



Conventual Franciscan Life

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Issue #1 2019

*From our personal,
to our Parish,
to our Franciscan
families...*



*“Beloved,
we are God’s children now...”*

(1 John 3:2)



Friar Symposium
Coping with a never-ending Lent

Habits of the Heart
Carving into contemplation

Twinning Parishes
Building our Franciscan Family

**Saying Goodbye to a beloved brother
and More . . .**

This is Family

A Note From Fr. John

Dear Friends,

In his first Letter, St. John delivers a bold, overwhelming message: We are all God's children.



As with any great privilege, being a child of God brings an equal responsibility; in this case loving one another as brother and sister. As we all know, that's not easy. But the challenge remains, and with God's grace all things are possible.

In this issue, you can see how we are trying to build family – our own Franciscan family, and the families of those we serve. Let us all pray for one another, that we may grow in God's love, following Christ's path into our Father's arms.

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Do you know someone who would make a great Friar?



Poverty. Chastity. Obedience.

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Franciscans.org

Basic requirements: Single Catholic male, 18 to 40 years of age, in good health with a desire to learn, serve, sacrifice, and share a common life

by Postulant Kyle Gregg

When I was 22 yrs old, I moved to Belgium to begin graduate school. Even though my parents and I Skyped often, I was deprived of my family's consoling and jovial presence. Often I would reminisce about playing cards with my aunt and uncle, swimming with my cousins, speaking Spanish with my grandfather. The distance between us was great, but the memories I held dearly.



Now that my family consists of religious brothers, I always ask this question: what memories am I storing up; how will I remember my postulancy directors when I move on to the novitiate; how will I remember the guys with whom I currently live when we go our separate ways?

Friars are itinerant. We read in Thomas of Celano's *Life of St. Francis*, written in 1229, that the first followers were sent out two by two to foreign lands. After only a short time St. Francis desired to see the brothers again. He prayed to the Lord who gathers the dispersed of Israel (Exodus 8,30) to bring them together soon, and so it happened. This is a family to which we always return, a gift of reunion that the Lord gives us.

I enjoy the same gift whenever I am able to visit my relatives, who support my endeavor to join the Order.



Top: The postulants attended a Lenten retreat at Franciscan Retreats and Spirituality Center in Prior Lake, MN. Br. Jim Moore (Our Lady of the Angels Province) guided the reflections focused on the fruits of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23) L to R: Fr. Brad Milunski (Director of the postulancy program in Chicago), Christopher Fernandez, Joshua Sherls, Michael Hintze, Alex Gould, Br. Jim, Roberto Macias-Marin, Kyle Gregg

Two Friars, One Family

by Friars Wayne Hellmann & Martin Day

As I began to reflect on family, my thoughts turned to Francis of Assisi and his *Canticle of Creatures*: Brother Sun, Sister Mother Earth, Sister Moon as well as all of his other brothers and sisters – all the elements of creation. We are conceived and brought to life in Sister Water and nourished by the fruits of Mother Earth. No wonder Francis respected Brother Worm – we are all of the same Parent.

Within this marvelous family of the elements, we are wonderful creatures in the image of God. Just as they nourish us physically, those same elements – *water and fruits of the earth, bread and wine* – nourish us ever more profoundly into another family, the Mystical Body of Christ. We “become One Body, one Spirit in Christ.”

So it is in my experience of my brothers and sisters. Together, by the example and love of our parents, we were taught to walk softly on this earth. My extended family, a multitude of aunts and uncles and cousins (more than you can count) who were more like brothers and sisters. Even to this day, though older and traveling our separate ways, we rejoice when we connect with each other.

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On Cover and above: Fr. Wayne's family held a reunion at Mount St. Francis in 2017 to celebrate Fr. Wayne's 50th Jubilee. Fr. Wayne was given a stole embroidered with images of his extended family.

In 2018, Fr. Wayne was elected Minister Provincial and his cousin, Fr. Martin Day, was elected as Vicar Provincial.

Retreats *A Family Affair* by Friar Bob Roddy OFM Conv.

Family resemblances are tricky things. Growing up I constantly heard from patrons of the grocery store where I worked, “You’re a Roddy, aren’t you? One of Mike and Catherine’s boys?” None of my siblings thought that we looked alike, but as I look at old and some new family photos I can see how people singled us out as one of “Mike and Catherine’s kids.”

As I welcome retreatants to our overnight retreat programs, I am always struck by how many family members make overnight retreats together. Daughters accompany their mothers; sons join their dads; sisters or brothers make a particular weekend or midweek retreat together. The joy on their faces and their enthusiasm bolsters my spirit and the spirit of our preaching/ministerial staff throughout the retreat.

Many family members tell me that they look forward to their annual retreat on two levels: one, they love making a retreat at Franciscan Retreats and Spirituality Center – ‘it’s my second home,’ is a refrain I often hear; and two, they love being able to share the retreat experience with other family members. For many, their annual retreat together is a tradition that nourishes and strengthens their bonds as family. One year, a retreatant who makes a retreat with his dad and four brothers asked me, “Brother, please pray that I have a job when I show up for work on Monday!” “Why? Are there layoffs on the horizon for your company?” “No,” he replied, “We have had to work



Four generations share a retreat Back row: [sisters] Georgiann Kuberra, Eileen Kytönen, Nancy Hyduke; Front Row: Rylee Kuberra (Georgiann's daughter), the late Evelyn Hyduke (Georgiann, Eileen and Nancy's Mom) and Kolette Lind, Eileen's daughter.

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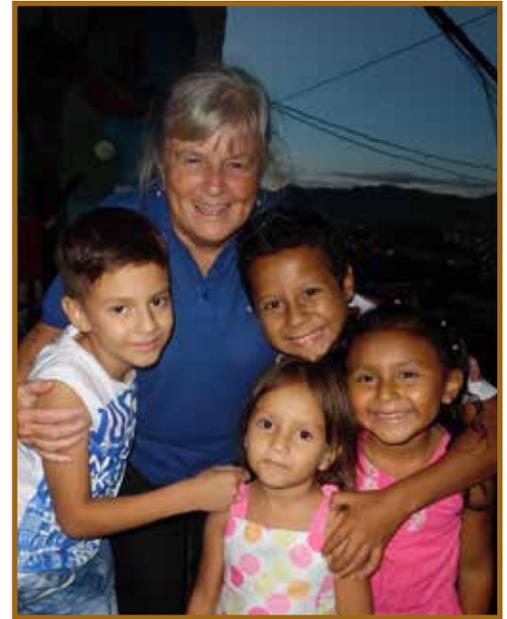
Twinning Parishes

by *Friar Mark Weaver OFM Conv.*

This February, a team from St. Joseph University Parish in Terre Haute, Indiana, traveled to Tegucigalpa, Honduras, to renew their twinning relationship with St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish. Twinning with a parish in another country offers an opportunity for both parishes to grow together as a family through the sharing of experiences and faith. As part of that relationship, the friars in Tegucigalpa have hosted medical mission teams from St. Joseph's.

I was privileged to be present in 1997 when St. Joseph University Parish began exploring the possibility of twinning with St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, and to have been part of their most recent medical mission trip to that parish. The relationship has taken some twists and turns but has grown and developed and has some very brotherly and collaborative aspects.

I have to smile when I think of how well everyone got along and worked together on the most recent medical mission trip. The ten of us from St. Joe's served people from some 18 different communities which make up St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish. But we didn't do it alone. Seven different Honduran doctors and a pharmacist helped us at one time or another. Four fine interpreters assisted us, including Dina and Telma Zelaya, whose family was with us in Terre Haute for a recent Christmas. Two excellent cooks, Alba and Carol, did their very best to help us gain weight, and showed us the wonderful things that can be done with beans and plantain bananas! A number of drivers got us around, sometimes on the backs of pickups. Many others recorded initial patient information and helped keep us organized. Friars Isidoro, Ramiro, Edgar, and Johnatan helped us in so many ways and made it possible for us to share in the Eucharist several times. Our last night in Tegucigalpa we got pizza for everyone who helped. There were more than fifty people for the pizza party.



Cookie Dooley, a St. Joe parishioner, enjoys helping on the medical mission trips. Cookie was also part of the team renewing the twinning partnership.



Sharing Experiences & Faith

We began each day with prayer. Then we'd go to the parish center for a delicious breakfast before our work day. On the first two days the patients came to the parish center. After that we moved our medicines and tables to churches in other parts of the parish, to which people would come from the surrounding areas. We would assist forty or fifty people in the morning, take a break for lunch, and then return to see another forty or fifty in the afternoon. Some evenings we would share great teas, like rose hip, lemon grass, chamomile, and linden flower; other nights we would be too tired to stay up.

Cheryl, our nurse practitioner, said the patients presented symptoms such as throat and eye irritation, constipation, cough, parasites, joint pain, insomnia, fatigue, gastric reflux, migraines, or carpal tunnel syndrome. Another member of our team, Lynn, is a physical therapist and taught exercises to many people that will give them greater mobility and less pain.

We went back to Terre Haute feeling a lot of satisfaction for the comfort and care we were able to give to our brothers and sisters from Tegucigalpa.



Fr. Cyprian Uline OFM Conv. (left) signed the twinning renewal agreement on behalf of Fr. Savio Manavalan OFM Conv. (current pastor at St. Joe's)



We asked the friars: what can we say to people who are experiencing difficult situations such as dealing with aging parents, a spouse's illness, or a sick or injured child? How can we keep going when it seems like a never-ending Lent?

Friar Jim Kent



One November, Lent came early and grabbed hold of me and my family like a beast with tentacles, choking the life out of us.

My father had just gone into nursing care when suddenly my mother was taken to the ICU and the doctors told us she had only days to live. Shifting our worry from one parent to the other shocked us, especially given the dire prognosis. While my mother survived that week, she was taken to the hospice center for her final days. With lots of prayers and support, she surprisingly improved enough to be taken to the nursing home to be near my father and receive hospice care there; death was no longer a matter of days away. However, as she was being carted in one door of the facility, they were taking my father out the other to the hospital. He had declined rapidly, and in a few days he was then taken to the hospice center where my mother had just been.

With both parents now dying, it was a very dark time for my siblings

and me. My father passed that December and my mother in January. The last good day my father had was Thanksgiving, and my mother's was Christmas.

At the time it seemed unbearable. So much, so close together. One of the things that helped us through was seeing the love my parents had for each other, how they would visit each other and always hold hands. Another thing was their deep faith and how that prepared them for those final days and their passing home to God. Their faith deepened our faith.

How do we survive those times that overwhelm us with illness, pain, and even death? I think what helped me and my siblings was allowing those weeks to be seen in a broader perspective. My parents had been married for 60 years—and what a gift that had been. They also approached the end with a faith they had nurtured their whole lives. They knew this was their destiny, and they were at peace with it. What a grace and what a witness that was. Is this not the movement from Lent to Easter, from death to resurrection, that's rooted in the Paschal Mystery itself? We certainly can't avoid death nor deny its agony and pain, but, with the eyes of faith, we can look through it and beyond it to the source of all Life that awaits us in eternity.

Friar Nick Wolfla



When I was in the Army I had a First Sergeant who, when things got hectic, would say "life's rough but it's fair." For the longest time, especially as I began going through some personal issues, I disagreed. It wasn't too long ago that I learned what he meant. Top (slang for 1st Sgt), you were smarter than I gave you credit for!

Life is tough. The Brady Bunch perfect existence simply isn't the truth. Sometimes I think we try too hard to make life perfect. Take for example the holidays. Many people report being disappointed or depressed at that time of year. Thing is, for one reason or another, their idea of a perfect holiday, the Saturday Evening Post cover of grandma with the turkey or Santa at the tree just doesn't happen. Family separations, either by job, sickness, death, children, or other reasons, disrupt our memories and how we see those days, and they can become unbearable for some.

Unfortunately, that happens to many of us who have had to con-



How do we place our struggles into God's hands?

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front our emotions while mourning a major change in our lives. Nothing is ever the same. The world has shifted and there is no longer a sense of normal. We become shaken, our hearts broken, and, at least early on, we don't see ourselves ever loving or truly living again. Many of us bury these feelings. We want the world to think that everything is alright. That may work for a while, until everything bubbles to the top and we explode in a volcano of hurt.

That is the hard part; now comes the fair part. We don't have to bury everything deep down. We don't have to be alone. God, through our lives, provides us with people who care and who will understand, hold us when we cry, and eventually challenge us to move forward in life. Sometimes that means getting professional or pastoral help. Family, friends, counselors, clergy, are all there to walk with us. We just have to allow them to be there. The fairness comes with the challenge to move forward - balancing the gap in our lives, remembering that the sense of emptiness will, in one form or another, always be there as we move toward what lies ahead. **We never forget the loss, but we incorporate it into who we are, and then use that love and energy to forge ahead.** I know from my own life it's not easy. Our lives are constantly shifting because of it but it is life nonetheless, and there is the "fair" balance we constantly strive for.

For those of us who are the sounding boards, the support, the loved ones, it's important to know that sometimes there is nothing we can say. Sometimes all we need to do is hold someone's hand and truly listen;

not try to solve the problem, but let our friend speak. There are times when we sit quietly and share a moment, watch a movie, go out to eat, anything just to let our hurting friend know that we are present and we love them. **Our job is to walk with our loved one, holding each other up in love as the Father loves us.** Yes, life is hard and fair, but we may not see the fair until we come out of the other side of the hard.



Friar Bob Showers



A few days ago, I buried a wonderful woman of 91 years who had raised an equally wonderful family. She had lived all her life in Northern Indiana, but now her children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren lived in seven different states, and only one son lived within 100 miles of her. This is not an unusual situation at all. How do you care for your elderly parents when you live so far away?

My mother lived her last years in Wisconsin, where I was born and raised. During my mother's last years, I was assigned first to Denmark in Europe, then to the state of Georgia,

then to Indiana - all seemed so far from my mother's home. I have a sister who lives in California, but it was my older sister who lived with my mother and cared for her. She did a very good job.

I have learned three principles about how an extended family cares for its elderly. The first thing that a geographically-dispersed family must remember is that **taking care of your elderly parents is the job of the entire family. Each son and daughter might carry out that responsibility in a different way, but it's your job to do something.**

Secondly, sometimes one sibling takes on the special role of immediate and primary caregiver. This is not unusual. When you were kids, you often had different chores. My older sister took care of my mother on behalf of the entire extended family, and the rest of us owe her for that. Which brings me to my third principle:

The primary caregiver makes a big sacrifice, often for many years, and the rest of the family owe her/him both respect and support. My older sister took a different career path because she chose to make taking care of our elderly parents a priority. Now that both my parents have passed on, my older sister has made much less money over the decades, has a much smaller pension and owns much less property than my younger sister, who got to prioritize other things. This is not an injustice; it's the way families work. We respect my older sister for that, and she respects our role. Now, however, the rest

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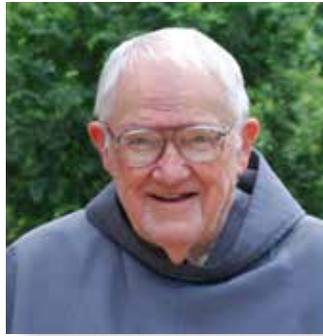
Meeting Sister Death

Fr. Maurus Hauer OFM Conv.
101 Years of Life-80 Years of Franciscan Service

1917 to 2019

On the occasion of his 100th birthday, in 2017, Friar Maurus Hauer OFM Conv. said, ***“I can look back at my life and see that the Lord had his finger on me.”***

Fr. Maurus Hauer OFM Conv. served most of his life in the Southwestern United States, which was essentially mission territory. Working with the other Friars to organize scattered Catholics into parish communities, Fr. Maurus baptized thousands of babies and adults during those years. Also, in the aftermath of World War II, he moved a decommissioned army chapel from the base where it had been used during the war, to the site where it still serves today as a parish church in Loving, New Mexico. A feat that he remained proud of in his later years. His pastoral service took him to parishes and mission churches in Carlsbad, Hobbs, Malaga, Artesia, and Loving, New Mexico; Broken Bow, Nebraska; and Clarksville, Indiana.



In 2010 he was nominated for the Lumen Christi Award by the Catholic Extension Society, honoring his nearly eight decades of service to the mission areas here in the US. He said he was relieved when he didn't receive the award, because he was too old to travel to the event.

Fr. Maurus' prayer life grew even deeper as he aged, and in his years of retirement he prayed constantly for his brother Franciscans, their ministries, and all the people he had baptized and served. When he learned of natural disasters or people with personal crises, those were added to his list.

At the time of his death Fr. Maurus was Dean of the Conventual Franciscan Order, the oldest living friar.

For more photos and to hear Fr. Maurus tell some of his own story, please visit: franciscansusa.org/fr-maurus-hauer-ofm-conv

Left to Right:

Fr. Maurus relocated this decommissioned army chapel after WWII and it is still in use today, Loving NM; Fr. Maurus in Carlsbad, NM (c. 1945); Celebrating First Communion (c. 1947)



Friar Symposium

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of the family owes my sister not only deep gratitude and respect, but monetary compensation as well.

I am a Franciscan friar with a vow of poverty – I have no great wealth to give my sister. Luckily, my entire extended family is close-knit, so cousins and in-laws and my younger sister all make sure that my older sister need not suffer because of her service to the family. It makes me all the more aware that I am the “family priest” and I owe all my relatives a keen interest in their religious development and well-being.

In my family, this is simply our tradition. But I do not think that it is merely “ethnic” – it is an application of Catholic teaching. In her book *A Catholic Guide to Caring for Your Aging Parents* (Loyola Press 2006), Monica Dodds points out that when the Catechism of the Catholic Church explains the 4th commandment, “Honor your father and your mother,” it summarizes the duties of adult children, grandchildren, more distant relatives, civil authorities, fellow citizens, the world community, and the Church – because they are all part of my family, and must take care of our beloved elderly together!

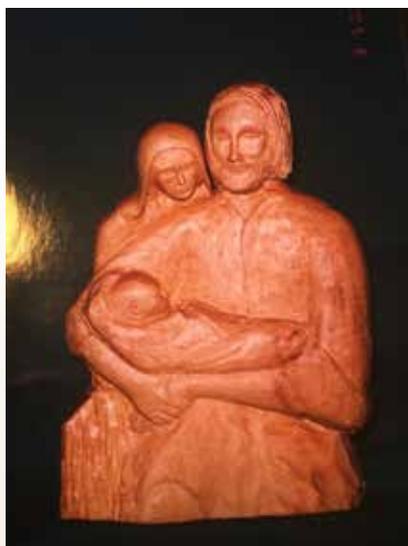
Habits of the Heart *Friar Richard Kaley*

I started woodcarving in about 1985 when I was on a seven-day hermitage retreat with my spiritual director. During a session on the third day my director commented that I was thinking too much and not listening enough in my prayer. So she told me that I had to get out of my head and into my *right mind*, meaning into the right side of my brain, the creative, non-analytical side. I asked her how I was supposed to do that. Through art, she said, like drawing with pastels. I told her “men don’t do pastels” (I know better now). She said I could sculpt with clay, but since I didn’t have a kiln and therefore couldn’t produce something, I wouldn’t do it. Frustrated, she said I needed to find some form of art. So I went walking in the woods and found a piece of wood that I thought I could carve. I took it back to my hermitage and started carving a figure that expressed a struggle that was going on inside of me. I showed it to her the next day and she said that was exactly what she was talking about.

After that I bought some carving tools and started carving simple figures, some with symbolic meaning and some just for fun. I found that when I spend time carving, I focus on one thing (or I’m liable to cut myself) and it centers me

and calms my spirit. I lose track of time and get “lost” in the creative process. Especially when I’m carving a scene or person from scripture, the meaning of it kind of rolls around inside me, finding more of a home there, and it is for me another form of prayer. I also like that I have something to show for my efforts, that I have produced something (maybe that’s a guy thing) and I gain some satisfaction from that. I have given away many of my carvings and am glad to be able to share them with others.

I haven’t been faithful to carving on a regular basis over the years because of the demands of ministry, but I have always returned to it again and again, especially when I have gotten too stressed out. Now that I will soon not have a full-time ministry, I am happy to have a hobby that I enjoy and will be able to spend more time practicing. I am even going to find someone to teach me more about it.



One Family Continued from page 3

Through them I was well prepared for brotherhood among the friars. Francis's admonition that friars are "to treat each other as members of one family" wasn't hard to understand. I experience this not only within my own Province, but also with brothers across continents and cultures. My prayer since the beginning of this journey was that one of my blood family would join me in the Franciscan family. God the great Parent of us all answered that prayer.

So thank you, Friar Martin Day, for answering the same call. It is a gift to share "doubly" with you in the same family.

Friar Wayne Hellmann

When I was discerning my vocation and call to priesthood, a major barrier was the fact that the pastor of my parish lived alone. There was no way I was ever going to do that. I was surrounded by eight siblings and many more cousins, and that was an important element of my identity. I was one of the Day kids whose mom was a Hellmann and whose grandfather used to run the farm at the Motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Tipton, Indiana, my hometown.

At the age of eight or so, I wasn't really cognizant that there were other forms of life open to priests. That didn't sink in until I was in college and reexamining the possibility of priestly ministry. Wayne, who was working in Franciscan formation in St. Louis at the time, invited me to visit the community. I had a chance to talk with a number of friars my own age who were working through similar issues. That was very inviting. If I didn't have to go it alone, the whole endeavor became much more possible.

Fast forward to the day when I was assigned to my first parish. I remember making the parallel between the connections in a parish "family" and my experience of family reunions growing up. Some cousins I knew better than others, but in one sense it didn't matter; it was plain that we all belonged together.

I still think that's true, in both realms. We're designed for a journey of faith that we make together, not marching in lock-step, but not leaving anyone behind, either. I like that. It fits my experience and makes it easier for me to move forward, staying in the group and sometimes maybe even walking toward the front!

Friar Martin Day



Above: Fr. Wayne on the right with former Minister Provincial Fr. Jim Kent and the Minister General of the Order Fr. Marco Tasca.



Fr. Martin Day is invested as Vicar Provincial by Fr. Marco Tasca.

*For where two or three
are gathered together
in my name, there am
I in the midst of them.*

Matthew 18:20

“...the Lord gave me brothers...”

And after the Lord gave me brothers, no one showed me what I should do, but the Most High Himself revealed to me that I should live according to the form of the Holy Gospel.

A Family Affair Continued from page 3

weekends for the past few weeks and my boss wanted me at work this weekend. When I told him that I couldn't work this weekend because it's my annual retreat with my brothers and dad, he said, "You can't pick another weekend?" His boss may not have understood, but he still had a job on Monday morning.

Sometimes family members make a retreat together to process a significant passage in their lives. A brother and sister attended one of our Extended Silent Retreats as a way to mourn their mother's recent death. A few months later, her husband and son attended our Men's Silent Retreat. The brother and sister return every year, as do the father and son. "We wouldn't miss this time together for the world."

At Franciscan Retreats and Spirituality Center we have a tradition of encouraging people to write a few words to the retreatant who will be using their room after they depart. There is a special area in our Bedroom Books for people to write such a note. On one weekend a retreatant shared with me that she had often made retreat with her mother and grandmother, and that her grandmother has passed away during the past year. "Imagine my surprise and my joy, Brother, when I combed through the pages of my Bedroom Book and discovered that my grandmother had used this room and that she had left several messages for the retreatant coming after her. I was moved to tears. It was like she was right there with me."

If you are looking for way to spend some quality time with family, why not consider making a weekend retreat together? It's a family tradition treasured and relished by so many, a tradition that will sustain and nurture those precious bonds. (Brother Bob talks about families and retreats on *Franciscan Voice* - our podcast. It is available from our website, iTunes, and SoundCloud.)

He said to them, "Come away by yourselves and rest a while." Mark 6:31

Find a retreat for your family!



From Top: Brothers Vaughn, Dave, Tim and Perry Mulcrone flank their dad, Dick Mulcrone following a Men's Retreat at Prior Lake; Extended family during a Mother Daughter Day - Mary Zweber, Pauline Zweber, Sue Beck and the late Loretta Zweber (Mary is Pauline and Sue's aunt. Loretta is Pauline and Sue's mother); Brendan Halloran being anointed while dad, Denis, waits his turn.

Franciscan Retreats & Spirituality Center
Prior Lake, Minnesota
www.franciscanretreat.net

Mount St. Francis Center for Spirituality
Mt. St. Francis, Indiana
www.mountsaintfrancis.org

Holy Cross Retreat Center
Mesilla Park, New Mexico
www.holycrossretreat.org

Creating a Legacy

*Where there is charity and wisdom,
there is neither fear nor ignorance* **St. Francis of Assisi**



A **Franciscan charitable gift annuity (CGA)** provides financial security for you or a loved one, while ensuring future resources for the friars. Simply make a gift of cash or publicly traded securities to the friars, and in return the Province of Our Lady of Consolation agrees to make fixed payments to you and/or a designated beneficiary for life. A gift made to the friars through a CGA offers the following:

- † A lifetime of fixed payments, backed by the Province of Our Lady of Consolation's full assets.
- † An immediate income tax deduction for a portion of your gift.
- † The satisfaction of creating a legacy of giving to the friars who are ministering to God's people in an ever changing world while living in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

If you have any questions about Franciscan charitable gift annuities, please contact Shaunna Graf, Director of Major Gifts and Planned Giving at s.graf@franciscansusa.org or (812) 923-5250. She is happy to assist you and answer your questions.

How a CGA works

1. You need to be 60 years or older.
2. You transfer cash or publicly traded securities to the Province of Our Lady of Consolation. A gift of \$5,000 or more is required to fund a charitable gift annuity.
3. In exchange, Province of Our Lady of Consolation promises to make fixed payments to you for life. The fixed payments are determined at initiation based on your age, and a portion of each payment will be tax-free.
4. You will receive a charitable income tax deduction for the gift portion of the annuity.
5. The annuity remainder may be designated for a particular priority for the friars or may be applied by the friars to an area of greatest need.
6. If you decide to fund your Franciscan Charitable Gift annuity with cash, a significant portion of the annuity payment will be tax-free. You may also make a gift of appreciated securities to fund CGA and avoid a portion of the capital gains tax.



We are sponsoring a pilgrimage to Italy in September/October, 2019, and hope you can join us!

"Franciscan Celebrations" Celebrating Franciscan History in Padua and Assisi

In Venice and Padua, our group will celebrate the life of St. Anthony and visit important sites in Catholic history. In Assisi, we will celebrate the Feast of St. Francis (October 4th) and visit the sites so important to him. We will have plenty of time to absorb the wonders and peace of this medieval city, and reflect amid sacred places. We will share most meals with the group and friars, sampling exceptional food and beverages. There are also side-trips where you can deepen the experience of Franciscan spirituality.

Friars Andrew Martinez and Steve McMichael will lead this experience. Fr. Andy has a great love for Rome, while Fr. Steve is an expert in Franciscan history, and knows some of the out-of-the-way places (and restaurants) the locals like to keep secret. We'll be able to visit places ordinarily off limits to all but Franciscans. This will make the experience uniquely enriching, even for those who have previously visited Padua and Assisi.

We will limit this to a small group of about twenty, ensuring an intimate and personal experience. Reservations are on a first-come, first-served basis, and we request registration forms be returned by June 1, 2019. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Becki Romans in the Mission Advancement Office, 812-923-5250.

We hope you can travel with the friars on this special trip.

