

# FRIARWORKS

## FRANCISCAN MINISTRY & MISSION

THE FRANCISCAN FRIARS OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PROVINCE • WINTER 2010 • VOLUME 3, NUMBER 2

## 2009 Highlights



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

### 150th/800th celebration

An anniversary that celebrates 150 years and 800 years immediately speaks of community, for no one person can do that on his own; it is not an individual accomplishment; no one of us lives that long! This kind of anniversary celebration proclaims the power of shared values, people working together. It speaks of committed people working together for a common purpose. It speaks of one generation receiving something and handing it on to another. It speaks of a living tradition!

### Friar Walk

After walking more than 300 miles of country roads and highways, six Franciscan friars reached the Monastery of the Holy Land in Washington, D.C. on July 24. For six weeks, the friars walked from Roanoke, Virginia with only their brown habits, a small backpack for necessities and a belief in the kindness of strangers to feed and shelter them. The pilgrimage was the idea of four young friars just finishing their training and working toward taking lifelong vows. Seeking to emulate the wanderings of their founder, Saint Francis of Assisi, they journeyed together as a fraternity, ministering to one another and to strangers, while depending on God for every meal and place to sleep. Read about their journey at [www.friarwalk.com](http://www.friarwalk.com).



The pilgrims make their way along the road.

### Jamaican churches



The new St. Mark Church

St. Joseph Church, Savannah-la-lamar (under the care of the Franciscans since 2000), has given birth to two faith communities, St. Mary and St. Luke. After several years celebrating Masses in primary school classrooms, 2009 marked the first time people from these two missions have their own church for proper worship. The newly constructed St. Mark Church in Grange Hill was dedicated in August, and November was the dedication of St. Luke Church in Little London. Both churches received grants from St. John the

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*continued on back page*



Br. Brian

### DEAR FRIENDS,

The Friar Works office staff—Colleen, Shirley, Patti, Jim and I—want to wish you a very blessed and happy 2010!

We've had a busy year and wanted to share with you some significant 2009 events that touched the ministries and lives of the friars. We've also done a remembrance of our friars who received their heavenly reward in this past year. We will miss them!

It's a pleasure to report on the good works of the friars because of your graciousness and goodness to us. I thank you, our faithful friends and benefactors, who have inspired me with your kind letters and prayerful remembrances. You are special to the Franciscans and we are happy that you are part of our family. May the Lord give you peace!

Fondly,

*B. Brian*

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

## St. Aloysius Church and Outreach Center

# In the Spirit of Love and Compassion

She pressed the envelope into my hand as if it were something priceless! Four of us had braved the wintry weather to drive down from Detroit to the Little Sisters of the Poor Home in Chicago to perform our Advent/Christmas Concert as a gift to the senior residents there. As is our practice, there was no charge nor did we “pass the hat” at the end of the show to help raise funds for our Franciscan ministry to the poor and homeless of downtown Detroit. The last thing I expected to receive was a donation from one of the elderly poor I knew had precious little to spare!

It was close to midnight before I made it back to our friary at St. Aloysius and to the quiet of my room. While hanging up my habit, I heard the gentle rustling of something in my sleeve pocket. Reaching in I found the envelope I had received earlier that day from one of the Little Sisters of the Poor Home residents.

Carefully executed, the word “donation” was written on the outside of the envelope. Inside was a colorful Christmas card portraying the Holy Family at a stable in Bethlehem. The handwritten inscription read: “Dear Brother, Please accept this small donation as a gift to help you in your ministry to the poor. Merry Christmas!”

Now, I can’t tell you how many times people have pressed something into my hands with the whisper, “It’s for the poor!” Thank God, thank God for every single individual whose generosity makes our Franciscan missions possible! And I am always grateful and humbled to be entrusted with such sacred stewardship! But this donation, this particular expression of Christian charity and compassion, moved me to the very point of tears. For within the Christmas card—so carefully prepared and lovingly delivered—was a single dollar bill!

As I was wondering how on earth to express—in this brief article—the level of need we Franciscan missionaries have now in Detroit, how the unavoidable cut-backs in subsidies the Archdiocese must make will impact our ability to serve the poor and homeless, and the extent to which we will have to go to sustain our Franciscan presence here, I realized that only a story of Biblical proportions would do! And so I share with you this modern day version of the

parable of the Widow’s Mite which I experienced first-hand. May this gift remind us all that even the smallest amount, given in the spirit of love and compassion, can yet be very great indeed! May the Lord give you peace!

Br. Al, O.F.M.



A long line of clients wait outside St. Al's Outreach Center. This vital Franciscan ministry is in jeopardy due to unavoidable Archdiocesan subsidy cutbacks.

## Up to the Challenge

**“Things are going well, all things considered,” says Fr. John Bok, O.F.M.,** a pastor who was given an assignment few would covet—overseeing the union of eight parishes in Galveston, Texas. This is typical of the seemingly unflappable John, whose life as a friar has taken him from academia (principal of Roger Bacon High School, Executive Director of St. Rita School for the

Deaf in Cincinnati) to the office of Provincial Minister of St. John the Baptist Province. Each job had its own weighty responsibilities, but John’s latest ministry is daunting indeed: How do you combine eight separate parish communities? John was pastor of St. Patrick’s in Galveston when Hurricane Ike roared through last year, causing irreparable damage to some of its churches. When the archdiocese decided that unification was the only way forward, John was asked

to coordinate the work of merging eight parish councils, finances and identities into one. “It’s a big challenge, but I’m excited about it,” John recently told a reporter. On Sept. 13, an estimated 800 people gathered at the Galveston Island Convention Center with their pastor, John, to celebrate the birth of their newly combined parish, Holy Family.

# Hazard Celebrates All Things Franciscan

On November 13, Mayor William Gorman signed a proclamation designating Nov. 15 as "Franciscan Sunday" in Hazard, Ky. In his proclamation, Mayor Gorman spelled out the local friars' contributions, noting, "The Franciscans have served not only the spiritual needs of this city and area but have also been active in community programs and organizations, have

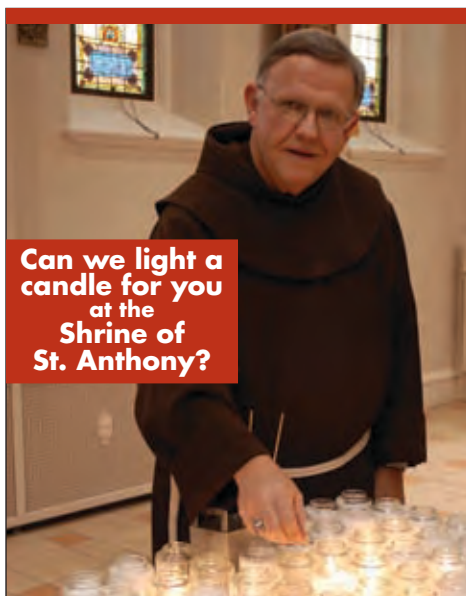


The Mayor, seated, personally cited, standing left to right, Br. Mike Dubec, Br. Ed Gura, and Fr. Mike Chowning for their collective 38 years of service in Hazard. The highlight of the day: Mike and Ed were made official "Dukes of Hazard." (Mike Chowning had previously been so honored.)

Photo courtesy of Hazard Herald

helped the local economy by several large building projects and have helped the poor and needy of the area with great generosity."

Reprinted from SJB News Notes November 20, 2009



Can we light a candle for you at the Shrine of St. Anthony?

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[www.stanthony.org](http://www.stanthony.org)

## DEAR FRIENDS OF FRIAR WORKS,



Br. Vince

While attending a meeting in Louisiana, I visited some of the ministry sites that your generous gifts have helped. Namely St. Mary of the Angels Church in New Orleans, St. Paul the Apostle Church in Lafayette, and the Christian Service Program in Shreveport. In each place, friars are serving different needs.

One of our ministries, Holy Family Catholic School, is a consolidated school and part of St. Paul



Lafayette's Holy Family Catholic School Principal, Mr. Roger Griffins, Administrator Ms. Bernadette Deroues and Fr. Robert Seay O.F.M.



A Holy Family Catholic School student works at a computer provided by Mission Office funds.

the Apostle Church where Fr. Robert Seay, O.F.M. and Br. Juniper Crouch, O.F.M. minister. I had the privilege of receiving a tour of the school which currently has an enrollment of 200 elementary and pre-K children. In every classroom, the children were engaged with their teachers in the various subjects being taught. After

just a short time, I was delightfully impressed by how attentive the students were with their teachers. There is a real appetite for learning!



Happy pre-K students at Holy Family Catholic School.

Through your giving, much of the library equipment and some of the computers were obtained from funds received from the Franciscan Mission Office. The office also helps with tuition assistance. Holy Family Catholic School Mission Statement proclaims "Holy Family Catholic School seeks to be a 'Family of Learning,' grounded in our Catholic tradition, compliant with the standards of academic excellence available and accessible to the children of our community to ensure for them a productive, fulfilling and successful future."

With your continued help, children in this community will have the opportunity to participate in these programs. Thank you for helping to facilitate this "Family of Learning."

Sincerely,



A student waits patiently while a librarian reviews his work.

Bro. Vince, OFM

Br. Vincent Delorenzo,  
O.F.M.

# Re-live Our Anniversary

**It was a year-long celebration of history and hope.**

Throughout 2009 we commemorated the 150th anniversary of St. John the Baptist Province—and the 800th anniversary of the Franciscan Order—with a 12-part website series about the people, places and events that made us who we are today. Each month on [www.franciscan.org](http://www.franciscan.org) we examined a different facet of our ministry by highlighting the lives of some remarkable friars: artists, pastors, educators, heroes, writers, visionaries, missionaries and servants to the poor. All of them walked the same path, following the footsteps of St. Francis. All of them contributed to the character and spirit of our province. Today, we continue to build upon their stories and their sacrifices. If you missed the website series the first time around, or would like to take a second look, you'll find the pages archived online at: [http://franciscan.org/who/Archive\\_150Anniversary.asp](http://franciscan.org/who/Archive_150Anniversary.asp). The anniversary may be over, but the story is still being written. Stay tuned!

## Monthly Giving

**Consider joining the group of people already committed to monthly giving** by having your gift automatically charged to your credit card every month. For more information or to sign up, call 513-721-4700, visit [www.stanthony.org](http://www.stanthony.org) or fill out the form below. Send the form to: Friar Works, 1615 Vine Street, Ste 1, Cincinnati, OH 45202-6492

**Yes! I want to become a monthly giver.** ✂

First and last name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Please bill my credit card\* \$ \_\_\_\_\_ each month for 12 months

Check one:  MasterCard  Visa  American Express  Discover

Account number \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration date \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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

## HIGHLIGHTS continued from page 1

Baptist Province for their construction. St. Mark Church also received financial support from their twinning church St. Monica/St. George.

*Reprinted from SJB News Notes November 20, 2009*



Far left: Fr. Joe Hund, former pastor, blessing a wall

Left: Flowers being presented by parishioners

## Remembering and honoring our brothers who died in 2009



Stan Bir, O.F.M.



Marian Douglas, O.F.M.



Gerald Jackson, O.F.M.



Bart Pax, O.F.M.



David Turnbull, O.F.M.

**We miss you.  
May you now rest in the presence of the Lord.**



**Subscribe to St. Anthony's Breadbasket at [www.stanthony.org](http://www.stanthony.org)**

## FRIARWORKS

**FRANCISCAN MINISTRY & MISSION**

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