



THE NEWS FROM MOUNT ASSISI

— The Franciscan Friars, T.O.R. —

Winter 2014

From the Desk of the Provincial

Dear Friend of the Franciscans,

It has now been a year since I assumed the role of Minister Provincial for the Province of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. To say the least, it has been a year of learning, serving, and growing. I want you to know you are a vital part of our active ministry, and your support and prayers sustain a great work for God. Our gift of prayer for you and your intentions is a very important part of our daily lives as Franciscans.

Tough economic times and personnel shortages often challenge us, but I continue to trust in the grace and blessings of the Lord. As you'll read in this newsletter, we have both lost and gained members of our Community. We trust that the intercession of our deceased members before God is a great gift to us all. New postulants, novices, and men in post-novitiate formation also offer us great hope. Both of our universities continue to flourish. Our Friars work tirelessly in ministering the Sacraments and serving in whatever way the Lord asks, remembering our Franciscan vocation to be instruments of peace.

We are grateful for all that God has given us, done for us, and entrusts to us. Thank you so very much for your prayer, generosity, and continued encouragement in support of our ministries. May the Grace of God ever sustain us all, and may He protect you and your families. God bless you now and always.

Ever in the Heart of Jesus,

J. Richard, T.O.R.

Fr. Richard, T.O.R.

Over 300 Students Serve in Global Mission Trips

Congratulations to our students on another successful year of mission trips, and to you, our donors, for making their work possible!

Through a program called Missions of Peace, over 10 percent of the student body of Franciscan University of Steubenville gave up their school breaks to minister to their brothers and sisters around the world.



The group who served in Arizona.

International service trips included missions to Jamaica, Belize, Ecuador, Honduras, and Nicaragua, where they served others and cultivated the Catholic faith in a variety of ways. The students ministered by evangelizing, teaching Catholic lifestyles to middle and high school students, bringing the sacraments and basic medical care to rural communities, teaching theology, as well as caring for orphans and the impoverished.

In the States, Franciscan University students used their gifts to minister across the country. They worked with diverse ethnic groups by aiding Hispanic students in Arizona as well as ministering to Navajo people in New Mexico and Chippewa Indians living in North Dakota. Students also served the homeless of Chicago and the Bronx, working in shelters and soup kitchens and aiding those struggling with addictions. In San Diego, the students organized retreat ministry for local youth. Others completed various service projects in Steubenville, including door-to-door evangelization, street ministry, soup kitchen, and homeless ministry.

Missions of Peace continues to offer service opportunities, providing spiritual growth for both the students and the world around them. Rhett Young, director of Missionary Outreach, explains that students “desire to give of themselves and grow spiritually, emotionally, and humanly... but once on a mission, it is Christ in the people they encounter and the personal growth that happens on a mission that leaves a lasting impression.”

Thank you again for your support of our Order and the schools we operate! Through your financial and prayerful support, you were with our student missionaries in spirit and helped touch the lives of those they served.

Five New Novices Receive Franciscan Habit

Since the time of Saint Francis, we have relied on help from people like you in order to grow and sustain our community. Your generosity makes our vocation possible, and your prayers and support attract new members to our community.

On May 31, 2014, five men entered the Novitiate of the Third Order Regular of Saint Francis, Province of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus in Loretto, PA. Our new novices were received by Very Rev. Richard L. Davis, T.O.R., Minister Provincial, during evening prayer on the Feast of the Visitation.

The novitiate year is a time that focuses on the spiritual life of the novices and prepares them for first vows in the Franciscan community. Please continue to pray for us, keeping our new novices in mind.



From left to right: Very Rev. Richard L. Davis, Minister Provincial; novices Bro. Zachary Burns, Bro. Stephan Mary Waruszewski, Bro. Daniel Maria Klimek, Bro. Serviam Maria Banda, and Bro. Rufino Corona; and Fr. Jonathan St. Andre, Director of Novices.

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) 419-8880, e-mail us at info@franciscanfriarsloretto.org, or write to us at the address on the last page of this newsletter.

Four Men Profess Vows

On June 1, 2014, four men professed their first vows as Franciscans of the Third Order Regular of Saint Francis in the Province of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. They committed to lives of devotion to the Gospel, caring for the poor, and promoting justice, peace, and the care of creation. The ceremony took place in the Immaculate Conception Chapel on the campus of Saint Francis University in Loretto, PA. Very Rev. Richard L. Davis, T.O.R., Minister Provincial received their vows.



*Bro. Elijah Cleary, T.O.R.
– Sioux Falls, SD*



*Bro. David Dodd, T.O.R.
– Nashville, TN*



*Bro. Marius Strom,
T.O.R. – Telford, PA*



*Bro. Joseph Paul Murtha,
T.O.R. – Baltimore, MD*

FRANCISCAN MINISTRIES

We are all called to service in different ways, and when we serve others, directly or indirectly, we all do God's work. Our work is your work. Your kindness, generosity, and prayers means you are with us in all the work we do and that you touch the lives of those we help.

The good works supported by you and 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.

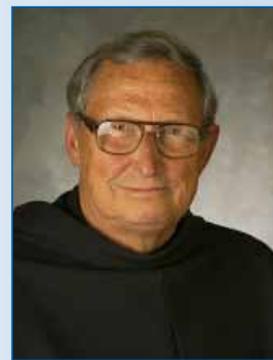
While our work in the footsteps of Saint Francis is varied, one fact is constant: we are deeply grateful for friends like you who help us reach all those served by our ministries. Thank you and God bless you for your generosity!

In Memoriam

Very Rev. Father Christian R. Oravec, T.O.R. died suddenly on July 19, 2014 at Conemaugh Hospital in Johnstown, PA at the age of 77.

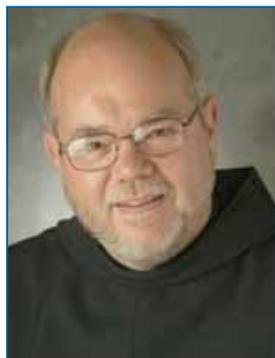
He was born on July 13, 1937 in Johnstown, PA and given the name Robert. He professed his solemn vows to the Third Order Regular on July 1, 1960 and was ordained to the priesthood on May 23, 1964. This year he celebrated his fiftieth anniversary of ordination.

Fr. Christian was a faithful son of Saint Francis, a renowned educator, and a respected business and civic leader. During his many years of dedicated service, he ministered to God's people around the world. He received numerous awards and held various honorable positions, including President of Saint Francis University from 1977-2004 and Minister Provincial for the Province of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus for two terms.



Very Rev. Father Christian R. Oravec, T.O.R.

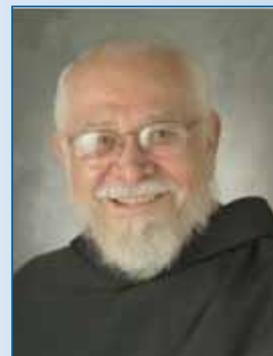
Friends of the Franciscan Friars may remember Fr. Christian from the many letters he wrote to our donors and supporters.



Fr. Robert J. Yetsko, T.O.R.

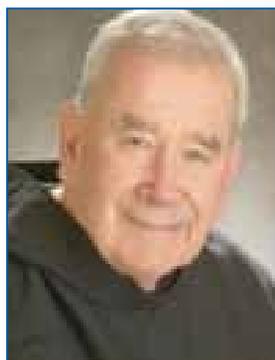
Fr. Robert J. Yetsko, T.O.R. (July 2, 1956 – November 18, 2013) Professed: June 1, 1981 Ordained: June 9, 1984. Fr. Robert served as an instructor, pastor, parochial vicar, local minister, and offered pastoral care at a hospital.

Fr. Oliver Hebert, T.O.R. (December 9, 1940 – December 18, 2013) Professed: July 1, 1970 Ordained: May 15, 1971. Fr. Oliver served as an instructor, both of mathematics and theology, and as a pastor.



Fr. Oliver Hebert, T.O.R.

Most Rev. Fr. Roland J. Faley, T.O.R. (April 12, 1930 – January 4, 2014) Professed: July 1, 1952 Ordained: June 9, 1956. Fr. Roland was a scholar and prolific writer who published several books and won many awards. He also served as Vicar General (1971-77) and Minister General (1977-83) of the Franciscan Friars, T.O.R. in Rome.



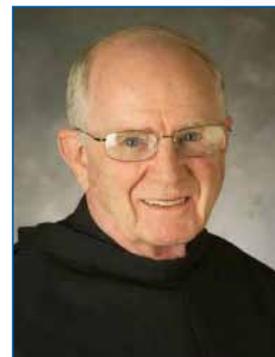
Most Rev. Fr. Roland J. Faley, T.O.R.

Fr. Neil Saller, T.O.R. (June 18, 1929 – May 7, 2014) Professed: July 1, 1952 Ordained: June 9, 1956. Fr. Neil worked across the country, serving in educational, parochial, and pastoral ministries.



Fr. Neil Saller, T.O.R.

Rev. Sean M. Sullivan, T.O.R. (June 6, 1929 – August 2, 2014) Professed: July 3, 1955 Ordained: May 25, 1957. Fr. Sean primarily ministered in education, teaching in several locations and serving as President of Saint Francis College.



Rev. Sean M. Sullivan, T.O.R.

SPIRITUAL GIFT ITEMS

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



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.



Crystal Angel Pin

Simple yet elegant, this pin is perfect for the Christmas season. A gold-toned halo and frame support the head, body, and wings, which are crafted from genuine Austrian colored crystal.

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

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



Saint Anthony Lily Pin

These ornate gold-toned lilies represent purity and Saint Anthony's devotion to the Immaculate Conception. A small medal featuring Saint Anthony and the Christ Child hangs from the lilies, and the reverse reads "St. Anthony, Pray for Us."

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



Tau Pin

This pin is versatile and can be easily 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.



St. Anthony Heart-Shaped Bead Bracelet

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

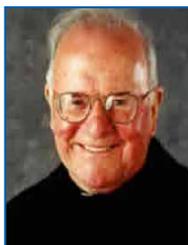
The Bracelet may be requested with your gift of \$10 or more.

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

Honoring Our Jubilarians

We are pleased to recognize the eleven members of our spiritual family who are celebrating Jubilees, or landmark anniversaries of their profession or ordination, this year. Please join us in congratulating and thanking them for their many years of dedicated service!

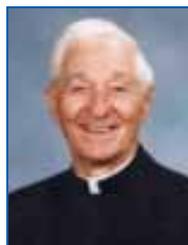
Friends like you ensure the longevity of our Order and make anniversaries like these possible. Your support helps both our seminarians and the senior members of our community. Thank you!



Fr. Colman McGarril, T.O.R.
65 Years Professed
60 Years Ordained



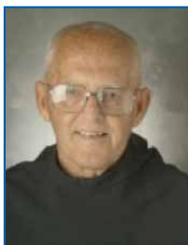
Fr. Patrick George, T.O.R.
65 Years Professed



Fr. Harold Homall, T.O.R.
65 Years Professed



Fr. Emil Resconich, T.O.R.
60 Years Ordained



Bro. Stephen Liebal, T.O.R.
65 Years Professed



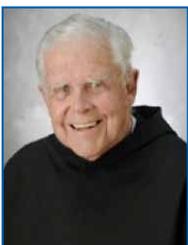
Fr. Robert Sisk, T.O.R.
60 Years Professed



Fr. Augustine Belinda, T.O.R.
55 Years Professed



Fr. Angelus Migliore, T.O.R.
50 Years Ordained



Fr. Michael Scanlan, T.O.R.
55 Years Professed
50 Years Ordained



Fr. David Kraeger, T.O.R.
50 Years Professed



Fr. Stanley Holland, T.O.R.
25 Years Professed



FRANCISCAN FRIARS, T.O.R.

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

www.franciscanfriarsloretto.org