

priests promised obedience and respect to their bishop and (for the friars) to their religious superior. As the CFR Community Servant, Archbishop Dolan wanted me to be there for our newly ordained friars.

When I was elected CFR Community Servant, I received a call from Archbishop Dolan with his good wishes and the advice: “Love your brothers, be their father and laugh with them!” The archbishop was giving advice that he was living himself.

Looking back during my mini-retreat, I remember that my *real* seminary years began after ordination. I learned a living theology from the faith, love and example of the people I was called to serve.

My mini-retreat brought me back, not only to the day of my ordination, but also to the implications of my “yes” - “the good times and the bad.” Somehow these times come together and lead to an overwhelming gratitude to God! The popular Footprints prayer was of course true - God has been carrying me all the time!

My real seminary began soon after my ordination at my first funeral at St. Casimir’s in Newark, New Jersey. I don’t remember his name, but the body of the young man in the glass covered casket, killed in Vietnam, was a Polish immigrant who came to this country as a little boy. His prayerful dignified parents taught me the theology of *trust*.

When I first met the Conways, they were married for over 70 years. I brought them Holy Communion every 1st Friday. Mrs. Conway was crippled with painful arthritis. Her husband, after helping her dress and carefully combing her hair, would help her down the steps of their small Victorian house in Edgewater, New Jersey to bring her to sit by the window overlooking their garden. Whenever he was able, he would pick flowers from the garden to put on the table next to her chair. Mrs. Conway listened to her husband’s often repeated stories with a wonderful attentive smile, as if hearing them for the first time. The Conways taught me the theology of *marriage*.

Barbara McQuiver, also a parishioner at Holy Rosary in Edgewater, was a victim of Polio, which she contracted as a young mother some 20 years earlier. She spent most of those 20 years in an “iron-lung” (virtually a tube that looked like a casket connected to a compressor to allow her lungs to function). When, as a young priest, I visited Barbara at Bergen

Pines hospital in 1971, I was fearful of what I could possibly say to offer a word of comfort. Barbara looked at me, totally evaluating the situation, and with a wonderful, beautiful smile put me at ease! Barbara knew Jesus. I, after 6 years of seminary training, knew *about* Jesus. Barbara taught me the theology of the *cross*.

Joey Domiano was on my 1st Friday communion list at St. Theresa in Linden, New Jersey. Although only a teenager, since he was born with MS, his little body was mostly folded over in a permanent fetal position. Joey greeted me each 1st Friday with a smile that was always disarming and with a recent update on the progress of the New York Yankees! Joey taught me the theology of *Christian joy*.

I certainly could go on and on! My teachers were often the poor, the sick, the elderly and very often children.

Little Pawel (Paul), who was suddenly totally paralyzed at 12 years old from a spinal weakness, once told me while we were praying together: “I’m happy that this happened to me and not to some other little boy who didn’t know Jesus.” Pawel taught me the theology of *faith*.

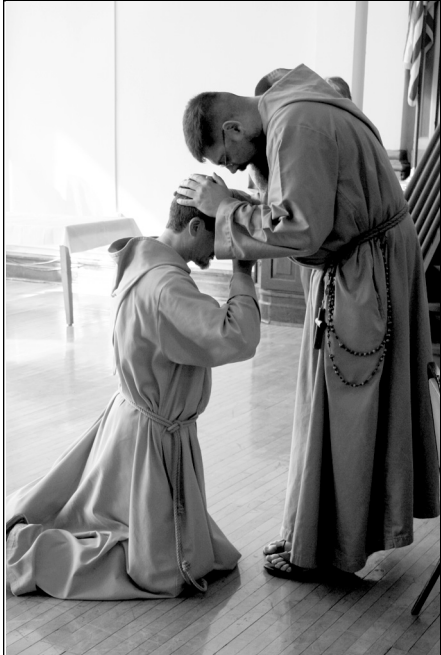
I continue to be taught in the seminary of life - to live the Gospel as Jesus would have me. The example of the friars, most of them much younger than myself, helps me daily to continue my education into what I am called the be as a friar and a priest of Jesus Christ.

Fr. Charles, Father Albert and Fr. Isaac have had the privilege of being ordained in the Year for Priests. The prayers of the entire Church enfold them. They will now be given “teachers” in the people they will serve, who will guide them into a deepening understanding of the wonderful calling they now begin to live - to be an “alter Christus.”

These new young priests have also been ordained in the midst of a painful attack on the priesthood and the Church. Because of the terrible sins of a very few priests, the goodness and sacrifice of so many priests has been ignored.

As my young brother priests and brother friars rose from the floor of St. Patrick Cathedral to approach Archbishop Dolan for the imposition of hands, armed with joy in their eyes, they taught me the theology of *courage*!

I continue to be very grateful!



*Ordination is a remarkable day when blessings are returned a hundredfold - quite literally! Fr. Charles-Benoît had received many priestly blessings from Fr. Glenn (kneeling) and prayerfully returned the favor.*

**Convento San Serafin**  
**011-504-772-7998**  
*Colonia Francisco Morazan, Apartado 331 Comayagua, Honduras, CA*

**Convento San Antonio**  
**011-505-772-2757**  
*Apartado 283 Matagalpa, Matagalpa Nicaragua, CA*

**Most Blessed Sacrament Friary**  
**973-622-6622**  
*375 - 13th Avenue, Newark, NJ 07103*

**Our Lady of the Angels Friary**  
**718-993-3405**  
*427 East 155 Street, Bronx, NY 10455*

**Sacred Heart of Jesus Friary**  
**817-332-2435**  
*1003 E. Terrell Ave., Fort Worth, TX 76104*

**St. Columba Friary**  
**011-44-287-126-0390**  
*6 Victoria Place Derry BT48 6TJ Northern Ireland*

**St. Crispin Friary**  
**718-665-2441**  
*420 East 156 Street, Bronx, NY 10455*

**St. Felix Friary**  
**914-476-7279**  
*15 Trinity Plaza, Yonkers, New York 10701*

**St. Fidelis Friary**  
**011-44-207-474-0766**  
*Killip Close, London, E161LX, England*

**St. Joseph Friary**  
**212-234-9089**  
*523 West 142 Street, New York, NY 10031*

**St. Leopold Friary**  
**914-965-8143**  
*259 Nepperhan Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10701*

**St. Michael Friary**  
**973-345-7082**  
*190 Butler Street Paterson, NJ 07524*

**St. Patrick Friary**  
**011-353-61-458-071**  
*64 Delmege Park, Moyross, Limerick City, Ireland*

**St. Pio Friary**  
**011-44-1274-721-989**  
*Sedgefield Terrace, Westgate, Bradford, BD12RU, England*

**San Juan Diego Friary**  
**505-764-3034**  
*820 Broadway Blvd. S.E., Albuquerque, NM 87102*

## YOUTH 2000 RETREATS - 2010

July 16 - 18 . . .Kellenberg H.S., Long Island, NY  
Sept. 24 - 26 . . . . .Staten Island, NY  
October 8 - 10 . . . . .North Little Rock, AR  
October 22 - 24 . . . . .Columbia, SC  
Nov. 12 - 14 . . . . .Oshkosh, WI  
Nov. 19 - 21 . . . . .Lombard, IL  
Nov. 19 - 21 . . . . .Bronx, NY

**For more information on Youth 2000, call 214-361-2581. For Youth 2000 retreats in the New York area, call 718-349-1157**

## CFR PARISH MISSIONS - 2010

Sept. 11 - 16 Church of the Transfiguration, Tarrytown, NY  
Oct. 16 - 21 St. Philip & James, St. James, NY  
Nov. 6 - 11 St. Mary’s-Stonyhill, Watchung, NJ  
Dec. 4 - 9 St. Mary’s, Nutley, NJ

**For more information, contact the mission office at 973-623-3307**

*For information on the Franciscan Sisters of the Renewal, contact:*

**Sr. Lucille Cutrone, CFR**  
**Convent of San Damiano**  
**1661 Haight Avenue, Bronx, NY 10461**  
**718-829-9466**

[www.franciscansisterscfr.com](http://www.franciscansisterscfr.com)



## FRIARS’ BOOKS, TAPES, AND MUSIC

**Fr. Benedict Groeschel, CFR**  
Spiritual Books  
Box 55, Larchmont, NY 10538  
[www.franciscanfriars.com](http://www.franciscanfriars.com)

**Fr. Andrew Apostoli, CFR**  
Delight of All Saints  
PO Box 111825, Naples, FL 34108  
(239) 390-2435  
[www.franciscanfriars.com](http://www.franciscanfriars.com)

**Fr. Stan Fortuna, CFR**  
Francesco Productions  
718-401-7349  
[www.francescoproductions.com](http://www.francescoproductions.com)

## ETC.

**Young men and women** interested in discerning their call to our way of life may contact Fr. Gabriel Mary at St. Joseph Friary at 212-281-4355 or Sr. Francis at Our Lady Queen of Angels Convent at 212-831-3322.

**Information about the life and apostolates** of the friars, and upcoming CFR events including the “Catholic Underground,” can be found on our website.

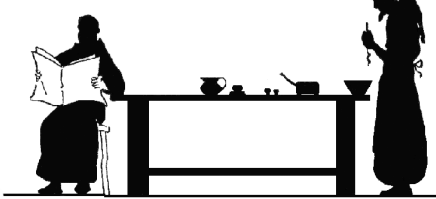
**Inspirational messages** written by the friars and sisters can be found by clicking on “e-letter” from the homepage: [www.franciscanfriars.com](http://www.franciscanfriars.com).

**Traditional and Contemporary Music by the friars:** Sacred Chant and Praise and Worship CD’s are available through Francesco Productions. [www.francescoproductions.com](http://www.francescoproductions.com)

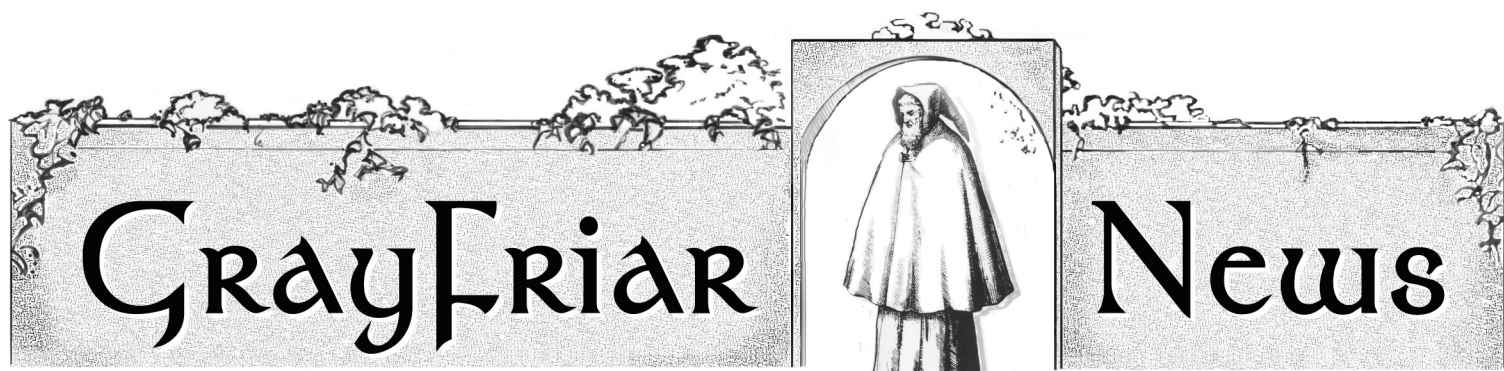
**Lay persons** who are interested in participating in the work and spirituality of the friars as a Lay Associate should contact Fr. Richard in the Bronx at 718-665-2441 or Fr. Glenn in Newark at 973-622-6622.

**The Friars and Sisters rely on donated cars** to get us where the Lord wants us to go. If you are thinking of passing along your car (tax-deductibly) and it isn’t yet terminally ill, please contact us at any friary or convent.

...awaiting your visit!



[www.franciscanfriars.com](http://www.franciscanfriars.com)



**Franciscan Friars of the Renewal**

**Issue 42, Summer 2010**

## A MOMENT TO REMEMBER

By Fr. Mariusz Casimir Koch, CFR

I am sure that it happens at every wedding - as the young bride and groom speak their marriage vows to each other and look not only into each others eyes but into the future - many more much older couples in the congregation are looking back over the years to their own wedding day and remembering what was in their hearts at the moment they exchanged their marriage vows and began a new life together!

And as they remember, I’m sure that they also reflect on the implications of their “yes” to each other - “the better and the worse,” the joys and the sorrows of a life, unknown to them on their wedding day!

There are moments given to us by God to remember and hope-fully to be filled with gratitude. A wedding ceremony can become a “mini-retreat,” a time to reflect on the goodness of God and His providential grace in our lives.

For the priests attending the May 15, 2010 ordinations of Fr. Charles, CFR, Fr. Albert, CFR, and Fr. Isaac, CFR, with their New York Dunwoodie Seminary classmates, this was as well a mini-retreat - a moment to remember, an opportunity to look back in time and to give thanks!

I shared with Fr. Isaac that I didn’t remember many details of my own ordination, now over 40 years ago - neither the music played, the hymns sung, the readings, nor even the weather! But two moments I remember as clearly as yesterday: one, lying prostrate on the cool marble floor of the sanctuary of Sacred Heart Cathedral in Newark, New Jersey, with my face

pressed against the back of my hands while hearing the choir invoke the intercession of the saints - pleading for their prayers and feeling my nothingness before God!



*Fr. Charles-Benoît Rêche, Fr. Isaac Spinharney and Fr. Albert Osewski celebrated their First Mass of Thanksgiving together in Yonkers, before being sent to different parts of the world.*

When I looked at these men lying on the floor of St. Patrick’s Cathedral, it was easy to know what was in their hearts.

The second moment I clearly remember was kneeling before Archbishop Boland as he pressed his hands on my head at the moment of ordination. As I stood and returned to my place in the sanctuary, my eyes swelled with tears of joy. “O my God,” I remember saying in my heart, “I am a priest!”

Saturday, May 15, 2010 was a most beautiful spring day in New

York City. The weather was perfect, the sky was blue and the joy in the congregation at St. Patrick’s Cathedral was electric! Archbishop Dolan presided at the ordination Mass with a combination of solemn dignity and playful joy. He looked like a proud dad at the wedding of his son! In fact, the young men about to be ordained were reminded by the archbishop in his powerful homily that they were called to give their lives to their bride - the Church. They were called to be a father, a loving spouse, to protect, to defend and to nourish.

I was especially moved when the priest who was Master of Ceremonies of the ordination Mass, came to me during the ceremony and asked, “Are you Fr. Mariusz?” Somewhat startled, I answered “yes” and then he said to me, “Follow me.” He led me across the large sanctuary, at the request of the archbishop, to stand at his side at the moment the young

*(continued in center)*





◀ What's cooking in Harlem? The Father Solanus Soup Kitchen is serving more than soup. It's not just the delicious food, but the peaceful, personable, and loving atmosphere that is drawing an increasing crowd to this new outreach of the CFR Sisters at Our Lady Queen of Angels Convent. Sr. Veronica Cowan and Heather Konklin (left), a postulant, are shown mixing it up with volunteers Denise and Kim. The sisters are grateful that their service of the poor and destitute is growing along with their Community.



◀ The first vows had quite an impact on the Community this year. 15 newly professed friars are now involved in the life and work of the friars in the New York and New Jersey area. Their first year in vows is a time of further formation in the CFR charism and learning the ropes in ministry. Fr. Mariusz received their vows and began the "embra-tio" of the newly professed which, thanks be to God, involves a longer procession of friars each year.



◀ It's not an earthquake scene, thank God, but another Franciscan "Repair My House" scene in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Fr. Leo Fisher and Br. Gerard Kanapes are shown contemplating the next step (or resting from their labors at least) in the future friary that they will be moving into shortly with our other friars in New Mexico. When the previous building they were living in had to be demolished, the Catholics in the Santa Fe diocese weren't about to let the friars move away. Clergy and lay faithful alike rallied to their aid in acquiring another building in a poor section of Albuquerque for the friars to live in and serve their neighbors.

► The friars' service of the poor usually involves a collaborative effort with many volunteers from near and far. This Grayfriar photo was taken at a food distribution in the Bronx. Behind Fr. Richard Roemer are (l-r) Joe Raab, a former resident of St. Anthony's Residence, Peter Vargas, from the neighborhood of St. Crispin Friary, and Michael Cavanagh, a Lay Associate from Manhattan. If you are interested in helping the Friars as a Lay Associate or volunteer, just call the friary nearest you (see the growing list on the back page.)



► Here's three famous New Yorkers - our truly Benevolent Ordinary, Archbishop Timothy Dolan (right), Police Commissioner Ray Kelly, and Br. Simon Dankoski, who invited them both to visit us at St. Anthony's Shelter for Renewal. Archbishop Dolan truly took the servant's role in the kitchen, appropriately with a red apron, and Commissioner Kelly spent a long time conversing with our homeless guests. A number of his NYPD officers - Jewish, Muslim, and Catholic - volunteer together on Monday nights at St. Anthony's.



► The Diocese of Matagalpa, Nicaragua, also showed their support of the friars as they celebrated the blessing and opening of Convento San Antonio. Fr. John Anthony Boughton, the local servant for this friary, offered his thanks to Bishop Jorge Solórzano Pérez and their new friends in Matagalpa. Convento San Antonio is Providentially located just outside the city, with the thought that it would be suitable for a novitiate house someday for Central American vocations, Dios le permite (God willing!).



◀ Who else in the world besides Barbara Torina would hold this humble but significant certificate of service? Barbara has been faithfully making holy gray habits for the friars since our Community began in 1987, sometimes assisted by our brothers. Saint Francis and the early Franciscans wore habits of un-dyed wool (and were therefore called "Greyfriars" in England for example). Later there was a shortage of wool and they changed to cotton cloth, the brown material that most Franciscans are known by today. Currently there are just under 130 CFR Friars, each with 2 habits. Considering that the habit is our full-time clothing, you can sense how well made and long-lasting they are, thanks to the loving attention Barbara has put into them!



◀ The new novitiate class has a look of joyful readiness on their investiture day. Fr. Glenn Sudano (l), their Novice Director, and Fr. Mariusz Koch (r), our Community Servant, were also rejoicing in the gift of each of these men to our community. The novitiate year is a time of deeper prayer and study and a testing of a young man's vocation to our way of life.



◀ The north of England has been doubly blessed with the friars in Bradford and the sisters in Leeds. This is the first mission for the CFR Sisters outside of New York, and they have often expressed how grateful they are for the support of the friars nearby. This photo (which is missing two of the sisters in Leeds) was taken in Medjugorje, a place that has inspired many religious vocations.