

FRIARWORKS

FRANCISCAN MINISTRY & MISSION

THE FRANCISCAN FRIARS OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PROVINCE • SUMMER 2009 • VOLUME 3, NUMBER 1

Celebrating Saint Anthony

Franciscans hold the month of June as something very special. Each year on June 13, we celebrate the feast of Saint Anthony. This year, Most Reverend Daniel E. Pilarczyk, Archbishop of Cincinnati, will preside at the solemn Mass, bless the crowd with the relic of St. Anthony and bless St. Anthony Bread.

At the National Shrine of St. Anthony in Cincinnati, the feast of St. Anthony culminates the solemn Novena which began on April 14. Each Tuesday of these nine weeks, we prayed for our donors and benefactors and carried your petitions and prayer requests to the Shrine to lie at the feet of St. Anthony.

We may never have heard of Anthony if he hadn't attended an ordination in 1222. Gathering for a meal afterward, the provincial asked one of the friars to volunteer to give a short sermon. Typically, everybody ducked! When Anthony was asked, everyone was amazed by his marvelous sermon. A hidden

talent was revealed! From then on, Anthony became known as a great preacher and was often called upon to preach. His quiet life of prayer and penance, which was dear to him, was exchanged for that of a public preacher. While preaching, he ran into ardent and well-organized heretics, but managed to win many converts with his sermons and simple lifestyle.

Anthony traveled tirelessly – perhaps making 400 trips – choosing the cities where heretics were strongest. He rarely took direct issue with the heretics and preferred the grandeur of Christianity in positive ways. He wasn't eager to prove people wrong, but win them to right.

Later, Anthony began teaching theology in Bologna. He continued to preach and assumed more responsibility within the Franciscan Order. In 1226 he was appointed provincial superior of northern Italy, but still found time for contemplative prayer. At the age of 33 he met Pope Gregory IX, a faithful friend of St. Francis, in Rome. Anthony was invited to preach and he did so humbly. The response was so great that people later said it seemed the miracle of Pentecost was repeated.

In the spring of 1231, Anthony withdrew from his activities and went to the

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ST. ANTHONY'S BREADBASKET

e-news from Br. Brian

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Br. Brian

DEAR FRIENDS,

Recently I received a letter from Harriet in Boontown, NJ. She is very devoted to St. Anthony. She writes:

"I want to tell you a little story. Growing up, there were seven children in my family. My father's mother, Rennie, was raised a Quaker. She would visit and help my mother with the myriad household chores. She would spend a lot of time in the boys' room

and I peeked in to find her dusting the statue of St. Anthony and talking to him, calling him 'Little St. Anthony.' Rennie used the prefix "little" only for those she loved. She loved animals and her "little" saint. Strange, also, that his friend Francis was called the "little man of Assisi."

"When I was about 13, I came down to breakfast and my father announced that that morning was very special. Our grandmother had made her first Holy Communion at the 7:00 a.m. Mass. We all knew that "Little St. Anthony" had a big part in that conversion. Rennie joined her heavenly Father a few months later. I remember thinking that she would finally meet her "little friend" in person."

Amazing, isn't it? I pray "Little Anthony" will always answer your requests and through the Lord give you much peace!

Blessings always,

B. Brian

Br. Brian P. Maloney, O.F.M., Director

Walking with Hope

By Fr. Mark Soehner, O.F.M.

On June 20, a group of friars will set off on the adventure of a lifetime: six weeks of walking, from Roanoke, Va., to Washington, D.C. We will carry only necessities, begging for work as our father, Francis, did. We will lean on God and one another, living in full dependence on the generosity of those we meet along the way. We will share with others our excitement for Jesus, giving anyone who would like an opportunity to pray and reflect with us.

A few months ago, one of the novices asked me if he and a few other novices could try an alternative summer experience



Leaders Fr. Ed and Fr. Mark
Photo by Fr. Frank Jasper, O.F.M.

— a foot pilgrimage — after they made simple profession. I was more than a little surprised. One of the clinchers of his argument was, “We’d like the chance to live the Franciscan charism as 24- and 25-year-olds, not as someone in their 50s.” (Of course, the implication was that such a person was old, and having moved into that decade last year, it hit a bit close to home.) After my initial shock, I thought it was an excellent idea.

The concept was accepted by the St. John the Baptist Formation Council, Prefect of Formation, and finally the Provincial. Four simply professed are going: Friars Cliff Hennings, Joshua van Cleef and Roger Lopez. Friar Richard Goodin, professed last year, provides a seasoned second year perspective. They will be accompanied by Fr. Ed Shea, O.F.M. post-novitiate formator from Sacred Heart Province, and me.



Photo by Fr. Frank Jasper, O.F.M.

Front, left to right: Friars Daniel, Roger, Joshua. Back, left to right: Friars Cliff and Richard. (Friar Tim Tran not pictured.) Friars Roger, Joshua, Cliff and Richard begin the foot pilgrimage on June 20.

Tentative schedule

City	Target date
Roanoke, VA	June 20
Lynchburg, VA	June 26
Charlottesville, VA	July 4
Appalachian Trail	July 11
Front Royal, VA	July 18
Arlington, VA	July 26
Washington, DC	July 29-30

We welcome three men, Andrew Farwick, Colin King and Adam Calder, to the postulancy. The postulancy is a 12-month orientation to Franciscan life and spirituality. It begins July 1 at the St. Anthony Friary in Cincinnati.

Two current postulants, Kevin Janke and Mike Charron, move on to the novitiate on June 24.

Finally, we are blessed that five novices will make their first vows on June 15: Dan Helfrich, Clifford Hennings, Roger Lopez, Joshua Van Cleef and Tim Tran. Richard Goodin, will be renewing for a second year. Dan and Tim will study the Franciscan tradition with competent scholars and an international student body at St. Bonaventure University. Richard, Cliff, Roger and Joshua will be taking part in the foot pilgrimage.



Kevin Janke



Mike Charron



Andrew Farwick



Colin King



Adam Calder

Fr. Ed and I will provide opportunities for the simply professed to reflect on this experience in light of the Gospel and the Franciscan tradition. We all hope for openings to reflect with other young people on current issues, the longings of our human hearts, and the desire for peace. We will work for food and shelter. We will celebrate the Liturgy of the Hours and Mass daily. We have sent some advance notice to parishes along the way,

should they like one of our priests to preside at Mass.

It is our intent to hold your special intentions in prayer as we walk. We are grateful for your support and this opportunity to follow Jesus in a way that our early brothers found to open up a new life for them.

Becoming Franciscan

We ask that you pray for our friars in formation and for their formators. Please ask the Lord to send us more friars who want to live the Gospel life as inspired by St. Francis. May God continue to bless us all!

Father's Day is June 21

Consider a gift to the Franciscans in honor of your dad.

You can light a candle or have a Mass offered at the Shrine. Gifts may also be offered in memory of deceased fathers. Don't forget to supply your dad's name and address so we are able to notify him of your gift. All gifts support the Franciscan work among the poor.



Br. Gene Mayer, OFM lights candles for Shrine benefactors.

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Celebrating Saint Anthony

Camposampiero friary where he had a sort of treehouse built as a hermitage. There he prayed and prepared himself for death. On June 13, 1231, he became very ill and asked to be taken back to Padua. On the way, at the friary in Arcella, Anthony died. He was 36 years old and had been a Franciscan for only ten years. On May 30, 1232, Anthony was declared a saint by Pope Gregory IX and given the feast day of June 13. In that same year the people of Padua began building a basilica in his honor.

Today, the Church honors St. Anthony as the patron saint of lost articles. He is also a champion of the poor and a great wonder-worker before the Lord. Anthony remains popular today because of his efficacious power to grant

requests through his intercession with the Lord. He has been a powerful miracle worker since his death. May St. Anthony always intercede for you and grant your prayers and requests.

We're on the Internet!

Find the Province at www.franciscan.org. Post a prayer request or light a candle at the St. Anthony Shrine at www.stanthony.org. Send an E-card from www.catholicgreetings.org. For inspiration, meditation and an array of Catholic material go to www.americancatholic.org or www.franciscanradio.org.

My name _____

Address _____

City _____

State/Zip _____

Email _____

Please say _____ Mass(es) at St. Anthony Shrine: \$ _____
(The normal stipend for a Mass is \$10.)

Please light _____ candle(s) at St. Anthony Shrine: \$ _____
(The normal offering for a candle is \$5.)

My total offering is: \$ _____

This Father's Day gift is in honor of: -OR-

This Father's Day gift is in memory of:

Father's name _____

Address _____

City _____

State/Zip _____

My intention(s): _____

My check made payable to the Franciscan Friars is enclosed.
-OR-

Bill my credit card.*
Check one: MasterCard Discover
 Visa American Express

Acct. number _____

Expiration date _____

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1615 Vine Street, Ste 1
Cincinnati, OH 45202-6492
friarworks@franciscan.org
www.stanthony.org

*Your credit card charge will appear on your statement as Province of St. John the Baptist.



Br. Vince

DEAR FRIENDS OF FRIAR WORKS,

During the short time that I have been in the Franciscan Mission Office, I have seen first hand what a difference your gifts make. Your support of our friar missionaries in the US and foreign countries is awe-inspiring. Because of you, we are able to help our friars in Jamaica, Africa and the Philippines with a variety of outreach programs as well as assist with their living expenses. Recently, I was even able to assist some fellow Franciscans in India who were in need of books for the training of men in formation.

The friars in our home missions of Kentucky, Louisiana, New Mexico and inner-city Detroit and Cincinnati, are also receiving support for their educational and outreach programs including tuition assistance, summer youth employment, materials for RCIA, elementary and high school books and food for distribution. Many lives are touched and made better because of your gifts. Thank you!

Speaking of touching lives and making them better — on April 30, Ms. Dolores Schmitz retired after having served in the Franciscan Mission Office for 42 years. Thank you, Dolores, for your faithful service to the missionary activity of the friars and the Church. God bless you!

As the Pauline Jubilee year ends on June 29, we ask ourselves: How well are we seeking a love encounter and relationship with Christ as St. Paul did? How hard do we work at building our Christian communities as Paul did? Do we allow the power of the Risen Christ to act in us?

Sincerely,

Bro. Vince, OFM

Br. Vincent Delorenzo, O.F.M.

Living in the Spirit of St. Francis for 150 Years

On April 16, 2009, more than 450 people filled the Cathedral of St. Peter in Chains in Cincinnati to celebrate two simultaneous anniversaries: the 800th anniversary of the founding of the Franciscan Order and the 150th anniversary of the Cincinnati-based St. John the Baptist Province.

Each had a story filled with laughter or tears about how the Franciscan Friars had touched their lives. The ceremony captured the essence of the friars. Everyone prayed, sang and spoke about the treasures of the past and the possibilities of the future.

About 100 friars attended the event. Special guests included Cincinnati's Archbishop Daniel E. Pilarczyk, Fr. Jose Carballo, Minister General of the Order of the Friars Minor and Bishop Charles H. Dufour of the Diocese of Montego Bay in Jamaica which is served by friar missionaries.

"Anniversaries are naturally times to look back and marvel at how we got to where we are now," said Provincial Minister Fr. Jeff Scheeler, O.F.M. "This kind of anniversary celebration proclaims the power of shared values, people working together. It speaks of one generation receiving something and handing it on to another — a living tradition."

As part of the ceremony, the friars renewed their vows as they traditionally do on April 16 each year, the date of the founding of the Franciscan Order in 1209.

The anniversaries gave the friars the chance to reflect on the blessings the province has been given over the last 150 years. "The main thing I want this to be is a spirit of gratitude for 150 years," Fr. Jeff said. It's been a blessing for us to be able to minister not only in the archdiocese but in so many places.

Far left: Friars singing during the procession.

Left, left to right: Provincial Jeff Scheeler, Archbishop Daniel E. Pilarczyk and Deacon Francis Wagner.

Below: Friars arriving at the Cathedral of St. Peter in Chains.



Above left: The oldest friar, Fr. Noel William, O.F.M., and youngest, Friar Cliff Hennings.

Above right: Provincial Jeff Scheeler delivers the homily.

Right: Fr. Murray Bodo, O.F.M. visits with guests.



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