Thankful for my Franciscan community here in Silver Spring, MD this Thanksgiving! — with Bede Thigpen, Fra Franck Lino, Maximilian Avila, Friar Tim Blanchard, Emanuel Vasconcelos, Chris Garcia and Fray Milton De Jesús. “—Friar Chris Garcia

Friars have fun too: Friars Maximillian Avila, Jason DeMartini, Chris Garcia and Bede Thigpen out having some fun in Maryland.

The student friars take Christmas gifts to all the children that live near the Friary

The student friars visit the elderly to bring them a little Christmas joy!
Novice Friar Steven Arias from Stanford, Connecticut skillfully painted this beautiful image of our Seraphic Father Saint Francis which has been placed over the entrance to the Cemetery at the Saint Francis of Assisi Friary in Arroyo Grande. Friar Steven pictured below far right at Mission Carmel.

ABOVE: Godspeed to Louis Lugo as he made the bittersweet decision to leave the Novitiate at the end of December. He is dearly missed and we pray for God to guide him to the next step in his journey. Friar Matt had an especially hard time letting him go, as seen above.

LEFT: As the young man thinketh....he decides to contemplate. Novice Bobby Mahas inside Carmel Mission at the beginning of January taking some time out to reflect and rest in His Presence.
Fr. Masseo leads some local youngsters during a Confirmation Retreat near El Padrecito Ministries in Guadalupe, CA
Austin March for Life January 27, 2018! Friars Roberson, Alberto and Angel taking a stand for the defenseless, with several local youths and a surprise appearance by St. J.P. II—miracles happen everyday!!!

The friars celebrated a Thanksgiving Mass with friends and supporters of the Friars in Vietnam. A reception followed with singing and entertainment.
Friar Hyeonggeun Lee, shares his experience with some discerning young men inquiring about the Franciscan vocation and way of life at the “House of Studies Come & See 2018” at the San Damiano Friary in San Antonio.