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For Immediate Release

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FR. MYCHAL JUDGE WALK OF REMEMBRANCE SET FOR SEPT. 4

NEW YORK — Aug. 29, 2011 — Hundreds are expected to gather this Sunday for the annual Fr. Mychal Judge OFM Walk of Remembrance.

The event — on Sept. 4 after a 9:30 a.m. Mass at St. Francis of Assisi Church, 135 West 31st Street — is a tribute to the victims of the 2001 terrorist attacks. Participants will travel south on the two and one-half mile route, concluding at Engine 10, Ladder 10 on Liberty Street, at Ground Zero.

The walk, named for FDNY chaplain the Rev. Mychal Judge, OFM, begins at 10:15 a.m. outside Engine 1, Ladder 24 firehouse on West 31st Street, between Sixth and Seventh avenues. This is where Judge — the first recorded death of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks — was based.

During the walk, a fire engine filled with equipment and tools, donated by the Dumont, N.J., fire department, will be dedicated to Judge for shipping to Lima, Peru, to the rescue company of a Franciscan parish.

This is the first fire engine being dedicated to 9/11 victims, said the Rev. Christopher Keenan, OFM, current chaplain of the Fire Department of New York. “Another 342 fire engines donated by U.S. volunteer fire companies will be named for the other firefighters who died on Sept. 11 and sent to firefighters throughout the world who do not have sufficient equipment,” Keenan said. He noted: “A crew of firefighters will go to Lima to instruct firefighters on using the donated equipment. Each shipping container will be stuffed with equipment and tools.”

The Sept. 4 event will also feature:

- Prayers led by Keenan, the Rev. Christopher Dunn, OFM, a fire chaplain in Lima, and other Franciscan friars
- Bells of remembrance, created by Br. David Schlatter, OFM, of Silver Spring, Md., on which names of Sept. 11 victims are engraved
- A blessing at the Fire Department Museum on Spring Street of a new permanent exhibit of Judge’s helmet, recovered with his body, and bunker coat, recovered intact months after Sept. 11.

Among the walk participants will be:

- Det. Stephen McDonald, the New York City police officer who was shot and paralyzed in 1986, and his wife, PattiAnn, who founded the Walk in 2002. They, along with their son Conor, a N.Y. police officer, as well as Fire Commissioner Salvatore Cassano and Chief of Department Edward Kilduff will lead the walkers in tracing Judge's footsteps from the friary and firehouse to the World Trade Center.
- Some of the 17,000 firefighters who are competing in the World Police and Fire Games in New York City from Aug. 26 to Sept. 5 www.2011wpfg.org
- Dympna Judge Jessich, of Maryland, twin sister of the fallen FDNY chaplain
- Founders of Mychal's Message, the service organization based in Lancaster, Pa., that dedicates its work to the memory of Mychal Judge

Information about the walk can be found on a flyer about the event.

Another 9/11 memorial Mass will be celebrated at 11 a.m. on Sept. 11 at St. Francis of Assisi Church with firefighters from the four nearby firehouses who sustained extensive losses.

About the Franciscans

Holy Name Province is the largest of seven provinces in the United States belonging to the Order of Friars Minor. With ministries in 12 states along the East Coast, its nearly 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.

More than 800 years since its founding by St. Francis of Assisi, the Order continues to minister to the poorest of the poor. St. Francis, whose feast day is Oct. 4, continues to be 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 HNP.org.

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