

Convento San Antonio
011-505-2-772-2757
Apartado 283
Matagalpa, Matagalpa
Nicaragua, CA

Convento San Serafin
011-504-2-772-7998
Colonia Francisco Morazan
Apartado 331
Comayagua, Honduras, 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 155th Street
Bronx, NY 10455

St. Columba Friary
011-44-2871-491-980
Fairview Road
Derry BT48 8NU
Northern Ireland

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

St. Fidelis Friary
011-44-20-7474-0766
Killip Close
London, E161LX, England

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

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

St. Mary Friary
180 South Street
Newburgh, NY 12550
(opening August, 2016)

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
Sedgfield Terrace
Westgate, Bradford, BD12RU
England

San Juan Diego Friary
505-990-3001
404 San Mateo Blvd., NE
Albuquerque, NM 87108

Are you interested in participating in our prayer and work as a lay associate? Contact a friary near you for more information.



The Friar's Sack

Dear Friends,

On behalf of all the CFR priests and brothers, I thank you very much for your generosity by sending donations and in-kind donations such as: coffee, clothing, etc...

We have two very urgent needs:

1. Good used cars. Many of our cars are from the 1990s or early 2000s with high mileage and in need of more expensive repairs. So please, if you are planning

to get a newer car, consider donating your car to us. The good Lord will bless you abundantly!

2. Building repairs. We have been using five buildings of the former St. Adalbert Parish in the South Bronx for 29 years. These buildings are owned by the Archdiocese of New York, and our agreement is that we pay no rent, but are responsible for all repairs, maintenance, utilities, and insurance.

We use these buildings for serving the poor and to live. The old school building is mainly used by St. Francis Youth Center. St. Anthony's Free Medical Clinic, Corazon Puro, CFR General Offices and dorm rooms take up other parts of the building.

The former rectory, St. Crispin Friary, and former convent, Our Lady of the Angels Friary, house the friars who take care of the merged St. Padre Pio and St. Anthony's Shelters, work in the Youth Center, CFR Office and the Free Clinic. St. Adalbert Church is used for community celebrations, ordinations and final vows, for a weekly Mass for the homeless, for Masses with the neighborhood youth etc. The last building is St. Anthony's Shelter for Renewal. It is a six story homeless shelter that has one floor for the volunteers (men discerning to join our community who work at the shelter); the other floors house the homeless. During a recent violent rain storm a part of the concrete patching an upper section of the Youth center came crashing down. Thank God no one was hurt.

Once we inspected all the buildings, professional engineers gave us an estimate for each building's exterior walls, roof repairs and/or church steeple. The total minimum cost to repair what is essentially necessary is close to \$1,500,000 (One million five hundred thousand dollars). Some funds are already available, but we need your help. Br. Peter has the engineer reports and a breakdown of costs for each building. For ways that you could help us visit our webpage, www.franciscanfriars.com/news-blogs/recent-news or contact Br. Peter directly at St. Crispin Friary: 718-665-2441 or at St. Anthony's Shelter: 718-993-5161.

Yours in Christ,
Br. John Joseph Brice, CFR

For books and music by the friars, including **Fr. Benedict Groeschel, Fr. Andrew Apostoli, Fr. Stan Fortuna, Fr. Solanus Benfatti, Fr. Jeremiah Shryock, Br. Isaiah Hofmann**, as well as Catholic Underground music, visit our website: franciscanfriars.com.

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

Mother Lucille Cutrone, CFR
Convent of San Damiano
1661 Haight Ave., Bronx, NY 10461
718-863-8040
Vocation line: 718-828-4104

www.franciscansisterscfr.com



St. Adalbert Church - \$964,850



Youth Center - \$337,560



St. Anthony Shelter - \$330,000



Join **Fr. Stan Fortuna** for his 11th annual Saint John Paul II pilgrimage Oct. 17- 31, 2016
\$3650 per person - double occupancy

Includes airfare (from JFK or LAX), airport transfers, lodging, tours, daily teachings & Mass by Fr. Stan, all breakfasts in Poland, and welcome meal in each city. (Single supplement \$500; Land Only \$2750pp) For more information: francescoproductions.com, email ficc333@gmail.com, or call (646) 255-9821.

Fr. Stan's new dvd, *SENT*, takes the viewer on the road with Fr. Stan to various events and provides insight into his passion for life, music, and the Gospel of Jesus and His Church. For more information: francescoproductions.com.



For Vocational Interest:

Fr. Emmanuel Mansford, CFR
St. Joseph Friary
vocation line: 212-281-4355
523 W. 142nd Street
New York, NY 10031

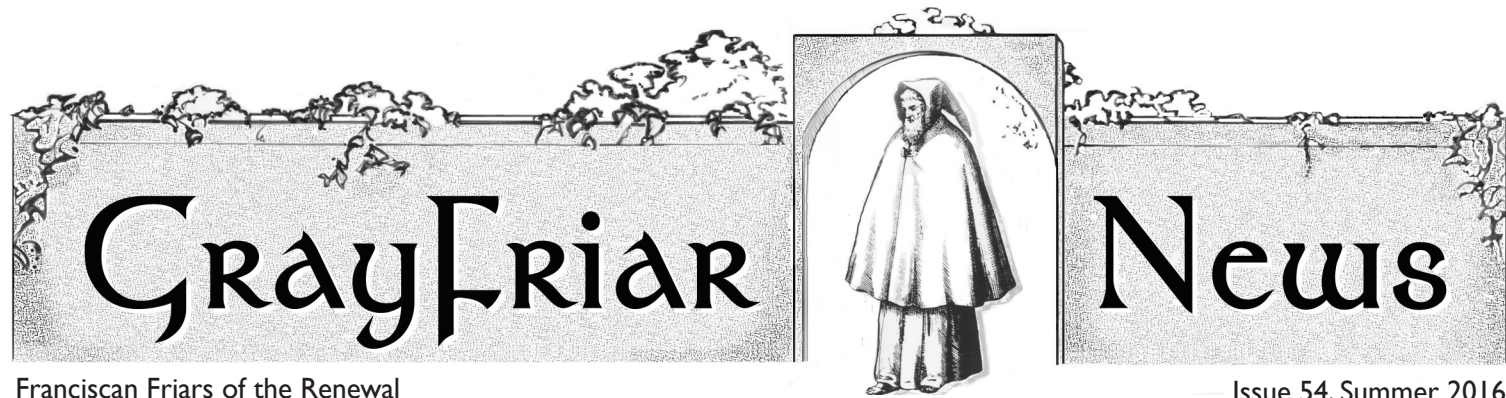
To Send Donations:

Br. John Joseph Brice, CFR
CFR Office
718-402-8255
PO Box 912
Bronx, NY 10455-0912

Community Servant (Superior)

Fr. John Paul Ouellette, CFR
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Bronx, NY 10455

www.franciscanfriars.com



Franciscan Friars of the Renewal

Issue 54, Summer 2016

Perspective of Mercy and Joy

By Fr. John Paul Ouellette, CFR

We can get caught up measuring the value of our apostolic works by the standards of efficiency, good management and outward success which govern the business world. Not that these things are unimportant! We have been entrusted with a great responsibility, and God's people rightly expect accountability from us. But the true worth of our apostolate is measured by the value it has in God's eyes. To see and evaluate things from God's perspective calls for constant conversion and for great humility. The cross shows us a different way of measuring success. Ours is to plant the seeds: God sees to the fruits of our labors. And if at times our efforts and works seem to fail and produce no fruit, we need to remember that we are followers of Jesus... and his life, humanly speaking, ended in failure, in the failure of the cross (Pope Francis to Religious).

From God's perspective one hidden act of repentance, one little gesture of selfless love, one moment of true forgiveness is all that is needed to bring God from his throne to run to his returning son and to fill the heavens with sounds of divine joy.

God rejoices when one repentant sinner returns - statistically that's not very interesting.

If this is God's way, and joy is a mark of the people of God, then I have a challenge on my hands;- allowing these single, small joys to reveal the truth about the world I live in. Jesus was very realistic, speaking of wars, revolutions, earthquakes, floods, plagues famine, persecutions, imprisonment, betrayal, hatred, assassinations, with no suggestion that these dark events will ever be absent from our present life. But God's joy can be ours in the midst of it all. Joy, a fruit of the spirit, can be seen on the faces of many simple poor and often suffering people. So many people, whether they lived long ago or in our own time, somehow have pierced the meaning of true Joy. They can hear the music and the dancing in our Father's house, "I rejoice over the return of one that was lost... was dead and is alive". To illustrate my point I quote from Fr. Juan Diego, CFR, the Chaplain to el Sistema Penitenciaria de Matagalpa:

On April 14, 2016, we celebrated the Mass of sacraments at the prison where I work. Thirty men received the sacraments of Christian initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, and first Holy Communion. One of our candidates was also married in the church, which meant at the end of the day he had received a total of 4 sacraments. The bishop of our diocese, Monseñor Rolando José Álvarez Lagos, presided at Mass and conferred the Sacraments. Prisoners, family, friends, godparents, and prison officials pushed the numbers of those in attendance beyond 250. It was a solemn and joyful occasion.

The Bishop used the opportunity to celebrate the Jubilee of Mercy for prisoners. To prep the men for their jubilee and for the plenary indulgence, I, along with 3 other priests, heard about 100 prisoner's confessions the previous day.

The prison runs on a fairly tight schedule. Taking care of the basic needs

of 1000 men with limited resources requires you to start and finish your activities on time. Yesterday all other activities were put on hold for the Mass- there was nothing rushed, each sacrament was conferred with dignity.

One of the men who was baptized looks like a thug - I mean, if I can say so, he has the face of a criminal. He is a big man with an angry, frightening countenance. As he received the sacraments, one after another, a transformation took place. Baptism, Confirmation, first Holy Communion, the grace, presence and encounter with the risen Lord wiped away his sins and freed him from his past. We, who were present, all commented how changed he looked, how joyful and childlike he had become.

The highlight of the day for me was the wedding. The bride lives 2 hours away in Managua. Her husband is locked up and she is struggling to put food on the table by working washing and ironing. We had to help her with bus fare so she could be present for the pre-matrimonial formation classes in the prison with her fiancé. Here in Nicaragua folks have to be civilly married before they are married in the church. Often people take the first step, and then put off, or never get around to the second. José and Mercedes had been together almost 25

years, but because he was neither catechized nor baptized they had never been married in the church. Well, all that changed.

Mercedes arrived the night before her wedding with 2 of her children and 2 grandchildren, to stay in guest rooms at the friary. The week before I underwent the harrowing ordeal of accompanying the bride-to-be and 2 other keen women as they shopped for a wedding dress and shoes. To be honest I didn't last 30 minutes. They came back hours later with a dress and shoes for under \$60.00 US (yes the decimal is in the right place). Benefactors rallied round Mercedes and José, providing food, clothing, flowers, a wedding cake, and a trip to the beauty salon for the bride. The bride and groom were elated.

It is impossible to foresee the challenges and blessings of God's will. I doubt that happy couple could have imagined their wedding day as it was. There they were, Jose - serving a 6 year sentence, his bride - a charwoman, bedecked in a splendor they could never have provided, being joined in holy matrimony by the bishop in a solemn Mass, in prison.

As the happy couple professed their vows, I looked out at the women prisoners in attendance. These women have lived lives marked by abuse and betrayal. As José and Mercedes exchanged their vows, the women prisoners were silently mouthing the words. Some had their eyes shut, trying to imagine, trying to live the moment vicariously, hoping that someday someone could love them like that.

Following the Mass a prisoner expressed enthusiastically his desire to be married in the Church. Let's hope a trend is forming. Another pulled me aside and said, "Father, I need to make a really good confession. I haven't been in years. I want to get right with God, and I want come back to Mass and bible class." Some days at work are better than others. Yesterday was a great day. ✠



Bishop Rolando José Álvarez Lagos presided over José and Mercedes' exchange of vows in el Sistema Penitenciaria de Matagalpa where Fr. Juan Diego serves as Chaplain.



Fr. Andrew Apostoli represented our community at Mother Angelica's funeral Mass. Fr. Andrew, with Fr. Benedict,

was a faithful supporter of Mother's work establishing the Eternal Word Television Network. May she rest in Peace.



On a pilgrimage to Lourdes with the American Special Children's Pilgrimage Group over Easter week, Br. Angelus is hanging out at Lunch with his buddies from New Jersey. It was the fourth year that Friars have attended the week-long trip with pilgrims and helpers from all over New Jersey and New York.



Each year on Good Friday, the friars remember Our Lord's passion by re-enacting the Way of the Cross from St. Joseph Friary in Harlem to St. Crispin Friary in the South Bronx. Here Br. Benjamin takes his turn carrying the cross as Frs. Sebastian and Francis Mary follow leading the prayers.



This Easter Abraham was received into the Church with the sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation. Abraham is a resident at St. Anthony's Shelter for

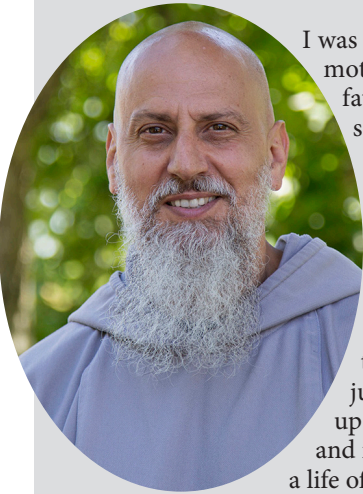
Renewal, an apostolate of St. Crispin Friary where Fr. Louis and Br. Innocent currently serve. Janet Torcia, a friend and volunteer at the shelter, was honored to be the godmother.



Outside of St. Michael Friary Br. Gerard offers material and spiritual aid to their neighbors in Paterson, New Jersey in keeping with the Holy Father's Year of Mercy.



Fr. Luke Mary Fletcher (with college household brother Martin Doman) always wanted to walk on the water during the deep of winter!" A pilgrimage to the Holy Land is a grace-filled encounter with the roots of our faith. Known as the "Fifth Gospel", the Holy Land experience brings the Bible to life.



I was born in Newark, NJ to a saintly mother and a strong, disciplinarian father who raised me and my 5 siblings to be respectful, hard working, responsible and successful. I began playing piano at age 5 and at age 9 started playing the saxophone after asking mom what instrument she liked. I always loved my mom and wanted to please her. I remember when I was an altar boy telling her I wanted to be a priest just to make her happy. Then I grew up! In high school I discovered sports and immorality, and began to nurture a life of vanity and pleasure. Body image became a central focus of my life and immoral behavior was somehow acceptable in the "right" circles. I still remember the first time I cursed while walking with my friends to football practice in eleventh grade feeling all-powerful in my football uniform and entering into the arena of "real manhood."

I excelled in whatever I attempted. My music skills, weight lifting abilities and my immoral behavior all flourished and began to define who I was. Knowing little of the faith, I began to stray from the Church, not rejecting its tenets, but finding it useless and unnecessary. In college, I found a new freedom to "study" the culture and perfect this new lifestyle. My god became pleasure.

A successful NYC business career enabled me to perfect my vices and eventually "retire" at age 32, providing an opportunity to pursue my true desire: a music career. Practice and partying were my life. Selfish pursuit of pleasure was my daily bread.

At this time, Mom had been introduced to the apparitions of Medjugorje and suggested I go on pilgrimage "to know God's will for my life". She was out of touch, so I thought; didn't she know I was living the dream? However, her persistence, my love for her, and an opportunity to party in Rome gave reason to submit to her wishes.

Jesus must have been satisfied with that, because on the third day of the pilgrimage, through a message he gave to a locutionist, he answered a question in my mind that only he and I knew. I experienced an instant conversion as the old me died and a new creature was born. Our Lady plucked me from hell! I fell in love with Jesus who knew my every thought, and I desired to know everything about him! I had my second confession soon after and began to live an authentic Catholic life. Mass, adoration, rosary, regular confession, and prayer meetings became my routine. I began to live for others and through a business venture began a street ministry in Newark, NJ for the next 7 years. In 1995, I met the friars at a parish mission and was attracted to their Franciscan lifestyle. I befriended them, playing music and entering into ministry with them. After a 7 year search for a wife, the Lord called me to don the habit. When I entered the community on September 8, 2001, I felt at home for the first time. I have since had the privilege of serving the poor in our neighborhoods with my brothers and in the heart of the Church.

Thank you Jesus, Mary, St. Francis and our founding CFR fathers!

Fr. Louis Marie Leonelli, CFR



Annually the friars pass a week together on a preached retreat. Fr. Christopher, Fr. Conrad, Br. John Ogilvie and Fr. Gabriel Joseph spent theirs at Ards retreat house in County Donegal (also pictured in the background).



After five hours in the truck and the rest on horseback, Fr. Augustine and some Corazón Puro Nica Missionaries finally arrived at a remote village in Nicaragua countryside to celebrate Mass on the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.