



THE NEWS FROM MOUNT ASSISI

— The Franciscan Friars, T.O.R. —

Winter 2012

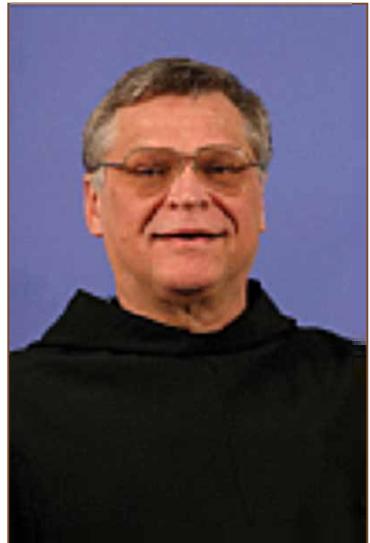
From the Desk of the Provincial

By Fr. Nicholas Polichnowski, T.O.R.

Dear Friend of the Franciscans,

As we approach the Christmas and New Year holidays, I thought we'd try something new: a newsletter to close out the year, to let you know what's been going on with our Franciscan Community here at Mount Assisi and throughout our Province of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus.

This was my first year as Minister Provincial, and it was an eventful one. The world has become a rapidly-changing place—even more so than it was just a few years ago. There is a commonly-repeated perception that people are moving away from God and religion, but I find that the more things change, the more people turn to their faith to bring a sense of stability and comfort to their lives—even if they don't realize they're doing so.



The need for our ministries has certainly continued to grow. Economic challenges have affected us as they have everyone else, but our Community has weathered many challenges in our centuries of existence. Saint Francis knew that if we anchored ourselves in the spiritual world rather than the material, God would always send us faithful friends to help us with our work. Thank you for being one of those friends!

Please look through this newsletter to learn what has been going on with our Community. May God bless you and your friends and family, and send you a joyful and prosperous New Year.

Sincerely yours in faith,

Fr. Nicholas, T.O.R.

Father Nicholas, T.O.R.

The Importance of Planned Giving

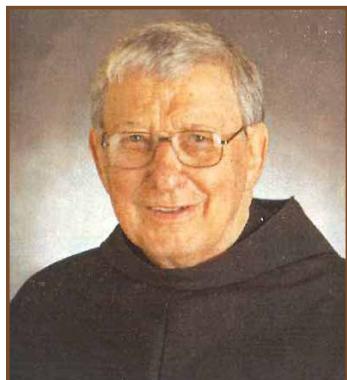
One of the most important sources of funding for our Franciscan ministries is *planned giving*. There are several different options by which a contributor can make a significant gift to the Franciscan Friars, T.O.R., either all at once or gradually over time.

Some of these options are: leaving a bequest in your will; making a gift of stocks, bonds or securities; making a gift of real property; or pledging a gift to be made over time in multiple installments.

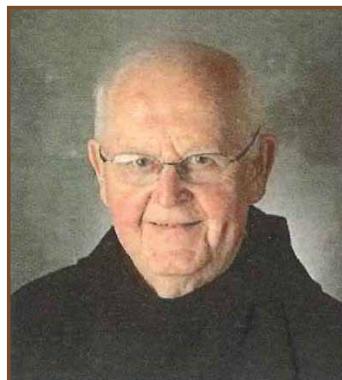
Included with this newsletter is a folder that describes one of the simplest forms of planned giving: a gift made at year's end. Such a gift helps us to plan our budget for the coming year, and also provides you with valuable tax deductions for charitable giving.

Many other planned giving options are available, and we would be happy to discuss them with you or send you literature explaining them. For more information, please call us at **(814) 693-2880**, e-mail us at info@franciscanfriarsloretto.org, or write to us at the address on the last page of this newsletter.

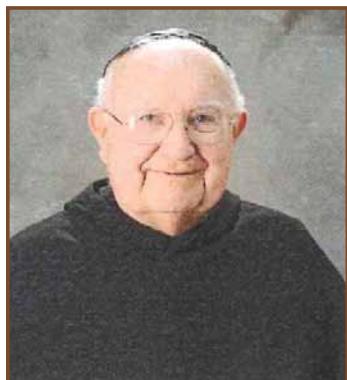
In Memoriam



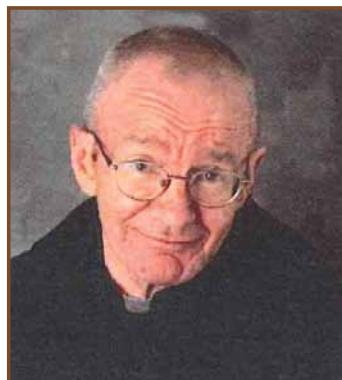
**Father Arnold
Petrosky, T.O.R.**
Born July 22, 1926
Professed July 1, 1950
Ordained May 25, 1957
Died March 8, 2012



**Father Aidan
Mullaney, T.O.R.**
Born November 21, 1925
Professed January 15, 1946
Ordained May 24, 1952
Died July 18, 2012



**Father Louis
McIntyre, T.O.R.**
Born December 29, 1925
Professed July 1, 1948
Ordained May 16, 1953
Died September 11, 2012



**Father John "Jack"
Grinnen, T.O.R.**
Born May 6, 1945
Professed July 1, 1966
Ordained May 6, 1972
Died July 22, 2012

Our Novices for 2012

A novice is a Student Friar who has completed his year as a postulant, and decided that he feels called to move further along the Franciscan path.

Novices live according to the Rule of our Order, and if they feel called to continue will eventually profess their First Vows.

Three men were received into the novitiate of the Third Order Regular Franciscans, Province of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, on May 25, 2012. The ceremony of reception took place during Evening Prayer at Mount Assisi in

Loretto, PA. Father Nicholas Polichnowski, T.O.R., Minister Provincial, received the novices. The new novices are Bro. Vincent Yeager, Bro. Sean McConnell and Bro. Samuel Devine.



Franciscan Ministries

Members of the Franciscan Friars, T.O.R. serve in many different ministries in every corner of the world. For our Province of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, two of our most important areas of service are education and parish ministry.

In addition to a pair of high schools here in Pennsylvania, we operate two major Catholic universities: Saint Francis University, located near Mount Assisi in Loretto, PA, and Franciscan University of Steubenville, OH. You can learn more about these schools at their web sites:

Saint Francis University: <http://www.francis.edu>

Franciscan University: <http://www.franciscan.edu>

We staff 16 parishes located in seven different states throughout the U.S. This ministry is more important than ever today, when economic conditions are forcing dioceses to close and consolidate parishes in many locations.

Franciscans also serve as Chaplains in numerous places and organizations, and we conduct retreat ministries for the spiritual development of our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Thank you for your prayerful and financial help with these vital ministries!

In the Footsteps of Saint Francis...

The Franciscan Friars, T.O.R. welcome new postulants into our Community, while paying tribute to those who have dedicated their lives to following Saint Francis's path of prayer and service.

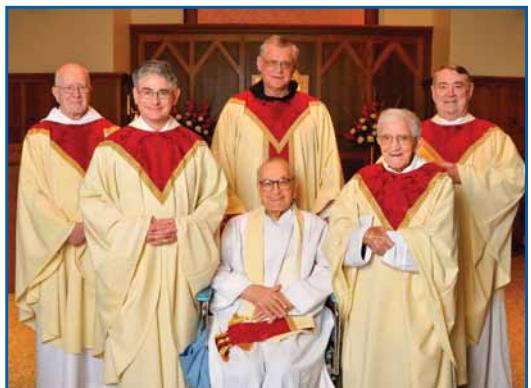
On Saturday, August 18, 2012, four men arrived in Loretto, PA to begin their year as postulants with the Third Order Regular Franciscans. Pictured from left to right: Brother Gabriel Amato, T.O.R., Director of Postulants; William Dodd; Joseph Murtha; Nolan Cleary; Eric Strom; and Father Jonathan St. Andre, Director of Novices.



After further prayer, service and discernment, these postulants will decide whether or not to proceed to the next level and become novices in our Order.

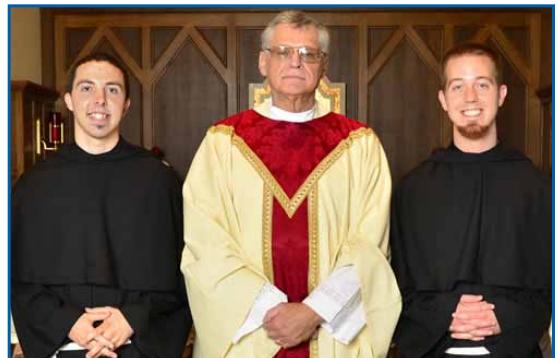
Further along the path of Franciscan service, five senior members of our family celebrated Jubilees, or landmark anniversaries in their religious lives.

Appearing in the photo with Father Nicholas (middle back) are: (l-r) Father Sean Sullivan (60 years professed); Father Thomas Stabile (25 years ordained); Father Alex Bombera (70 years professed); Father Carlo Napoli (60 years professed); Father Joseph Connolly (50 years ordained).



Two Franciscans Profess First Vows

Student Friars take their "First Vows" at the conclusion of their novitiate period, following a year of prayer, study, and discernment. After taking the First Vows, the students move on to a course of theological study and further preparation at our Saint Louis Friary in Washington, DC. At the end of this study, they may choose to make their Solemn Profession of Vows and become lifelong members of the Franciscan Order.



On May 27, 2012, Brother James Puglis, T.O.R. and Brother Jason Wooleyhan, T.O.R. professed their First Vows as Third Order Regular Franciscans. The Mass of First Profession took place at Mount Assisi in Loretto, PA. Father Nicholas Polichnowski, T.O.R., Minister Provincial, received the vows.

SPIRITUAL GIFT ITEMS

You may request these special spiritual gift items as a “thank you” for your generous contribution to Franciscan ministries. To request one of these items, please check the appropriate box on the enclosed intention reply form.



Blue Bead Chaplet of Our Lady of Fatima

This Chaplet features three groups of three beads, each of faceted crystal and in a deep blue color. It includes a silver-toned Our Lady of Fatima holy medallion and matching Crucifix. This is a wonderful way to remember Our Lady of Fatima, who has a special shrine in the gardens here at Mount Assisi. Comes attached to a prayer card and blessed by the Franciscan Friars, T.O.R.

This Chaplet is available with your gift of \$12 or more.



Gold-Toned Heart Locket Pin

Crafted from sturdy and attractive gold-toned metal, this Pin is in the shape of a heart. The hinged front opens to form a locket which can hold a small photograph, lock of hair, or other memento. The Pin arrives in a gift box and is blessed by the Franciscan Friars, T.O.R.

The Pin may be requested with your gift of \$10 or more.



Crystal Angel Pin

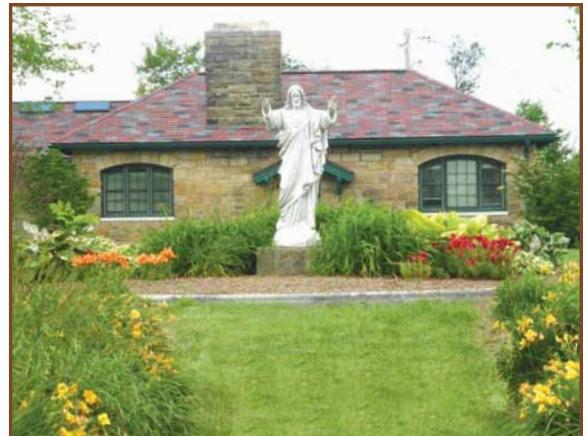
Perfect for Christmas, this Pin is in the shape of an angel crafted from genuine Austrian crystal. The head and body are clear crystal with a gold-toned halo, and the wings are of colored crystal. The Pin is gift-boxed and blessed by the Franciscan Friars, T.O.R.

Note: The color of the crystal wings may vary from that pictured here.

This Pin is available in gratitude for your gift of \$8 or more.

The Sunken Gardens and Fatima Shrine

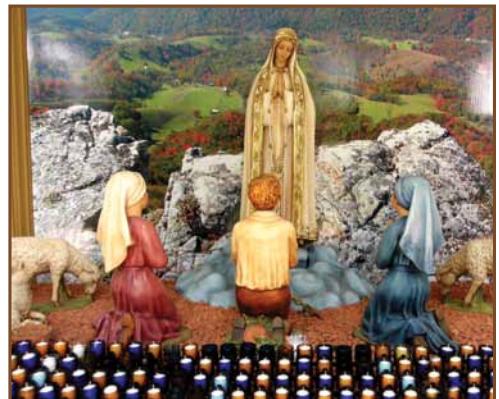
Here at Mount Assisi in Loretto, PA, we are blessed with particularly beautiful formal gardens. Known as the “Sunken Gardens,” they were originally built in the early part of the 20th century by the steel magnate Charles M. Schwab for his estate. Part of this estate, including the Gardens, later came into the keeping of the Franciscan Friars, T.O.R., and became what is today known as Mount Assisi.



Since they were first planted, the Sunken Gardens have been considered among the most beautiful in the United States. Over the years, our Franciscan Community has added a number of shrines and pieces of spiritual art to the secular garden, and it is a holy and beautiful place that we are happy to share with visitors.

The section of the Gardens known as the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima is a particularly popular destination for pilgrims and those devoted to Our Lady. Devotions are held there at 6:30 p.m. on the 13th day of every month from May to October.

We invite you to come visit the Sunken Gardens, which are open to the public during daylight hours most days. To verify they will be open, or to ask about special events or tours, please call **(814) 693-2833**.



Join us in prayer this Christmas season

You are invited to join the Franciscan Friars, T.O.R. in our Masses, prayers and devotions during this Christmas season. Please write your prayerful intentions in the enclosed reply folder and return them to us. We will include them in our many Masses, prayers, and special devotions during this holy time of year.



FRANCISCAN FRIARS, T.O.R.

MOUNT ASSISI • LORETO, PA 15940 • (814) 693-2880

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

www.franciscanfriarsloretto.org