



**Franciscan Friars  
Holy Name Province  
Communications Office**  
129 West 31<sup>st</sup> St., 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10001- 3403  
646-473-0265 ext. 321

**For Immediate Release**

CONTACT: Jocelyn Thomas, director of communications  
[jthomas@HNP.org](mailto:jthomas@HNP.org)

**FOUR FRANCISCANS TO PROFESS FINAL VOWS WITH HOLY  
NAME PROVINCE OF THE ORDER OF FRIARS MINOR IN NYC**

NEW YORK — Aug. 18, 2010 — Four men of diverse backgrounds from Holy Name Province, an East Coast-based organization of the Order of Friars Minor, or the Franciscans, will profess their solemn religious vows on Aug. 21 at 11 a.m.

The four religious brothers, originally from Haiti, Cuba, New England and the Southwest, will be professed at a special Mass at St. Francis of Assisi Church on West 31<sup>st</sup> Street in Manhattan, Holy Name Province's historic church. The friars — Brothers Cidouane Joseph, OFM, Robert Lentz, OFM, Erick Lopez, OFM, and Paul O'Keeffe, OFM — will make a life-long commitment to live the vows of Franciscans.

The Rev. John O'Connor, OFM, provincial minister, will celebrate the Saturday morning Mass.

Joseph, 44, is a native of Haiti and a graduate of the Grand Seminaire Notre Dame in Port-au-Prince and the Washington Theological Union in Washington, D.C. He began his studies as a seminarian for the Archdiocese of Port-au-Prince. In 2002, Joseph came to New York City, where he met the friars at Holy Name of Jesus Church on the Upper West Side. Subsequent to his admission to the Franciscans, he pursued a degree in pastoral studies at WTU. After completing an internship at Holy Name of Jesus Parish, he has been transferred to St. Patrick-St. Anthony Church in Hartford, Conn. Joseph will be ordained a deacon on Sept. 4 at the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, with an anticipated ordination to the priesthood in May 2011.

Lopez, 37, grew up in Cuba, and earned his bachelor's degree in radiochemistry at the Instituto de Ciencias Nucleares de Ciudad de la Habana. He also earned a degree in chemistry while living in Colombia. He came to the United States and settled in Hialeah, Fla. After completing an internship at St. Patrick-St. Anthony Church in Hartford, he has returned to Washington for a final year of studies at WTU. Lopez plans to be ordained a deacon on Sept. 4 at the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, with an anticipated ordination to the priesthood in May.

Lentz, 63, an iconographer, was originally a friar of Our Lady of Guadalupe Province in Albuquerque, N.M., and transferred to Holy Name Province in 2008. He was born in Buffalo, N.Y., and grew up in Colorado. Lentz earned a bachelor's degree from Duns Scotus College in

Detroit and studied theology at St. Leonard College in Dayton, Ohio. The widely-respected artist has worked on several large icons and is currently in ministry at St. Bonaventure University, the Franciscan college in Allegany, N.Y.

O’Keeffe, 41, was a teacher at Matignon High School in Cambridge, Mass., before becoming a friar. The native of Burlington, Mass., earned a degree in culinary arts from Newbury College in Brookline, Mass., and a bachelor’s degree from Salem, Mass., State College. In 2009, he graduated from Howard University with a master’s degree in social work. He is ministering at St. Francis of Assisi Parish on Long Beach Island, N.J.

### **About Holy Name Province**

Holy Name Province is one of seven provinces in the United States that belong to the Order of Friars Minor. Holy Name is the largest U.S. province, with ministries in 12 states along the East Coast. Its more than 350 Catholic priests and brothers serve in colleges, parishes, urban ministry centers and a wide variety of social ministries, as well as in overseas missions.

The Order, founded in 1209 by St. Francis of Assisi, commemorated its 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary last year. Today, St. Francis, whose feast day is Oct. 4, remains one of the most widely-known saints, revered for his affection for nature and care for creation.

Information about Holy Name Province can be found on [www.hnp.org](http://www.hnp.org)

---

*Questions and photo requests should be directed to Jocelyn Thomas, HNP director of communications, at 646-473-0265 ext. 321 or 732-829-1513 (mobile) or [jthomas@hnp.org](mailto:jthomas@hnp.org)*

###