



**Franciscan Friars
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SIENA COLLEGE LEADER CELEBRATES 25 YEARS AS A FRANCISCAN FRIAR, 20 YEARS AS A PRIEST

LOUDONVILLE, N.Y. – June 21, 2010 -- The Rev. Kenneth Paulli, OFM, chief of staff to the president of Siena College here, is celebrating in June the 25th anniversary of professing life as a Franciscan friar and 20 years as a priest.

The graduate of Siena College and John F. Kennedy Catholic High School in Westchester County, N.Y., has had a diverse and rich ministry with the Order of Friars Minor, the formal name for the Franciscans. He is part of Holy Name Province, based in New York City with ministries in 12 states.

"I didn't understand it at the time, but my undergraduate experience at Siena was life-transforming," said Paulli, who since 2007 has been chief of staff to Siena president the Rev. Kevin Mullen, OFM. "I didn't come to Siena as a student because of the friars. I came as a liberal arts/business major, but meeting the friars changed my life."

Paulli has worked at Siena since 1997, teaching in the department of education and, as chairman, overseeing the school's first national accreditation from the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education.

Earlier in his career, Paulli was a parish priest at St. Joseph's Church in Winsted, Conn.; and Holy Angels Parish in Little Falls, N.J. He has also ministered and studied in Boston and New York City. "Growing up in St. Mary Parish, Ridgefield, Conn., allowed me to experience first-hand the richness of excellent liturgy and preaching as well as excellent collaboration between and among clergy and laity, Paulli said. "In many ways, it provided a model as to how I ought to serve as a parish priest."

He earned a master's degree at Washington Theological Union in Washington, D.C., and a doctorate in religion and education at Columbia University in New York City.

As a strong supporter of Franciscan education and Catholic ministry, Paulli makes sure that both missions are connected at Siena. "It's not just rhetoric here -- it's what is distinctive about Siena. There are a lot of private liberal arts colleges, and that distinction is an important differentiator."

Paulli, the son of Paul James and Mary Lou Paulli who retired to Tennessee where Paulli's two sisters Lucia and Lia and their families live, will be honored by Holy Name Province on June 24 at its annual jubilee celebration at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Midtown Manhattan.

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 along the East Coast. Its more than 350 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, Italy, marked its 800th anniversary last year. Today, St. Francis, whose feast day is commemorated in October, remains one of the most well-known saints, revered for his affection for nature and care for creation.

Information about the province can be found on www.hnp.org

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