

# the Capuchin Journey

Magazine of the Province of St. Mary of the Capuchin Order



## God's Providence, Your Generosity

## From the Provincial Minister

**M**y dear brothers and sisters in Christ, peace and all good things to you. May the graces and blessings of Lent and Easter be yours in abundance! You and your loved ones will be included in the many prayers offered by our friars during this holy season.

I recently returned from a trip to Bogotá, Colombia, for a nine-day meeting of other provincial ministers from North, Central, and South America. During our time together, we shared many conversations about our worldwide brotherhood, our leadership, and our preparation for our general chapter to take place this summer. We discussed the formation of our brothers, fraternal collaboration, and sharing of friar personnel between jurisdictions.

Additionally, we considered how we might continue to renew the charisms of the Capuchin Order in the Americas, as well as how we might give a greater witness to our life as friars, rooted in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It is always a special time when friars get together to enjoy one another's company, share prayer and meals together, and reflect on what it means to be a friar today. This gathering was no exception. In fact, it was exceptional!

Our time spent together in prayer and meditation, in celebration of the Holy Eucharist, and in conversation around the conference theme "Reviving Our Charism in the Americas," was truly an experience of fraternity. It reminded us that we are part of a religious order that is much bigger and more far-reaching than any geographical province such as ours, the Province of St. Mary (New York-New England). I believe most friars in attendance would agree that we left Colombia with a renewed appreciation for our international brotherhood, especially in the Americas, and a renewed commitment to follow the example of our beloved founder, St. Francis, who desired simply to follow in the footsteps of Jesus.



The theme of our meetings in Colombia offered us a perfect prelude to the holy season of Lent, which calls us each year to renewal, penance, and joy in preparation for the great celebrations of Jesus' Resurrection at Easter. We know that the cross and the tomb never had the final word. Rather, the Father's love and mercy did—which raised Jesus from the dead, conquered sin, and opened for us the way to eternal life. If that doesn't revive us, what will?

I thank you, in advance, for your continued prayers for the friars here in our Province and throughout the world. Thank you especially for your prayers for vocations. God's blessings on you and yours!

*Fr. Robert J. Abbatiello, OFM Cap.*

*Fr. Robert Abbatiello, OFM Cap., Provincial Minister*

### Capuchin Charisms

**FRATERNITY** calls the friars to promote genuine relationships among all people and nations so that the world may live as a single family under the gaze of its Creator.

**MINORITY** enables them to walk with the people they serve and be accepted as one of their own.

**CONTEMPLATION** requires they give priority to a life of prayer, especially contemplative prayer, to listen to God's guidance in their mission.

**MINISTRY** promotes the apostolic dimension of Capuchin life in proclaiming the Gospel and assuaging the hunger, despair, and loneliness of those among whom Christ would have walked.

**JUSTICE, PEACE, AND INTEGRITY OF CREATION** are uniquely Capuchin because an essential part of the mission of St. Francis was to strive for all of God's creation to live in peace and harmony.

### Province Mission

The needs of the poor and the demands of justice shape our every ministerial endeavor. We attempt to promote equality for 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 allow us to witness God at work in countless ways.

Here in the Northeast 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—the friars can be found living amid all these diverse circumstances.



CAPUCHIN FRANCISCANS  
PROVINCE OF ST. MARY

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Cover: The domestic and international mission of the Province of St. Mary, in its many facets, depends on your generous support.

Opposite: Br. José Leonardo Rojas Gonzalez, Fr. Robert Abbatiello, and Br. James Donegan attended the pan-American Capuchin gathering in Bogotá, Colombia, Feb. 4-11.

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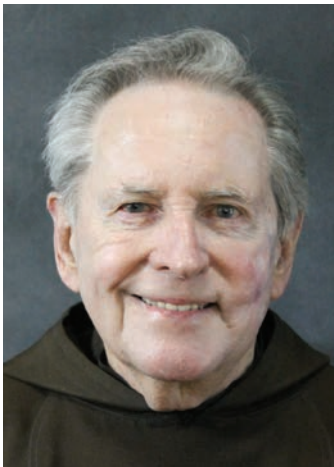
*The Capuchin Journey* is our way of letting you know how the Province of St. Mary fulfills its mission. You, as part of our community, share this vision of service to those in need. Through this publication, we want you to see how we use the resources you so generously provide to us. We hope the contents of *The Capuchin Journey* will convey a sense of the work we do and how valuable your contributions are to this work.

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# Around the Province



## Fr. Joseph Flynn, Chaplain and Educator, Dies at 83



Reflecting on his life for *The Capuchin Journey* in 2016, Fr. Joseph Flynn cherished his years in formation as a young friar. In his initial formation, as he put it, “fraternity happened.” Being together for prayer, study, meals, and recreation—including football games and musicals—made fraternity happen. It came very naturally: he said “it came through osmosis” because the brothers spent all their time together.

Father Joe, who died on Jan. 12, would spend his lifetime ministering to youths in parishes and colleges, and also to our friars in formation. He cited his own formation into brotherhood as the source of his ministry. He believed that a Capuchin’s ministry to others begins with caring for one another in the fraternity, as in a family.

His experience of fraternal care gave him the grace to see others with great love. “He had the remarkable ability to see you for who you were . . . and he was thrilled by what he saw,” said Fr. Jack Rathschmidt, who preached the homily at Father Joe’s funeral on Jan. 17. Father Jack quoted the Persian poet Hafiz to illustrate the rich life Father Joe lived: “Bring your cup near me. For I am a sweet old vagabond with an infinite leaking barrel of Light and Laughter and Truth that the Beloved has tied to my back.”

An only child, John Joseph Flynn Jr. was born in Brooklyn and raised in Woodside, N.Y. Growing up at Saint Teresa Parish in Woodside, young Joe felt the presence of Fr. Thaddeus MacVicar, who helped at the parish and organized a Secular Franciscan fraternity in nearby Sunnyside. Fr. Aidan Neenan, the vocation director, visited Joe’s school in the fall of 1953 and invited him to attend the seminary high school, Glenclyffe, in Garrison, N.Y. On a visit to Glenclyffe, Joe saw some of his friends, including future friar Fr. Gary McAuley. Seeing their familiar faces convinced him

to enroll. He graduated from Glenclyffe and entered novitiate in August 1958. He was ordained to the priesthood on Nov. 12, 1966, at Sacred Heart Church in Yonkers, N.Y.

Father Joe subsequently earned master’s degrees in divinity, theology, and pastoral counseling, and eventually a doctorate of ministry. His academic training complemented his practical training in pastoral care gained through five years counseling students at St. Michael High School and summers directing a tutorial program that he started for disadvantaged youths. He modeled the tutorial program after “Summer in the City” at Our Lady Queen of Angels in East Harlem, where as a clerical candidate in the 1960s he taught English, mathematics, physical education, and arts. He had also taught religion and directed intramural football at Sacred Heart High School in Yonkers.

These experiences in the religious formation of youth served Father Joe well when he was called to serve in the formation of Capuchin friars. Recommended for his pastoral experience, in 1976 Father Joe joined the formation staff for the clerical candidates in residence at Garrison. As a formator of clerics, he was director of field work, director of the deacon internship program, and finally director of formation. At the same time, he joined the faculty at Maryknoll School of Theology in Ossining, N.Y., directing the field education program. For the next 18 years, until the closing of the school, he would teach courses on pastoral counseling, cross-cultural ministry, and justice and peace, among others.

After Maryknoll closed, he brought his pastoral skills to Manhattanville College, 1994-99, as chaplain in residence and director of the campus ministry office. He became chaplain at The College of New Rochelle in 2002 while residing at Saint Conrad Friary, White Plains, N.Y. He also served as chaplain to Ladycliff College in Highland Falls, N.Y. These assignments were the joy of his priestly ministry.

In his later years, Father Joe ministered part-time as chaplain at White Plains Hospital until his health declined. He moved to St. Clare Friary in Yonkers and then to the nursing center Cabrini of Westchester in Dobbs Ferry, N.Y., where he died peacefully.

Father Jack, who lived and worked with Father Joe for many years in both formation ministry and college chaplaincy, bid the funeral assembly to imitate the example of Jesus Christ, St. Francis of Assisi, and Father Joe, leaking light, love, and truth into the Church and into the world. He asked Father Joe to intercede for us that we, too, may live “rich, gentle lives.”

## To Father Joseph Flynn

by Fr. Robert Phelps

the son of an Irishman  
who dug graves  
to lie down the dead  
on Long Island,  
a gentle, quiet man  
who sat doll-like with his wife  
in the back seat of the car  
at the rail station in Garrison,  
to bring them to you  
on Visiting Sundays,  
when Eisenhower was president  
and you, Joe, like me, were fourteen,  
and dreaming, like me, of chasubles.

You were friends with my sister,  
you buried my brother Tom,  
and my Presbyterian grandmother.  
You were the nemesis of my  
adolescent daydreams of being  
a great quarterback, as we played  
innumerable games on the long field  
at Hudson; and you laughed when I  
accused you of intercepting me  
two hundred times.

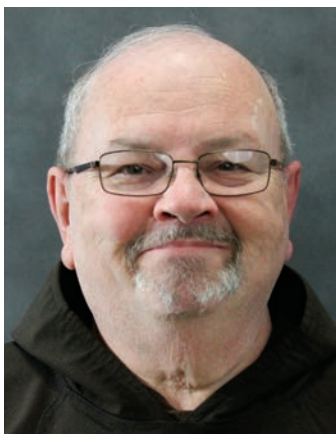
You braved the indignity of  
being one of the Three Little Maids  
From School, and threatened  
serious physical harm if  
anyone laughed at your powdered  
cheeks and bright kimono,  
when we performed *The Mikado*,

in the seminary.  
You were a warm  
and listening priest, and always  
showed a deep concern for people,  
all of them. All the time.

You visited and played golf with me  
on Guam and in Hawaii. No moss  
growing under you, Joe. Rest in peace  
and know that so many of us  
smile when we think of you.  
Please bless us laggards behind as we  
contemplate that you will greet us  
again. Amen.

*Fr. Robert Phelps, a published poet, entered  
the Capuchin Order with Fr. Joseph Flynn  
in 1958.*

## Br. Paul Crawford, 72, Served Manchester for 33 Years



He came from the Bay State and embedded himself in the Granite State. And like granite, his dedication to God, to the Church, to the community, and to Capuchin life proved durable.

For 33 years, from 1987 to 2020, **Br. Paul Crawford**, who died on Feb. 23, faithfully served the people of God in Manchester, N.H. He was a pastoral associate, youth

minister, and religious education director at Blessed Sacrament Parish (1987-2002) and an outreach coordinator for Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Manchester (2002-11). He held other offices in the diocese as well. From 2002 he resided at St. Anne-St. Augustin Friary and served for six years as guardian of the Capuchin fraternity.

Brother Paul was a longtime advocate for social justice, serving as president of the board of directors of the Franciscan Action Network in Washington, D.C., and past president of the Granite State Organizing Project in Manchester.

This resumé only begins to reveal the character of this affable, generous, good-humored friar who wove himself into the fabric of the communities he served.

“It was just in his nature to get involved,” said **Fr. Samuel Fuller**, who lived with Brother Paul for five years in Manchester

and delivered the homily at his funeral on Feb. 27. He commended Brother Paul for living into the Beatitudes of Jesus Christ and opening himself effectively to God’s grace and love in every time and season of his life.

Brother Paul was born to Paul and Mary Manning Crawford in Boston, Mass., on Feb. 9, 1952. He and his siblings grew up in Dorchester, Mass., where he attended St. Margaret’s School, then Gate of Heaven High School in South Boston. Years later, he received his B.S. in human services from Springfield College, Springfield, Mass., and an M.S.W. degree in social work from Boston College.

Brother Paul entered the Capuchin Order on Aug. 31, 1969, and pronounced perpetual vows on Sept. 4, 1976. Much of his initial formation was spent at St. Anthony Friary in Hudson, N.H., where he was entrusted with the traditional duties of a lay brother, including laundry and tailoring. After nearly three years of domestic work at Sacred Heart Friary, Yonkers, N.Y. (1975-78), he became porter at St. John the Baptist Friary in New York City. For the next nine years he ministered to midtown Manhattan’s transient residents, establishing the St. John Bread of Life Food Pantry. He was also involved in the charismatic renewal movement.

Everywhere he lived, Brother Paul brought his relational skills to the local fraternity. Father Sam noted that he had an uncanny way of knowing what his fellow friars were doing, often surprising them with his knowledge of their whereabouts! Around the Province, any friar whose birthday was approaching could be sure of this— that the first birthday card to arrive in the mail would be from Brother Paul.

He resided at St. Clare Friary, Yonkers, N.Y., from July 2020 until his death. To the end he continued to work for social justice, chairing the provincial justice, peace, and integrity of creation commission and supporting refugee resettlement in Westchester County. He remained fiercely loyal to his beloved New England sports teams and to the people he served in Manchester, who were just as fiercely loyal to him.

# New Branding for Youth Ministries

As Capuchin Family Ministries launches its 2024 summer programs, it simultaneously launches a new logo!

Since the relaunch of Capuchin Youth & Family Ministries a few years ago, the Province sought a new look to go with the new model of ministry. The new logo incorporates a tau cross, bringing distinctive Franciscan imagery from the old logo, and much of the former name. “Capuchin Family Ministries” simplifies the brand while reflecting the constituency it has always served. “Our goal has always been to build up people’s identity as Catholics in the world, and we will continue to serve people of all ages, including youth,” said Fr. Erik Lenhart, chaplain. “Our programs provide the time and space for people to encounter God through prayer, service to others, and the sacraments. We spark men and women, young and old, in ways meaningful to them and that they can live out long after the program’s conclusion.”



The Province has already been taking registrations for its summer programs: Summer Outreach Week (June 22-27), Capuchin Appalachian Mission (July 6-14), and Catholic Literature & Arts Summer Program (July 27-Aug. 2). To register for any or all of these programs, please contact Mary Ellen Yannitelli at [myannitelli@capuchin.org](mailto:myannitelli@capuchin.org) or (845) 424-3609, or scan the QR code given here.

“We hope you will continue with us to be courageous and hopeful in our mission to people of all ages, united in prayer and the gift of the Capuchin charism,” said Father Erik.



# Guam Friar Translates *The Little Prince*

The world classic children’s book *The Little Prince* has been published in a Chamorro translation.

Fr. Eric Forbes translated the renowned novella, written in French by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry and first published in 1943, at the request of the Jean-Marc Probst Foundation for The Little Prince in Lausanne, Switzerland, which finances the translation of the book into as many languages as possible.

The foundation does not make these translations available for sale; rather, it donates them to schools, especially primary schools. The Guam Department of Education received the donation of this Chamorro translation at a news conference held on Jan. 18. The superintendent of the education department and the administrator of the Chamorro Studies Division were present to accept the donation.

Chamorro is the language of Guam and the Northern Marianas.

Fr. Eric Forbes presents his Chamorro translation of *The Little Prince* to the Guam Department of Education.



# New Phase for Okinawa Mission

The Capuchin mission in Okinawa is entering a new phase of life.

The Custody of Japan was transformed into a delegation of the Province after a decree by the general minister of the Order, Fr. Roberto Genuin, on Jan. 20. This change in canonical status reflects the lack of local vocations in Japan and the dwindling number of friars in the jurisdiction, which has been staffed mainly by friars from Holy Trinity Province, Karnataka, India. A provincial delegation is one degree below that of a provincial custody. Friars in a delegation do not elect a *custos* (custodial minister) or custodial council. The provincial minister appoints a delegate and two councilors and grants authority to the delegate to govern the delegation. Accordingly, Fr. Robert Abbatiello appointed Fr. Maxim D'Souza as delegate, Fr. Naveen Joseph Sequeira as first councilor, and Fr. Vincent Praveen Kumar as second councilor.



Fr. Vincent Praveen Kumar, Bishop Wayne Berndt, Fr. Maxim D'Souza, and Fr. Naveen Joseph Sequeira of the Delegation of Japan.

With special gratitude to our brothers from Karnataka, we thank all our brothers in the Custody of Japan for their selfless service of the people of God.

# Brothers of the Americas Unite a Second Time

Building on their inaugural gathering in Brazil two years ago, the Capuchins of North and South America reunited for a week in Colombia, Feb. 4-11, to promote fraternal collaboration, formation, and mission.

The 50 friars who came to Bogotá held plenary and small-group discussions around the Capuchin charisms and their intersection with our apostolic activities. They discussed the initial and continuing formation of friars. They held conversations about the St. Lawrence of Brindisi fraternities, the Order's project to establish intentional, international communities in mission fields. By the end of the week, they approved statutes in these and other areas to bring to the general chapter of the Order in August.

Each day, the friars made an offering of their prayers: for recently deceased brothers, for brothers who recently professed perpetual vows, for the Capuchin Poor Clare sisters, and for our sick or elderly brothers.

Representing our Province at the gathering were Fr. Robert Abbatiello, provincial minister; Br. Celestino Arias,



Br. Leo Rojas and Br. James Donegan enjoy fraternal time during the pan-American Capuchin gathering in Bogotá, Colombia.

member of the general council of the order; Br. James Donegan, a provincial councilor and mission director; and post-novice Br. Leo Rojas, who comes from Venezuela. The next, third, pan-American gathering will take place in North America in 2027.

# Welcome, Brother Divya!



Our fraternal collaboration with the friars of the Holy Trinity Province of Karnataka, India, continues to be strong. On Jan. 5, our brother Fr. Divya Karunesh arrived at Our Lady of Sorrows Friary. He is now the newest member of the Our Lady of Sorrows fraternity and will be serving as parochial vicar at Our Lady of Sorrows

and St. Mary Parishes on the Lower East Side of Manhattan.

Father Divya was born in Hassan, Karnataka, in 1984. He was invested as a novice in the Capuchin Order in 2004, made his perpetual profession of vows on May 3, 2012, and was ordained a priest exactly two years later. This is his first assignment in the United States.

Let us welcome our brother to our fraternal life and ministry in the Province of St. Mary!

Fr. Scott Leet with Ariana Salas, one of his colleagues at Cabrini Immigrant Services.



**Cabrini**  
IMMIGRANT SERVICES · NYC

**Accompanying Immigrant Families in the Spirit of Mother Cabrini Since 1999.**

# A Voice for the Voiceless

## Fr. Scott Leet Offers Legal Aid to Immigrants

*And you are to love those who are foreigners, for you yourselves were foreigners in Egypt.*

Deuteronomy 10:19

**W**ith record numbers of undocumented immigrants coming to the United States every day, there is a lot of fear, anxiety, and anger being voiced in our cities, the media, and the government. In this clamor it can be hard to remember that in the end, immigrants are our neighbors—brothers and sisters in need. And these, our newest neighbors, face many challenges just to survive in a new country.

The Church has always known this and has heeded God's word to us about our immigrant brothers and sisters. This is the word that Fr. Scott Leet hears as he helps migrants seek asylum and legal status.

Currently the parochial vicar at Church of the Good Shepherd in Inwood, Manhattan, Father Scott dedicates one day a week at Cabrini Immigration Services in Washington Heights. "With all of the duties I have at Church of the Good Shepherd, my pastor, Fr. Tom Faiola, very kindly allows me to dedicate every Wednesday to work at Cabrini," he says. "To me it is amazing how God integrates our experience in such a way that they feed and support each other to make us better ministers. The work I do at the church influences the work at Cabrini and vice versa. Each helps me to empathize with those I am ministering to."

Cabrini Immigration Services is a non-profit, faith-based community organization that offers a broad range of services to immigrants and their families. There is legal aid for the undocumented, scholarships for the college-bound, and food pantries for the hungry. Founded in 1999, the agency is run out of the St. Frances Cabrini Shrine in Washington Heights by a team of staff, volunteers, and professionals who offer their services at deeply discounted rates or even free of charge, depending on the need.

Father Scott, who was formerly an assistant district attorney for the Manhattan District Attorney's office, brings his professional skills to Cabrini. "Low-income immigrants in New York City seeking legal help are vulnerable to scams and other abuses," he said. "My background in the law and the expertise of other lawyers at Cabrini allows us to help them avoid all that." He offers his expertise in three areas: initial legal consultation, legal services for asylum, and legal support for Special Immigrant Juvenile Status.

### Guidance

When they first come to Cabrini, immigrants seeking legal counsel are first given a free consultation by one of the agency lawyers like Father Scott. In 2023, Cabrini conducted 964 consultations. Attorneys provide each client with information about their rights, screen them for immigration relief eligibility, and inform them about their legal options. Clients also meet with a social worker who assesses their social service needs.



Usually, Father Scott interviews clients at the Cabrini offices, but sometimes he does so at Good Shepherd. All immigration law services are provided in Spanish and English, and Father Scott has become a fluent Spanish speaker. “Interviewees come from all over, but currently mostly from Venezuela,” he says. “Sadly, in most cases, we determine that there is not a viable case for asylum, but we keep trying, and often we are able to help those that qualify.” Once an individual has been found to have a case for asylum, Father Scott and others get to work guiding them through the legal morass ahead.

Father Scott, who was trained as a trial lawyer, has come to understand the complexities of immigration law thanks to Cabrini. “In the DA’s office, I dealt largely with criminal cases that did not completely prepare me for this. But study and the advice of my colleagues at Cabrini have been invaluable,” he says.

Asylum requirements are very rigorous. Applicants must plead their case, which means proving that an immigrant or a family member was persecuted in their home country. Economic hardship is not considered a valid cause. They must file within a year of arriving in the United States, but all too often, this doesn’t happen. “People who make claims when they reach the border have a ‘credible fear evaluation,’” says Father Scott. “These Spanish speakers receive a packet—in English.” Many immigrants simply do not understand the documents they have received. Thus they do not file the paperwork, they miss the filing deadline, and they become ineligible for asylum automatically.

### Triumph and Heartbreak

Father Scott devotes a portion of his time aiding youths seeking Special Immigrant Juvenile Status. Qualifying youth under 21 years of age with parental problems may be eligible to remain in the United States. Father Scott shared one particular story, both joyful and heart-breaking: “A 19-year-old young man came in after being abandoned by his father. He came with his mother, who was in deportation proceedings. In October of 2023, after a seven-to-eight-month process, his juvenile status was approved.

“His status is now like a DACA recipient,” he said. “He has permission to work and will wait four to five years for a visa, after which he can get a green card and then citizenship.” He points out how bittersweet these triumphs can be: “Sadly, this young man will never be allowed to apply to take care of his mother.”



Father Scott and Cabrini Immigrant Services executive director Javier Ramirez Baron with staff and volunteers.

### An Unconventional Path

The Holy Spirit has taken Fr. Scott Leet down an unconventional path into service.

After receiving his bachelor’s degree from DePauw University in 1989, he took a pilgrimage to Medjugorje, site of the 1981 Marian apparitions. A chance encounter with our Capuchin friar Fr. Oliver O’Connor (d. 2008) led to Scott’s introduction to the Province of St. Mary. He pondered his call while serving for two years in the Peace Corps in Zaire (today known as Democratic Republic of the Congo). Upon his return to the U.S., Scott joined the Capuchin Order, completing his novitiate in 1995. During his post-novitiate formation, he completed two years of theology at Seton Hall University. Then, he felt called anew. He wanted to practice law. “I had a desire to see justice done, to help those voiceless that get caught up in our legal system.”

Scott graduated from Fordham University Law School in 2001 and passed the New York State bar exam the next year. He began his career with the New York County (Manhattan) District Attorney’s Office in New York City. “I originally wanted to be a defense attorney, but I was convinced by a mentor that as a prosecutor, I could serve as a gatekeeper to keep people out of the system that did not belong there.”

With the Manhattan District Attorney’s office he prosecuted over 1,200 cases. He served in several different units, including welfare fraud, sex crimes, domestic violence, and homicide. He concluded his career as the bureau chief of the trial division in the Office of the Special Narcotics Prosecutor for the City of New York. He was also an adjunct faculty member for nine years at Fordham Law School.

Eventually, he felt drawn to the Capuchins again, and he returned to the Province in 2015. During his formation he stayed for extended periods in Bolivia and Guatemala, immersing himself in the cultures of Latin America. He professed his perpetual vows in 2020. He was ordained to the priesthood on June 25, 2022. Now, he brings his 13 years of experience as an attorney and his love for all of God’s people to the immigrants who come to Cabrini Immigration Services.

Though not a conventional path, Father Scott feels that his vocation as a lawyer, friar, and priest was meant to be. “If I look back on my life arc I can see God’s hand,” he says. “There is no question in my mind that I needed to study law. I needed the 17 years outside the Order to serve as I do now. When I look back, it is incredible to me. God has shown me so much in my path.”



# God's Providence, Your Generosity

There are many ways to support the Province of St. Mary. Learn about your giving options.

*Your surplus at the present time should supply their needs, so that their surplus may also supply your needs, that there may be equality.*

2 Corinthians 8:14

From the beginning of the Franciscan movement 800 years ago, friars have always trusted in divine providence to supply the needs of their fraternities, the Church, and the people they serve. This trust, combined with a humble approach to ministry and a tireless work ethic, has gained the friars the means to continue their mission of proclaiming the Gospel with their lives.

Providing for the Capuchin mission today in New York, New England, and beyond demands of us a similar trust in God as well as a strategy for inviting others to be agents of God's generosity.

## Works and Needs

The works of the friars are many, and so are the needs.

We friars of the Province of St. Mary have devoted ourselves to the service of God's people across an array of ministries, from parishes and schools to colleges, hospitals, prisons, and the military. We preach missions and retreats. We offer spiritual direction. Across our parishes we sponsor food pantries, a soup kitchen, and even a shelter for homeless women. Beyond the Church, we are counselors, nurses, and social workers, and we work at nonprofits and NGOs.

In addition, we sponsor two of our own ministries. Capuchin Family Ministries evangelizes youth and young adults through annual service projects and our theater camp. Capuchin Mobile Ministries provides spiritual care to the homeless and brings the welcome of Christ to the streets.

The American economy has become a gig economy, and the friars, too, often take gig assignments, like baptisms, marriages, and funerals. All our clerical friars, including those who do not work at our Capuchin parishes, celebrate Mass on weekdays and on weekends, helping other parishes who need priests.

As we pursue these good works for the Church and society, we also sustain the welfare of our fraternities by recruiting and training new friars and caring for our senior friars.

Like any household, our fraternities need to make ends meet and provide the basic necessities of food, shelter, education, health care, and transportation. Like any business, we have to pay the bills, pay our employees, and keep our facilities and properties in good condition.

However, as our fraternities grow older and as the number of new vocations decreases, there are fewer friars in active ministry, which means a reduction in the income we receive through salaries and wages. We are eligible for Medicaid, Medicare, and Social Security benefits like other citizens, but these benefits only go so far. The friars who work in internal ministries like formation, senior care, and administration generally do not draw salaries from their work.



With the recognition that our work alone will not cover all our needs, we humbly make recourse to “the table of the Lord” and ask for your help to sustain our way of life.

### Development

Through the provincial development office, we solicit donations and gifts through various means, and we communicate through print and electronic media how we use the resources you provide us so generously. There are a number of ways we do this.

**We use direct mail** to send appeals to thousands of people throughout the United States. There are monthly appeals in honor of St. Anthony of Padua and St. Padre Pio purposed for the general needs of the Province. There are also special appeals for the formation of new friars, care for the senior friars, or our sponsored ministries. Through these solicitations we enroll constituents in our Capuchin Mission Association and promise to remember them in our prayers in gratitude for their support of our domestic and international missions. We also send year-end Christmas cards to our most generous benefactors. And of course, we send you *The Capuchin Journey* four times a year to let you know how we fulfill our mission.

**We organize fundraiser events** within the Province to celebrate the good works of the friars and to honor our dedicated supporters. In the last two months of 2023, we held four events: two in Boston for the benefit of Capuchin Mobile Ministries, including a dinner at Cathedral of the Holy Cross with Cardinal Sean O’Malley; and two events in Westchester County, an Advent breakfast at St. Joseph Seminary in Yonkers, N.Y., and a Christmas party in Pelham, N.Y. Collectively, these events drew in over 600 people and raised over \$200,000. Thank you, everyone!

**We are ramping up our electronic giving options.** Credit card donations, both one-time and recurring (monthly) gifts, are just one option. Did you know we have a Venmo account? Did you know you can give through a payroll deduction? We do, and you can!

**We establish memorial scholarships for our young friars.** Through the Capuchin Burse Program, you can honor a loved one, living or deceased, and fund the recruitment and

training of a new generation of friars. You can open a burse with a gift of \$100 and add contributions at any time. A burse is complete at \$5,000. Your generosity is an investment in the future of the Capuchin mission in New York and New England. Contributions to the burses are thus forever a part of the prayers, Masses, and good works of the friars of the Province.

**We help benefactors make planned gifts.** The support we receive through planned gifts provides us the resources necessary to continue our pastoral care for God’s people long into the future. Planned gifts include charitable trusts and gifts through estate plans, including wills, trusts, retirement plans, and life-insurance. Individuals who make planned gift commitments to the Province become members of our Capuchin Legacy Society. Members are forever remembered in the daily Masses and prayers offered by the friars and have their name inscribed in the Society’s Book of Honor. For additional information on planned giving and the Capuchin Legacy Society, please contact Fr. Michael Greco, our director of development.

**We are open to new strategies!** From grant writing to corporate sponsorships, we are seeking new ways to go about the work of begging for our daily bread, as our Franciscan family has done for centuries.

### Capuchin Giving Societies: Be an Angel!

As a means of inspiring and exhorting our dedicated benefactors to greater heights of generosity, we have rebranded our Capuchin Giving Societies. We have rechristened our tiers of benefactors using the hierarchy of angels. Now, a donor who gives at least \$250 in a calendar year is a Member of the Angel Choir; a donor who gives at least \$500 is a Guardian Angel; and so on. See our honor roll of angel givers, which begins on Page 12. We thank you for your unstinting support, and we challenge you to get your angel wings in 2024!

You can contact the development office any time to talk about the ways to give that are best for you. You can reach out to Fr. Michael Greco at (212) 564-0759 ext. 258 or [development.director@capuchin.org](mailto:development.director@capuchin.org). Or visit [www.capuchin.org/support-us/](http://www.capuchin.org/support-us/) to make a gift today.

# Capuchin Giving Societies



The Capuchin Franciscan friars of the Province of St. Mary devote their lives to serving the poor, the tired, the vulnerable—those most in need, following in the footsteps of St. Francis of Assisi.

To do this work, our friars depend on the compassionate support of people like you, who join in their efforts to serve those most in need by contributing to the Province of St. Mary. In so doing, you become part of our Capuchin community, an ally in our efforts to care for all of God's children, wherever

they are and whatever their situation.

While gifts of all sizes are gratefully received and carefully expended, we at the Province of St. Mary extend a special thank-you to the members of the Capuchin Giving Societies listed below. This list represents donations received before December 31, 2023. God bless every one of you for your contributions to the tireless work of our Capuchin Franciscan friars.

## Legacy Society

Anonymous  
Estate of Maris Bowers  
Estate of Paul Burton  
Estate of Anne Marie Federici  
John R. Goulart Trust 2003  
Estate of Jo Ann Green  
The Madigan Family Foundation Inc.  
Estate of Thomas E. Lawless  
Estate of Richard F. Mele  
Estate of Jane Elaine Myrda  
Estate of Maria B. Reid  
Estate of Catherine C. Risorto  
Estate of Lois Yakic

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Mr. & Mrs. Franz P. Scheuermann  
Schwab Charitable  
St. Columba Church  
Mr. & Mrs. Dan & Margie Sullivan  
Dr. & Mrs. Otto Weis  
Ms. Mary Anne Wirth

John & Maria Decicco  
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Mr. Laurence Donnelly  
Ms. Aurelia D'Souza  
Mrs. Raymond J. Dukes  
Mr. Francis Dunne  
Mr. Thomas Dwyer  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Eicher  
Mr. & Mrs. Peter C. Eschmann

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\$25,000+  
Anonymous  
The Castle Foundation  
Janet G. Graviss Trust

## Angel of Light

\$2,500–\$4,999  
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Mr. & Mrs. James D. Arden  
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Mr. Michael Bronzo  
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Mr. & Mrs. Edward Davey  
Ms. Donna M. D'Urso  
Mr. & Mrs. Matthew Gorman  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard J. Guziar  
Mr. & Mrs. David Heim  
Mr. Edward Herlihy  
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Mr. Anthony Marella  
Mr. John Marrella  
Meridian Risk Mgmt., Inc.  
Ms. Melinda Merino  
Ms. Marion Morassini  
Mr. Peter Murphy  
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\$1,000–\$2,499  
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Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Beam  
Mr. & Mrs. Chuck Bean  
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Bennett  
Mr. Carl Bergmann  
Ms. Natalie Biasucci  
Miss Janet Brisson  
Mrs. Mary Kelly Brown  
Mr. & Mrs. Dennis A. Brown  
Mr. & Mrs. Chuck Bryceland  
Mr. Richard Burke  
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Michael & Cecilia Calimano  
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Thomas & Paula Canning  
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St. Patrick Church  
Mr. Anthony Clarke  
Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Collura  
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Conlon  
Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Corvini  
Mr. John J. Countryman SFO  
Robert & Cynthia Courtien  
Mr. & Mrs. George Cox  
Mr. Charles Crowley  
Mr. Edward Cunningham  
Mr. & Mrs. Gregory Curley  
Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Curley  
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Curto  
Mr. James Dalton  
Mr. John D. Daly  
Mr. & Mrs. Gregory T. Dantzman

The Salmento Family  
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Mr. Andrew Fesefeldt  
Fr. Nicholas Figliola  
Mr. & Mrs. David Fitzgerald  
Ms. Lauren M. Foohey  
Mrs. Evelyn Francese  
Ms. Lilia Francisco  
Mr. & Mrs. Andy Franks  
Mr. David C. Fraser  
Ms. Barbara A. Fruehwirth  
Ms. Ann Fucito  
Mr. Christopher Fink & Ms. Stacy Gaine  
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Mr. James M. Kelly  
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Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Korn, Jr.  
Ms. Maria Krasanakis  
Mr. Joseph H. Kwiatkowski & Family  
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## Seraphim

\$10,000–\$24,999  
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Kay & Thomas Benesh  
Mark & Theresa Bonney  
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of the Hudson Valley  
Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund  
Mr. Christofer C. Guarino  
Mr. & Mrs. Samuel Keenan  
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The Pledgling Foundation  
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Vanguard Charitable  
Endowment Program

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\$5,000–\$9,999  
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Mr. Michael J. Longo  
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Mr. James M. Luciano  
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Mr. & Mrs. John P. McCarthy  
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Saint Theresa Parish  
Saint Catherine of Siena Parish  
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\$500-\$999

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St. Ann Parish  
St. Lawrence of Brindisi Church  
St. Mary of the Angels Parish  
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(St. Marianne Cope Parish)  
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Mr. & Mrs. John S. Stevens  
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Leonard Suchyta  
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Ms. Theresa H. Tassone  
Ms. Jennifer Tauscher  
Ms. Jill Thagard  
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Mr. Mark Timoney  
Mr. & Mrs. James Tobin  
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Miss Catherine F. Woesthoff, OFS  
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Mrs. Carol L. Yates  
Victor & Evie York  
Mrs. Joan C. Zappa  
Ms. Lisa Zaremski  
Dr. April Zentmeyer  
Miss Julia Zuniga

## Choir of Angels

\$150-\$499  
Anonymous (3)  
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Ms. Mary A. Adams  
Daniel P. Adrat  
Mr. Gilbert M. Agbulos  
Ms. Carol Alderate  
Dr. Deborah S. Alexander  
John & Christina Allen  
Ms. Jane Allen  
Ms. Martha Allen  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert E. Angelica  
Mr. Michael Angellilli  
Dr. Louis Annunziata  
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Anselmi  
Jack & Norma Antedomenico  
Mrs. Helen D. Antonelli  
Ms. Maria Apodaca  
Ms. Theresia H. Tassone  
Mr. Joseph Ardizzi  
Ms. Cynthia Arndt  
Mrs. Rosemary Arts  
Ms. Marilyn Aspesi  
Mrs. Maria Assalone  
Ms. Marjorie Auger  
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond S. Babiarez  
Ms. Yvonne Bagaman  
Ms. Barbara Baisley  
Mrs. Frances Balboni  
Ms. Donna Baratto  
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Barbieri  
Ms. Alba Barbosa  
Bert & Rosemary Barna  
Ms. Mary Barry  
Ms. Jane Battaglia  
Randy Bauernfeind  
Mr. Charles Baxter  
Miss Lea Beaupre  
Mr. Frederic Begendorff  
Ms. Betty Bendek  
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Ms. Gale E. Bernardon  
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213 Stanton Street  
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**Infant Jesus Residence**  
110 Myrtle Avenue  
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**Capuchin Vocation Office**  
30 Gedney Park Drive  
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Phone: 857-615-3893

**St. Conrad Friary & Provincialate**  
30 Gedney Park Drive  
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Phone: 914-761-3008

**Capuchin Development Office**  
110 Shonnard Place  
Yonkers, NY 10703  
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**Sacred Heart Friary & Parish**  
110 Shonnard Place  
Yonkers, NY 10703  
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**St. Clare Friary**  
110 Shonnard Place  
Yonkers, NY 10703  
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## Vermont

**St. Peter Friary & Parish**  
134 Convent Avenue  
Rutland, VT 05701  
Phone: 802-775-1994

## Wisconsin

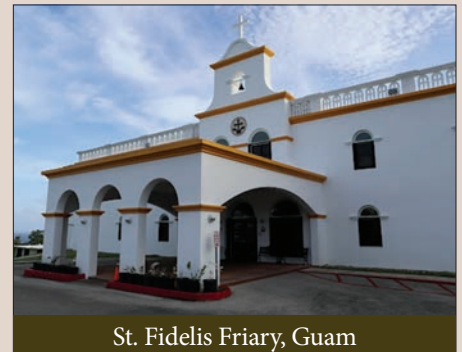
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## Delegation of the Star of the Sea

**St. Fidelis Friary**  
135 Chalan Kapuchino  
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## Delegation of Japan

**St. Francis Friary & Parish**  
1 Aza Oroku  
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## Capuchin Mission & Development Office

The Capuchin Development Office funds the domestic and international mission of the Province of St. Mary. That mission ranges from supporting our own provincial members ministering here in the United States to providing assistance to Capuchins serving worldwide. The Province of St. Mary is a leader in supporting the works of justice and mercy undertaken by Capuchin friars across the globe.

**If you are interested in supporting our mission, please contact  
Fr. Michael Greco at 212-564-0759 ext. 258 or [development.director@capuchin.org](mailto:development.director@capuchin.org)  
or visit our website at [www.capuchin.org](http://www.capuchin.org).**