



Conventual Franciscan Friars

Saint Anthony's

Newsletter

January 2017

Published by the Friars of the Province of Our Lady of Consolation

Spreading the Good News in Word and Deed

In the middle of his public ministry, Jesus sent 72 disciples out on mission to spread the Good News. He gave them some basic instructions:

*Carry no money bag, no sack, no sandals...
Into whatever house you enter, first say,
"Peace to this household"...*

*Whatever town you enter, eat what is set before you,
cure the sick, and say to all,
"The kingdom of God is at hand..."*

Twelve centuries later, a man called Francis in the small town of Assisi read those instructions and felt them deep in his heart. He decided to follow them literally. From that point until the end of his life he renounced all possessions. His greeting to all was "Pax et bonum!" (Peace and all good!) He accepted gifts gratefully, cured the illnesses in people's spirits and hearts, and proclaimed to all the Good News of God's abundant love.

Soon a group of brothers began forming around him. They were captivated by the love of God, the work of the Holy Spirit made present in the life of the Little Poor Man. Their numbers kept growing. Through them, the movement spread – first across Europe, then around the world. Just as Jesus had commanded the 72, they too carried on the mission.

All the while, Francis himself was a missionary, walking everywhere to share the gifts and the love God had poured upon him. He even took his mission of love and peace to the Middle East, in the midst of the Crusades, traveling to visit his Friars in Syria. Horrified by the violence on both sides, he crossed the bloody battle lines to visit the Islamic Caliph. It is said Francis was received respectfully, and the Caliph listened attentively as he preached his faith in Jesus Christ.

But as one biographer noted, the important thing is that Francis risked a painful death to speak face-to-face with someone who was demonized by the rest of the Christian world. He



This icon of the meeting between St. Francis and the Caliph was created by Brother Robert Lentz, OFM and is used with his permission.

became a different kind of Crusader, one who came in peace, with a listening ear and a willingness to bear the Cross.

Today, the Conventual Friars of the Province of Our Lady of Consolation continue to follow St. Francis in this mission of spreading the Good News in word and deed.

Pope Francis encourages all Christians to employ the Works of Mercy, to reach out to those on the peripheries and serve as a field hospital for those in need. Our own Franciscan Order challenges us to focus our lives and ministries with a renewed sense of this *mission*.

Beginning with this newsletter, we will report how our Friars are responding to the Pope and our Franciscan leaders. Across the United States, in Central America, in India and Africa, your prayerful support helps Conventual Friars follow in the steps St. Francis and his first followers.

Just as they took the words of Jesus as the Rule for their life, so we continue to dedicate ourselves to serve God and His people, especially the least of His sisters and brothers.



Dear Friends,

At the beginning of His public life, Jesus invited his disciples by saying, "Come and see." Then, before His Ascension into Heaven, he directed them to "Go and tell."

These two simple phrases can be seen as the basis for our lives as followers of Jesus.

Through the Gospels, we *come* to know Him *and see* God's glory. From the wedding at Cana, through the teachings and miracles, and finally to His passion, death, and resurrection, we are drawn into the mystery of God's deep, abiding, overwhelming love for us.

But then we are asked to do something with this experience, this knowledge. Instructing us to *go and tell*, Jesus sends us on a mission to spread the Good News that we have received. It is a profound, and sometimes scary, responsibility.

As a Conventual Franciscan Friar, I have been given the opportunity to follow in the footsteps of St. Francis of Assisi who took Jesus' words literally, becoming poor in the ways of the world, but rich in God's love and joy. And as a priest, I am able to bring people closer to Jesus through His sacraments, especially in the celebration of the Eucharist.

But Jesus wants and needs you too. He never said that *going and telling* were reserved only for priests and religious. As Christians, all of us are called to be people on a mission. Jesus makes it clear in the Beatitudes who will be called blessed (the merciful, the peacemakers, and so on). And He ends His time on earth by telling us how He will recognize us at the Judgment (when I was naked, hungry, thirsty...).

The one thing that we as Franciscans know is that we never do it on our own. Throughout our history we have depended on the Providence of God for the success of our ministries and for the sustaining of our lives. God has always placed in our path co-workers and benefactors who have joined in our efforts, shared our burdens, and supported us with their prayers and gifts.

Together we are on a mission to bring Jesus into the lives of those around us. Sometimes it is in healing the brokenness of a fallen world; at other times in celebrating joyfully the gifts we have received. But in all cases, it is to help each other on our shared path toward God.

Thank you once again for being our partners on this journey.

Fr. John Elmer, OFM Conv.
Spiritual Director



Fr. John Elmer, OFM Conv.

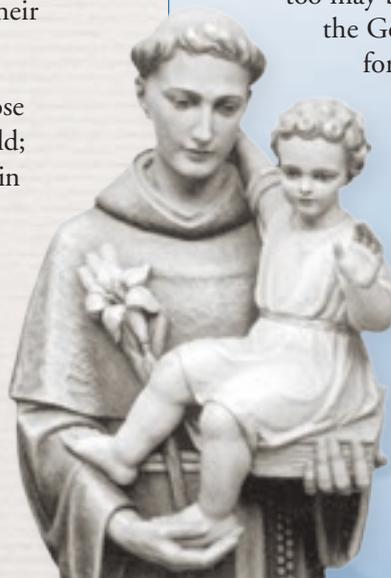
St. Anthony's CORNER

Though he is always associated with Padua, St. Anthony didn't go to the city until the year 1229, when he was 34 and had only two years left to live. But those two years changed the lives of all who lived there, and his legacy is such that no one thinks of Padua without thinking of him.

His mission in Padua was preaching the Gospel, the Good News of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. He was so effective that:

He called back to brotherly peace those who disagreed with each other and gave freedom to those who were imprisoned. He required that whatever was taken in usury or through violence be restituted. It reached the point that many gave back to those who had been defrauded whatever had been gained by extortion or bribery. He freed prostitutes and restrained thieves. In this manner, he gathered through his zeal a harvest that was pleasing to the Lord.

Let us pray to St. Anthony, that he will intercede for us, asking God to open our hearts to His words, change our lives by following Jesus more closely, and that we too may be filled with zeal in spreading the Good News. Let us also pray for priests and women and men religious, especially the Conventual Friars of the Province of Our Lady of Consolation, that they may accompany and support us as we strive to do God's will.



Moving Forward in Mission

Not long before he died, St. Francis of Assisi sent his last letter to the entire Order. In it, he encouraged those who had joined him to...

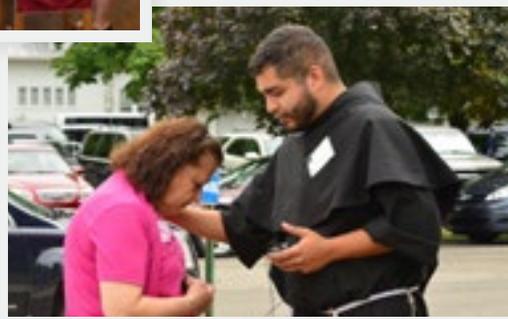
Listen, sons of the Lord and my brothers, pay attention to my words. Incline the ear of your heart and obey the voice of the Son of God. Observe His commands with your whole heart and fulfill His counsels with a perfect mind. Give praise to Him because He is good; exalt Him by your deeds; for this reason He has sent you into the whole world: that you may bear witness to His voice in word and deed...

Nearly 800 years have passed, but Conventual Friars continue to hear the voice of Jesus and follow in the path of our Founder.

Fr. Chuck Henkle prays with a family at the bedside of their loved one. Our chaplains in hospitals, prisons, and hospice care bring the Good News and the Sacraments to those separated from their families and communities.



Friar Tony Martinez pauses to pray with a pilgrim during the Novena to Our Lady of Consolation. All through the year, thousands of people journey to the Basilica and National Shrine in Carey, Ohio.



Fr. Phil Ley talks with two residents at Posada Guadalupe. Here young men fleeing from gangs and violence, who have nowhere else to go, can find a home, food, sometimes their first bed, and an opportunity. In cooperation with legal and immigration authorities, through education and work, they can earn a path to becoming a part of society.



Friars Andy Martinez (to the left) and **Mario Serrano** (to the right) with a group of students from the University of Texas, El Paso. As campus ministers, Friars support students as they struggle with schoolwork and the pains of growing into adulthood.



Fr. Tom Merrill prays the Our Father with altar servers at St. Mary's Church in New Albany, Indiana. From the Southwest to the Midwest, our Friars bring the traditional Franciscan spirit of joy to parish life, working to spread Peace and All Good Things.



Left to right: **Friars Andy Martinez, Jacob Minjarez, John Bamman, and Jaime Zaragoza** (Frs. Andy and John serve as Vocation Directors, and Friars Jacob and Jaime professed First Vows last June).

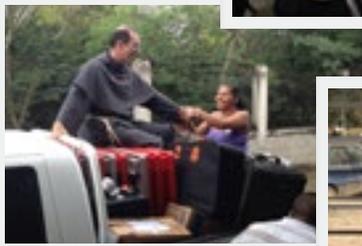


Development Office Annual Report

Friends,

Please take a moment to look over the annual report from this office – and then congratulate yourselves! **Because of your great generosity, all of us together are able to do so much good.** Blessings on you, and our deepest gratitude.

Your Franciscan Friars



Pictured here: Indian Friar **Fr. Tony Vattaparambil** at the Franciscan Kitchen in Louisville, Kentucky, with volunteers from Young Adult Franciscan Ministries; **Fr. Mark Weaver** on a service trip to Honduras; and **Br. Tony Droll** who continues to serve in Zambia.

The Franciscan missionary spirit moves in all directions. At one time Friars from Europe and North America traveled to places where the Catholic Faith was just being introduced. Today it is a cooperative effort where Friars from around the world travel to where they are needed most. Friars from our Province cooperate with others from India, Zambia, and parts of Central America to serve God's people.

As we move forward in mission, the Holy Spirit continues to pour blessings upon us. With deep appreciation, we thank all of you who offer your prayerful support, month after month and year after year. And we give thanks for those who wish to follow Francis in committing their lives to Jesus.

We pray that our entire Province family, both Friars and friends, continues to grow in love and service, listening to the voice of Jesus.



Spiritual Director **Fr. John Elmer** meets with two of our friends, Alice and Morrie Leuthner.

Fiscal Year 2015 - 2016

REVENUE

Donor Support:

| | |
|--|---------------|
| Bequests (missions, education, general) | \$ 297,831.52 |
| General Donations | 680,472.00 |
| Specified Donations (Missions, Poor, and Friars) | 343,350.00 |
| Major Gifts | 67,007.96 |
| Missions | 139,731.95 |
| Retired Friars | 34,817.00 |
| Masses | 8,172.00 |
| Education of Friars | 17,637.00 |

Total Donor Support **\$ 1,589,019.43**

Other Revenue:

| | |
|------------------------|-----------|
| Rent and Miscellaneous | 17,250.00 |
|------------------------|-----------|

TOTAL REVENUE **\$ 1,606,269.43**

EXPENDITURES

Program Support:

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| Province General Fund, Retreat Center | \$ \$125,374.48 |
| Specified Donations (Missions, Poor, and Friars) | 358,498.00 |
| Missions in General (including Masses) | 231,279.95 |
| Retirement Fund | 61,542.00 |
| Education Fund | 50,725.00 |

Total Program Support **\$ 827,419.43**

Support Services:

| | |
|------------------------|---------------|
| Fund Raising | \$ 500,200.00 |
| Management and General | 278,650.00 |

Support Services Subtotal **\$ 778,850.00**

TOTAL EXPENSES **\$ 1,606,269.43**

Our Friends Are Good To Us!

The Conventual Franciscan friars are mendicants, beggars. They have survived since the 12th century as St. Francis did – through the generosity of others. This is still true today. Over the years, thoughtful and caring people have provided for our future. We now ask you to help us continue answering God’s call to serve those in need and reach those eager to hear the Good News.

Meet two of our donors helping to secure a solid financial future for the Franciscans.

D’Ann Read has been a friend of the friars for many years. She makes monthly gifts in memory of +Fr. Dominic. D’Ann has looked to the future and informed the friars that they will be the beneficiary of several of her life insurance policies.

Cookie and Jerry Dooley are members of the Franciscan parish where Cookie grew up. You can frequently find Cookie volunteering her time and energy to help the friars. They have arranged a Franciscan Gift Annuity in Cookie’s name, and have remembered the friars in their Will.

When you name the Friars a beneficiary of an asset, be sure to use the legal title of the Conventual Franciscan Friars – **The Province of Our Lady of Consolation, Inc.**

Through our ministries and service, we reach out to those in need, as well as those eager to hear the Good News of the Gospel. Your generosity makes a life-changing difference to the people we serve.

May you know the joy of your giving!



D’Ann Read



Cookie and Jerry Dooley

There are many options for giving, including opportunities that could enhance your financial situation:

Bequest in a Will or Trust for the Friars

- Retain the use of your assets during your lifetime
- Give a specific asset, a percentage, the residue, or a portion of the residue

Appreciated Stock, Bonds and Mutual Funds

- Receive a gift tax deduction for the *current market value*
- Bypass capital gains tax

Paid Life Insurance Policy, Retirement, IRA or Pension Funds

- Name the Friars the beneficiary

CDs, Money Market Accounts, Savings Accounts

- Name the Friars the beneficiary (Pay On Death, POD)

IRA Rollover

- Contribute the mandatory distribution or a portion of the IRA up to \$100,000
- Arrange with the financial institution holding the IRA to direct it to the Friars
- Avoid tax on mandatory distribution or portion of the IRA

Dear Friars,

I want to learn more about different giving opportunities and how I can benefit from charitable tax deductions.

Please send me the complimentary booklet:

- Giving Securities** **How To Make A Will That Works** **Giving Through Retirement Plans**
 Friars, I want you to know that I have remembered you in my Will.

Name: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Mail to: Conventual Franciscan Friars • Development Office • 103 St. Francis Blvd. • Mount St. Francis, IN 47146

