May 2013 was an eventful month for the Friars at Mount Assisi. Our Minister Provincial, Father Nicholas Polichnowski, T.O.R., was elected Minister General of the Third Order Regular.

Father Richard Davis, T.O.R., former Vicar Provincial, assumed the role of Minister Provincial of the Province of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. Father Malachi Van Tassell, T.O.R., first councilor, assumed the role of Vicar Provincial.

The “Minister General” serves as the chief administrator of the entire Order. The “Ministers Provincial” do the same for each of the provinces that make up the order, and the “Vicars Provincial” serve as their chief deputies.

The installation ceremony for Father Richard and Father Malachi took place during evening prayer on May 31 at Saint Francis Friary Chapel in Loretto, PA.

Father Richard previously served as Vice-President of Community Relations at Franciscan University of Steubenville, OH, where he was also Local Minister of Holy Spirit Friary. He served a number of years as Vocation Director and as Postulant Director. Father Richard taught at Bishop Egan (later Conwell-Egan) High School in Fairless Hills, PA, and Saint Francis Prep School in Spring Grove, PA.

Congratulations to Fathers Nicholas, Richard, and Malachi!
Charitable Giving at Year's End

A charitable gift in support of the Franciscan Friars, T.O.R., at year's end has special benefits for you and for the Friars. The timing of the gift helps us in planning our budget for the coming year while affording you potentially valuable tax benefits.

To learn more about this type of giving, please see the enclosed folder, “Remembering the Franciscan Friars at Year’s End.”

We would be happy to discuss other planned giving options (each with their own benefits) with you, or send you literature providing more details.

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.
Four Men Become Novices, Receive Franciscan Habit

The T.O.R. Province of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus was pleased to receive four men into the novitiate in a ceremony held at Mount Assisi on May 31, 2013.


The men will spend the year discerning their calling to be Franciscans, and growing deeper in Franciscan spirituality. Novices live according to the Rule of our Order, and if they feel called to continue will eventually profess their First Vows.

We Welcome Eight New Postulants

On August 17, 2013, eight men (pictured below) were welcomed to our Community in Loretto, PA, where they began their year as postulants with the T.O.R. Franciscans.

The men will spend their time with us learning about the Franciscan way of life, taking philosophy classes, and ministering in a variety of settings. Upon completion of the postulancy program, they will decide whether or not to become novices in our Order.
In Memoriam

Father Simon Mary Engler, T.O.R., died Monday, Feb. 18, 2013, at Saint Francis Friary at Mount Assisi, Loretto, PA.

He was born on May 22, 1920, in Williamsport, PA, and baptized at the Church of the Immaculate Conception, and given the name Joseph Henry. He was the son of the late Joseph and Mary Seewald Engler.

Father Simon Mary entered the Third Order Regular on July 7, 1942, and professed his first vows on July 8, 1943, and his solemn vows on July 10, 1945. He was ordained to the priesthood on February 10, 1949.

Father Simon Mary enjoyed a long and faithful ministry. From 1949-1962, he served in Bhagalpur (Bihar), India, working primarily with the formation of indigenous Franciscan vocations. He was Chaplain to various hospitals in the Diocese of Pittsburgh (1963-1980) and to the Veterans Hospital in Cleveland, OH (1980-1995). From 1995-1997, Father Simon Mary served as a parochial vicar in the Diocese of Sioux Falls, SD; and from 1997-2013, he was active in local prayer ministry at Saint Francis Friary at Mount Assisi, Loretto, PA.

Father Simon Mary is survived by a sister, Mrs. Arlene Agnor, Williamsport, PA, and nieces and nephews, and his Franciscan brothers.

A Mass of Christian Burial was concelebrated on February 21, 2013, at the Friary Chapel with the Very Rev. Nicholas Polichnowski, T.O.R., as principal celebrant. Interment was in Franciscan Friars’ cemetery on the campus of Saint Francis University, Loretto, PA.

Franciscan Ministries

The good works carried out by the Franciscan Friars, T.O.R. are wide-ranging, in both subject and geographic location. For the Friars of the Province of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, our areas of focus remain education and parish ministry.

We operate two high schools in Pennsylvania, as well as two major Catholic universities: Saint Francis University, in Loretto, PA, and Franciscan University of Steubenville, OH.

Our Friars also staff 16 parishes in seven different states throughout the U.S. and serve as Chaplains in numerous organizations.

While our work in the footsteps of Saint Francis is varied, one fact is constant: we are deeply grateful for friends like you who help us reach all those served by our ministries. Thank you and God bless you for your generosity!
We are pleased to offer these spiritual gift items in gratitude for your support of Franciscan ministries. To request your “thank you” gift(s), please check the appropriate box on the enclosed reply form. All items are blessed by the Franciscan Friars, T.O.R.

**Sacred Heart Keychain**
- A unique and useful spiritual item;
- Medal features a full-color painting of the Sacred Heart of Jesus;
- An image of the Blessed Virgin is depicted on the reverse.

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

**Crystal Angel Pin**
- Angel is crafted from genuine Austrian crystal;
- Features gold-toned halo and wings of colored crystal;
- Gift-boxed for easy wrapping and giving.

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

*The Pin may be requested with your gift of $8 or more.*

**St. Francis Pet Medal**
- Attractive heart-shaped medal calls for St. Francis to “Protect My Pet”;
- A perfect gift for any pet owner;
- Sturdy s-clasp attaches Medal to your pet’s collar or kennel.

*The Medal may be requested with your gift of $5 or more.*

**Tau Pin**
- Tau is the Greek letter “T”. It is reminiscent of a cross and is an ancient symbol of life and resurrection;
- A cherished symbol of our patron, Saint Francis of Assisi;
- Easy-to-wear Pin is a thoughtful gift for a man or a woman.

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

**St. Anthony Heart-Shaped Bead Bracelet**
- Attractive bracelet also serves as a chaplet for your devotions;
- Features eleven heart-shaped beads;
- Medal depicts St. Anthony on the front, with “Pray for Us” on the reverse.

*Note: The color of the beads may vary from that pictured here.*

*The Bracelet may be requested with your gift of $10 or more.*
Honoring Our Jubilarians

We are pleased to recognize the seven senior members of our spiritual family who are celebrating Jubilees, or landmark anniversaries in their religious lives. Thank you for your many years of dedicated service to the Franciscan Friars, T.O.R.

Fr. Emil Resconich, T.O.R.
65 Years Professed

Fr. Warren Murphy, T.O.R.
60 Years Professed

Fr. James Mormon, T.O.R.
25 Years Professed

Fr. Brian Miller, T.O.R.
60 Years Ordained

Fr. Francis Moyher, T.O.R.
50 Years Ordained

Fr. Jude Ventiquattro, T.O.R.
25 Years Ordained

Fr. Andrew Draper, T.O.R.
25 Years Ordained

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.