A DAY IN THE LIFE
OF THE CAPUCHINS IN THE PROVINCE OF ST. MARY
The needs of the poor and the demands of justice shape our every ministerial endeavor. We attempt to promote the equality of all people within our fraternity, in the churches dedicated to the gospel of Christ and in the larger world. Capuchin friars minister in a wide variety of settings. Service to people of a variety of cultures in North America and around the globe has allowed us to witness God at work in our world in countless ways.

Here in the northeastern United States, the Province of St. Mary serves through any number of institutions dedicated to the service of real human needs and the proclamation of God’s love. Urban, suburban and rural; poor, blue collar and middle class; Latino, Asian and English-speaking – our friars can be found living amid all of these diverse circumstances.

PRINCIPAL PROVINCE MINISTRIES

Mission Ministry: Serving our brothers and sisters in faith in the environment where most people come to experience church. Besides the local parish churches in New York and New England, friars live and serve in Central America, Guam, Japan and Africa.

Capuchin Food Pantries: Based at St. John the Baptist Church on West 31st Street in midtown Manhattan, with eight additional locations in Harlem, the Bronx, lower Manhattan, Brooklyn and Long Island, the food pantries help feed over 3,000 families, and also provide free clothing, diapers and toiletries.

Chaplaincy Ministry: Friars serving those who find themselves in hospitals, jails, drug programs, etc.

Preaching Ministry: Friars serving the wider church through retreats and missions carried out in different parishes and retreat centers.

Youth & Family Ministries: Serving youth, young adults and their families through specially designed programs for religious education and ministry outreach.

CAPUCHIN LOCATIONS IN NEW YORK AND NEW ENGLAND

The Province of St. Mary also serves Mission Areas in Central America, Japan, Africa, India and the Pacific.
Welcome to the Capuchin Province of St. Mary, serving God’s people in New York, New England and around the world. This first annual report for the province is intended to share news about the spirit and scope of Capuchin activities undertaken by the province with our friends and benefactors, and with all our partners in mission, as well as with our own friars working in the U.S. and overseas. Our work is as diverse as the needs of God’s people, and in keeping with our Franciscan character, our theme follows the simple rhythms of daily life. We hope this report leaves you better informed about our spectrum of ministries, and desirous of becoming more closely involved with the work of the ever-expanding Capuchin Franciscan family.

“LET THEM TAKE CARE NOT TO APPEAR EXTERIORLY SAD AND GLOOMY LIKE HYPOCRITES, BUT LET THEM SHOW THEMSELVES TO BE JOYFUL AND CONTENTED IN THE LORD, MERRY AND BECOMINGLY COURTEOUS.”

FROM THE FIRST RULE OF ST. FRANCIS, CHAPTER 7

NEWS OF NOTE

PROVINCE ORDINATIONS
On June 7, 2008, the Province of St. Mary was blessed with five ordinations. Thomas Franks, OFM Cap, Samuel Fuller OFM Cap, and Arlen Harris, OFM Cap were ordained to the priesthood. Richard Crowley, OFM Cap and Marvin Bearis, OFM Cap were ordained to the diaconate.

CHAPTER MEETING HELD
Every three years, the Capuchin Province of St. Mary gathers for a chapter meeting. All the friars working throughout New York and New England, with representatives from Japan, Guam and Central America, come together in Capuchin brotherhood. The purpose of the meeting is to review the goals of the Mission as set forth in the preceding Chapter, to vote and appoint Leadership, and to build upon the efforts of all the brothers as they share their experiences and learn from one another. This year’s meeting was held on April 20-25, 2008 at the San Alfonso Retreat House in Long Branch, New Jersey. The brothers reviewed ministries across the Province and deliberated on changing needs and the continuing evolution of the mission of the Capuchins over the coming three years. The results of the Leadership election were:

John Gallagher, OFM Cap, Provincial Minister
John McHugh, OFM Cap, Vicar Provincial Minister
Francis Gasparik, OFM Cap, Councilor
Timothy Jones, OFM Cap, Councilor
Celestino Arias, OFM Cap, Councilor

By reason of their election to these offices, these same brothers become the members of the board of directors of the Province of St. Mary of the Capuchin Order.

NEW FRIARY OPENED IN GUAM
Our newest friary, St. Fidelis, opened on the island of Guam in the Vice Province of the Marianas and Hawaii.
MESSAGE FROM THE PROVINCIAL

EACH DAY BRINGS NEW WAYS OF BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

DEAR FRIENDS:
The genius of St. Francis begins with a simple yet sublime insight... that the wonder of God’s creation is most visible when all God’s creatures are seen in relationship with one another. In his day, this vision inspired him and his followers to cross class boundaries so that he could connect with all and exclude none, no matter how poor, sick, or alone. In our modern world, this insight is more relevant, and more valuable, than ever. So we search each day for new occasions for witness, and new ways to bring an ever wider circle of people into relationship with one another.

This annual report, our first, attempts to give you a glimpse of just one day in the life of the Province of St. Mary. Through all the diverse activities discussed on the pages that follow, the underlying impetus is still the same insight that inspired St. Francis over eight hundred years ago: building loving relationships with everyone we meet. Our Province reaches from the streets of New York to the tree-clad mountains of New England, and then keeps going, touching down in Central America, Hawaii, Guam and Japan, and continuing on to include our collaboration in Africa. Across these diverse geographies, peoples and cultures, Capuchins strive to see God in everyone we encounter.

Of course, our ministry would be impossible without the support of all our partners in mission. One of the primary reasons for creating this report is to show our benefactors the good work made possible by your generosity, and to show how our ministry here in the Province of St. Mary is connected with the global mission of the Capuchins.

Every day, we see more evidence of the inter-connectedness that fired the imagination of St. Francis. Capuchin Franciscans are responding to these signs with a growing commitment to economic solidarity. An important dimension of our work here in the Province of St. Mary is to support the ministry of Capuchins active in other parts of the world. The Province of St. Mary is among the most committed financial supporters of Capuchin missions in emerging countries.

At the same time, Capuchins in other regions share their many gifts with us. Take our ministry in Japan as an example. Our Mission began in Okinawa, then known as the Ryukyu Islands, in 1948. This Mission has now been expanded to the mainland of Japan. Thanks to our close collaboration with the Capuchin Province of Holy Trinity in Karnataka, India, where the Order is flourishing with many vocations, we are supported in Japan by the efforts of six brothers from India, who are now working alongside our own friars.

The remarkable diversity of the human family is also visible right here in our own backyard. My most recent assignment, as Pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Yonkers, made me part of a faith community that included Indian, Filipino, Hispanic, Portuguese, and Eastern European as well as Irish and Italian Catholics. The Capuchin-staffed Parish of St. Anne – St. Augustin in Manchester, New Hampshire, has continually shown solidarity for people in need as they welcomed Latin American, Vietnamese and Bosnian refugees in the mid-1990s, then Mexican and African refugees from the Sudan, Rwanda, Congo and Burundi over the past decade.

As we open ourselves to the world, we find more opportunities to build new relationships with more of God’s people. The needs we encounter, of course, are always enormous. Yet we know that we do not work alone. Always confident of God’s grace, we see that whenever we stop to look around, we discover more people, more partners, coming together to minister along with us. Pax et Bonum!

Yours in the Lord,

Fr. John Gallagher, OFM Cap
Provincial Minister
DEAR FRIENDS:
I have a confession to make.
I am a professional beggar. The truth is, Capuchin friars are called to be beggars.
We have no choice in the matter. St. Francis would not have it any other way. And St. Francis was following the Lord’s example. After all, didn’t the Lord send out His apostles on mission, telling them to bring nothing with them?
Did He not care about Peter and James and John and the rest? Actually, I think Our Lord Jesus Christ knew exactly what He was doing.
When you have nothing, the first thing you do is entrust yourself to God’s protection. Which helps you get over the fear of asking for help. And when you ask for help, you reveal your own need, your own weakness. Your need prompts others to open their hearts.
So when the Lord told the apostles to take nothing, He knew that the very act of trusting in the goodness of others is the best way to call forth the goodness in others.
We Capuchins strive to follow in the Lord’s footsteps and to emulate the model of St. Francis by showing the same intrinsic trust that the help will come. It always does.
The goal of the Capuchin Mission & Development Office is to fund the domestic and international mission of the Province of St. Mary. Our mission ranges from support for our own members in the Province to assistance for other Capuchin jurisdictions. The Province of St. Mary stands among the top ten Capuchin jurisdictions in the world for its generous financial and professional support extended to Capuchin foreign missions, including the Damietta Initiative (see pages 4-5), and Franciscans International (see pages 12-13).
Where do these resources come from? They come from our many generous partners in mission, as the stewardship report beginning on page 16 demonstrates.
Of course, everything costs more these days, and it costs more for Capuchins just as much as for everyone else. From gas to food, the prices just keep rising.
And while the costs are rising, so are the needs, because we are ambitious in our plans to serve God’s people in every way we possibly can. So we are taking responsibility for new parishes here at home, even as we are building new friaries overseas. We are blessed with men ready to step forward and commit their lives to our work. They need training and support for the great work that lies before them. Last but surely not least, our older brothers in retirement need our love and support as they continue to live in Capuchin Franciscan community.
So everything is going up for everyone. Remarkably, though, our supporters don’t stop giving, even though they themselves are subject to the same inflationary forces. Somehow, the people listed in this report and all those generous individuals too numerous to name see the need, and find the resolve to respond.
For them, for you, we are eternally grateful, and you are always in our prayers.

Gratefully,

Fr. Francis J. Gasparik, OFM Cap
MORNING

6:45 AM: DAILY MASS

The day begins essentially the same way across the province, with the celebration of morning Mass at each parish staffed by Capuchin Franciscans. Parishioners of Sacred Heart in Yonkers (above left) and of Pius X in picturesque Middletown, Connecticut gather in the early morning light. In Interlaken, New York, on the western shore of Lake Cayuga, and in the parish of St. Anne - St. Augustin in New Hampshire, similar scenes unfold. At the Church of St. John the Baptist in midtown Manhattan (above right), the 6:45 AM Mass gets started before the city is stirring, and commuters from Penn Station hurry in for the 7:45 before their work days begin. Parish ministry is central to the work of Capuchins in the province, and that ministry keeps expanding. A new name, Our Lady of Lourdes in Jamaica Plain, Boston, extends the list of Capuchin parishes in 2008. Also central to the parish ministry is the preaching ministry. In a recent survey of friars, over fifty brothers responded, indicating their commitment to give some form of parish mission, to give retreats, to participate in the media ministry, and in other ways to energize the preaching ministry to meet today’s needs.

10:00 AM: DAMIETTA PEACE INITIATIVE, KENYA

When it is morning on the eastern coast of the United States, it is already late afternoon in Kenya, as Br. Tino Arias, OFM Cap, of the Province of St. Mary speaks with Br. Benedict Ayodi, OFM Cap, Regional Coordinator of the Damietta Peace Initiative, to discuss their shared mission. The Damietta Peace Initiative tries to build existential “cells of dialogue” among Christians and Muslims, in order to create mutual comprehension and peace in Africa in those

“...I ADMONISH AND EXHORT THESE SAME FRIARS THAT WHEN THEY PREACH, THEIR LANGUAGE BE WELL-CONSIDERED AND SIMPLE, FOR THE BENEFIT AND EDIFICATION OF THE PEOPLE....”

– RULE OF ST. FRANCIS, CHAPTER 9
places where Franciscans live. The worldwide Conference of the Franciscan Family sponsors the Damietta Initiative, and the Province of St. Mary is an active supporter, as demonstrated by Brother Tino’s visits among the extraordinary Franciscans living in towns and villages in 40 countries in Africa who have come together as a network dedicated to bringing the Damietta Initiative to the masses.

The flawed 2008 general elections in Kenya triggered chaotic violence. Over 1,200 people died, hundreds of others were injured, and as many as 350,000 Kenyans were displaced. The Damietta Peace Initiative in collaboration with the Franciscan Family in Kenya has been in the forefront of developments in Kenya, trying to speak peace and reconciliation, and working to bring people together through the formation of Pan-African Conciliation Teams (PACTs), made up of people belonging to different ethnic communities and faith affiliations. Friars work directly with the victims of violent political instability, and their ministry is directed towards having opposing communities unite in a common quest for peace.

By mid-morning, the streets of Manhattan are seriously crowded with commercial activity, but a different sort of serious business is underway inside the offices of the Capuchin Mission & Development team: the business of soliciting, receiving, recording and acknowledging gifts to the Capuchin Franciscans from over 100,000 donors each year. That level of support does not come about by accident. The Mission & Development team knows how to leverage all the tools of modern technology, from direct marketing to database mining, to reaching out to potential donors who appreciate the importance of the Capuchin mission.
MID-DAY

Pilgrimages are social as well as spiritual encounters, as can easily be seen in the camaraderie of these pilgrims gathered outside St. Joseph’s Basilica in Montreal, Canada.

12:00 NOON: PRAYERFUL PILGRIMS ON THEIR CAPUCHIN JOURNEY

Capuchin pilgrimages seek to follow in the footsteps of the poor man of Assisi, St. Francis, as the model pilgrim. Conducted under the auspices of the Capuchin Franciscans, the individuals who take these pilgrimages enable their participants to be ambassadors of peace when traveling, with the spirit of ecumenism and respect as their standard.

North American pilgrimages recently saw groups visit Montreal, where they toured the magnificent St. Joseph’s Basilica, and attend a day of recollection in Philadelphia, where groups had the opportunity to visit the Shrines of St. Rita & St. John Neumann. In New York, weekend visits to the Shrine of Our Lady of Victory at Niagara Falls are fixtures on the calendar, as are days of recollection at Graymoor, just north of New York City.

International pilgrimages led by Capuchins take groups each year to destinations such as the Holy Land for the Heritage of Faith Pilgrimage, to St. Peter’s Basilica in Rome, to the Basilica of St. Francis in Assisi and the Tomb of St. Padre Pio in San Giovanni Rotundo, and to the Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa, Poland.

12:30PM: CARING FOR THE LITTLE PEOPLE AT CASA DE MARIA, HONDURAS

As the children and the elderly of Casa de Maria gather for the mid-day meal, the thanksgiving grace they say in Spanish speaks volumes not just about the food they are about to receive, but about the home they now call their own. In 1970, Father Bruce Quinn, OFM Cap, founded Casa de Maria as a health care and nutrition center in the parish of San Jose in the city of Nueva Octepeque. Today, rebuilt, expanded and improved many times over, Casa de Maria is a clean and welcoming temporary home for chronically malnourished children and the elderly, while also serving the poor of the area as a clinic and nutritional center.

The clinic provides routine medical care and medicines, serves as a nutritional center, and provides care to many elderly residents. Physicians are not often available to administer to those seeking medical care, but the staff and knowledgeable local people have been trained to attend to basic needs. On a day-to-day basis, the center is run by religious sisters, but nearly 40 years after its founding, Capuchins continue to support the work being done here.
The life of a Capuchin attracts men from all walks of life, and from many different stages in their lives, and is not to be undertaken lightly. The long process of prayer, discernment and self-discovery frequently begins as candidates, those first considering life as a Capuchin Franciscan, gather for weekend experiences and informational conversations with friars. Postulants, those interested in a more serious exploration of life in the Order, may gather for longer periods of time and in-depth orientation on what it is like to live life as a Capuchin. Pre-novitiate brothers, drawn from provinces across the US and Canada, will live in community as they participate in a Pre-Novitiate Program like the one held in 2008 at the Friary of Saint Fidelis in Victoria, Kansas. During their stay, pre-novitiate brothers (shown here) built two sheds to auction for the local Habitat for Humanity group who are in need of financial assistance before beginning two new houses in Hays, Kansas. Working together, 15 brothers built both the foundation and the building sides. The lengthy training, which typically extends over five to ten years, continues as men advance through the novitiate while pursuing their academic studies, make a simple First Profession of vows, and finally make their Solemn Profession of vows.
A DAY IN THE LIFE OF CAPUCHINS IN THE PROVINCE OF ST. MARY

AFTERNOON

At Capuchin Youth and Family Ministries (CYFM) based in Garrison, New York, volunteers play a pivotal role in the various programs offered, particularly those men and women who volunteer for one year through the Capuchin Franciscan Volunteer Corps (Cap Corps). One of the highlights of their year is the College Capuchin Outreach Program, a series of week-long outreach opportunities for as many as thirty college students.

Each Cap Corps volunteer leads a group of young adults to a service site and works alongside them in serving the elderly, the poor, children with autism, and adults with terminal illness. On this particular day in January of 2008, Maureen Weissler led her work group to St. Patrick’s soup kitchen to assist in the organization of their food pantry, serve lunch to the hungry, and sit with those in need. Jenn Owens and Claire Lajoie went to ‘Inspire,’ a school for children with autism and special needs. Each college student worked one-on-one with Inspire students to assist and aid classroom teachers. Matt Fallon accompanied his work group to Rosary Hill, a home for assisted living for those who are living with terminal cancer. Emma O’Donnell directed her work group to the Cortlandt Manor Nursing Home, where the students helped aides and visited residents, reading to them and engaging in conversation.

Confirmation and high school retreats, also sponsored by CYFM, give staff and participants the space and occasion to share their insights with one another and to be inspired by the profound peace of praying in community. Day-to-Day Agape are four-day retreats for teens and adults from New York City, Long Island, Connecticut and the Hudson Valley.

Cap Corps volunteer Maureen Weissler (center) and her compatriots cook up a filling feast for those in need at St. Patrick’s soup kitchen.

4:00 PM: CAP CORPS VOLUNTEERS AND COLLEGE STUDENTS REACH OUT IN SERVICE

Members of the Capuchin Youth & Family Ministries community meet on Holy Saturday, March 22, 2008 at St. Paul’s Church in West Haven, CT to welcome four of their members into the Catholic Church.
5:00 PM: CApUCHIN FOOD PANTRIES EVENING MEAL SERVICE

Capuchin Food Pantries collect donated food from many generous individuals and businesses, and use these donations to prepare free meals for the hungry at pantry locations throughout the New York metropolitan area. Based at St. John the Baptist Church on West 31st Street in midtown Manhattan, with eight additional locations in Harlem, the Bronx, lower Manhattan, Brooklyn and Long Island, the food pantries help feed over 3,000 families, and also provide free clothing, diapers and toiletries.

On this particular day (see photo), the Capuchin Food Pantry served more than 1,000 of New York’s neediest at two separate seatings of diners at the Affinia Manhattan Hotel’s Grand Ballroom, only steps away from the Church of St. John the Baptist. Volunteers from Con Edison, Macy’s Department Store and other corporate supporters of this special event helped serve the meal and meet with our guests.

4:30 PM: FR. RUFIN STOPS BY FOR A CHAT

Father Rufin Kuveikis, OFM Cap, clad always in the brown robe and long hood characteristic of the Capuchin Franciscan Order, is a well-known member of the Norwalk Hospital staff today. When he walks down the hallways, doctors and nurses call out to him or wave. Patients – those who are Catholic and those who are not – welcome him to their bedside with a smile because he provides them with something they are craving. “People who are sick don’t want sympathy, they want empathy. I never ask anyone how they feel because if they felt well, they wouldn’t be in the hospital,” he says. “I ask them where they were born, if they’re married, if they have kids, anything to break down the barriers.” Twice in his life, Father Rufin has been told he was going to die. These brushes with death instilled in the 86-year-old a strong empathy for those who are struggling through their own sickness and mortality, and led him to a ministry of caring for the sick. On June 2, 2008, Father Rufin celebrated 60 years since his ordination, and he can be found walking the halls of Norwalk Hospital most afternoons at this time.

In an often hostile city, feeding the hungry brings out the best in the army of volunteers that man the line at Capuchin Food Pantries.

Adapted from an article by Jill Bodach which appeared in the June 8, 2008 issue of The Sunday Hour, Norwalk, Connecticut.

“God has been good to me, so I reciprocate for His people. I know that God will thank me some day. He will say to me: ‘Well done.’” — Fr. Rufin Kuveikis
EVENING

6:30 PM: COMMON MEAL, ST. CLARE’S FRIARY, YONKERS

Senior brothers of our Capuchin community gather in the St. Clare’s refectory at 110 Shonnard Place in Yonkers for dinner. St. Clare’s Friary, attached to Sacred Heart Parish, is home to these Capuchins in retirement:

Michael Connolly: Guardian; Co-Director of Senior Care
Senan Taylor: Fraternity Vicar; Co-Director of Senior Care
Sylvan Conover: Senior Friar
Joel Daniels: Senior Friar
Darius DeVito: Senior Friar; Vicar for Maintenance
Andrew Drew: Senior Friar
Raymond Hand: Senior Friar
Knute Kenlon: Senior Friar
James McIntyre: Senior Friar
Eymard McKinnon: Senior Friar
John Niland: On Sick Leave; First Councilor [Our Lady Star of the Sea Vice Province]
Walter O’Brien: Senior Friar
John Proppe: Senior Friar
Charles Repole: Senior Friar
Owen Shelley: Senior Friar
Christopher Varley: Senior Friar; New Sans Souci Rehab & Nursing Center

7:00 PM: CAPUCHIN SPECIAL EVENT, NEW YORK

Special events that raise funds for the Capuchin Food Pantries tend to be evening affairs, such as an event honoring outstanding business leaders that was followed by a night on Broadway. The Capuchin theatre event held on the evening of May 1, 2008 was the most successful theatre event in the eight-year history of these fund-raising celebrations. Over 1,000 guests gathered for a reception at the Times Square Marriott Marquis Hotel, after which everyone attended a performance of the play “A Catered Affair” at the Walter Kerr Theatre. After the performance, actor Tom Wopat recognized the Capuchin Food Pantries for extraordinary service in feeding New York City’s poor (see photo below).

Richard J. Haray, Senior Vice President of Interpublic Group (far left) and Raymond Quaratararo, International Director of Jones Lang LaSalle (second from right) were recipients of the “Francis Award” for outstanding community service “in the spirit of St. Francis” presented by “A Catered Affair” star Tom Wopat (far right). The presentation was made on stage immediately following the theater performance with Louis Milo, President, Milrose Consultants, Inc. (second from left), Fr. Francis Gasparik, OFM, Cap, (third from left) and Joe Sano of The Capuchin Food Pantries (third from right).
From Trump: Never Give Up,
How I Turned My Biggest Challenges Into Success,
by Donald Trump with Meredith McIver.

“Each year I donate an autographed doodle to the ‘Doodle for Hunger’ auction.... It’s a great event, and contributors have included Sting, Muhammad Ali, Larry King, Al Pacino, Billy Joel ... and many other distinguished people. It takes me a few minutes to draw something, in my case, it’s usually a building or a cityscape of skyscrapers, and then sign my name, but it raises thousands of dollars to help the hungry in New York through the Capuchin Food Pantries Ministry.”

12:00AM: AS THE U.S. SLEEPS, A NEW DAY BEGINS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WORLD

The work of the Province of St. Mary continues, even as night descends on the eastern coast of the United States. In Hawaii, the faith communities in three Capuchin parishes continue their worship, religious education programs and social events. In Guam, a young brother pursues his academic studies while his self-knowledge deepens as he lives in community with other Capuchins. In Japan, Capuchins from the U.S. and Indian friars work side by side to build the Order and to spread the faith.
The Capuchins are a worldwide religious order of the Catholic Church, with 159 groupings of friars in 101 countries, and encompassing approximately 12,000 friars globally. In addition to the Province of St. Mary covering New York and the New England region, separate Capuchin provinces operate in the following U.S. areas:

- Province of St. Augustine, covering Pennsylvania, Maryland and District of Columbia, West Virginia and Ohio
- Province of St. Joseph, headquartered in Detroit, covering Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois and Arizona
- Province of Mid-America, headquartered in Denver, covering the states of Colorado, Kansas and Missouri
- Province of the Stigmata, covering New Jersey, North Carolina, Florida and Delaware
- Province of Our Lady of Angels covering California

As a sign of its commitment to international economic solidarity, the Province of St. Mary makes substantial financial contributions each year to a collective Capuchin fund that provides subsidies for a wide range of activities supporting:

- 46 projects
- 205 missionaries in 17 countries
- Initial formation for nearly 2,100 young friars on four continents
- Ongoing formation for over 60 brothers
- 84 study burses for International College

Individual projects made possible by this assistance in 2008 include:

- Construction of a new novitiate in Benin, Nigeria housing its first group of novices
- Construction of a new novitiate in Lusaka, Zambia
- Construction of a new monastery for the Capuchin Poor Clares in Kefamenanu, West Timor
THE CAPUCHIN ORDER IN INDIA

Economic assistance is also enabling the dramatic expansion of the Capuchin Order in India, where Capuchins are now preparing and training over 1,000 young men to serve God and His people. They will be ministering in the future in pastoral, social and missionary activities in India and all over the world. Current numbers for 2008 include:

- 130 Postulants
- 108 Novices
- 219 Philosophy Students
- 221 Theology Students
- 123 Others

Franciscans International is another manifestation of the global Franciscan ministry. Franciscans International, a non-governmental organization (NGO) with general consultative status at the UN, has been advocating on behalf of the world’s poor and vulnerable for 25 years. By bringing grassroots Franciscan voices to the UN, Franciscans International engages international policy makers for the work of justice, peace, the care of creation, and the promotion of human rights.
St. Francis dedicated his life to showing his gratitude for God’s love and beautiful creations by illuminating the worth and dignity of all, despite a secular world that lauds some over others and presents heartbreaking challenges for those struggling to maintain their place in society. He believed that through patient perseverance and determination, God’s message of love would prevail over temporal obstacles to peace, and insure all men and women justice and social harmony.

The Capuchins are part of the patient and determined team that St. Francis envisioned would carry Christ’s message of peace, love and promise to those who are often forgotten. They have carved a distinctive niche for themselves within the religious community that enables them to narrow their focus on the most basic tenets of Christ’s love. The Capuchin charisms define the way in which Capuchins live as followers of St. Francis.

**FRATERNITY**

Fraternity is the most fundamental Capuchin charism. St. Francis believed that an intense bond of brotherhood among his followers was fundamental to their lives of service to the disenfranchised. It is an emotional, intellectual and spiritual commonality that makes the Capuchins unique. Fraternity of the friars joins them in their common goals and taps into their unique talents to most efficiently operate their own community as well as the communities their service.

**MINORITY**

Minority is the charism that demonstrates the Capuchin belief that there is no class distinction among God’s creations. One of the first things St. Francis did when he was inspired to dedicate his life to the service of others was to distance himself from the adornments of wealth. He dressed in a plain garment and gave up possessions that would keep him from living the simple life he chose. Minority has enabled Capuchins to walk with the people they serve and be accepted as one of their own.

**CONTEMPLATION**

Contemplation is the charism that keeps the Capuchins focused on the precious vision of St. Francis – his vision that all of God’s beautiful creatures could live in peace, justice and harmony as testimony to His infinite love. Contemplation requires that Capuchins set aside time to reflect upon their progress and the direction of their mission, and to listen for God’s guidance in their mission.

**MINISTRY**

Ministry is the charism that navigates the Capuchin mission of embracing and servicing those most in need. Ministry has led the Capuchins to appeal to and often allay the hunger, despair and loneliness of those among whom Christ would have walked. It has enabled them to harvest trust within communities worldwide, where they use their allegiances to replace despair with optimism and hopelessness with resolution. Ministry is the action charism. It puts Capuchin minority to work.

**JUSTICE, PEACE AND ECOLOGY**

Justice, Peace and Ecology comprise the charism that has made St. Francis one of the most recognized and beloved saints. Justice, Peace and Ecology is the charism that portrays St. Francis as the tender caretaker of nature that he was because it made him one with all creation.
STEWARDSHIP STATEMENT

PROVINCE OF ST. MARY OF THE CAPUCHIN ORDER

FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007 (JANUARY 1, 2007 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2007)

SUPPORT

Unrestricted Gifts $6,529,726
Estates & Deferred Gifts 600,176
Gifts to the Burse Fund 89,815
Income from Dividends, Interest and Sales of Investments 1,917,658
Realized Gain/(Loss) of Marketable Securities 3,976,870
Unrealized Gain/(Loss) on Investments (2,841,906)
Total Revenue $12,922,109

FINANCIAL POSITION

Net Liquid Assets as of December 31, 2006 $17,344,555
Change in Net Liquid Assets (4,422,446)
Net Liquid Assets as of December 31, 2007 $12,922,109

GIFTS BY LEVEL

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ERNIE ANASTOS MAKES CAPUCHIN FOOD PANTRIES A SPECIAL EVENT

One day, Fox 5 New York’s Ernie Anastos created a Capuchin Special Event by reading from his children’s book *Ernie and the Big Newz* to the children of Sacred Heart School in Yonkers, New York. Ernie is an Emmy-Award winning television news anchorman at New York City’s top-rated Fox 5 News in the nation’s largest media market. During his more than 25 years of news experience, he has anchored local news broadcasts for WABC-TV and WCBS-TV, and has won the Edward R. Murrow Award for broadcast excellence. *Ernie and the Big Newz* is the first in a series of children’s books written by Mr. Anastos, with illustrations by New York Daily News illustrator Bill Gallo. All the experiences in the series are based on experiences in Ernie’s own career as a TV news reporter. The first book is a story about Ernie, a young boy who dreams of becoming a TV reporter. His first big project is to cover the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade. This Capuchin Special Event was featured on Fox 5 News during the 5:00 PM and 10:00 PM broadcasts.

Thank you, Ernie Anastos, for making this day a special day for the children, for the Sacred Heart parish community, and for the Capuchins of the Province of St. Mary.
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Custody of Japan  
St. Francis Friary & Parish  
1 Aza Oroku, Naha City, Okinawa  
Japan 901-0152  
Phone: 011-81-98-857-3795

Saitama Capuchin Residence  
2-115 Suehiro  
Kumagaya City, Saitama  
Japan 360-0031  
Phone: 011-81-48-521-1098

**CENTRAL AMERICA – GENERAL VICE PROVINCE OF NUESTRA SEÑOR DE LA ESPERANZA (GUATEMALA, EL SALVADOR, HONDURAS)**

Franciscanos Capuchinos Friary & Parish  
San Jose, Ocotepeque  
Honduras, Central America  
Phone: 011-504-653-3335

Curia Viceprovincial Friary & Parish  
Fraternidad El Calvario  
Chiquimula, Guatemala  
Central America  
Phone: 011-502-942-0467

Parroquia de Nuestra Señora de Lourdes  
Pimera Calle y Segunda Avenida Nor Este  
Choloma, Honduras, Central America  
Phone: 504-669-3288
CONSIDER SUPPORTING THE CAPUCHINS
OF ST. MARY’S PROVINCE IN A SPECIAL WAY

The goal of the Capuchin Mission and Development Office is to fund the domestic and international mission of the Province of St. Mary. Our mission ranges from support for our own members in the Province to assistance for other Capuchin jurisdictions.

There are many ways to support the ministries of the Capuchin Franciscans in the Province of St. Mary.

St. Anthony’s Circle is a program of generous supporters who provide annual support on a regular basis. Members receive a letter each month detailing the work of the Capuchin Franciscans in their many ministries. This letter keeps members informed about how their contributions are being used.

By remembering the Capuchins in your will, with a Capuchin Gift Annuity, or through other planned gifts, your commitment to the Capuchin ministry continues long after your lifetime.

Seasonal Novenas and Mail Appeals let you share your intentions with the Capuchins throughout the year, and support the general needs of the Capuchins.

Enrollment in the Capuchin Mission Association is a way to remember your friends and family. With every card you give, the recipient is remembered in all the Masses and labors of the Capuchins.

Burses – A Named Fund – are an excellent way to honor a special family member, a Capuchin, or mark an occasion. After they have been established with an initial contribution, burses can be added to at your convenience. Burses are used to fund the recruitment, education and training of Capuchin Franciscans for a lifetime of service.

Masses – The Capuchin Franciscans welcome your Mass intentions. Please call or write to request Masses. We suggest your Mass offering be what you would offer your own parish, though any donation is received with gratitude.

If you are interested in helping with any of our specific needs or ministries, please contact Margaret Cuccinello at 212-564-0759, ext. 253, or by email at mcuccinello@capuchin.org.
“THE FRANCISCAN IDEAL, TO THE EXTENT THAT IT IS CHRISTIAN, MUST BE TO OBSERVE THE HOLY GOSPEL — ACCEPTING CHRIST IN HIS PERSON, IN HIS DOCTRINE, AND IN HIS EXAMPLE. SUCH ESSENTIAL CHRISTIANITY MUST BE A COMMON DENOMINATOR IN THE IDEALS OF ALL CHRISTIANS AND OF ALL RELIGIOUS. AND TO THE EXTENT THAT A FRANCISCAN IS A RELIGIOUS, HIS IDEAL MUST BE THE IDEAL OF ALL RELIGIOUS, NAMELY, A MORE INTENSE CHRISTIAN LIFE....”

TAKEN FROM “CONFERENCES FOR YOUNG CAPUCHINS,” BY FATHER BERTRAND SCULLY, O.F.M. CAP., SAINT ANTHONY FRIARY, HUDSON, NEW HAMPSHIRE, 1965