

# Graymoor Today

News from the Franciscan Friars of the Atonement

**Inside:**

**Fr. Paul of Graymoor  
Cause for Sainthood Opens**

**Extraordinary Jubilee  
Year of Mercy**

**A Friar Reflects:  
Pope Francis Asked a Favor**



# Glad Tidings with Fr. Bob

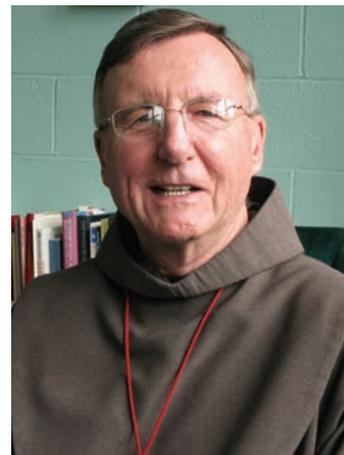
by Fr. Bob Warren, SA

**O**ur Holy Father Pope Francis has repeatedly preached about God's mercy and proclaims that every person can find a place in God's loving heart. Nothing exemplifies this more than the Christmas Story that we think we know so well.

To begin with, take the shepherds. They were looked down upon. They were considered the dregs of society by the culture of the day. On the whole, the shepherds were seen as conniving and the lowest of the low. Then we have the Magi, wise men of sort. They too would be ostracized. They were not people of the covenant. They were outsiders and not to be trusted. So, the first people invited to the stable were those whom the culture of the day rejected.

But Jesus didn't reject them. It shows us that Christ founded a Church for the outcast, not a church that casts out people. What is Christ's Christmas message? Simply this—be you a saint or a sinner, you belong in the stable. Be you rich or poor, you belong in the stable. Christ did not come to earth to exclude anyone. His arms reach out to all who turn to Him. Whoever we are or whatever we have done in the past, He reaches out to us with His love, compassion and mercy.

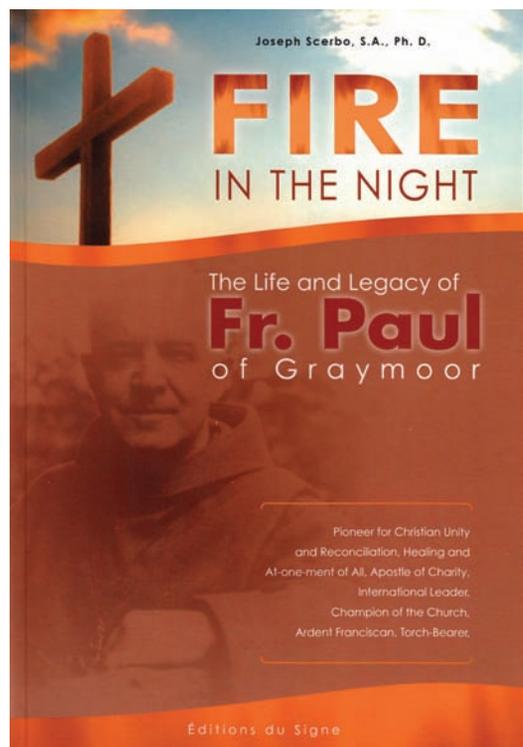
And that is **Glad Tidings**.



*Pray with Fr. Bob—[AtonementFriars.org/Pray](http://AtonementFriars.org/Pray)*

## Who is Fr. Paul of Graymoor?

*Why is he on the path to canonization?*



*Fire in the Night: The Life and Legacy of Father Paul of Graymoor* offers a biographical sketch of Servant of God Father Paul Wattson, SA, and includes words from his writings and photos of the history of his efforts as a pioneer for Christian unity and apostle of charity. As founder of the Franciscan Friars of the Atonement, his whole purpose was to work and pray for the realization of Christ's prayer at the Last Supper: "That they all may be one: as thou, Father art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us..." (John 17:21)

The late Rev. Joseph Scerbo, SA wrote this introductory book about the life of Fr. Paul in honor of his 150th birthday. This book pulls together the key moments of the life and legacy of Father Paul Wattson, a person with a broad vision and influence. Be inspired by his call to holiness, and his response to God's grace.

**You can order online at [GraymoorBooks.org](http://GraymoorBooks.org) or place your order by phone by calling (888) 720-8247.**

# Cause for Canonization of Servant of God Fr. Paul of Graymoor

**T**imothy Cardinal Dolan of the Archdiocese of New York formally opened the Cause for Canonization of Servant of God Father Paul of Graymoor on Tuesday, September 22, 2015 in New York City. The Rev. Paul Wattson, SA, (1863-1940) was founder of the Franciscan Friars of the Atonement and a champion of Christian unity and helping the poor.

The Cardinal issued a decree initiating the Cause for Canonization of Fr. Paul of Graymoor and named the various officials who will carry out the historical research, theological evaluation and the search for those who can testify to Father Paul's reputation for holiness through his life, virtue and work. These individuals swear an oath of intention to faithfully fulfill their duties according to the current norms of the Church. They will periodically meet with officials of the Cause at the Chancery where progress reports will be made and future directions for the investigation will be determined. When the work is completed, the results will be presented to the Cardinal for his judgment, and there will be a formal closing ceremony of the diocesan process of the Cause. There is no time frame for the completion of this project but ordinarily such investigations take one or two years as a minimum. Once completed, the Archdiocese will forward their findings to the Congregation for the Causes of Saints in Rome where the second phase, often called the "Roman" phase, will take place.

Father Paul's tireless efforts toward Christian unity, support of missionary activities and benevolent care for homeless men at St. Christopher's Inn evidenced the Holy Spirit at work through him. The eight days of prayer he called the Church Unity Octave grew into the world-wide Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and dialogue with Jews and Muslims. He actively raised funds for missions that serve the poor around the world and co-founded the Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA) and the Catholic Medical Mission Board (CMMB). Fr. Paul accepted that God was calling him to something very difficult, and he accepted this joyfully. He put himself in God's hands and followed His will.



The formal opening of the Cause grants the way for the Fr. Paul of Graymoor Guild to be established. The Guild will grant spiritual benefits to those who wish to keep Fr. Paul's memory alive as an example for the faithful. **Cards with the official prayer for the Canonization of Fr. Paul of Graymoor are available by writing to Fr. Paul of Graymoor Guild, PO Box 300, Garrison, NY 10589, or by completing a request form at [AtonementFriars.org/FrPaulCause](http://AtonementFriars.org/FrPaulCause).**



*"Oh, let us surrender ourselves to God today for this great sanctification."*

(Fr. Paul of Graymoor, 1930)

Rev. Lewis T. Wattson, SA,  
(Fr. Paul) 1863-1940

# LOVE IS OUR MISSION

## Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy

December 8, 2015 - November 16, 2016

*Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Psalm 51:1*

The theme of Pope Francis' historic visit to the United States was "Love is Our Mission." His declaration that the coming year would be declared an Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy has been in the news. His message to promote dialogue amid conflict, action in the face of inertia and hope in the face of despair reached Catholics and people of other faiths. Pope Francis has said, "I have asked the Church in this Jubilee Year to rediscover the richness encompassed by the spiritual and corporal works of mercy. The experience of mercy, indeed, becomes visible in the witness of concrete signs as Jesus himself taught us. Each time that one of the faithful personally performs one or more of these actions, he or she shall surely obtain the Jubilee Indulgence."

"It is indeed my wish that the Jubilee be a living experience of the closeness of the Father, whose tenderness is almost tangible, so that the faith of every believer may be strengthened and thus testimony to it be ever more effective."

During the blessed year, the Jubilee Indulgence will be granted in Rome's basilicas and in sanctuaries and the cathedrals of the various dioceses, but also in all prison chapels around the world and specially designated pilgrimage sites. The Franciscan Friars of the Atonement will be holding events throughout the year to focus on bringing mercy and atonement to the world. The Jubilee Year of Mercy is not just about personal absolution from our own sins, but is a way to discover the grace and beauty

of our faith's spiritual and corporal acts of mercy by practicing them each day.



Graymoor hopes to be identified as a pilgrimage site by the Archdiocese of NY. Visitors who come to Graymoor to pray, attend Mass or participate with the Friars in spiritual activities such as the Stations of the Cross may receive a Jubilee Indulgence. With Graymoor's special connection to reconciliation, healing and atonement, the Friars and Sisters of Graymoor invite all to share in this Jubilee Year of Mercy, through pilgrimage, and participation in the sacraments of reconciliation and Mass, retreats and prayer services at Graymoor.

During this Year of Mercy, there are ways we can focus on God's loving mercy. The Corporal Works of Mercy are acts of kindness that can help others with physical and material needs, whether you are spending time at a food bank or community garden to feed the hungry or help the homeless; donating your gently used clothing to Graymoor's thrift store or your local parish shop; supporting a ministry that visits prisoners or attending a wake and bringing a Mass card and praying for the deceased. There are many ways that our faith gives us to bring mercy to the world that needs healing.

Let's not forget our call for performing Spiritual Works of Mercy as well, those gentle acts of kindness that allow us to try to help others with their spiritual and emotional needs. We conduct spiritual works of mercy by instructing others about our Catholic faith, sharing our skills and insights about our faith with others, advising them and faithfully living the values of

the Gospel and intervening in situations where people are clearly harming themselves or others. Other Spiritual Works of Mercy can be setting a good example — responding positively when presented with a negative or prejudicial remark, refusing to spread gossip, consoling those who are hurt or grieving, and avoiding cynicism by spreading hope. You can experience spiritual works of mercy by forgiving and praying for those who have wronged you, asking others to forgive you and letting go of grudges.

The Jubilee Year of Mercy reminds us to be *Merciful Like the Father* and to bring Mercy and At-One-Ment to our homes, our work and our world. You can join the Friars at Graymoor for activities throughout the year, participate in a Franciscan Pilgrimage to Rome, Assisi and Padua, and visit our Facebook page for reflections on Mercy. Visit [AtonementFriars.org/YearofMercy](http://AtonementFriars.org/YearofMercy) for more information and updates.

## The Franciscan Friars of the Atonement invite you to participate in a Pilgrimage to Italy for the *Jubilee Year of Mercy* from May 13, 2016 to May 22, 2016.



Attend daily Mass in some of Italy's most special holy places, including **Rome, Assisi and Padua**, and receive a Papal Blessing. This trip includes airfare from New York, first class accommodations for 8 nights, sight-seeing with a bilingual guide on private motor coach. Daily breakfast buffet and most meals are included (based on itinerary). Per person cost, excluding tax and fuel surcharge is \$2890.

The theme of the Jubilee Year of Mercy is *Merciful like the Father*. Pope Francis has said, "We are all sinners, but God heals us with an abundance of grace, mercy, and tenderness....Let the Church always be a place of mercy and hope, where everyone is welcomed, loved, and forgiven." Through this special pilgrimage to Italy, so rich in our Christian and Franciscan roots, we can experience the hope of God's mercy as the early faithful and the saints did, revitalize our faith and prepare for the New Evangelization, to go forth to live and proclaim the mercy of the Gospel.

For more information: 1800-304-8259 or 703-430-0030, email: [info@rengp.com](mailto:info@rengp.com)

**To secure your reservation, complete form and send with \$300 deposit to:**

**Renaissance Group, 20897 Planetree Forest Court, Potomac Falls, VA, 20165**

### Franciscan Pilgrimage for Holy Year of Mercy

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(last, first, middle)

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone/fax \_\_\_\_\_

Roommate \_\_\_\_\_

# A Friar Reflects: Pope Francis Asked a Favor

by Rev. Wilfred Tyrrell, SA

On the Feast of St. John the Baptist, June 24, 2015, a group of 50 Buddhists and Catholics from the USA had the privilege to meet Pope Francis in a private audience in Rome. For many, if not all, it was a once in a life time event. I was selected to travel to Rome, Italy, as a member of the New York Catholic cohort invited by the US Catholic Conference of Bishops Secretariat for Ecumenical and Interreligious Dialogue in Washington, DC and the Pontifical Council on Interreligious Dialogue (Vatican). At the week-long conference at the Mariapoli Centre of Focolare in Castel Gandolfo, the summer residence of the popes, Buddhists and Catholics from five US cities — New York, Washington, DC, Chicago, San Francisco and Los Angeles — gathered. Together we prayed, held discussions, gave presentations, shared meditations and fellowship.

In 2002 to 2004 while working as the Director for the Archdiocese of New York's Office of Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations, I began the first ever Buddhist-Catholic and Hindu-Catholic Dialogues in NY. The Buddhist-Catholic Dialogue lasted about four years, and the Hindu-Catholic lasted almost two years. I met some wonderful religious partners and have many as colleagues today. The theme of the conference in Rome was, *Suffering, Liberation, and Fraternity*. Participants addressed these from their particular religious traditions with the "dialogue of social action or collaboration" as its end goal and purpose. This was the first gathering of Buddhists and Catholics that focused on the "dialogue of collaboration" in social action. As part of the panel *Liberation from Relational Suffering between Persons*, I presented a paper on *Catholic moral teachings and spiritual practices for human relations: Catholic Practices for Healing, Reconciliation and Peace*. The panel consisted of another Catholic and three Buddhists. We were all challenged to return to our respective cities and houses of worship and begin concrete steps to alleviate human suffering as partners in cooperative projects.

It was wonderful to meet new peers involved in interreligious activities and dialogue throughout the U.S. Much dialogue has begun and cooperative projects are under way. I met the Abbot and his assistant from Chuang Yen Monastery of Carmel, NY, the Ven. Dr. Dhammadipa (Fa Yao) and Ven. Sagaranda Tien, neighbors of the Friars at

Graymoor in nearby Garrison, with whom the Friars have had a long standing relationship.

Meeting Pope Francis was surreal! We read about him almost every day in the secular papers. Even *National Geographic* has him on the cover of their latest issue. I watched the coverage of the Pope's visits to Cuba and the United States and was invited to the Interfaith Service at the Sept. 11 National Memorial in NYC when Pope Francis visited NYC. But nothing compares to shaking hands with the Pope and speaking with Pope Francis face to face. It is a pure gift. We waited about 20 minutes for the Pope in the private audience room, and then it became very quiet and in walked Pope Francis. He was beaming with a smile as he entered. He saw my Franciscan habit and began walking toward me and then his secretary ushered him to his chair. Looking into his eyes and speaking to him in Spanish, Pope Francis' native tongue, was a dream come true. I thought that I was having an out-of-the-body experience when all of a sudden Pope Francis' spoke his parting words to me in English: "Pray for me, Brother." I pray for Pope Francis and his leadership every day. The Church and world need him more than ever.



**Fr. Wil Tyrrell, SA, was elected as the Region II New York State CADEIO (Catholic Association of Diocesan Ecumenical and Interreligious Officers) representative last April 2014 at the National Workshop on Christian Unity (NWCU) in Charleston, NC. At this workshop each year the Friars of the Atonement's Graymoor Ecumenical & Interreligious Institute (GEII) in New York hosts a popular morning breakfast that highlights the Friars' ministry and also serves as a time for networking with Christians of all denominations. CADEIO reports directly to the US Catholic Bishops and their Secretariat on Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations in Washington DC. Fr. Tyrrell is director of the Duchesne Center for Religion & Social Justice at Manhattanville College and teaches in the World Religions Department. He marked his 25th year as a Franciscan Friar of the Atonement in June 2015.**

# Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

January 18 - 25, 2016

The traditional period in the northern hemisphere for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is January 18-25. Those dates were proposed in 1908 by Servant of God Fr. Paul Wattson, SA, Founder of the Society of the Atonement, to cover the original days of the feasts of the Chair of St. Peter (January 18) and the Conversion of St. Paul (January 25) and was celebrated as the Church Unity Octave here at Graymoor, the year before the Franciscan Friars of the Atonement were received into the Catholic Church.

The relationship between baptism and proclamation, and the calling shared by all the baptized to *proclaim the mighty acts* of the Lord was inspired by two verses from the First Letter of St. Peter. This calling forms the theme of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity for 2016. St. Peter tells the early Church that in their search for meaning prior to encountering the Gospel, they were *not a people*. Through hearing the call to be God's *chosen race* and receiving the power of God's salvation in Jesus Christ, they have become *God's people*. Baptism opens up an exciting new journey of faith, uniting each new Christian with God's people throughout the ages. In the shared sacred texts of the Bible, we hear of God's saving acts in salvation history: leading his people out of slavery in Egypt, and *the great mighty act* of God: the raising of Jesus from the dead, which opened new life to all of us. As Christians seeking the unity of the Body of Christ, we are all called to recognize the *mighty acts* of God in our own lives and the life of the Church.

The initial work on the theme for this year's Week of Prayer material was prepared by

a group of representatives from Christian churches in different parts of Latvia. The texts were finalized during a meeting of the International Committee of the Faith and Order Commission of the World Council of Churches and the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity.

For more information about the 2016 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and to purchase materials through the Graymoor Interreligious & Ecumenical Institute (GEII) for your church's use, visit [GEII.org](http://GEII.org), a ministry of the Franciscan Friars of the Atonement.

Called to  
Proclaim the  
Mighty Acts  
of the Lord

(cf. 1 Peter 2:9)

**Ways you can pray for Christian Unity:**

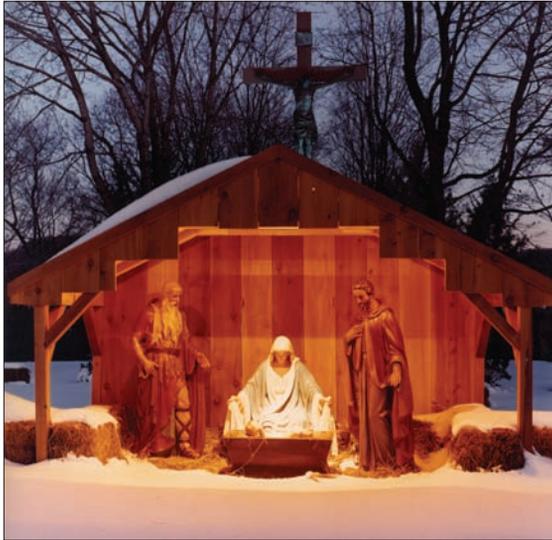
- Pray together and promote the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in your church.
- Reflect on what gifts we might receive from other Christian communities.
- Encounter people from other communities, brothers and sisters in Christ, through Christian fellowship, shared meals and common prayer.
- Think about what we receive from other Christians so that Jesus' joy may be in us, making us witnesses of the Good News

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 2016

# Graymoor Spiritual Life Center

## Graymoor: For a Special Advent, Christmas and New Year's

Have you ever wondered how Christians around the world imagine the nativity of Jesus? Each year, the Friars display their collection of 100 crèches, started by the late Fr. Joseph Egan, SA, as a holiday tradition. Most of the display is on the 5th floor of the Pius X Building and open for the enjoyment of the public during Advent until the Epiphany. For more information [AtonementFriars.org/Creche](http://AtonementFriars.org/Creche)



With the secularization and commercialization of Christmas, this year might be the time to pause and reflect with the Friars during a *Christmas at Graymoor* overnight retreat, a *Christmas Eve Mini Retreat* with a festive dinner and Mass in the Night, or find closure for the old year and hope for the new at the New Year on the Mountain Retreat or the *New Year's Eve Mini Retreat* which includes First Vespers, a festive dinner and concludes with the First Mass of the New Year. All are always welcome to come to the Holy Mountain for 11am Mass at Our Lady of the Atonement Chapel on Sundays during Advent and Christmas. For details, call the Graymoor Spiritual Life Center at (845) 424-2111 or email [GSLC@AtonementFriars.org](mailto:GSLC@AtonementFriars.org).

To see the complete schedule of holiday season activities and upcoming retreats, visit [GraymoorCenter.org/Retreats](http://GraymoorCenter.org/Retreats)

## St. Christopher's Inn

At St. Christopher's Inn we stay in touch with our graduates to learn what happens to them after they complete their program here. Each year on the first Saturday in August, we host an Alumni Picnic, inviting all Brothers Christopher for a day of Mass, Food, Games and Fellowship, and each year, hundreds of men return, many with their families. These men are so excited to see the Friars, staff, and fellow Brothers Christopher who helped them to find hope in recovery, and we celebrate our collective success together. During the day, we gather information from our graduates, and we proudly report the following:

- 93% of those we stayed in touch with were still clean one month later – 380 people out of a 410 graduates.
- 95% of those who completed treatment were still clean and sober three months later – 212 people out of 224 graduates.
- Continued sobriety is our ultimate goal, and we are inspired by the high percentage of men who remain clean after graduation.

- 88% of those we served and who completed treatment at the Inn were engaged in treatment elsewhere one month after discharge- 362 people out of 410 graduates.
- 80% of those we served were either in treatment or graduated from treatment after completing the Inn's program three months after discharge – 179 people out of 224 graduates.

These rates of success are among the highest in our field, and we are proud to be a part of a new life for so many men who had almost lost hope!



# Bell Tower Notes

## Ecumenical Trends Awarded Honorable Mention

The Catholic Press Association has presented a 2015 honorable mention award to **Ecumenical Trends** for Best Essay originating with a magazine or newsletter in a professional and special interest magazine. **Ecumenical Trends** is a journal published by the Graymoor Ecumenical & Interreligious Institute (GEII), a ministry of the Franciscan Friars of the Atonement. The article, written by David Carter, was entitled "Some Ecumenical Implications of *Evangelii Gaudium*." Mr. Carter is a frequent contributor to **Ecumenical Trends** and is a church historian and has been a member of the British Catholic-Methodist dialogue and the Roman Catholic-World Methodist Council dialogue.



## Minister General Elected to Lead Conference of Major Superiors of Men

The V. Rev. Brian F. Terry, SA, Minister General of the Franciscan Friars of the Atonement, was elected President-Elect of the Conference of Major Superiors of Men (CMSM) at their annual assembly held from August 5–8, 2015, in Charlotte, North Carolina. The leaders of the CMSM represent more than 17,000 Catholic religious brothers and priests in the United States. He will serve as President-Elect for one year and following that, will serve two years as the President of the Conference.

## First Annual Day of Prayer for Creation

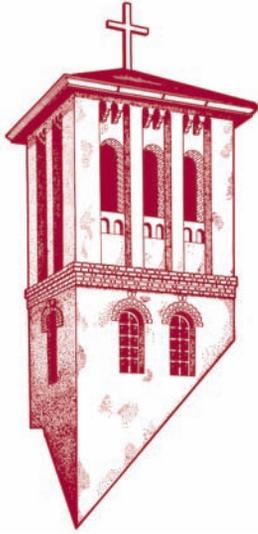
Rev. James Gardiner, SA, was one of four presenters at "An Interfaith Liturgy for the Care of God's Creation," on September 1, the day Pope Francis declared the First Annual Day of Prayer for Creation at the Shiloh Baptist Church, Fredericksburg, VA.



## Iron Friar Completes 20th Triathlon

The Rev. Daniel Callahan, SA, 4th Councilor for the Friars and Pastor at St. Joan of Arc Church in Toronto celebrated Mass at Lake Placid's St. Agnes Church on July 25 for participants in the race. After racing in the Men's category of 60-64 years of age on July 26, and finishing 2.5 mile swim in 1 hour, 22 minutes, a 110 mile bike ride in 5 hours 30 minutes and a 26.5 marathon in 5 hours 39 minutes, Father Callahan, a Buffalo, NY native, registered for the 2016 Ironman Race the following day.

# Year End Giving



At this time of year, we celebrate with gratitude. We share our gifts with family and friends, and in this Jubilee Year of Mercy, we are thinking of ways to help others as we spread the love of God. With careful planning, your year-end

charitable gifts can have a greater impact on others and can also help to reduce your overall tax bill.

## Some considerations if you're thinking of giving:

### Cash

- Transactions sent by December 31 this year qualify for charitable deductions when you file in 2016.
- Itemizing deductions may help reduce or eliminate some income tax on up to ½ your adjusted gross income.
- Depending on where you live, you might also enjoy state income tax savings.

### Securities

- Gifts of stocks, bonds or mutual fund shares

may yield added tax savings if they are worth more at the time of transfer than their original cost.

- If you have owned the securities longer than one year, they are usually deductible at their present day value.

### Devalued Investments

- For investments worth less than what you paid, you can sell them then make a charitable gift with the proceeds.
- This creates a loss that may be deductible from other taxable income, and then again as a charitable gift, possibly giving you a combined deduction that could total more than your investment's current value.

### Gifts from Retirement Plans

- Making a charitable gift of assets accumulated in your retirement plan can be a practical way to support an organization or cause.
- After the age of 70½ you are required to make withdrawals from IRAs and other qualified plans. Making a gift of a portion or all of your withdrawal can help you help others.

### Life Insurance Gifts

- If you have a life insurance policy you no longer need, you may be able to donate its cash value then claim a deduction.
- Life insurance gifts might provide future estate tax savings for your heirs.

#### Yes, I would like more information on Year End Giving

##### Check all that apply:

- Cash  Securities  Devalued Investments
- Gifts from Retirement Plans  Life Insurance Gifts
- Charitable Annuity Gift  Bequest in my Will

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Area Code/Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

#### Clip and mail for more information:

Fr. Emil Tomaskovic, SA  
Franciscan Friars of the Atonement  
Graymoor, PO Box 301  
Garrison, NY 10524  
(800) 338-2620, ext. 2137

# 22nd Annual Sharing Hope Dinner

**O**n Friday, October 2nd, 2015, the Franciscan Friars of the Atonement hosted the 22nd Annual Sharing Hope Celebration Dinner, a fundraiser to support their mission and global ministries, at the Pierre Hotel in New York City. This dinner honors those who exemplify the Friars' charism of unity and at-one-ment and who demonstrate the Franciscan spirit in their lives, serving humanity through their commitment of time, talents and resources. Mrs. Valerie Mastronardi served as co-chair of the dinner along with best-selling author Mary Higgins Clark, who also emceed the evening which was enjoyed by hundreds of supporters of the friars' ministries.

**Goya Foods** was honored with *The Graymoor Sharing Hope Award* for being a positive example of how corporations can be caring, compassionate, and connected to the world around them.

**John D. Feerick, Esq.** was given *The Graymoor Award* for his life of public service dedicated to helping the underprivileged, dealing with family homelessness, and for his work at Fordham Law School's Feerick Center for Social Justice.

**Michael and Karen Duggan** received *The Graymoor Community Service Award* for their dedication in helping "throw-away kids." Partners together in social work, Michael and Karen serve at Domus, a multiservice nonprofit in Stamford, Connecticut, where Michael has been executive director since 1991.



*Sharing Hope Dinner Honorees Left to right: Robert Unanue, President, Goya Foods Inc; John D. and Emalie Feerick; V. Rev. Brian F. Terry, Minister General; Karen and Michael Duggan of Domus Kids.*

## SAVE THE DATE

### Florida Benefactor Appreciation Days

February 16, 2016 – The Bethany Center, Lutz, Florida

February 18, 2016 – Hilton Naples, Naples, Florida

February 22, 2016 – Morning Star Renewal Center, Pinecrest, Florida

February 23, 2016 – Our Lady of Florida Spiritual Center, Florida

For More Information: (845) 424-2137

