



The Franciscan Friars
of Holy Name Province

Insight & Wisdom

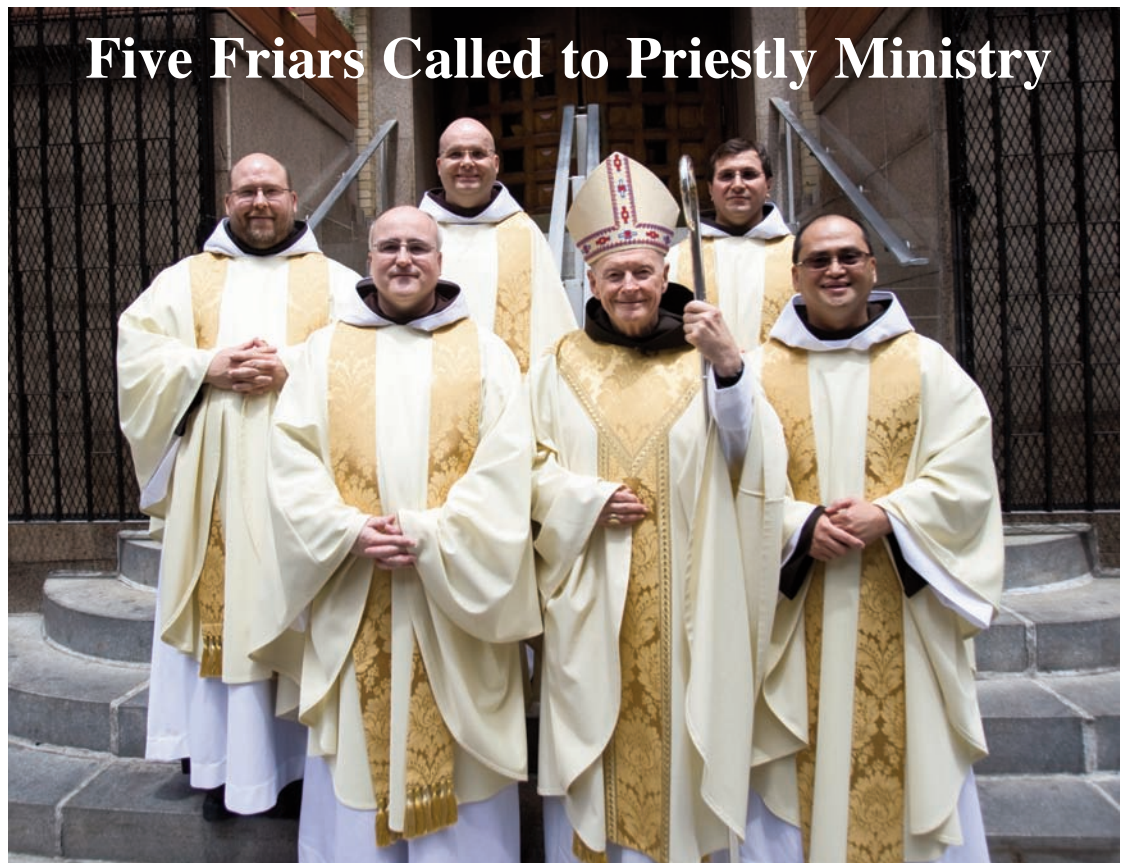
For those discerning a call to
our Franciscan way of life

Summer 2008

In This Issue

- 1 Five Friars Called to Priestly Ministry
- 2 Meet Our Newly-Ordained Priests
- 3 Choosing the Franciscans
- Come and See Events
- 4 A Message of Joy, Hope and Love
- 5 Friars in Formation Reflect on Papal Mass
- 6 Vocation Weekend Held in Bronx
- Four Friars Profess First Vows
- 7 Getting to Know Holy Name Province

Franciscan
Vocation
Ministry



Five Friars Called to Priestly Ministry

On May 24, Holy Name Province celebrated the ordination of five friars to priesthood – the largest group to be ordained in nearly 20 years. The Mass, at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Manhattan, was celebrated by Theodore Cardinal McCarrick, Archbishop Emeritus of Washington, D.C., who was affiliated to the Province in the fall of 2006. Fr. John O'Connor, OFM, Provincial Minister, Fr. Dominic Monti, OFM, Provincial Vicar, and Fr. Francis Di Spigno, OFM, Director of Post-Novitiate Formation, and many other priests concelebrated the Mass. A large number of Holy Name Province friars participated in the joyous event along with hundreds of family members, friends and people with whom the new priests had ministered during their years of formation.

Pictured above with Cardinal McCarrick, the newly-ordained priests included (clockwise from bottom left) Fr. Zachary Elliott, OFM, Fr. Christopher VanHaight, OFM, Fr. Scott Brookbank, OFM, Fr. Gonzalo de Jesus Torres, OFM, and Fr. Julian Jagudilla, OFM. (Brief biographies of each priest can be found on page 2.) For these friars, ordination to the priesthood was the culmination of years of personal, spiritual and ministerial development and the beginning of serving in full-time ministry in Holy Name Province. Formation to priesthood also includes study of theology at the Washington Theological Union in Washington, D.C.

“O Most High, Glorious God, enlighten the darkness of my heart and give me a right faith, a certain hope and a perfect love, insight and wisdom, O Lord, that I may carry out your holy and true command.”

— St. Francis of Assisi, Prayer for Discernment

Meet Our Newly-Ordained Priests



Fr. Scott Brookbank, OFM

Born and raised in Rochester, N.Y., Scott holds a bachelor's degree in religious studies as well as master's degrees in education and pastoral counseling. He first learned of the friars by perusing a vocation guide. Solemnly professed in 1999, Scott has provided counseling services at St. Francis Chapel in Providence, R.I., and St. Bonaventure University in western New York. He looks forward to continuing his work in counseling, pastoral care and education. Scott has been assigned to the Church of St. Mary in Providence, R.I.



Fr. Zachary Elliott, OFM

Originally from New Jersey, Zachary earned an associate's degree in accounting before taking a job in warehousing and distribution at an international cosmetic company. He met and got to know the friars at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Raleigh, N.C., after relocating for his job. Having spent a year at St. Francis Church on Long Beach Island, N.J., serving the needs of the sick and frail, Zachary would like to continue working in pastoral care. He has been assigned to St. Joseph Parish in East Rutherford, N.J.



Fr. Julian Jagudilla, OFM

Julian was born in Iloilo City, Philippines. After earning a degree in literature, he worked as a pastoral associate at Transfiguration Church in New York City. Julian met the friars at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Manhattan and was impressed with their "sense of responsible and creative freedom." He has served the needs of Hispanic youth as well as torture survivors, and looks forward to continuing his ministry with diverse cultures. Julian has been assigned to St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Raleigh, N.C.



Fr. Gonzalo de Jesus Torres, OFM

Born and raised in Bogotá, Colombia, Gonzalo earned his degree in engineering and went on to manage a chain of natural products stores. He met the friars at Saint Francis of Assisi Church after relocating to New York City to study English. Gonzalo would like to "bring the Good News to all God's people" and looks forward to ministering to the needs of Latinos in the U.S. He has been assigned to Holy Name Parish in New York City.



Fr. Christopher VanHaight, OFM

Christopher was born in Boston and grew up in Stoughton, Mass. He earned a degree in biology before working for several years in the field of biomedical research. Upon meeting the friars at St. Anthony Shrine in Boston, Christopher was drawn to their commitment to communal living and diversity of ministries. He has served the needs of the mentally ill, homeless and hungry, and would enjoy ministering in one of the Province's parishes. Christopher has been assigned to St. Bonaventure Parish in Paterson, N.J.

Choosing the Franciscans



When Br. Hugh Macsherry, OFM, felt called to religious life, he looked at various orders and ultimately chose the Franciscans of Holy Name Province. “At first I was attracted to the popular image of St. Francis. Most Catholics have heard of St. Francis; they associate Francis with ecology and creation and with the poor. I was drawn to the Franciscans because of this image of Francis.”

Since joining the Order, Hugh has found great joy and affirmation in his decision. “I feel privileged to share in the sustenance of worship and community and then to carry the fruits of this life into the world,” he explained. “As I continue my life-long discernment of vocation, I find great comfort in knowing that I am doing so with the friars of Holy Name Province.” He added, “God plays a role in calling a person, but it’s also a dialogue between that person and God. When I was called, I was ready to see how holy and happy I could be with the friars.”

Hugh was born and raised in Baltimore, Md. He earned bachelor’s degrees in philosophy and classical languages and literature from the University of Maryland in 1997, and returned to complete another degree in secondary education-foreign languages in 2001. Hugh started his teaching career in the Montgomery County School System in Wheaton, Md., where he taught middle school Spanish before joining the friars. He recently finished his internship at St. Anthony Shrine in Boston, Mass., and is entering his final year of studies with the Franciscans.

Come and See

*Are you being called to be a Franciscan?
Join us for a weekend to learn more about our way of life.*

Upcoming Vocation Weekends

Hospitality Weekend

Sept. 5-7, 2008

St. Francis Friary, Beach Haven, N.J.

If you are interested in our Franciscan way of life, we invite you to our oceanside community on Long Beach Island for a weekend of hospitality, prayer, and fraternity. Share meals with us, visit our local parishes, celebrate the Eucharist, and reflect on the Gospel life of joy, compassion and service inspired by St. Francis of Assisi.



Discernment Retreat

Sept. 26-28, 2008

**Mt. Irenaeus Franciscan Mountain Retreat
West Clarksville, N.Y.**



Join us to listen to what God is calling you to do with your life. Spend a weekend of quiet, contemplative prayer at beautiful Mt. Irenaeus in western New York – 228 acres of land that is home to a chapel, a common house, six miles of trails, a pond and seven hermitages.

Franciscan Experience Weekend (FEW)

Nov. 14-16, 2008

St. Anthony Shrine, Boston, Mass.

FEWs offer an opportunity for guests to discuss their calling with the Vocation Director and with friars residing at St. Anthony Shrine and Ministry Center in historic downtown Boston. Participants also meet with men in their first year of discernment with the Province to learn about Holy Name’s initial formation program and ministries. The weekend’s discussions help clarify the interest level of both the candidates and friars. Generally, guests are *invited* to attend the weekend by the Vocation Director.



A Message of Joy, Hope and Love



Pope Benedict XVI at Nationals Park in Washington, D.C., one of two places where he celebrated Mass for thousands, during recent trip to the United States.

From April 16 to 20, Pope Benedict XVI graced our country with his presence, receiving a warm and enthusiastic welcome from many who witnessed his visit and followed this historic event. His message of joy, hope and love did much to uplift the Catholic Church, our nation and the world. Of the many topics addressed during his visit, one of the most compelling had to do with the future of the Church and the need for vocations. The following remarks are excerpted from the pope's homily given at Yankee Stadium on Sunday, April 20.

The Call to Follow Christ

“Young men and women of America, I urge you: open your hearts to the Lord's call to follow him in the priesthood and the religious life. Can there be any greater mark of love than this: to follow in the footsteps of Christ, who was willing to lay down his life for his friends (cf. Jn 15:13)?”

Youth As the Future of the Church

“Yesterday, not far from here, I was moved by the joy, the hope and the generous love of Christ which I saw in the faces of the many young people assembled in Dunwoodie. They are the Church's future, and they deserve all the prayer and support that you can give them.”

Putting Faith Into Action

“My dear young friends, like the seven men, ‘filled with the Spirit and wisdom’ whom the Apostles charged with care for the young Church, may you step forward and take up the

responsibility which your faith in Christ sets before you! May you find the courage to proclaim Christ, ‘the same yesterday and today and forever’ and the unchanging truths which have their foundation in him (cf. *Gaudium et Spes*, 10; Heb 13:8).”

Hope in Christ's Promise

“In today's Gospel, the Lord promises his disciples that they will perform works even greater than his (cf. Jn 14:12). Dear friends, only God in his providence knows what works his grace has yet to bring forth in your lives and in the life of the Church in the United States. Yet, Christ's promise fills us with sure hope.

Let us now join our prayers to his, as living stones in that spiritual temple which is his one, holy, Catholic and apostolic Church. Let us lift our eyes to him, for even now he is preparing for us a place in his Father's house. And empowered by his Holy Spirit, let us work with renewed zeal for the spread of his Kingdom.”

Friars in Formation Reflect on Papal Mass

Several friars in formation from Holy Name Province had the opportunity to attend papal Masses celebrated at Nationals Park in Washington, D.C., and Yankee Stadium in the Bronx, N.Y. Here are some of their thoughts on the experience and on the pope's call for vocations.

“Truly a gift of God's grace”

“I feel that it truly was a gift of God's grace that I was able to attend the Papal Mass in Washington a little over a month before my ordination to the priesthood. I certainly felt there the joy, hope, and love that Benedict spoke about in his remarks. Joy and thankfulness at being chosen by God to serve His people as a Franciscan priest and to be among so many other members of the one Body of Christ. Hope that God's grace would not only continue to guide my life but the lives of other men who are called to service in His Church. And most of all, love, for the Holy Father, for my brother Franciscans, and for all God's people.”

— *Fr. Christopher VanHaight, OFM (Chris was ordained a priest on May 24 at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Manhattan.)*

“Truly a gift of God's grace”

“As I remember the experience of going to Nationals Stadium that morning, riding the subway with about a dozen other friars, I am overwhelmed by the memory of the excitement and spirit of anticipation for what was going to follow at the Mass. Pope Benedict's homily was healing, inspiring and uplifting. As a young friar, still early on in my life as a Franciscan, it was nice to be reaffirmed in my vocation and supported along my journey. I hope the spirit of the Holy Father's visit continues to live on in the hearts of United States Catholics and non-Catholics alike for a long time.”

— *Br. Daniel Horan, OFM (Daniel recently completed his initial year of graduate studies at Washington Theological Union in Washington, D.C. He is spending the summer in Bolivia learning Spanish.)*

“Captured the heart of being a leader of the Church”

“The experience at Yankee Stadium was similar to attending a ‘rock concert.’ There was a two hour pre-Mass show with everything from well-known celebrities to dancers, musicians, and yes, even flying birds. I enjoyed the music from various parts of the world and the great pageantry in anticipation of the papal Mass. I believe that the emphasis of the Pope on vocation is inspirational. One of his most important moments during the visit was his prayer service with the children with disabilities and their families. His pastoral and direct approach captured the heart of being a leader of the Church.”

— *Br. Linh Hoang, OFM (Linh, who received his Ph.D. in theology from Fordham University in 2006, currently teaches full-time in the Department of Religious Studies at Siena College in Loudonville, N.Y. He will be making his solemn vows in August following a month-long retreat in Colorado.)*



Pictured at left, standing from left, Br. Erick Lopez, OFM, Br. Edgardo Zea-Laura, OFM, Br. Sebastian Tobin, OFM, Fr. Zachary Elliott, OFM, Br. Cidouane Joseph, OFM, Br. Percy Osario-Palpan, OFM, Fr. Christopher VanHaight, OFM, Br. Daniel Horan, OFM, and Br. Wilson Vasquez, OFM, of the Bolivian Province of St. Anthony. Kneeling, from left, Fr. Gonzalo de Jesus Torres, OFM, and Br. Michael Thang'wah, FHM, of Kenya.

Photos of papal visit were taken by Br. Dan Horan, OFM.

Men Discerning Religious Life Visit Bronx Community

This spring, two men discerning a call to religious life visited Holy Cross Friary in the Bronx, N.Y., for a Franciscan Experience Weekend (FEW). Michael Reyes, from Parlin, N.J., and Scott Carey, from Cambridge, Mass., enjoyed Franciscan hospitality, fraternity, and conversation as well as an informative tour of Franciscan ministries in New York City.

The April 11 to 13 weekend afforded the guests an opportunity to discuss their vocations in greater depth with a number of friars in attendance. Michael and Scott were also joined by Jeffery Jordan, who shared his experiences in his recently completed first year of discernment with Holy Name Province.

In addition to Fr. Brian Smail, OFM, Vocation Director, friars attending the weekend included Fr. Ron Pecci, OFM, Director of the Pre-Novitiate Program, and Fr. Sean O'Brien, OFM, Regional Vocation Director in Tampa, Fla. Also participating in the weekend's activities were Fr. Todd Carpenter, OFM, pastor of Holy Cross Church, Fr. Ray Selker, OFM, Fr. Brennan Connelly, OFM, Br. Bill Herbst, OFM, Fr. Bob Frazzetta, OFM, and Fr. Derran Combs, OFM, of Sacred Heart Province.

Right, Fr. Ray Selker, OFM, Fr. Brennan Connelly, OFM, and postulant Jeffery Jordan participate in the gathering.



Left, Scott, a guest, with Fr. Ron Pecci, OFM.



At right, guest Michael shares some time with Fr. Derran Combs, OFM.



Four Friars Profess First Vows



From left, the Province's newest simply professed friars, Francis "Frank" Critch, OFM, Antonio Cornier, OFM, Mario Gomez, OFM, and Joseph Macaluso, OFM.

On June 5, four friars made their simple profession of vows before Provincial Minister Fr. John O'Connor, OFM, and nearly 200 Holy Name friars at St. Bonaventure University Chapel. During the ceremony, which took place as part of the Province's 2008 Chapter, the friars read their vows individually and were welcomed officially into the Province by a fraternal embrace. This event marked the conclusion of the friars' novitiate year, which is devoted to deepening one's Franciscan spirituality through prayer and study.

The simply professed friars come from a variety of backgrounds and bring with them a number of gifts and experiences. Br. Francis "Frank" Critch, OFM, a native of Newfoundland, Canada, recently transferred to Holy Name Province from Christ the King Province. Before deciding to become a friar, he managed a restaurant in St. John's, Newfoundland, for a number of years. This summer, Frank is ministering at St. Anthony Shrine in Boston.

Originally from Ponce, Puerto Rico, Br. Antonio Cornier, OFM, practiced medicine in South Florida before joining the friars. As a postulant he ministered at St. Vincent's Hospital in Manhattan, where he taught clinical pediatrics to medical students. Antonio is serving at Sacred Heart Church-Friary in Tampa, Fla., during the summer.

Br. Mario Gomez, OFM, a native of Lima, Peru, attended law school at the Catholic University of Peru. For a period of six years, he was a member of a personal prelature where he received religious formation, ministered to college students and discerned his vocation to religious life. Mario is spending his summer with the friars at Immaculate Conception Parish in Durham, N.C.

Finally, Br. Joseph Macaluso, OFM, a native of Yonkers, N.Y., earned a degree in English from Siena College in Loudonville, N.Y. After completing college, he began his teaching career instructing fifth graders at St. Mary's Academy in Hoosick Falls, N.Y. Joseph has returned to Siena College to study philosophy for the summer.

Getting to Know Holy Name Province

Our Mission

Holy Name Province of the Order of Friars Minor is an evangelical and missionary fraternity called to minister in the eastern United States and abroad. Rooted in the Catholic and Franciscan tradition, we are disciples of Christ who seek to bring the Gospel into the everyday experience of all people through popular preaching, teaching, and pastoral leadership. We foster Christian discipleship by collaborating with those whom we serve and by standing in solidarity with all people especially the alienated, the immigrant, and the poor.



Below is one way we put our mission statement into action following in the footsteps of St. Francis of Assisi. Future issues of *Insight & Wisdom* will highlight other ways we do this.

The Lazarus Program

In today's society, there are some who have become "the Forgotten Dead" because they outlived their family, were homeless or imprisoned, or could not afford funeral services. The Lazarus Program, located at St. Anthony Shrine in Boston, is "there for those who have died alone" by providing a dignified ending to their lives.



Pictured above, Fr. Francis McHugh, OFM, presides over the Mass of Christian Burial of one of the many beneficiaries of the Lazarus Program.

With the assistance of local funeral directors and donations of graves and other resources, the Lazarus Program provides funeral and burial services for some of Boston's neediest. Friars in residence and program volunteers donate their time to attend Funeral/Memorial Masses held at the Shrine, sometimes becoming an honorary member of the deceased's family for a day. At other times, they are the only mourners present. Other services of the program include providing clothing for the deceased and families, flowers, and meeting room space for funeral luncheons.

The Lazarus services do not end with burial of the person in need. Bereavement counseling and ongoing support are offered to family members and friends, and the deceased are honored every year with a "Remembrance Mass."

Fr. David Convertino, OFM, director of St. Anthony Shrine, referred to the Lazarus Program as "one of the most moving of all the ministries we do. To know that these babies, women and men have no one at this time except the friars really helps me to understand the compassion of Jesus Christ."

Did You Know?

Did you know that Holy Name Province introduced the concept of the "service church?" These churches provide accessible and convenient worship and educational opportunities for area workers and shoppers as well as outreach to the poor. The sacraments, including the celebration of the Eucharist and reconciliation, are offered throughout the day, including the early morning and evening hours on weekdays. A variety of adult education programs are offered as well as spiritual direction and counseling. Outreach services include health care, food distribution, shelter, child care, senior programs, and immigration counseling among others. In addition to St. Anthony Shrine mentioned above, St. Francis Chapel in Albany, N.Y., and St. Francis of Assisi Church in New York City are service churches.

Our Province also operates "urban ministry centers," which are related to service churches. Based in local worshipping communities, these centers provide extensive community outreach and service programs for people in need. Urban ministry centers include St. Patrick-St. Anthony Church in Hartford, Conn., Holy Name of Jesus Church in New York City, the Franciscan Center in Greensboro, N.C., and St. Francis Chapel and City Ministry Center in Providence, R.I.

Franciscan Vocation Ministry

The Franciscan Vocation Ministry is called to promote vocations to the Franciscan way of life and ministries of Holy Name Province.

We offer the following services:

- Information on our Order, the admissions process and the initial formation program
- Consultation and assistance with discernment to religious life
- Come & See Weekends for interested men
- This newsletter highlighting Vocation activities

For further information or to speak with the Vocation Director, please contact:

Fr. Brian Smail, OFM
Franciscan Vocation Ministry
Holy Name Province
129 West 31st Street, 2nd Floor
New York, NY 10001-3403

1-800-677-7788
vocation@hnp.org

Visit our Web site at
www.BeAFranciscan.org

Insight & Wisdom is published quarterly by the Franciscan Vocation Ministry, Holy Name Province. Editorial and design ministry: Fr. Brian Smail, OFM, Carolyn Croke, Jocelyn Thomas, Phil Jacobs, Br. Octavio Duran, OFM. Comments are welcome.

Pax
et
Bonum

Franciscan Vocation Ministry
129 West 31st Street, 2nd Fl.
New York, NY 10001

