



GRAYMOOR TODAY

Newsletter of the Franciscan Friars of the Atonement

Father Paul's Lenten Vision ~ GRAYMOOR'S STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Easter, said Father Paul, the founder of the Franciscan Friars of the Atonement, is the time to “celebrate triumphantly the victory of Christ over death.” Recognizing that this victory is preceded by Christ’s way of the cross, he envisioned Stations of the Cross stretching from the bottom of the *Holy Mountain* to its top, where they would culminate in a ‘Church of the Atonement.’ This would be in keeping with Franciscan tradition, for it is believed that the first Stations of the Cross began with St. Francis of Assisi.

As it became difficult for Christian pilgrims to visit the Holy Land, medieval Franciscans developed it into a devotion that is now one of the most popular among Catholics and others. Placed inside a church or outdoors, the Stations enable the faithful to recreate Christ’s footsteps to Calvary as they stop to pray and meditate at each location.

Fr. Paul’s dream was realized partially after his death. In 1946, the Rev. Francis Gosgrove, pastor of St. Mary’s Church in Williamstown, NJ, contributed both money and labor to erect a Crucifixion scene at Graymoor’s most conspicuous spot: its entrance. Here thou-



michael diprima

sands of cars pass by every day on what is now Route 9 between New York City and Albany.

The present crucifix stands 15–feet high with a 300–pound cross made of Southern Yellow Pine and a corpus of fiberglass. “A Prayer before the Crucifix” is engraved on a bronze plaque at its foot; on a smaller plaque are the words uttered by the doubting Apostle Thomas when he encountered the risen Christ: “My God and my all.” The crucifix is in perfect accord with Fr. Paul’s vision that the site should “preach Christ Crucified and the love of the Sacred Heart to countless thousands who pass by day after day.”

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GLAD TIDINGS

by Fr. Bob Warren, SA

*Praise be to the God
and Father of our Lord
Jesus Christ! In his great mercy
he has given us new birth into a
living hope through the resurrection
of Jesus Christ from the dead, and
into an inheritance that can
never perish, spoil or fade—
kept in heaven for you*
I Peter 1: 3-4



Over the past few months we have been watching the horrors of the earthquake in Haiti. At times it seemed as if the streets of Port-Au-Prince were a battlefield rather than a city.

We are all aware of the sad history of this poor island nation. It has experienced one disaster after another from tropical storms and hurricanes to economic and political turmoil.

It might seem to many of us that the people of Haiti live in a perpetual Good Friday with no hope for the future. But, they do not. Every year at Graymoor thousands of Haitian immigrants flock to this *Holy Mountain* to honor St. Anthony. Many walk up the steep hill to the chapel.

Haiti will experience a resurrection partly because of the generosity of so many nations and countless individuals, but mainly because of the courage and tenacity of its people. They are a people who have received one of God's greatest gifts—a strong and vibrant faith. A faith that is based in our resurrected Lord who conquers death and misery and offers all of us hope.

Easter reminds us that the Resurrection of Christ is a unique sign that this world, as well as the world to come is filled with new beginnings.

And that is ***Glad Tidings.***

FRIAR VOCATIONS

by Br. John O'Hara, SA,
Vocation Director

The friars' 2010 Rome/Assisi Easter Week *Discernment* retreat will begin with a visit to St. Peter's Square in Rome.

Ten men from five countries will join the Vocation Team in Europe for three days in Rome and then participate in Holy Week in Assisi until Easter Monday.

All of the men are in the application process for admittance to the vocation program and have been in contact with the community for several years.

The North American Vocation Team held a *Come and See* retreat at Graymoor from March 5 through 7.

The next *Come and See* will be in Toronto, Canada on April 24 and 25.

The retreats are designed to reveal to both the men and the friars whether continuing the application process is appropriate.

**For information about future retreats
call our vocation department at 800-338-2620, ext. 2126 or visit
www.AtonementFriars.org/Vocations**



Br. John O'Hara, SA

Friars in Europe: (from left) **Fr. Brian Terry, SA; Br. Joe O'Gara SA; Br. Gregory Lucrezia, SA; and Fr. Ed Boes, SA.**

PROFESSION IN ASSISI



On January 18, **Br. Deogratias Musabingo, SA**, professed vows at the Cathedral of San Rufino in Assisi. **V. Rev. James F. Puglisi, SA**, Minister General, presided. The ceremony took place one year after Br. Deogratias entered the friars' novitiate in Assisi.

At that time he received a habit consisting of a gray-brown robe, a gray-brown scapular with a cowl attached, and a white cord. At his profession, he received a crucifix on a red cord to be worn around his neck. Three

knots, representing the vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience, were tied in his belt.

Br. Deogratias was born in the Congo. Before joining the friars, he was a French teacher living in Nairobi, Kenya. Holding a BA in Philosophy and Religious Studies, he joined the friars because of his interest in their mission of "unity of men and women with God and one another." He will be continuing his studies in Rome.



photos: Fr. Elias Mallon, SA

Members of the General Council with the other friars who attended the profession. From left: **Fr. Timothy MacDonald, SA**, Vicar General & First Councillor; **Br. Kevin Goss, SA**, Secretary General & Third Councillor; **Br. Simon Peter Ango, SA**; **V. Rev. Puglisi, SA**, Minister General; **Br. Musabingo, SA**; **Fr. Paul Ojibway, SA**, Fourth Councillor; **Fr. Elias Mallon, SA**, Second Councillor; **Br. Joe O'Gara, SA**; **Br. Gregory Lucrezia, SA**; and **Fr. Brian Terry, SA**, Novice Director.

THE UNION THAT NOTHING BE LOST

On December 21, 1904, Fr. Paul, the founder of the Franciscan Friars of the Atonement, was awakened, gripped with the words, "Gather up the fragments so that nothing be lost." Recalling Christ's command to the Apostles not to waste anything after He had miraculously multiplied five barley loaves and two fishes to feed over five thousand people (John 6:12), Fr. Paul was inspired.



FR. PAUL, 1901

He reasoned that if the time, talent, money and opportunity which people waste on superfluities and luxuries were harnessed from those "fragments" an army of missionaries could be supported to spread God's Word to all. On the way to chapel, he formulated a Rule and name for an organization: the *Union That Nothing Be Lost*.

THE UNION THAT NOTHING BE LOST PRAYER

O LORD JESUS CHRIST, WHO COMMANDED YOUR APOSTLES TO GATHER UP THE FRAGMENTS THAT NOTHING BE LOST, GIVE US GRACE TO WASTE NOTHING BUT TO USE ALL OUR TIME, TALENT, SUBSTANCE AND OPPORTUNITY TO THE GREATER GLORY OF GOD, THE GOOD OF OUR NEIGHBOR AND THE SALVATION OF SOULS, AND ALL FOR LOVE OF YOU, LORD JESUS CHRIST. AMEN

It took many years for the *Union That Nothing Be Lost* to grow, but as time went along it was recognized as one of the greater missionary associations of the Catholic world.

By the time he died in February 1940, Fr. Paul had sent three million dollars to missions throughout the world. Since then the friars have disbursed almost \$18,000,000.

In 2009, over \$146,000 was distributed to various projects among them the newly constituted University of Makeni in Sierra Leone. As the first Catholic university in Sierra Leone, it is poised to become a bulwark for peace in the region. UNBL funds will be used in support of its library.

During Lent, the friars pay special tribute to Fr. Paul's UNBL with UNBL Sunday (March 14) and Self-Denial Week (March 14-20). For the past 70 years, loyal supporters of the UNBL have helped fulfill Fr. Paul's commitment to God's work. Through their charitable support, UNBL projects include helping the homeless through food pantries, soup kitchens and housing projects; caring for the ill and addicted; working for ecumenical and interreligious reconciliation and understanding; caring for and educating orphaned and at-risk children; and providing special assistance to the elderly and disabled. Donations to the UNBL are not used by the friars for their own needs.

AtonementFriars.org/UNBL

WEEK OF PRAYER 2010 CLOSES AT ST. PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL

The 2010 *Week of Prayer for Christian Unity* closed with an ecumenical Celebration of the Word of God at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City. Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan presided over a joyful service of prayer and song that brought together clergy, religious, and laity from various Christian churches. The gathering was sponsored by the Archdiocese of New York and the Council of Churches of the City of New York.



Other participating clergy included Edward Cardinal Egan; St. Patrick's Cathedral rector Msgr. Robert T. Richie; Methodist Bishop Jeremiah J. Park; Lutheran Bishop Robert A. Rimbo; Episcopal Bishop Catherine S. Roskam; Greek Orthodox Bishop Andonios of Phasiane; Armenian Apostolic Bishop Anoushavan Tanelian; and Dr. A.R. Bernard of the Christian Cultural Center in Brooklyn, president of the New York City Council of Churches.

In his homily, Archbishop Dolan made special mention of the Franciscan Friars and Sisters of the Atonement, asking those friars and sisters in attendance to stand for recognition by the congregation. Noting that this year marks the centennial of the establishment of the World Mission Conference, widely regarded as the start of the modern ecumenical movement, he referred to Father Paul and Mother Lurana who founded the Society in 1898 with the vision of working for unity among all Christians. "All of us in the greater New York community," he said "are so proud of the pioneering work of the Sisters and Friars of the Atonement."



Maria Bastone

Top: Clergy from various denominations took part in the service. Photo: Br. John O'Hara, SA; **Above:** Friars and sisters at the service.



WEEK OF PRAYER 2010 ~ ANOTHER HUNDRED YEARS by Fr. Emmanuel Sullivan, SA

Over one hundred years ago, the founders of the Society of the Atonement, then known as the Graymoor Community made praying for Christian Unity their contribution to the life of the Church. They understood this work to be most important. They knew that to pray is to work—to work is to pray. Like St. Benedict they considered prayer to be the work of God (*Opus Dei*). They also were aware we can understand work as action taken in response to the grace of God offered to us. For this reason the Franciscan Friars and Sisters of the Atonement brought together prayer and action whereby we learn that we have to work for what we pray. They understood that their community spirit would express itself as unity and mission or more precisely as unity for mission.

This was the spirit of the community to which I was introduced when I first met the Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement in 1942. I found them to be interested in the people they served. They visited homes, they taught and encouraged young Catholics, they brought life to an otherwise mediocre parish. The sisters were faithful to the prayers of the community for Christian unity though I had never heard about the *Week of Prayer for Christian Unity*. In those days it had a different name: the Church Unity Octave. The sisters spoke of the friars and encouraged us to consider our vocation with Graymoor. We learned that there were friars who preached and administered the Sacraments and that there were also friars who were not ordained but essential to the Graymoor community for its life and work.

In the beginning, the friars and sisters were very clear in their intention to bring other Christians the assurance that their Church could offer them a welcome and spiritual home. They offered the fullness of Christian life where God's truth and God's will could be recognized and realized. With their efforts, they never disdained other Christians or people of other faiths.

Later they encouraged and practiced church unity for mission according to the demands of the modern ecumenical movement and interfaith dialogue. This is what brought me and many others into the life of the Society. This is what became my spiritual home, and a home for so many others who fulfill so many needs.

FATHER PAUL'S LENTEN VISION

continued from page 1

This scene leads into a triangular garden dedicated to the passion and death of Christ. There, Stations of the Cross, seven-foot-high stone pillars, flank its sides. Stark white portrayals of Christ's passion and death are offset by a golden halo around His head. Each Station is encased in red brick and mounted on a gray stone pillar.

In 1957 another Crucifixion scene and Stations of the Cross at the top of the *Holy Mountain* was begun. Known as the *Atonement Shrine*, this was intended "as a particular Graymoor devotion, indicative of the Atonement." In March 1958, the Stations arrived and friars and Brothers Christopher (men from St. Christopher's Inn) made the bases and large crosses for each. By June, the Crucifixion group—six-foot bronze-like metal figures—had been "mounted solidly on a beautiful smooth cement altar." In September, after the blessing and formal dedication, a candlelight procession proceeded from the Stations of the Cross. Almost 5,000 pilgrims attended.

Today at Graymoor, it is possible for pilgrims to focus on the profound truths depicted at two Stations of the Cross and to reflect on the *at-one-ment* that was Christ's gift to the world.



PAGE 1: The Stations of the Cross near St. Anthony Shrine; the crucifix at Graymoor's entrance. **THIS PAGE:** The Stations of the Cross near Route 9; the crucifix at the top of the mountain.

GRAYMOOR SPIRITUAL LIFE CENTER

The congregation joined **Fr. James Gardiner, SA**, director of the Graymoor Spiritual Life Center, as he burned last year's palms after Sunday Mass at Pilgrim Hall on February 14. The ashes were then used to mark the foreheads of the faithful on Ash Wednesday.

All are invited to attend the Easter observances at Graymoor. For those wishing to spend Holy Week in prayer and reflection, the Center offers its annual Holy Week retreat beginning Spy Wednesday and ending after mid-day dinner on Easter Sunday.

For information about Graymoor Spiritual Life Center events and retreats, call 845-424-3671, ext. 2111 or visit AtonementFriars.org/Retreats



The Centro Pro Unione is presenting their annual summer course in Rome from June 21 to July 9, 2010 entitled *Introduction to the Ecumenical & Interreligious Movements from a Roman Catholic Perspective*. Offering an historical and theological overview of the issues that divide Christians as well as the bonds that unite them, the program will also explore relations with other religious traditions. The course, which is in English, is for men and women who are in preparation for ministry or religious life, who are in the mission field, who are ecumenical officers or members of ecumenical commissions, or who are looking for a sabbatical experience led by qualified professors and ecumenists. More information may be found on their website.

Located on Rome's historic Piazza Navona, the Centro Pro Unione is a ministry of the Franciscan Friars of the Atonement. It is an ecumenical research and action center whose intent is ecumenical formation and dissemination of information about Christian unity. Organizing courses and lectures each year, its purpose is to offer space for dialogue; to be a place for study, research, and formation in the theological, pastoral, social, and spiritual aspects of ecumenism. In addition, the Centro has initiated a program called "Budding Ecumenism" which aims at the formation of children ages 7 to 10 in the values of dialogue. The Centro publishes an international semi-annual bulletin which is also available online. In collaboration with others, the Centro prepares and co-publishes in Italian for distribution throughout Italy and Italian-speaking Switzerland the material for the celebration of the annual *Week of Prayer for Christian Unity*.

The Centro Pro Unione library houses over 20,000 books and papers on ecumenism and is available on-line in the URBE network and via modem to the Library of the World Council of Churches in Geneva. The Centro also maintains the most extensive bibliography on the Interconfessional Theological Dialogues with over 24,000 records. The library and other activities of the Centro may be accessed on their website.



Library at Centro Pro Unione

ST. CHRISTOPHER'S INN

WWW.STCHRISTOPHERSINN-GRAYMOOR.ORG

CARF ACCREDITATION

In January, CARF International (Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities) announced that St. Christopher's Inn Alcohol and Substance Abuse Outpatient Treatment Clinic has been accredited for a period of three years. CARF is an independent, nonprofit accrediting agency whose mission is to promote the quality, value, and optimal outcomes of services through accreditation.

To meet the standards, St. Christopher's went through a rigorous peer review process. During the on-site visit, a team of CARF surveyors analyzed the program's policies, procedures, and services. CARF's decision represents the highest level of accreditation that can be awarded to an organization and shows St. Christopher's substantial commitment to providing quality care to the men coming to the clinic. This is St. Christopher's first CARF accreditation.

St. Christopher's Inn, founded by Fr. Paul Wattson, celebrated 100 years of service in 2009. Initially established to provide shelter for the "pilgrims of the road" whom Fr. Paul called *Brothers Christopher*, by the 1960s it was at the forefront of providing AA meetings and recovery retreats. In the early 1970s, with the increase of drug use in society, men arrived with dual addictions. As they had in the past, friars and lay staff met this new challenge.

St. Christopher's Inn is at the forefront of fighting the challenges of chemical dependency. During the 1990s, the Inn received licensing to provide Outpatient Alcoholism Counseling, Substance Abuse Outpatient Treatment and an Article 28 license as a Diagnostic and Treatment Center. Today, recognizing the importance of taking a holistic approach to treating the diseases of alcoholism and drug addiction, the Inn addresses the physical, spiritual and emotional impact of addiction, thereby realizing better outcomes for the *Brothers Christopher*.

BROTHERS CHRISTOPHER AID HAITI



Marianne Taylor-Rhoades

Almost 150 residents of St. Christopher's Inn chose to give up their usual mid-day meal for a bowl of soup each Wednesday during February. The money saved from this act will be sent to help the devastated and hungry people of Haiti.



BELL TOWER NOTES



In Fall 2009, **Fr. Edward Boes, SA** was assigned to the Convento of Sant'Onofrio in Rome for a period of three years. Fr. Boes has also been named Rector of the Church of Sant'Onofrio.



Br. Ted Novak, SA, has been invited to join the Garrison Art Center—a regionally and nationally respected institution. A ceramicist, his works have been exhibited at numerous galleries, churches, and temples throughout New York's Hudson Valley.

AtonementFriars.org/friary_studios.htm

May He Rest in Peace

Fr. Henry Mair, SA
1935~2010

Let us also remember and pray for our benefactors who have passed.



THE AVE MARIA HOUR REVIVED

First brought to the radio in 1935 and continuing until 1969, the *Ave Maria Hour* encouraged and entertained thousands of listeners weekly.

These original broadcasts of the lives of the Saints have been revamped with new introductions. Hosted by **Fr. Bob Warren, SA**, they can now be heard on the friars' website.

AtonementFriars.org/AveMaria

EVENTS

April 16

Benefactor Day

Graymoor, Garrison, New York

May 2

Blessing and Planting of Wildflower Seeds

Graymoor Spiritual Life Center

May 13

Spring Fling Gathering

*X2O Restaurant
Yonkers, New York*

May 20

St. Christopher's Inn Board of Directors' Dinner

*The Botanical Gardens
Bronx, New York*

June 7

11th Annual Graymoor Golf Classic

Mount Kisco, New York

June 11

Heritage Day & St. Anthony Shrine Blessing

Graymoor, Garrison, New York

June 26

Jubilee Celebration

Graymoor, Garrison, New York

July 2 - July 5

Family Retreat

Graymoor Spiritual Life Center

October 8

Sharing Hope Celebration Dinner

New York City

For more information

800-338-2620

AtonementFriars.org



VISIT OUR UPDATED WEBSITE

www.AtonementFriars.org



Pray With Fr. Bob Warren, SA

Pray the Lord's Prayer, St. Anthony's Prayer and Hail Mary with Fr. Bob.

Meet the Franciscan Friars of the Atonement

Learn about the friars and their good works.

Listen to the Ave Maria Hour

First brought to the airwaves in 1939 and continuing until 1969, the Ave Maria Hour is now webcast.

Sign-up for Monthly e-Newsletter

Receive monthly updates about friar missions, events, and activities.

Request Mass/Healing Cards On-line

An assortment of Mass cards, healing cards, and enrollment in the Graymoor Spiritual Union are available.

ST. ANTHONY'S CORNER

"It was Truly a Miracle!"

St. Anthony, gentlest of Saints, your love for God and charity for his creatures made you worthy, when on earth, to possess miraculous powers. Miracles waited on your word, which you were ready to offer on behalf of those in need. Encouraged by this, I ask you to hear my prayers.



"I asked St. Anthony for a special miracle of healing and he answered!"

My baby granddaughter Jessica was born premature. Among other complications, she was diagnosed with a small hole in her heart. The doctors said the hole required a complicated and risky surgery.

I went to the hospital chapel and prayed to St. Anthony, the Saint of Miracles. I asked him to intercede and heal my precious granddaughter's heart.

A few hours later as the nurses were beginning preparations for the surgery, the cardiologist told us he was canceling the surgery. The second—and third—set of MRI's did not show the hole. The doctor said the earlier tests were misread.

I believe that this was a miracle and not a misread! I and the entire family will always thank St. Anthony for his intercession.

Thank you Friars for your perpetual novena to St. Anthony on behalf of all of us in need of his help.

May God Bless You!" ~ CW

**If you would like to receive additional prayer cards, medals or healing enrollment cards, please contact us.
800-338-2620 ~ www.AtonementFriars.org**

WHEN THERE IS A WILL, THERE IS....

A Record of Your Wishes - Making a will makes you think about the future. It sets down your wishes and plans for your estate, whatever its size. Without one, state law dictates who and what your relatives receive. Plus, naming an executor puts someone you trust in charge.

A Way to Continue Your Good Works - You can establish endowments to support your favorite charities knowing the work they do will continue, in part, because of you. **Remembering the Friars of the Atonement in your will ensures that our work will continue.**

YES, send me a free Will Information Kit

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Send to Fr. Emil Tomaskovic, Graymoor, PO Box 301, Garrison, NY 10524

GRAYMOOR CONTACTS:

Benefactor Services 845-424-3671 ext 3519
Book & Gift Center 845-424-2100
GEII 212-870-2330

St. Christopher's Inn 845-335-1000
Spiritual Life Center 845-424-2111
Vocations 845-424-2126

Privacy Promise Statement: From time to time we make information about our lapsed or inactive donors available to other Catholic Charities. If you do not wish your name shared, contact us and we will respect your wishes. If you no longer wish to receive requests for support from the Franciscan Friars of the Atonement, please call 800-338-2620, ext. 3519.

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GRAYMOOR TODAY

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