



# Conventual Franciscan Friars Saint Anthony's Newsletter

November 2017

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## A Century of Life, *Eight Decades of Franciscan Service*

Fr. Maurus Hauer, OFM Conv.

On October 6, the day before his 100th birthday, family, friends, and Friars gathered in the Chapel at Mount St. Francis, Indiana, to celebrate the life of Fr. Maurus Hauer OFM Conv. Through thousands of baptisms, hundreds of marriages, and countless hours in other sacramental ministry, Fr. Maurus has spent his life accompanying others on the path toward God.

It was 85 years earlier, in the midst of the Depression, in that same Chapel that Fr. Maurus began his Franciscan journey as a first-year student at the Mount's minor seminary. He often tells the story of the Sister who was his eighth-grade teacher sending him over to the Parish rectory to tell the Friar/pastor that he wanted to be a priest. Fr. Maurus says the priest told him, "Okay kid; get back to class."

In his homily for the occasion, Fr. Jim Kent OFM Conv. added that Fr. Maurus was worried that if they looked at his grades there was no way he would be accepted. But as Conventual Franciscan St. Joseph Cupertino proved, superior academic achievement isn't required to follow Jesus and St. Francis of Assisi.

Fr. Maurus prays several times daily. He holds in prayer all those he baptized, confirmed, and ministered to over the last 85 years. He also keeps up with the news and prays for those affected by hurricanes, earthquakes, and other disasters.



Fr. Maurus with Benedictine Sisters (Sr. Louise, to the immediate right of Fr. Maurus, was the principle of the school at St. Anthony Parish in Clarksville, Indiana, when Fr. Maurus was pastor.)



The Chapel at Mount St. Francis was standing room only for the celebration of Fr. Maurus' 100th birthday.

After Solemn Profession and ordination, Fr. Maurus was sent to the Southwestern US where he served nearly 55 years of his priestly ministry. He also served parishes in the Midwest. In addition to his pastoral duties, Fr. Maurus taught school and helped with the upkeep of parish facilities.

One of his most remarkable achievements occurred after the end of World War II. The Friars were given a military chapel building and Fr. Maurus was put in charge of moving it to a site of a new parish. Over land, across roads and river beds, Fr. Maurus led a team of volunteers over 20 miles of terrain to where the building serves as a Church to this day.

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To see a video of Fr. Maurus explaining how it happened, along with a more recent interview, please visit the Province website:

[FranciscansUSA.org](http://FranciscansUSA.org)



Dear Friends,

As we enter the time of Thanksgiving and the season of Advent, it is an opportunity to look back over the year and praise God for all the good He has accomplished in our lives. (We also wonder where the time has gone: how has the end of the year crept up on us so quickly?)



Fr. John Elmer, OFM Conv.

We, the Conventual Friars of the Province of Our Lady of Consolation, have much to be grateful for. This past summer, three young Friars professed their first vows. Three others entered the Novitiate to discern if they are called to Franciscan service. Others are continuing their studies, which will lead to priestly ordination or ministry as a Brother.

Our ministries are going well, and we are grateful for the opportunity to serve God's people across the country. We have the privilege of following St. Francis in living the Gospel life: trying every day to perform the corporal and spiritual works of Mercy, as Jesus challenged each of us to do.

As I travel to our different places of ministry or to visit our benefactors, I hear that many people are concerned about their children and grandchildren. What kind of future will they have? Will they be able to find jobs? And will they stay connected to the Faith? (We are trying to answer questions like these in our Podcast series, *Franciscan Voice*. You can find more information in this newsletter, and it is linked on our website [franciscansusa.org](http://franciscansusa.org))

Also, in this issue you can see how our Friars are working with young people in the classroom and in campus ministry. This Franciscan presence can give a sense of the joy that is found in following Jesus. Young people can see that it is not mere rule-following, but in loving service that we find our way toward God.

And that service continues all our lives. Our Fr. Maurus recently celebrated his 100th birthday. After nearly 80 years of Franciscan ministry, he continues to remember you and our other friends in his daily Masses and prayers.

In fact, all of our Friars do the same. We are grateful every day for your prayers and sacrificial gifts. It is through your generosity that we are able to continue our ministries, educate our younger Friars, and care for those who are aging.

May God continue to bless you, and keep you and your loved ones folded in His arms.

Peace and all Good Things,

Fr. John Elmer, OFM Conv.  
Spiritual Director

## ST. ANTHONY'S CORNER

In praising the virtue of humility, St. Anthony of Padua often cites this passage from the Gospel of St. Matthew (11:29): "Learn from me, for I am gentle and humble of heart."

About this passage he writes: "The Gospel which Christ and the Apostles preached is humility. The Apostles learned this from Christ and passed it on to others." St. Anthony equates the Gospel with the virtue of humility because practically every page of it recalls the humility of the Son of God, evident in His Incarnation (becoming a human being), His patient endurance of the trials of human existence, and His Passion and death on our behalf. St. Anthony makes clear that the virtue of humility is essential for attaining Heaven.

St. Anthony prays:

*We beg you, Abba, Father,  
make us into good trees,  
worthy to produce fruits of penance,  
that rooted and grounded in roots of humility,  
freed from eternal fire,  
we may merit to bear the fruit of eternal life.  
May You, who are blessed throughout all ages  
grant us what we ask. Amen.*

Let us pray to St. Anthony to intercede for us, asking God for the gift of humility that St. Francis of Assisi and his followers embraced. And let us pray for priests and religious, especially the Conventual Franciscans, that they may continue to follow Jesus and Francis, leading us on our way toward Heaven.



## Campus Ministry with a Franciscan Spirit Thriving in El Paso

???????????????, OFM Conv.

October is a busy month on any college campus. But at the University of Texas, El Paso, in addition to classes and studying, football games and tailgating, Catholic Campus Ministry has a full Fall calendar.

Over the course of just one week, Conventual Franciscan Fr. Andy Martinez OFM Conv. invited the students to participate in the annual Transitus service, the memorial of the death of St. Francis of Assisi, then hosted a weekend retreat called “Miner Awakening.” (UTEP’s nickname is the Miners.) Nearly 40 students took part in the retreat, either as retreatants or leaders.

In addition to the opportunity to enrich their own spiritual lives, the students are learning things about the Catholic faith.

“Until I met Fr. Andy, I didn’t even know that the Franciscans were an Order,” said Angel De La Rosa, who is now in his first year of graduate studies after completing his degree in the Spring.

“It really sparks an interest in a lot of people, the vows he made as a Franciscan, and then when he became a priest,” Angel said. “We were all in faith formation when we were growing up, but we didn’t know that this kind of thing occurred. They only mentioned names of saints, but they didn’t explain that people dedicate



Fr. Andy Martinez, college chaplain for the University of Texas, El Paso, recently led a group of students in a 3-day Miner Awakening Retreat. The retreat is based loosely on Cursillo and Search programs for college-age women and men.



themselves not just to God, but to the tradition and ideals of a saint. I thought, ‘Oh wow, there’s more to our faith than we were ever taught.’

“He’s gone out of his way to explain Franciscan life, especially the vows. The vows aren’t just something written in a book, but the inspiration of one of the past role models of our faith.”

Angel was first invited to Ash Wednesday Mass by another student a few years ago. He said that at first he and other students might have approached campus ministry as just another organization or just a place to attend Mass, but then they found it was so much more.

“That was the first time I knew that sort of ministry was available,” he said. “It’s like a parish, but not just another parish. There are Mass and other things like Holy Hours and retreats. But besides that there are social activities with students, game nights, other community building. I thought, ‘I’d love to be a part of this.’”

This year was Angel’s third experience of the Transitus service. It took place at Our Lady of Mount Carmel parish, which is staffed by other Conventual Friars in El Paso, and gave him a new perspective on the tradition.

“Everyone there was fully attentive and really appreciated it,” he said. “We were all unified in response and song. It was really wonderful to be a part of the community at Our Lady of Mount Carmel. It was an honor to be asked to be a part of this.”



## Bringing Franciscan Life to the Classroom

Friar Bryan Hajovsky, OFM Conv.

I have the privilege to minister at Saint John Paul II Catholic High School within the Archdiocese of San Antonio, Texas. My primary role is being the Director of Formation and primary Chaplain at the school, and I also teach Health and two sections of Moral Theology.

Undoubtedly the students are highly intrigued by the Franciscan habit, and as such they begin to note hallmarks of Franciscan spirituality and community. The students readily seek me out to inquire about specifics of Franciscan life, for they see that even though I myself am a Roman Catholic priest, somehow I am “different” from the diocesan priests at their parishes.



One of the main things that the students appreciate is that I was not “assigned” to minister at the school. Rather, I willingly opt to minister there - and, since money talks, they realize that I am not working for a paycheck because my paycheck does not stay with me. Another thing the students appreciate is how I comfortably reference the other friars within homilies or within scholastic lessons. It gives them a window into community life as a consecrated religious, which is something many American youth nowadays do not have the opportunity to witness.

A few of the Friars joined the school Mass on the Feast of Saint Francis. Many of the students and staff were excited to see so many Friars, and they all commented how diverse in cultures, ages, and personalities we were, yet how brotherly and comfortable we were with one another - and with everyone at the school.

Photo caption



### A Century of Life - Continued from page 1

Now Fr. Maurus carries on his ministry of prayer. Through his recitation of the Rosary, in his Masses, and in the quiet of his days, he prays for all those he baptized and served, those who support the Province, and his brother Friars. He told us recently that he was praying for those suffering in the wakes of hurricanes and earthquakes.

Toward the end of a life filled with achievements, Fr. Maurus gives all the credit to God’s gifts: “I can look back at my life and see that the Lord had his finger on me,” he says. And that is what we love best — the quiet humility and ever-present smile of a Friar, one of St. Francis’ little brothers.



Fr. Maurus received many cards and gifts, including a baseball cap and shirt for the St. Louis Cardinals. Fr. Maurus is a baseball aficionado.

## Pope Francis reminds us:

*“Jesus teaches us another way: Go out. Go out and share your testimony, go out and interact with your brothers, go out and share, go out and ask. Become the Word in body as well as spirit.”*



Fr. Mario Serrano and Fr. Ken Gering (Fr. Ken will be celebrating his 90th birthday this year. He continues to serve part-time as chaplain at a nursing home. Fr. Mario was ordained last year and ministers to the young adults from several colleges in the Terre Haute, Indiana, area, while associate pastor at St. Joseph University Parish.

We all want to be a part of this “Becoming the Word.” We all want to feel that we have made a difference in the life of another, in the community in which we live and in the world that we live in. The Franciscan Friars in the Province of Our Lady of Consolation seek your support as they go out and share God’s Word with our community.

A Charitable IRA rollover gift offers you the opportunity to support the Friars in the ministry of compassion for those in need of God. The Friars dedicate their lives to sharing the Word in body and spirit. We ask you to consider becoming a part of this ministry by supporting them with a charitable gift as this year draws to a close.

If you are 70 ½ or older, the IRA charitable rollover provision of the Internal Revenue Code (*now permanent!*) allows you to transfer directly from your Individual Retirement Account (IRA) any amount up to \$100,000 in the aggregate annually to all qualified charities, including The Province of Our Lady of Consolation. *This gift counts against your required minimum distribution amount and is not subject to federal tax.*

### How do I make an IRA Charitable Rollover Gift to The Province of Our Lady of Consolation?

- Contact your IRA custodian to obtain the appropriate form to make an IRA charitable rollover. The form may refer to the rollover by its technical name, “qualified charitable distribution,” or QCD. If your IRA custodian requires you to submit your request by letter, please contact Becki Romans or [b.romans@franciscansusa.org](mailto:b.romans@franciscansusa.org) for a sample.
- On the form, specify the amount to be transferred to The Province of Our Lady of Consolation to receive and include our tax ID number (35-6019627), if asked.
- The IRA plan custodian should make the check payable to The Province of Our Lady of Consolation and mail it to:  

The Province of Our Lady of Consolation  
Development Office – Attn: Becki Romans  
103 St. Francis Blvd  
Mount St. Francis, IN 47146
- Please instruct the IRA plan custodian to reference your name and address on the check; otherwise, it may be difficult to identify that you are the donor when the check arrives.
- If the IRA plan custodian makes the check payable to The Province of Our Lady of Consolation but mails the check to you, please mail the check with a cover letter to the same address as above.

**Please let us know! Contact Becki Romans at 812-923-5250 or [b.romans@franciscansusa.org](mailto:b.romans@franciscansusa.org)**

## FRANCISCAN VOICE

The Podcast of the Province of Our Lady of Consolation

Reflections and reviews by Conventual Franciscan Friars

Available on iTunes and Soundcloud



Dear Friars,

Here is my offering for our Franciscan missions, the poor, our Franciscan students, and for the care of our elderly and sick Friars.

\$15    \$20    \$5    \$50    \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please charge my offering of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

To my:  MasterCard    Visa    American Express

\_\_\_\_\_

Card Number

\_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date

I would like to learn more about including the Conventual Franciscans Friars in my will or estate planning.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

**We would like to remember you on your birthday.**

My Birthday: \_\_\_\_\_

Please pray for my intentions

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In Thanksgiving

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Please use the enclosed envelope and return to the Conventual Franciscan Friars of the Province of Our Lady of Consolation.

## Please pray for the intentions of those here, and for all your Franciscan family:

Ms. Margaret Klempa  
The Klempa Family  
Mr and Mrs Robert Rohloff  
Mr. and Mrs. James Helsel  
Mr. James C. Coburn  
Mr. William C Haas  
Mrs. JoAnn Maher  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Ruppe  
Mr. Gerald E Brown  
Mrs. Jeannine J. Moore  
Drs. David and Jane Silk  
Mr. Phillip D. McCullough  
Doug and Lisa Eagleson-Roever  
Faris G Attisha  
Mr. Mark Tomich  
Mr. and Mrs. Gerald T. Lawlor  
Mr Milton J Kaelin  
David and Jacquelyn Liebenenthal  
Richard and Janet McLaughlin  
Mr. Leonard A Salvemini  
Mrs. Shirley B. Hunckler  
Mr & Mrs Cecil Riley  
Mrs Anne Baxter Humes  
Mr. and Mrs. Peter Seebeck  
Mr. and Mrs. Richard A. Sartor  
Chris and Gloria Nunier  
Mr. John Steiner

Ms Cynthia Clough  
Mr Duc T Nguyen  
Ms Joan M. Brakers  
Mr George E Selleck  
Lance and Marlene Sogan  
Mr. and Mrs. José E Cordero  
Andrew F. Ansaldi  
Ms. Marian Luther  
Carol and Vincent Piacenti  
Ms. Joyce B Rechten  
Ms Jeanette Sapienza  
Mrs Anne M. Dunn  
Ms Ann McColgan  
Ms Madhi Abro  
Ms. Julia A McKnight  
Mr Charles Riccio  
Mr. Anatalis Bekis  
James and Karen Melvin  
Mr Thomas A. Gignac  
Mr. Kevin Blondel  
Ms Marion H Steiner  
Ms. Jo Anne Lucibello  
Mrs. Antonie Gorko  
Dr. and Mrs. Gerald J. Altstadt  
Ms Anita M Ferruggiari  
Kenneth & Patricia Lombard  
Lily and Rex Mann

Mrs. Joan M Dunlap  
Suzanne Lanning-Ventura  
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Kaufman  
Dr. and Mrs. James Olson  
Mr. Vincent Podraza  
Ms Elizabeth A Bobick  
Mr. Oscar Pedraza  
Ms Karen Basha  
Mr. Adolfo Garber  
Mr. and Mrs. Jorge L Araujo  
Mrs. Rose G. Munn  
Ms Alice M Burke  
Ms Jean Villari  
Mr. Thomas P. Gautreaux  
Mr. and Mrs. Dennis C Munn  
Mr. William J. Creamer  
Mrs. Ernestina Vasquez  
Mr James Anders  
Mr. John F. Pericci  
Robert and Bertha Garza  
Ms Kathleen A. Lauria  
Ms Susan C Haug  
Mrs. Wendell Smith  
Mr. Robert Di Marcantonio  
Maude Bigford  
Mr. German C. Lara  
Mrs. Mary Jane Ott

## In Thanksgiving

Dear Fr. John,

I am thankful my blood work shows dialysis is not necessary at this time.

Dear Fr. John,

I am thankful we had a wonderful 50th anniversary party. Thank you for our family. Thank you St. Anthony, for always helping me find things.

Dear Fr. John,

I want to thank St. Anthony for hearing my prayers to watch over me on my trip to Florida. He answered my prayers to keep me safe while visiting my son and Debbie

Dear Fr. John,

Thank you St. Anthony for returning a very special ring that I had lost for a year. I found the ring through a friend. She and I were together when she came across it at the parish hall!



## Province of Our Lady of Consolation, Inc. Conventual Franciscan Friars

Development Office  
103 St. Francis Blvd.  
Mount St. Francis, IN 47146  
812-923-5250

E-mail us at:  
frjohnelmer@franciscansusa.org

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Province of Our Lady of Consolation, Inc.

