



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

For Immediate Release

Contact: Jocelyn Thomas, director

**TWO FRANCISCAN FRIARS FROM HOLY NAME PROVINCE
ORDAINED DEACONS**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Sept. 10, 2009 – Two Franciscan friars from Holy Name Province, the largest community of Franciscan brothers and priests in the country, based in New York City, were ordained as transitional deacons Sept. 5 at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception here.

Brothers Lawrence Anderson, OFM, of Pompton Lakes, N.J., and David Phan, OFM, of Silver Spring, Md., who are studying for ordination to the priesthood next year, were ordained as deacons in a Mass celebrated by the Most Rev. Martin Holley, auxiliary bishop of Washington.

Becoming a deacon is the final step in the normally seven-year formation process of ordination to the priesthood. The role of deacon is to assist priests in Mass, and to perform marriage and baptismal ceremonies, among other responsibilities, according to the Rev. John O'Connor, OFM, provincial minister of Holy Name Province.

In his homily, Holley quoted the writings of Francis of Assisi, founder of the Order of Friars Minor (OFM), and appealed to Anderson and Phan to live out their lives worthy of their Franciscan vocation.

The two brothers were vested by the Rev. Francis Di Spigno, OFM, director of post-novitiate formation for Holy Name Province, and by the Rev. Ronald Stark, OFM, HNP's assistant director of post-novitiate formation. Deacons Anderson and Phan then stood beside the bishop to assist in the Mass. A reception for approximately 150 people followed at Holy Name College in Silver Spring, the province's house of studies.

In preparation to be ordained a priest next year, Anderson is serving a year-long internship at St. Mary Parish in Pompton Lakes, until his ordination to the priesthood next May. Phan, who lives at Holy Name College, is continuing his studies at Washington Theological Union, a Catholic seminary in Washington. He also expects to be ordained a priest in May.

A native of upstate Geneva, N.Y., Anderson, 44, worked as a high school campus minister at Aquinas Institute in Rochester, N.Y., before joining the Franciscans. He holds a master of arts degree in pastoral ministry from Christ the King Seminary in East Aurora, N.Y., and a graduate degree in social work from The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

Phan, 40, was born in Vietnam and, after moving to the United States, attended Portland Community College in Portland, Ore. He has ministered at several Holy Name Province

ministries and parishes, including those in the Bronx, N.Y.; Wilmington, Del.; and 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, better known as the Franciscans. Holy Name is the largest U.S. province, with ministries in 12 states along the East Coast. Its 365 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, commemorates its 800th anniversary this 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.

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