. Wayne Cavalier

DEVELOPMENT - YES!

Toward our goal to achieve financial sustainability by 2014, we have taken several key steps recently: 1. The first meeting of the Congar Institute Development Committee took place October 22 with promising results. Father Wilmo Candanedo, O.P. is the Board representative. We will meet again Dec. 8. 2. We just sent our second grant proposal of the year, this one to the Ministry Network Fund of the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth to help us fund the position of Asst. Director for Hispanic Programs. Thanks to Board members Liz Wendeln, SCN and Paul Philibert, O.P. for your letters of endorsement. Several other grant proposals are in the works. 3. We are in the process of putting together a local advisory group for a fundraiser in San Antonio. 4. Fr. Wayne met with Susan Northway in Salt Lake City recently to plan for a future fundraiser there. The Dominican friars there are also very supportive. 5. We are putting together our first direct mail appeal to go out the first week of December

Fr. Wayne Cavalier, OP

LIFE-LONG FAITH FORMATION

The foundation for what we do at the Congar Institute is the call to active participation in the mission of Christ shared by all the baptized, necessarily nurtured by life-long formation in faith. The specific call to lay ministerial leadership in the Church or lay ecclesial ministry is built on this foundation. This is the essence of what Fr. Wayne shared with a group of 35 parishioners seeking to continue their formation at St. Mark's Church in Clarksville, GA, a parish founded by the Glenmary Missioners. Fr. Wayne was invited as part of the parish education program of the Aquinas Center of Theology at Emory University, Atlanta. <http://www.aquinas.emory.edu/>

Fr. Wayne Cavalier

GLOBAL CULTURAL FLOWS

"Exploring faith formation in the midst of global cultural flows" was the theme of the recent annual meeting of the Religious Education Association held in Denver. Fr. Wayne was able to attend and reconnect with many colleagues in the field.

Fr. Wayne Cavalier

UPGRADING THE WEBPAGE

It takes a village to grow a great website. We will bring together experienced website designers and committed supporters of our mission to do just that on Monday, Nov. 22. We are excited about the prospects. Stay tuned for a great new website coming soon!

Fr. Wayne Cavalier