



THE NEWS FROM MOUNT ASSISI

— The Franciscan Friars, T.O.R. —

Winter 2015

From the Desk of the Provincial

Dear Friend of the Franciscans,

Pax et Bonum!

This past July, the friars of the Province of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus met in Chapter, a governing meeting of the friars, at our Motherhouse in Loretto. We discussed many of the aspects of our life that affect our ministry to the Church and to the People of God. At the Chapter, the friars again elected me to serve as Minister Provincial, so we will be deepening our relationship for the next four years.

You are a vital and active part of our ministry. Thank you for your prayers and support, which sustain a great work for God. Our gift of prayer for you is an important and cherished part of our daily lives as Franciscans.

We all feel the impact of a troubled world and economic instability, yet I trust the grace and blessings of the Lord will see us through any challenge. As you will read, we both lost and gained members of our Community this year. We trust our deceased members now intercede for us all, and our men in formation offer us great hope.

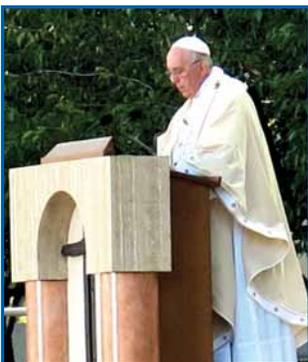
Through the generosity of supporters and the tireless work of our friars, we continue to serve in whatever way the Lord asks, remembering our Franciscan vocation to be instruments of peace. We are grateful for all God gives and entrusts to us, and we strive always to be good stewards of His many gifts.

Thank you so very much for your prayers, generosity, and continued encouragement of our ministries. May God bless you and your loved ones now and always!

Ever in the Heart of Jesus,

Fr. Richard, T.O.R.

Franciscans Participate in Papal Mass



During Pope Francis' historic visit to the United States, Fr. Richard and all of our men in formation attended the canonization Mass of our fellow Franciscan, Saint Junipero Serra. Fr. Richard was honored with the opportunity to concelebrate with Pope Francis and an estimated 1,000 other priests.

Pope Francis' homily focused on the example of Junipero Serra and the importance of mission. He concluded by highlighting the new saint's motto: "Keep moving forward!" The Pope urged all in attendance, and all Christians: "Like him, may we be able to say: Forward! Let's keep moving forward!"

The canonization Mass took place on September 23, 2015 at Catholic University of America in Washington, DC.

OUR FRANCISCAN CALLING

“We have been called to heal wounds, unite what has fallen apart, and bring home those who have lost their way.” This is the call of Saint Francis.

As a partner in our ministry, you are a part of Francis’ legacy. And we hope you’ll join us in meeting his challenge.

We look forward to carrying his vision of love, poverty, and service into a new year of ministry. We pray we can expand our good works and serve God in every new opportunity He gives us.

Our Order has always relied on friends like you to fulfill this mission. The enclosed folder outlines opportunities to do so through charitable year-end gifts—with benefits to both you and the friars.

We would be happy to discuss other planned giving options with you, or send you literature providing more details. For more information please call us at (814) 419-8880, email us at info@franciscanfriarsloretto.org, or write to us at the address on the last page of this newsletter. We appreciate your support!

Global Franciscan Missions: Your Generosity Reaches Around the World!

The stories below have been made possible by friends like you. Your prayerful and financial support enable us to serve God’s people in need and spread Gospel love at home and around the world. Thank you for supporting our ministry—your kindness touches the lives of all we serve!

An Important Year for the Missions

In addition to our local outreach, the Franciscan Friars, T.O.R. serve in foundations in India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, South Africa, Brazil, and Peru. In these places, our friars live in solidarity with those most in need and share God’s love with them. Daily, they fight poverty and work to improve health care, education, and living conditions.

This year’s earthquakes in Nepal in April and May brought our missionary friars new challenges and new opportunities to serve. The earthquakes were followed by destructive tremors that affected India, resulting in collapsed buildings and a landslide. Despite the country’s own concerns, India became the first and primary source of relief to Nepal.

Hundreds of Franciscan Students Serve

Students of Franciscan University of Steubenville and Saint Francis University demonstrated true Franciscan spirit by giving up their school breaks to serve others.

Students participated in youth ministries, evangelization, home improvement projects, village ministries, medical outreaches, and other apostolic endeavors. During the 2014-2015 academic year, our Franciscan students worked as instruments of peace locally and across the country in Arizona, New York City, Chicago, New Mexico, North Dakota, and San Diego. They also travelled the world, bringing God’s love to Jamaica, Ecuador, Belize, Honduras, Nicaragua, and the Dominican Republic.

One student missionary said it best when she said that the mission trip can only be explained by the mark that it left on her heart and the exterior change it produced.

Our Franciscan Ministry – We Couldn't Do It Without You!

Your partnership with the Franciscan Friars, T.O.R. enables us to serve in every opportunity God gives us. With your help, we make a difference together across our country and our world.

Our friars staff 16 parishes in seven states and serve as chaplains in numerous organizations. We carry on a long tradition of Franciscan education by operating two high schools and two major Catholic universities: Saint Francis University in Loretto, PA, and Franciscan University of Steubenville, OH.

In addition to our work in parishes and schools, we nurse the ill in hospitals, hospices, nursing homes, halfway houses, and foreign missions. We embrace our vow of charity by providing food, clothing, shelter, and resources to the poor at home and in all places we serve.

Saint Francis' footsteps have led us down a path of many blessings. We count you among the greatest we have encountered—we are truly blessed by and grateful for the vital role you play in our ministry. Thank you and God bless you for your support!

Meet the New Novices

Since the time of Saint Francis, our Order has been sustained by three factors: the grace of God, men willing to devote themselves to our vocation, and supporters like you.

On May 29, 2015, two men were received into the Novitiate and were clothed with the Franciscan habit. The novitiate year is a time of discernment and service to prepare for first vows. Please continue to pray for us and keep our new novices in mind.



Very Rev. Richard Davis, T.O.R., Minister Provincial (far left) and Fr. Jonathan St. Andre, T.O.R., Director of Novices (far right) with novices Br. Andrew Joseph Sanchez, T.O.R. and Br. Joseph Marie Krilich, T.O.R.

Five Friars Profess First Vows

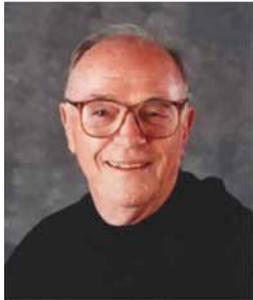
Five friars from the Province of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus made their first Profession of Vows on May 30, 2015 in the Immaculate Conception Chapel at Saint Francis University in Loretto, PA. As they completed their novitiate year, these five men professed their vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience and consecrated themselves to God as Franciscan brothers. Please join us in congratulating them and thanking them for answering the call to a Franciscan vocation!



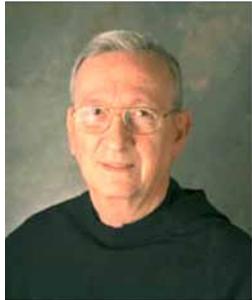
From left to right: Br. Daniel-Maria Klimek, T.O.R.; Br. Serviam Maria Banda, T.O.R.; Br. Zachary Burns, T.O.R.; Very Rev. Richard Davis, T.O.R., Minister Provincial; Br. Rufino Corona, T.O.R.; and Br. Stephan Mary Waruszewski, T.O.R.

Congratulations to Our Jubilarians!

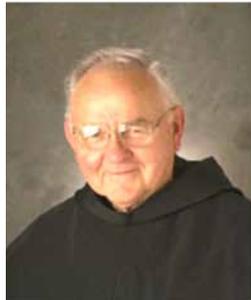
Our Order is blessed with many men of profound dedication to our Franciscan vocation. We are pleased to join 17 members of our spiritual family in celebration of their Jubilees, or landmark anniversaries of their profession or ordination.



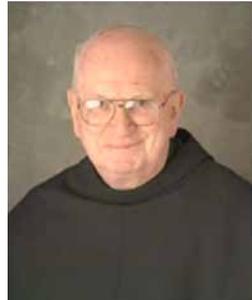
Fr. Brian Miller, T.O.R.
70 Years Professed



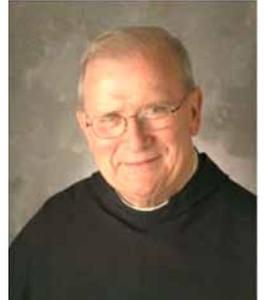
Fr. Gervase Cain, T.O.R.
65 Years Professed



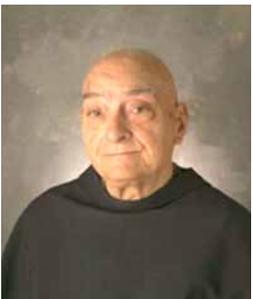
Fr. Fidelis Weber, T.O.R.
65 Years Professed,
60 Years Ordained



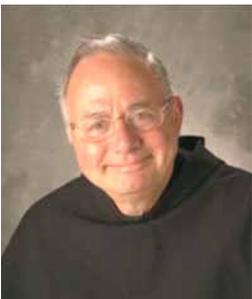
Fr. Patrick George, T.O.R.
60 Years Ordained



Fr. Andre Stritmatter, T.O.R.
60 Years Professed



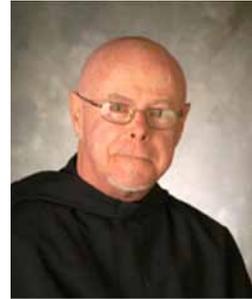
Br. Callistus Gerardi, T.O.R.
60 Years Professed



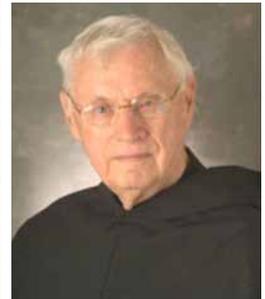
Fr. Daniel Sinisi, T.O.R.
55 Years Professed



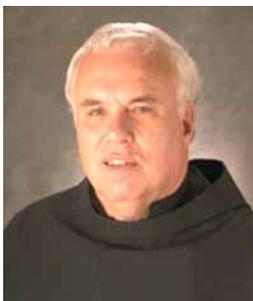
Br. John Paul McMahon, T.O.R.
55 Years Professed



Fr. Daniel Mulkern, T.O.R.
55 Years Professed



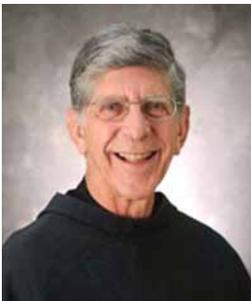
Fr. Warren Murphy, T.O.R.
55 Years Ordained



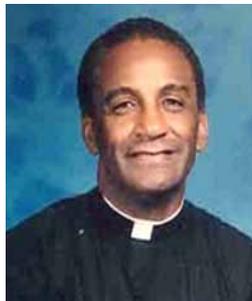
Br. Edward Bennett, T.O.R.
50 Years Professed



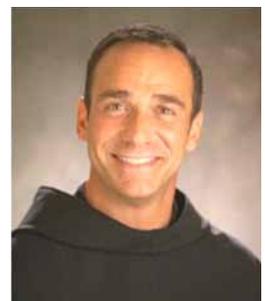
Fr. M. Gerald Gordon, T.O.R.
50 Years Professed



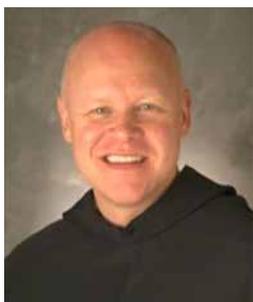
Fr. James Angert, T.O.R.
50 Years Professed



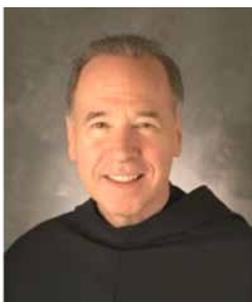
Fr. Julio Rivero, T.O.R.
50 Years Professed



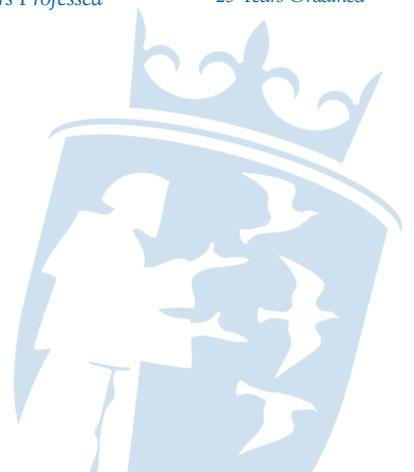
Fr. Damian Amantia, T.O.R.
25 Years Ordained



Fr. Joseph Monahan, T.O.R.
25 Years Ordained



Fr. Lawrence Uhlman, T.O.R.
25 Years Ordained



FRANCISCAN SPIRITUAL GIFT ITEMS

We are pleased to offer the following spiritual gift items to show our gratitude for your generous support of our ministry. All gifts are blessed by the Franciscan Friars, T.O.R. and can be requested by checking the corresponding box on the enclosed reply form.



Connemara Style Small Bead Bracelet

This bracelet features green beads in the style of Irish Connemara marble with a full-color painting of Saint Patrick. The band stretches to fit most wrists. Makes a great gift for anyone with Irish heritage or special devotion to Saint Patrick!

This Bracelet may be requested with your gift of \$12 or more.



Saint Anthony Chaplet

This traditional chaplet features wooden beads for your rosary devotions. The cast pewter medallion depicts Saint Anthony, the Miracle Worker, with the Christ Child. Chaplet includes brown velvet pouch for storage.

This Chaplet may be requested with your gift of \$12 or more.



Sacred Heart Keychain

This unique and useful item lets you bring a reminder of your faith wherever you go. The smooth surface features a full-color painting of the Sacred Heart of Jesus with an image of the Blessed Virgin on the reverse.

The Keychain may be requested with your gift of \$12 or more.



Tau Pin

This pin is versatile and can easily be worn by a man or a woman. Tau, the Greek letter "T," resembles a cross and is an ancient emblem of life and resurrection. It is a symbol that was cherished by Saint Francis.

The Tau Pin may be requested with your gift of \$5 or more.

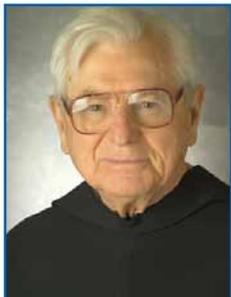


Heart-Shaped Bracelet

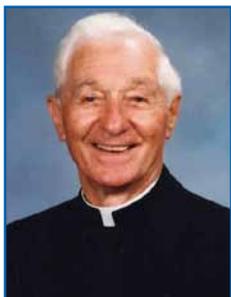
This attractive bracelet can also serve as a chaplet for your devotions. It features eleven beautiful heart-shaped beads and a crucifix. The medal depicts Saint Anthony, and the reverse reads "pray for us."

This Bracelet may be requested with your gift of \$10 or more.
Note: *The color of the beads may vary from that pictured here.*

In Memoriam



Fr. Emil Resconich, T.O.R. passed away on December 18, 2014 at the age of 91. He was born on October 17, 1923 in Portage, PA and given the name Carl. He entered the Third Order Regular on October 1, 1945 at Mount Assisi Friary in Loretto, PA. He professed solemn vows on July 1, 1951, and was ordained on May 22, 1954. During his ministry of over 60 years, Fr. Emil ministered primarily in education, serving as a professor of biology at St. Francis University for 38 years. He is remembered as a scholar and a renaissance man with a gentle heart.



Fr. Harold Homall, T.O.R., 100, passed away on May 7, 2015 in Oceanside, CA. He was born on March 17, 1915 in Bound Brook, NJ, and given the name Albert. After serving in the United States Navy for four years, he entered the T.O.R. community in 1947. He made his solemn profession of vows on July 1, 1952, and was ordained on May 21, 1955. During his long and fruitful ministry, he served in education and formation leadership. In 1978, Fr. Harold transferred to the Diocese of San Diego, where he served as hospital chaplain and Parochial Vicar in several parishes.



Fr. Patrick Donahoe, T.O.R., 68, passed away on August 27, 2015 at Saint Francis Friary after a brief illness. He was born on August 16, 1947 in Wilmington, DE, and given the name John Patrick. He professed first vows on June 1, 1969, and was ordained to the priesthood on May 11, 1974. He was involved in teaching and campus ministry at Franciscan University of Steubenville and St. Francis University. He also served as executive secretary for the Franciscan Friars Conference and Provincial Councilor for the Province of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus.

KEEP IN TOUCH!

Stay up-to-date with the Franciscan Friars, T.O.R. by visiting our website, www.franciscanfriarsloretto.org, and liking us on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/franciscanfriarstorloretto.



FRANCISCAN FRIARS, T.O.R.

MOUNT ASSISI • LORETTO, PA 15940 • (814) 419-8880

(Calling Hours: 8:30am-3:30pm EST Mon.-Fri.)

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