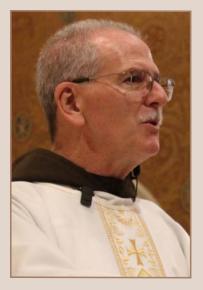
ISSUE 2 • 2024

the Capuchin Journey

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

A Heart for Jesus and the World



From the Provincial Minister

O Most Blessed Mother, heart of love, heart of mercy, ever listening, caring, consoling, hear our prayer. As your children, we implore your intercession with Jesus, your Son. Receive with understanding and compassion the petitions we place before you

today.... We are comforted in knowing your heart is ever open to those who ask for your prayer. We trust to your gentle care and intercession those whom we love and who are sick or lonely or hurting. Help all of us, Holy Mother, to bear our burdens in this life until we may share eternal life and peace with God forever. Amen.

begin this brief reflection with the above words from the novena prayer to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. May I ask you to join your prayers to those of our Capuchin friars around the world—for whom Mary is the Queen of our Order—and in a special way with the friars of our Province, for whom Mary is also our patroness?

When we see images of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, as we do with the image of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, we're invited to recall the love with which Mary and Jesus love the Father and love us! Their hearts, exposed on their chests, remind us that they are always available to comfort us, to strengthen us, to reaffirm us, to assure us that we are loved by God and called to love one another in His name and after their example. Do you know someone who, right now, needs the comfort, strength, and assurance that our Blessed Mother and her Son offer? Pray for him or her, asking Mary and Jesus to touch the heart of that person, that he or she may turn to them and receive the joy that comes from knowing how much they are loved by God.

I sure hope you know how much we love you: our families, friends, and benefactors, and how grateful we are for the love you have shown us. Our friars have showed their love for you, my dear brothers and sisters in Christ. They have shown their love through the many different ministries in which we have been called to serve you. Through these ministries, we have shared in your lives and faith journeys and in the lives of countless others who we have been privileged to serve. It's true: our Capuchin Franciscan family is much larger than just the friars with whom we live!

As we move into the summer season, may you find some extra time to relax in the presence of the Lord and to feel the tremendous love of Jesus and his Mother. Open your hearts once again to them and invite them to make their dwelling within you. I remain grateful for the many ways you open your hearts to all of our friars, and I especially thank you for praying for vocations. God bless you!

Fr. Robert J. abbaticelo, ofm Cop.

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 with-in 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.



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

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Cover: An image of the Immaculate Heart of Mary by Jason Jenicke. See more of Jason's religious art and buy prints at jasonjenicke.com.

Opposite: Fr. Robert Abbatiello preaches the homily at the provincial celebration of the Immaculate Heart of Mary at Sacred Heart Church, Yonkers, N.Y., on June 8.

Publisher	Fr. Robert Abbatiello, OFM Cap.
Editors	Bruce Crilly, Br. Anthony Zuba, OFM Cap.
Design/Art Direction	Bruce Crilly, Br. Anthony Zuba, OFM Cap.
Editorial Office	110 Shonnard Place, Yonkers, NY 10703 212-564-0759

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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

Province Welcomes New Postulant

The Province of St. Mary is happy to announce that it has accepted a postulant.

Patrick Honan, 36, comes from Newtown, Conn. Patrick has been discerning his vocation to Capuchin life for a year, attending discernment retreat weekends, visiting friaries, and participating in provincial gatherings.

Patrick will spend his summer in residence at Our Lady of Sorrows Friary in New York City. He will participate in the annual Capuchin Appalachian Mission in Kentucky. He will formally begin his formation on July 28, when he joins the inter-provincial postulancy program in Milwaukee, Wis., under the direction of Br. Lake Herman.

"I am grateful for everyone's prayers for our candidates, and I ask that you continue to pray for vocations to the Province of St. Mary," said Fr. Robert Abbatiello, provincial minister. He thanked Fr. Erik Lenhart, director of the vocation ministry, and all the friars who accompanied Patrick



Patrick Honan

during his discernment. He also thanked Mary Ellen Yannitelli for her diligence in helping Patrick with the paperwork for his postulancy application.

Brother Shawn to Make First Vows

With gratitude to God, the giver of all vocations, we joyfully announce that **Br. Shawn Natola** will make his first profession of vows this summer. The ceremony will take place on Saturday, July 27, at 11 a.m. at Sacred Heart Church in Yonkers, N.Y.

Brother Shawn is concluding his novitiate year at San Lorenzo Seminary in Santa Ynez, Calif., where he has been deepening his relationship with Jesus Christ and experiencing the Capuchin Franciscan gospel life in its fullness. After his profession of vows, he will relocate to St. Michael Friary in Brooklyn, where his post-novitiate will begin. There, he will integrate his prayer life with an active life of service; engage in ministry with the friars; and deepen his Capuchin Franciscan identity. It will also be a time of getting to know the friars of the Province of St. Mary, as Brother Shawn did his postulancy in Wisconsin and his novitiate in California.



Boost for Capuchin Mobile Ministries



From left: Br. Paul Fesefeldt, Amanda Grant-Rose, Vince Aquino, and Br. Francisco Serrano.

Capuchin Mobile Ministries, our ministry of spiritual care to the homeless communities in Greater Boston, has received an infusion of talent and resources.

Br. Francisco Serrano joined the team of chaplains as of May 25. He assists head chaplain **Br. Paul Fesefeldt** on the outreach trips that take place three days a week, Sundays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays. Brother Francisco previously served at St. Michael-St. Malachy Parish in Brooklyn and founded a soup kitchen there to feed migrants who have come to the United States recently from Venezuela, Nicaragua, and Cuba. The Province is also in the process of bringing a Capuchin priest from El Salvador to the U.S. to join the chaplaincy team and work with our Spanish-speaking homeless neighbors.

Anchoring the chaplaincy team for the last 12 months were our post-novices **Br. Gabriel Conlon** and **Br. Leo Rojas**; Vince Aquino, an Ignatian Volunteer Corps intern from Nashua, N.H.; and Nathan Knutson, a Harvard Divinity School student. We thank them for their dedication and commitment to accompanying our homeless neighbors.

The Province has hired Amanda Grant-Rose to direct our fundraising efforts for Capuchin Mobile Ministries. An educator and social worker from Swampscott, Mass., Amanda

comes to us with over 15 years of experience in stewardship management at nonprofits. For seven years she was executive director of common cathedral, an ecumenical church for the homeless community in Boston. Most recently, she was deputy director of Winter Walk in Boston, which raises funds for various homeless service agencies.

Throughout Lent, the parish of St. John the Evangelist-St. Paul in Wellesley, Mass., took up a special collection for Capuchin Mobile Ministries. On March 6, Brother Paul and **Br. Anthony Zuba** gave a presentation on the ministry and its Franciscan model of accompaniment to the people of the parish. A few days later, Brother Anthony and Stephanie Gigliotti, a parishioner and a volunteer, gave an appeal at the weekend liturgies. By the end of Lent, the parish had collected over \$33,000 for the ministry.

We welcome Brother Francisco and Amanda! We thank everyone at St. John-St. Paul in Wellesley for their generosity. And we thank you, our benefactors, for your prayerful support of our friends who live on the streets. To volunteer with us, e-mail **mobile@capuchin.org**. To donate, go to **www.capuchin.org/support-us** and use the dialog boxes to direct your gift to "Capuchin Mobile Ministries."

Fr. Roland Daigle, 72, Fulfilled His Vocation in Okinawa

A friar who loved his family, the Church, the Capuchin Order, and his country. A brother who brought these loves to our international mission.

That was how one friar described **Fr. Roland Daigle**, who served the people of God in Okinawa, Japan, for 31 years and in Guam for 3 years. Father Roland died on May 7 at the age of 72, one day shy of his next birthday.

Father Roland, a second-generation Franco-American, was the seventh child born to Fortunat Daigle and Irene Begin-Poulin in Augusta, Me., in 1951. He graduated from St. Augustine Parochial School and Cony High School in Augusta. While working at a textile mill, he studied psychology at the University of Maine, graduating in 1975. For three semesters he was a seminarian for the Diocese of Portland, Me., but his heart was drawn to the Franciscan way of life. He entered the Capuchin order on Aug. 31, 1977, and pronounced perpetual vows on Sept. 18, 1982. He earned his master of divinity degree at Maryknoll School of Theology in 1982, and he was ordained to the priesthood on June 2, 1984.

After a year in residence at St. Pius X Friary in Middletown, Conn., he began his missionary career with two years of language study in Japan. From 1987 to 2003, Father Roland distinguished



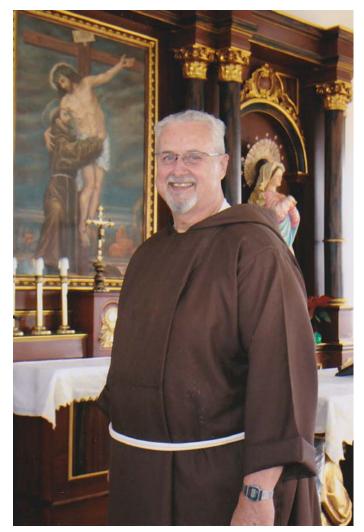
himself as a pastor in Awase, Futenma, Koza, and Maehara. He overcame linguistic barriers and cultural differences—the Japanese people's restraint contrasted with Father Roland's Franco-American exuberance—to administer God's grace to all.

"Many Okinawan Catholics owe their faith to the example and ministry of Roland," said our friar **Bishop Wayne Berndt**, who lived and worked with

him during their years together in Okinawa's Diocese of Naha.

He served two terms as minister of the Custody of Japan (2003-09). In later years (2009-16), he was a full-time auxiliary chaplain to the U.S. military bases there. He finished his missionary service in Guam as a parochial assistant at St. Jude Church, Sinajana.

In all his works, Father Roland held himself to the highest standards of excellence. He was extremely talented as a selftaught carpenter and tailor. He built furniture for the friaries



Fr. Roland Daigle was a joyful friar who easily turned any friary he lived in into a home for all his brothers.

and churches he served, and he made and repaired habits for many friars. He was also skilled as a facilities manager, finding the best people to undertake major repairs of friaries and church buildings. He enjoyed baking and cooking, and he used to host big Christmas meals for the diocesan clergy of Okinawa. "Roland used his Franco-American heritage to easily turn any friary into a home and turned all the friars into his real brothers," Bishop Wayne said.

After a heart attack in Guam in 2019, Father Roland returned to the Province for health reasons.

He resided at St. Lawrence Friary, Beacon, N.Y., from August 2021 until shortly before his death.

He was pre-deceased by his parents and a brother, the Rev. Donald Daigle. He is survived by two brothers, two sisters, and 14 nephews and nieces.

Reflecting on his vocation in 2002, Father Roland said, "When I think of my Capuchin life, I can't imagine another that could have fit more perfectly: a life filled with love, family, and opportunities as no other....I feel so graced to have had the privilege to be a part of this wonderful and holy Capuchin community of brothers."

Pro-Life Ministry at St. Joseph Parish



Dorothy Day (right) was the subject of St. Joseph Parish's first pro-life lecture.

At St. Joseph Parish in New Paltz, N.Y., the friars and parishioners are strengthening their pro-life witness. They are discerning how to protect and enhance the lives of all persons from conception to natural death and throughout the life

Mission Fraternity Near U.S.-Mexico Border

The Capuchins of North America are collaborating to establish a fraternity that will live among migrants near the U.S.-Mexico border.

The fraternity will be located in McAllen, Texas, in the Diocese of Brownsville. Its members will come from the provinces



cycle-and to extend that protection to all earth life.

"We are evaluating the actions we have engaged in over the years in connection with the pro-life ministry and determining whether or not we still need to participate in them," said Fr. Salvatore Cordaro, the pastor. "For example, we will continue to participate in the annual Roses for Life campaign and the Baby Bottle campaign.

This spring, the parish kicked off

a speakers' series, "The Culture of Life," to teach the faithful about the many facets of the pro-life movement. They will hold lectures on abortion, disabled rights, end-of-life issues, immigration, and other issues that fall under the pro-life umbrella. They got underway on April 26 with a presentation on Dorothy Day, founder of the Catholic Worker movement, by Deirdre Cornell.

One of the invited lecturers, Monica Snyder, is executive director of Secular Pro-Life, a group that puts forward secular arguments against abortions and other offenses against the dignity of life. Father Sal has also invited Fr. Samuel Fuller, who preaches often about Pope Francis' teaching on ecology in Laudato Si', to speak about care for creation in the context of respect for life.

St. Joseph also held Lenten pro-life programs for prayer and adult faith formation. Learn more at **stjosephnewpaltz.org**.

of the North American and Pacific Capuchin Conference. It will be an international and intercultural fraternity.

The project is part of the Capuchin Order's mission to establish "St. Lawrence of Brindisi Fraternities," intentional communities of friars who come together from different regions and cultures to witness to the Capuchin Franciscan charisms in places where the Church and Order are seeking to evangelize.

Friars from the North American conference are coordinating with Spanish-speaking friars from the Custody of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico to develop the fraternity. They hope to commission the new fraternity in the spring of 2025.

"The Capuchin fraternity in McAllen will be an excellent opportunity for us as friars to give witness to the presence of Christ, especially among the many people who cross the border there," said Br. James Donegan, director of mission for the Province. "Working together among our provinces of the North American and Pacific Capuchin Conference in conjunction with our Capuchin brothers in Mexico further gives us a means to walk together in the footprints of Christ across provincial, national, and linguistic differences.

"May the Lord guide us as we make this commitment together as friars."

The Hidalgo International Bridge spans the Rio Grande to connect Mexico with the United States at McAllen, Texas.



Fr. Salvatore Cordaro, pastor of St. Joseph Parish.

Friars of Note



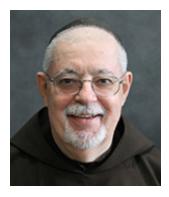
Br. James Donegan was appointed liaison officer for Franciscans International earlier this year. Franciscans International brings the voice world's Franciscan of the communities to the United Nations. It alerts the UN to human rights concerns around the globe. Brother Jim works in the organization's New York

City office near the UN headquarters. Previously, he was a member of Franciscans International's board of directors. Brother Jim, who is also director of the Province's mission office, brings years of international experience to his current post. He served the Order in Central America for six years. Following that he worked at the Capuchin general curia in Rome to support the economic development of the Order's growing circumscriptions in Africa and Asia.



Fr. Scott Surrency has agreed to assume the position of dean of seminarians at Pope St. John XXIII Seminary in Weston, Mass., at the conclusion of this academic year, said the Very Rev. Brian R. Kiely, rector of the seminary. Father Brian expressed gratitude to Father Scott for his willingness to serve in this capacity and is excited to

welcome him to the leadership team of the seminary. Father Scott has requested to continue teaching as a member of the faculty as well, a request that Father Brian said he is more than willing to grant because of his tremendous knowledge and skills. He looks forward to collaborating with our brother as he undertakes this additional responsibility.



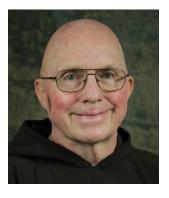
Br. Richard Therrien is spiritual assistant to the Knights of Columbus, St. Mary's Council #4065, of Hopewell Junction, N.Y. He has given a couple of spiritual conferences to the Knights, beginning just before Lent. On Feb. 29, he was made a Third Degree Knight in a public initiation ceremony known as exemplification. He was initiated

along with six others, including our Capuchin brother Fr. Meena Varaprasad Gude of the Stigmata Province, who is guardian at St. Lawrence Friary in Beacon, N.Y., where Brother Richard resides.



Fr. John Koelle is the codirector of post-novitiate formation and director of priestly formation in Jamaica Plain, Mass. He has worked with **Br. Lake Herman** for the past year. With Brother Lake returning to Milwaukee in July to resume leadership of the inter-provincial postulancy program, Father John will

helm the Jamaica Plain program, whose objective is to guide our post-novices through academic studies and ministry preparation as they progress toward final profession of vows. Father John is also the guardian at San Lorenzo Friary. In addition to formation ministry, he celebrates Mass at local parishes and conducts Matt Talbot retreats.



Fr. Patrick Sullivan, who donated a kidney at the age of 56 in 2002, was among the speakers at the annual TRIO Remember & Rejoice interreligious service at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City on Saturday, April 6. Transplant Recipients International Organization (TRIO) is an independent, not-for-profit,

international organization committed to improving the quality of life for transplant candidates and recipients, organ and tissue donors, and their families.



Fr. Felixberto Leon-Guerrero is the spiritual director for the Confraternity of Christian Mothers on Guam. He directed a Lenten day of prayer for the mothers who belong to the confraternity on March 17. The confraternity describes itself as "a pious association intended for mothers, which has for its

special object the promotion of the good Christian and Catholic education of their children."

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Called to be a Capuchin?

AT OUR DISCERNMENT EVENTS!

Come & See Weekend Sept. 13–15, 2024

Transitus of St. Francis Oct. 13, 2024

Come & See Weekend Nov. 8–10, 2024

Advent Day of Recollection Dec. 14, 2024

> Come & See Weekend Apr. 25–27, 2025

Events Open to Men Ages 18-39 Event Locations to Be Determined

Contact Fr. Erik Lenhart, OFM Cap., Vocation Director (857) 615-3893 | vocations@capuchin.org



Shepherding Two Flocks

Our Lady of Sorrows Brings St. Mary's Church Into the Fold



Pope Pius XI once called the Capuchins "the Marines of the Church" because they go where others hesitate to go to do God's work. The Capuchins go, knowing they have God and their brothers with them.

This joyful can-do spirit is alive and well in the Lower East Side of New York City. When the Archdiocese of New York asked Fr. Thomas McNamara, pastor of Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, to be the administrator of another neighborhood parish, St. Mary, he said yes.

Our Lady of Sorrows, located at 213 Stanton St., and the Church of St. Mary, mere blocks away at 440 Grand St., are among the oldest churches in Manhattan. Both enjoy a rich and diverse history (see sidebar, Page 13). The Archdiocese of New York established Saint Mary in 1826, the first church in New York City dedicated to Mary. It came to serve a growing Irish immigrant population. Our Capuchin forebears established Our Lady of Sorrows in 1867. German immigrants filled the pews in the first generation, and they were followed by Italian immigrants after the turn of the century.

Today, the parishes serve an estimated 500 families each, largely of Hispanic heritage. "They bring warmth, liveliness, great food, dancing, color, and a wonderful faith and devotion that inspires me," said Father Tom. "We try to do things bilingually, and I definitely get the most enthusiastic response when I speak in Spanish."

Above: Fr. Tom McNamara washes feet at the Holy Thursday liturgy on March 28. Below: Fr. Ben Ayodi celebrates the Easter vigil Mass on March 30.



A Providential Calling

One could say Father Tom was destined to minister to a Spanish-speaking immigrant community. His grandparents were Italian immigrants, and his grandfather married an immigrant from Guadalajara, Mexico, after the death of his first wife. "This may have influenced my mom to become a Spanish teacher, who further influenced me to learn basic Spanish in high school," Father Tom said. His interest in agriculture afforded him further exposure to his Spanish-speaking neighbors. "After earning my degree in agriculture from Cornell, I went on to work in landscape construction. Many of my co-workers were Mexican immigrants, from places like Jalisco, Durango, and Zacatecas."



Our Lady of Sorrows Church

St. Mary Church

He went on to follow in his mother's footsteps, teaching agriculture in high school in the Southern Tier of New York State. However, as he says, "the Lord wanted my all," so he left education to work at Unity Acres, a Catholic Worker farm in Oswego County. There, he met someone who introduced him to the Capuchins and his eventual vocation as a religious. "I tried the diocesan route first, but I found the Capuchin charism to be more my style."

Father Tom's ministry with immigrants evolved during his first assignment after ordination, St. Joseph the Worker Parish in East Patchogue, N.Y. He worked in a drop-in center in Freeport, where he would serve among many of the area's day laborers. After this, he served as the parochial vicar at Our Lady of Sorrows from 2009 to 2013. After two years of mission in Nuevo Ocotepeque, Honduras, and two years at Capuchin Youth & Family Ministries, he returned to Sorrows in 2017 as pastor.

Last November, he was installed as the pastor of St. Mary. "Our charism is to be brother to people,

to accompany them," said Father Tom. "We always assist the Church." Priests everywhere are being asked to assume pastoral care of multiple churches. As a religious order, the Capuchins need not have accepted the archdiocese's request to take charge of St. Mary. But the friars agreed, said Father Tom, quite simply, "to do the work that must be done."

Diocesan and Religious

Up until now, St. Mary was led by diocesan clergy. There are differences in the ways diocesan clergy and religious clergy like the Capuchins handle the administration of parishes. One of Father Tom's challenges has been introducing the Capuchin charisms into a parish accustomed to diocesan management.

"As Capuchins, our life is centered around brotherhood," said Father Tom.

"One of St. Francis' innovations was democracy, and we carry that charism into parish life." In one of his first acts as pastor, he reinstituted the parish council and various committees, including a liturgy committee and an activities committee. The activities committee is comprised of representatives from all the parish groups, ministries, and societies. These representatives collaborate to ensure there is a proving ground for all parish activities. "For democracy to function, you have to have a platform for dialogue," Father Tom said. "Capuchins are always seeking consensus."

He believes that this collaboration, although unsought, will increase faith among parishioners. "If people see their part, they will more joyfully pull the load," he said. "We need to work with each other. This is not my parish. It belongs to [the parishioners] and the Lord."

"Some people see no difference between a Capuchin parish and a diocesan parish. But I think perhaps there is a

Fr. Divya Karunesh with first communicants at Our Lady of Sorrows.





Bishop Joseph Espaillat with one of the newly confirmed at Our Lady of Sorrows.

broader range of leaders and guides available among the friars," said Br. James Donegan, guardian of the fraternity of Our Lady of Sorrows. "Because of our sense of fraternity, people may be exposed to our sharing of duties. It shows them what it means to be part of the body of Christ."

Limited resources require difficult decisions around longcherished customs. For instance, Father Tom had to change the Mass schedules to work around the availability of a limited pool of priests. "This is a model that is becoming more common," he said.

Facilities management is a large part of Father Tom's responsibilities. His predecessor at St. Mary had the building landmarked and the rectory refurbished. Now, Father Tom focus is going to refurbish the church and sanctuary. "The building is very beautiful but old and needs work," he said. "We've already hired some people to start the renovations. But the job is quite complex. In New York City, there are so many laws and regulations to consider."

Supporting the Lower East Side

Parish life at both Our Lady of Sorrows and St. Mary is deeply integrated with the concerns of the Lower East Side community. Both parishes are members of Manhattan Together, an interfaith organization that works for effective social change by improving the quality of life in the community. Member meetings take place at the parishes and are led by a staff organizer. At these meetings, members find consensus around what issues to address and what solutions are available. The organization takes credit for winning a \$13 billion settlement with New York City for mold remediation and for getting the New York City Housing Authority to establish an ombudsman's office to address grievances raised by tenants in public housing.

Manhattan Together helps the friars help their neighbors in need. One woman recently approached Father Tom for help when the housing authority removed a cabinet to replace a faucet but never returned to fix the hole they left behind in the wall. "They told her it couldn't get done till 2025," he said. "We sent a rep from Manhattan Together, and it was done within a day."

Another faith-based group that Father Tom works with is Catholic Homes. This organization works in collaboration with Catholic Charities of New York to develop safe and affordable housing for families and seniors. Father Tom is a member of the Catholic Homes board.

Strength in Brotherhood

Like many friars, Father Tom balances multiple ministry commitments. He is the pastor of two churches. He collaborates with church and community organizations on works of mercy and justice. He also serves on the friars' provincial council, which meets two days a month.

For the last four months of 2023, he had no parochial vicar to assist him at Our Lady of Sorrows and St. Mary. "It was way beyond my ability to micromanage," he said.

Fortunately, he could rely on his brother friars to help him bear his burden. During the interim without a vicar, two of our Spanishspeaking friars in Brooklyn, Fr. Arlen Harris and Fr. Richard Mattox, stepped up to assist with liturgies and sacraments. In January, Fr. Divya Karunesh arrived from Holy Trinity Province, Karnataka, to be parochial vicar. And Fr. Benedict Ayodi, one of the friars in residence at Our Lady of Sorrows, was enlisted to help with English Masses.

Although he is not a member of the parochial staff, Brother Jim also animates parish activities. During Lent, he led a parish mission at Sorrows on St. Francis of Assisi, penance, and reconciliation. He said it drew a great number of parishioners from St. Mary as well. Recently, he shared his vocation story with the Our Lady of Sorrows youth ministry at a gathering held in the parish community garden. Brother Jim also participates in the parish's weekday Masses on Tuesdays and Thursdays. "On Sunday, I even find time to sing with the choir," he said.

Our Lady of Sorrows is both a parish and a friary. As guardian of the fraternity at Sorrows, Brother Jim is responsible for the spiritual and material welfare of the six brothers in residence. This includes, among other things, regulating the schedule of prayers and meals, paying the bills, and coordinating house meetings, called chapters. Like Father Tom, he serves on the provincial council and juggles multiple jobs (see Page 8).

Through all the friars' many labors, in the Lower East Side and indeed everywhere we serve, a core truth holds fast. "The fraternity is at the core of Capuchin life," Brother Jim said.



Our Lady of Sorrows has extended its vibrant youth ministry to St. Mary.

Two Churches, Many Peoples, One Mother

In the century following the American Revolution, the Roman Catholic population of New York City increased significantly, beginning with an influx of German and Irish immigrants. Generations of new arrivals flocked to an area of Manhattan later known as the Lower East Side. From these teeming streets arose two churches, both dedicated to Mary, both dedicated to serving new Americans.

St. Mary

To address the needs of the growing Irish community, in 1826 the Diocese of New York purchased a small brick-faced building on Sheriff Street for \$7,000. This became the first home of St. Mary Parish. The church building was dedicated by Bishop John DuBois on March 25, 1827. It was the third Catholic church in New York City and the first in the city with a bell. It was also the first church in the city to be dedicated to Mary, the Mother of God.



St. Mary Church, c. 1845.

Fr. Hatton Walsh, the first pastor, saw St. Mary as a sanctuary for his sheep, who were persecuted for being Irish and Catholic.

In the 1830s, smoldering anti-immigrant, anti-Catholic sentiments exploded. In early November 1831, St. Mary's Church was set on fire by an individual from the nativist Know-Nothing movement. The pastor, Fr. Luke Berry, was injured fighting the blaze and died a few weeks later. Fraternal societies like the Ancient Order of Hibernians emerged to defend the Irish community from persecution.



Lower East Side, c. 1914.

A new St. Mary would grow quickly from the ashes of adversity. Two weeks after the fire, former mayor Stephen Allen sold land to the diocese at Grand and Ridge Streets for \$9,000. In January 1832, ground was broken for a new church, and in April Bishop DuBois laid the cornerstone. He returned in June 1833 to dedicate the church. Three Sisters of Charity of New York opened a parochial school, St. Mary's Academy, in May 1835.

Through the latter part of the 19th century, the parish would meet new challenges, including Civil War draft riots, a growing and changing immigrant population, and increasing crime. But the mission of the parish endured. The Ladies Benevolent Society of the parish addressed the needs of the largely impoverished congregation. In 1860, it raised \$3,000 at a single event—the equivalent of \$87,000 today.

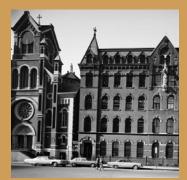
To accommodate the growth of the parish, the church building continued to expand, with the completion of a major renovation in 1871. By 1886, the parish had grown so large that Archbishop Michael Corrigan officiated at the confirmation of 630 candidates.

In 1926, St. Mary celebrated its centennial in a muchchanged neighborhood. By now, tenements loomed over the church, and the formerly Irish neighborhood was now predominantly Jewish. The demographics continue to shift; today, the parish is largely Latino.

The Capuchins will help St. Mary celebrate its bicentennial in 2026.

Our Lady of Sorrows

Established in 1867 by the Capuchins, Our Lady of Sorrows is located at Pitt and Stanton Streets in the area once known as *Kleindeutschland* (Little Germany). The church was a haven for German families exiled from their homeland after the revolutions of 1848-1849 Building started on



Our Lady of Sorrows church and school, c. 1970s.

the church in 1867, and upon its completion in 1868 it was dedicated by Archbishop John McCloskey. By the early 1910s, the German population had moved uptown and was replaced by a newly arrived population of Italian immigrants. The demographic would soon shift again, and the Italian population was replaced by Hispanic immigrants. By 2000, Masses were offered in Spanish and English. Today the church is known by many parishioners as *Nuestra Señora de los Dolores*.

"The community changes because generations change," said Br. James Donegan. "There is something valuable in our brothers' response to walk with the people of God throughout its history, and I feel blessed to be part of that."

Grateful for Fraternity

Fr. Don Bosco Duquette, Always at Home as a Capuchin

Being a Capuchin priest is all Fr. Don Bosco Duquette ever wanted. He had to pay some dues along the way, taking assignments he would not have chosen for himself: publisher of

Catholic tracts, director of novices, and even provincial minister. But through it all, he has served God, the Church, and the Capuchin Order gratefully.

"We can be very critical of ourselves as a fraternity for our failures to follow as faithfully in the footsteps of Francis as we indeed should," Father Don Bosco reflected. "However, when I look back over my years in the community, it's the positives that certainly stand out: the goodness, the sense of community, the prayerfulness, the humility, and the hard work of the friars."

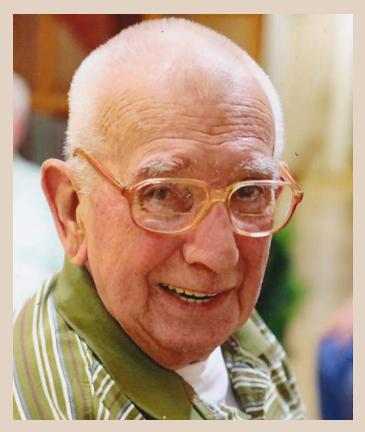
This year, Father Don Bosco is celebrating 65 years of religious life and 60 years in the priesthood. He feels just as much at home with the Capuchins today as he did the first time he met the friars.

A Door Opens

It was a spring evening in 1959 when John Duquette, then 26, arrived at the doorstep of St. Anthony Friary, the Capuchin house of theological studies in Hudson, N.H. He had learned about the friars from reading *The Cowl*, a publication of the Province. He accepted an invitation from the vocation director to visit the Hudson friary. So, after a usual day at the office of the *Manchester Union-Leader*, where he was working as a credit manager, John went to St. Anthony.

He rang the bell, and Br. Paul White (d. 1985) opened the door. "And I was taken with that man," he recalls. "I never met a Capuchin before. But he was just so gracious, and he impressed me to no end. And that night I spent with the vocation director, and I met all the friars." All fifty of them!

Despite having just met these men, he says, "I was very surprised at how comfortable I felt with those guys, and how they related to one another—very brotherly. And I thought to myself, 'You know, this is what I'm looking for!' And the next morning I filled out an application to join the Order, and I mailed it in. I made up my mind very quickly!"



It was an abrupt change of course for the future Father Don Bosco. It was a change foreshadowed several years earlier by an incident during his studies in business administration at College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Mass. "In my senior year, I took an aptitude test. And [with the test] they tried to place people in jobs around the country. So a guy gave me the test. And afterwards he saw the results and said, 'What are you doing? Business administration? You're a people person!' "

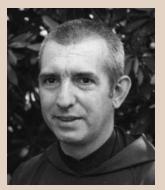
This "people person" with an acumen for administration went on to apply both his relational skills and his business sense over a lifetime of service to the Province.

Ministries

In 1966, two years after his ordination and following advanced studies in theology, Father Don Bosco went back into the media business. Only this time it was religious media, working at the Catholic Information Society, which published pamphlets of Catholic apologetics that were distributed to parishes across the United States. His task was to ensure

that the pamphlets conformed to the theology of the Second Vatican Council. He assisted Fr. Bonaventure Fitzgerald (d. 1974) in this work, first at St. John the Baptist Friary in New York City and then at St. Pius X Friary in Middletown, Conn.

Then, in the summer of 1969, Father Don Bosco received a new and unexpected



assignment directing the novitiate program at St. Lawrence Friary in Milton, Mass. "You can imagine: here I was, novice master, with no preparation whatsoever! And I was trying to train these novices. The first class I had was 33 guys!"

Experience became Father Don Bosco's teacher, and he brought to the formation ministry his own experience as a novice at the Milton friary just 10 years before. He remembered how new and different Capuchin spirituality was in the beginning. For instance, although he had been a daily Mass-goer, he had never prayed the Liturgy of the Hours before. He also remembered how young and raw the novices were. In those years, most novices were only 18 years old, having just graduated from Glenclyffe, the Province's high school seminary in Garrison, N.Y.



Fr. Don Bosco Duquette on his ordination day, Nov. 28, 1964.

For seven years, Father Don Fr. Don Bosco Duquette Bosco handed on the Franciscan spirituality he himself had learned more through practice than through study. "When I was going through formation, we had no Franciscan theological content. We never studied Bonaventure or Duns Scotus. We didn't have any theological training within the confines of Franciscan spirituality." He praised the Province for developing studies in the Franciscan intellectual tradition in the years since.

In 1976, Father Don Bosco was elected the vicar provincial minister, and a new ministry in administration beckoned him. Five years later, the friars elected him provincial minister. He carried out his duties in governing the Province capably, although with a longing to move on to the field he felt most drawn to—pastoral care in parishes. When his term as provincial minister was nearing completion in 1984, he wrote a letter to the friars humbly asking them not to re-elect him.

The friars obliged, and Father Don Bosco got the opportunity he had long awaited. Over the next three decades, he served at Sacred Heart, Yonkers, N.Y.; St. Pius X, Middletown; and St. Joseph, Portland, Me. He was simply a priest—he turned down the offer to be made pastor multiple times—preaching, administering the sacraments, and being with the people. "I finally fell into the place where I felt I should belong! I didn't want to be a superior. I was a people person, and now I was meeting and serving people, all the time. That's where I felt comfortable."

Live Simply, Love and Serve Others

What has Father Don Bosco learned about the Capuchin way of life after 65 years? "The key value is poverty, in my mind. You're

supposed to live as a poor person. Now that is a general challenge today. Everything is high-tech. I don't think it's our way of life. I have tried my best to lead a simple life."

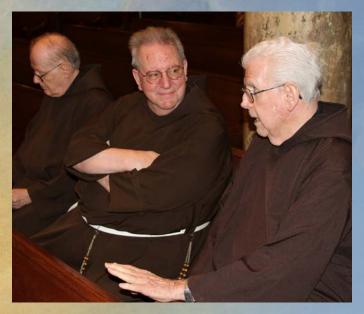
Another lesson in Gospel life came from his family—be of service to others. All of his siblings entered the helping professions: two brothers became educators; one sister, a nurse; another sister, a social worker.

Father Don Bosco credits his father, John, who left school after 7th grade to support his family, with instilling a service mentality. "There's only two kinds of people in this world: those who need help, and those who don't need help. I am interested in helping those who need help," he recalled his father John saying. His father was a bookkeeper for Crane and Co., the paper mill noted for manufacturing the paper used to print U.S. currency. The Duquette family lived in Dalton, Mass., where Crane owned the home they rented for \$18 a month. They lived simply but were treated well by the company. The owner gave John \$300 a year for his eldest son's studies at Holy Cross and even offered the young business student a job upon graduating.

The elder John extended that magnanimity to others. Father Don Bosco recalled his father, a local Republican party chair, having a close personal friendship with the Democratic party chair. One time, Father Don Bosco urged his father to impose some discipline on a wayward member of family. "He says, 'Let me tell you something. If nobody loves you, you might as well be dead. And you know what? I'm the only person in the world who still loves that kid.' Wow. I had no reply to that. So I went back to my mother and said, 'I lost that one.' "

Devoted to Mary, Devoted to Friars

We Celebrate Our Patroness and New Affiliates





New York and New England, are the Province of St. Mary. You may also know that Mary, who goes by so many titles, is Queen of the Friars Minor, that is, patroness of all the orders of Franciscan men.

You may not know that the Province of St. Mary is officially under the patronage of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. This Marian feast, always the day after the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, is our patronal feast day.

The feast calls to mind the Virgin Mother's ardent love for God, for Jesus her Son, and for all humanity. In traditional iconography, the Immaculate Heart of Mary is pierced by a sword and has seven wounds. A band of roses is wrapped around the heart. The heart is also enflamed.

The Immaculate Heart of Mary gives us Capuchins a model of devotion. We can imitate Mary, whose heart was on fire for Jesus and for God. By meditating on Mary's heart and following her example, we, too, can experience intimacy with God and with Jesus Christ.

This year, the Province inaugurated a new tradition, celebrating its patronal feast on June 8 with a Mass at Sacred Heart Church. A festive meal followed in the friary.

At this celebration, we also honored Dennis and Frances Brown, a couple whose service to the friars has been exemplary, by making them affiliates of the Province. As our provincial policy handbook states: "Affiliation with the Province of St. Mary of the Capuchin Order is a formal acknowledgment given by the Province to persons (lay, religious, clerical) who have given faithful service to a local Capuchin fraternity and/or to the Province of St. Mary. That service will be expressed by a generous giving of time,



Top: Fr. Raynold Thibodeau, Fr. Thomas Houle, and Fr. Gordon Combs. Middle: Fr. Scott Leet and Patrick Moore. Bottom: Liturgy of the Eucharist at the Immaculate Heart of Mary celebration.

talent, or support of any kind, to foster the life and ministry of the local fraternity or the Province."

This describes the Browns perfectly.

"Dennis and Fran have been very generous financially to the Province for almost fifty years," said Fr. Jack Rathschmidt. "Dennis went through formation with me from 1961 to 1968 and then left the Order but never left his love for us. He was a member of the original Capuchin Franciscan Leadership Council and was on our properties committee for many years. In that role, he and his brother Ken visited, at their expense, every house in our Province to assess short- and long-term maintenance needs."

The Browns also promote devotion to the renowned Capuchin St. Padre Pio at their spiritual home, Holy Rosary Parish, Staten Island, N.Y. They sponsor a Padre Pio dinner every year to raise funds for parish needs and service of the poor. Dennis and Fran also organized gatherings of students who graduated from Glenclyffe, our former high school seminary, and St. Mary's High School in Garrison, N.Y. In this role, Father Jack said, they sponsored a yearly picnic that gathered men and their spouses from all over New York and New England to recommit themselves to the Capuchin ideal.

During the liturgy at Sacred Heart, the Browns expressed gratitude for being made a part of the Capuchin family.

"Since meeting Dennis, I knew that the Caps were an important part of his life, and they have become, and will always be, very special to both of us," Frances said.

"Our families and friends, and all of you who are here as devoted friends of the Capuchins, are the recipients of this affiliation we have witnessed this morning," Dennis said. "We count this as a blessing, to accept this invitation as a sacramental sign of our union with you and each other, and with the Capuchin Franciscans individually and as a community."

We thank God for the faith of Mary Immaculate. We thank God for Dennis and Fran Brown. And we thank God for you, our generous benefactors. Your devotion and charity sustain our way of life.



Clockwise from left: Dennis Brown; Fr. Jack Rathschmidt with certificate of affiliation; medallion of affiliation; Mary Ellen Yannitelli with Dennis and Frances Brown.

Province Directory

California

San Lorenzo Seminary 1802 Sky Drive; PO Box 247 Santa Ynez, CA 93460 Phone: 805-688-5630

Connecticut

St. Pius X Friary & Parish 310 Westfield Street Middletown, CT 06457 Phone: 860-347-4441

Maine

Holy Martyrs Residence 12 Johnson Road Falmouth, ME 04105

Massachusetts

Capuchin Mobile Ministries 46 Brookside Avenue Jamaica Plain, MA 02130 Phone: 617-413-9239

San Lorenzo Friary 15 Montebello Road Jamaica Plain, MA 02130 Phone: 617-983-1919

St. Francis of Assisi Friary 46 Brookside Avenue Jamaica Plain, MA 02130 Phone: 617-522-6469

New York St. Lawrence Friary 180 Sargent Avenue Beacon, NY 12508 Phone: 845-831-0394

St. Michael Friary & Parish 282 Warwick Street Brooklyn, NY 11207 Phone: 718-827-6990

Capuchin Family Ministries PO Box 268 Garrison, NY 10524 Phone: 845-424-3609 **St. Fidelis Friary** 7790 County Road 153 Interlaken, NY 14847 Phone: 607-532-4423

St. Joseph Friary & Parish 34 South Chestnut Street New Paltz, NY 12561 Phone: 845-255-5635

Good Shepherd Friary & Parish 608 Isham Street New York, NY 10034 Phone: 212-567-1300

Holy Cross Residence & Parish 329 West 42nd Street New York, NY 10036 Phone: 212-246-4732

St. John the Baptist Residence 213 West 30th Street New York, NY 10001 Phone: 212-564-9070

Our Lady of Sorrows Friary & Parish 213 Stanton Street New York, NY 10002 Phone: 212-673-0900

Infant Jesus Residence 110 Myrtle Avenue Port Jefferson, NY 11777 Phone: 631473-0165

Capuchin Vocation Office 30 Gedney Park Drive White Plains, NY 10605 Phone: 857-615-3893

St. Conrad Friary & Provincialate 30 Gedney Park Drive White Plains, NY 10605 Phone: 914-761-3008

Capuchin Development Office 110 Shonnard Place Yonkers, NY 10703 Phone: 212-564-0759 Sacred Heart Friary & Parish 110 Shonnard Place Yonkers, NY 10703 Phone: 914-375-8230

St. Clare Friary 110 Shonnard Place Yonkers, NY 10703 Phone: 914-423-2392

Vermont

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

Wisconsin

St. Francis Community 1927 North Vel Phillips Avenue Milwaukee, WI 53212

Delegation of the Star of the Sea

St. Fidelis Friary 135 Chalan Kapuchino Agaña Heights, Guam 96910 Phone: 671-472-6339

Delegation of Japan

St. Francis Friary & Parish 1 Aza Oroku Naha City, Okinawa Japan 901-0152 Phone: 011-81-98-857-3795





Mission Association & Development Office 110 Shonnard Place, Yonkers, NY 10703-2226 www.capuchin.org NON PROFIT U.S. POSTAGE **PAID** MAILED FROM ZIP CODE 61764 PERMIT NO. 454







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 or visit our website at www.capuchin.org.