



Servites Today



“The Order of Friar Servants of Mary is a community of men gathered together in the name of Jesus the Lord. Moved by the Spirit, we commit ourselves, as did our First Fathers, to witness the gospel in fraternal communion and to be at the service of God and all people, drawing abiding inspiration from Mary, Mother and Servant of the Lord. “

Servite Constitutions, #1

When you write or review your will, please consider making a charitable bequest. Your bequest to the Servants of Mary will help us spread devotion to the Blessed Virgin; serve the Church in parishes, schools, hospitals, and foreign missions; train future priests and brothers; and provide for the elderly religious. Your charity will be a lasting memorial that will grow and prosper in the minds and hearts of all who are touched by the work of the Servants of Mary.

For more information, please contact Fr. Lawrence at the Servite Development Office: 1439 South Harlem Avenue, Berwyn, IL 60402, 708-795-8885 or visit www.servite.org (the Gifts/Giftshop link).

From the Editor

“We want you to be quite certain, brothers, about those who have fallen asleep, to make sure that you do not grieve for them, as others do who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again, and that in the same way God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus.” 1 Thess 4:13-14

As we move towards the close of the year, the days grow shorter and darker. Those who have gone before us are celebrated in the Feasts of All Saints and All Souls. Many parishes have special services to honor those who have died in the past year. And in the final weeks of the Church year, the readings reflect on the end times, all reminding us of the inevitability of death.

The experience of death is sad and sometimes deeply unsettling, but as Paul reminds us above, for those who believe, death is never tragic or depressing. Nor is it the end. Those who have left us in faith are at peace, rewarded with the presence of a loving God who declares, “Well done, good and faithful servant.” (Mt 25:23)

This has been a very challenging year for the Province: a year marked by an unusually large number of deaths among the friars, some of them in fairly rapid succession. A shock to the system and a disruption of life to be sure, but not the end. And so with profound gratefulness we celebrate those friars, their ministry, and their birth to new life. How wise of the Church to follow her recognition of death with the anticipation, hope, and joy of new birth in Advent and Christmas celebrations.

We extend a special thank you this season to those who have been so generous to us over the past year. You are remembered daily in the prayers of the friars.

A Blessed Christmas and a New Year of Hope and Peace to all.

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James Foerster, Editor

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WAKE UP THE WORLD !

— 2015 Year of Consecrated Life —



“I want to say one word to you and this word is joy. Wherever there are consecrated people, seminarians, men and women religious, young people, there is joy, there is always joy!” Pope Francis

Pope Francis has announced the Year for Consecrated Life which began November 30, 2014, and will continue through February 2016.

The Vatican has outlined a three pronged focus for the year: 1) renewal for men and women in religious life; 2) thanksgiving among the faithful for the service of sisters, brothers, priests, and nuns; 3) invitation to young Catholics to consider a religious vocation.



Cardinal João Braz de Aviz, the Prefect of the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, has likewise emphasized three objectives – a grateful remembrance of the recent past; living the present with passion; and embracing the future with hope.

With this in mind, the US Conference of Catholic Bishops is promoting “Days with Religious,” activities designed around the sharing of prayer, ministries, and community life that will allow lay people and families to learn more about the vocation of consecrated life. These events include a religious open house on February 8, 2015, that will consist of tours, receptions, presentations and activities at convents, friaries, monasteries, and other religious houses. The summer of 2015 will see the Day of Mission and Service with Religious. Here, the laity can join with religious in their regular apostolates or special service projects. Finally, on September 13, 2015, there will be a Day of Prayer with Religious where vespers, holy hours, rosaries, and other services will be celebrated with the religious in their houses and churches.



The Friar Servants of Mary look forward to celebrating this year and will use it as an opportunity to share and promote their community and charism with families and friends – including those friends we have yet to meet. Stay tuned to the Servite website and facebook pages (www.servite.org; www.facebook.com/ServiteFriars) for more information about these special events and their observation among the Servite communities.



Contractor Lenny Wilson hands the keys to Bishop Jose Luis while Frs. Sifiso Mchunu, OSM, Declan Doherty, OSM, and Mel Loftus, OSM, look on. Photo courtesy of Bishop of Manzini <https://www.flickr.com/photos/bhubesi/sets/72157649098077135/>

ST. LUCIA RETREAT AND CONFERENCE CENTER



On November 1, 2014, the Vicariate Apostolic of Ingwavuma celebrated the opening and blessing of the St. Lucia Retreat and Training Centre.

According to Fr. Mel Loftus, OSM, the dignitaries present included Barry Wood, OMI, the auxiliary bishop of Durban, Fr. Sylvester David, OMI, the president of St. Joseph's Theological Institute, and Sylvie Vantillard, the architect. At the ceremony, the keys were handed over to Bishop Jose Luis Ponce de Leon, Bishop of Manzini, Swaziland (former bishop and current administrator of the Vicariate Apostolic of Ingwavuma), by Lenny Wilson, the general contractor. After Mass, lunch was served in the newly constructed hall/dining room.

The complex, made up of church, hall, kitchen, and ten retreat cottages, began as the initiative of Bishop Jose Luis Ponce de Leon. At the time, there was no workable space for groups in the vicariate to hold meetings, training seminars, retreats, etc. The decision was made to build on three plots of land owned by the Vicariate and uniquely situated near Lake St. Lucia and the iSimangaliso Wetland Park, South Africa's first World Heritage Site and a place of great natural beauty. The new church looks out onto the park and lake. Construction began in 2013. The buildings were complete in September 2014, with final furnishings added throughout October.

Though the Centre does not assume a full schedule of activities until 2015, the annual meeting of the Vicariate Presbyterium was held there from November 3-5, 2014, as a "dress rehearsal" and test of its facilities.

MARY, UNTIER OF KNOTS

At the General Chapter of the Servite Order in 2013, the inspiration for the Servite family was expressed in this way: “We, who are called to live our vocation as Servants, look to the Virgin as a person of relationship and someone who brings about encounter.” It is a simple but powerful statement, for it reminds us of our own relationship with Mary and how her example leads us into relationship with others.

Devotionally we personally relate to Mary in a remarkable variety of ways due to our cultural heritage, our own life experience, our deep-felt needs. We may know and find ourselves drawn to Mary because of the great pilgrimage shrines that honor her memory: Lourdes, Guadalupe, Fatima, Czestochowa. We may find the courage that we need as we reflect upon Mary’s intercession as expressed in the titles given to her: mirror of justice, refuge of sinners, comforter of the afflicted, health of the sick, cause of our joy.

However, have we ever approached Mary as the One Who Unties the Knots? That particular devotion has grown in popularity in recent years especially since its promotion by Pope Francis when he was Archbishop in Buenos Aires. While such a title for Mary may seem new for some, it is actually an idea that was first expressed in the early days of the church.

St. Irenaeus of Lyons (d. 202) is the first great theologian of the early church and is considered by some to be the church’s first Mariologist. Irenaeus, referred to Mary as the New Eve. He reflected that when Eve and Adam disobeyed God, a knot was created: humanity became



twisted, caught up in sinfulness and guilt, strained in our relationship with God and with each other. When Mary said “yes” to God’s invitation, she modeled for us the way to untie the knots in our lives by obedience. Irenaeus then refers to Mary as the Advocate of Eve. Do those ideas seem familiar? They are all contained in the words and meaning of the *Salve Regina* which is so familiar to us as Servites.

This wonderful understanding of Mary is visually captured in a painting by Johann Georg Schmidtner which is enshrined in the church of St. Peter am Perlach in Augsburg, Germany. The painting was commissioned by Father Jerome Langenmantel to commemorate an incident in his family history. The marriage of his grandparents was crumbling and nearing divorce. His grandfather went to a local priest for counseling and brought with him the ribbon which was tied around the arms of the bride and groom at the wedding ceremony. The priest offered his counsel and while he invoked the intercession of Mary he untied the knots in the marriage ribbon. The marriage was happily preserved and thanks was given to Mary as the Untier of Knots.

The painting shows Mary standing on a crescent moon, symbolizing the Immaculate Conception. Mary’s foot crushes the head of the serpent, just as in the Miraculous Medal. It is interesting to note that the serpent is shown as twisted into a knot. An angel hands Mary a long strip of knotted cloth which she unties and passes on to another angel.

The devotion remained somewhat local. However, when Pope Francis saw the original in Germany, he brought back a copy to Buenos Aires in the 1980s. He personally promoted this devotion and it continues to spread as people once again find in Mary an intercessor as they deal with the knots and tangles of their relationships, choices, mistakes and sins. Mary is Eve’s advocate - and ours!

- Fr. Robert Warsey, O.S.M.

FRIAR INVESTED IN ORDER OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE

After the Crusader period the order began to decline and finally ceased to exist in 1291. It was revived under Pope Pius IX in 1847. Today, the aims of the Order are less martial and more charitably based. Members are required to:

- be loyal to the Pope, uphold the teachings of the Church, and desire growth in the Christian life
- to assist in the charitable, cultural and social works of the Catholic Church in the Holy Land
- to preserve and spread the faith in the Holy Land as well as increase awareness of that work throughout the world.

Candidates for nomination must be devout and observant Catholics of deep faith, obedient to the Holy Father, and involved in Catholic activities within one's diocese. Priests may only be nominated by their bishop.

Fr. Gerald is currently the Vicar of Faith Formation for the Diocese of Orange in California as well as the Assistant Provincial of the USA Province of Servites. He has also served the Servite Order as past Executive Director of the Grotto in Portland and a past Principal of Servite High School in Anaheim. Congratulations, Fr. Gerald!



Fr. Gerald Horan, OSM, right, with Diocese of Orange Chancellor Shirl Giacomi and her husband Pat.

Fr. Gerald Horan, O.S.M., was recently invested in the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem. The investiture ceremony took place during the annual meeting of the order's Western Lieutenancy in Honolulu, Hawaii, October 3-6, 2014.

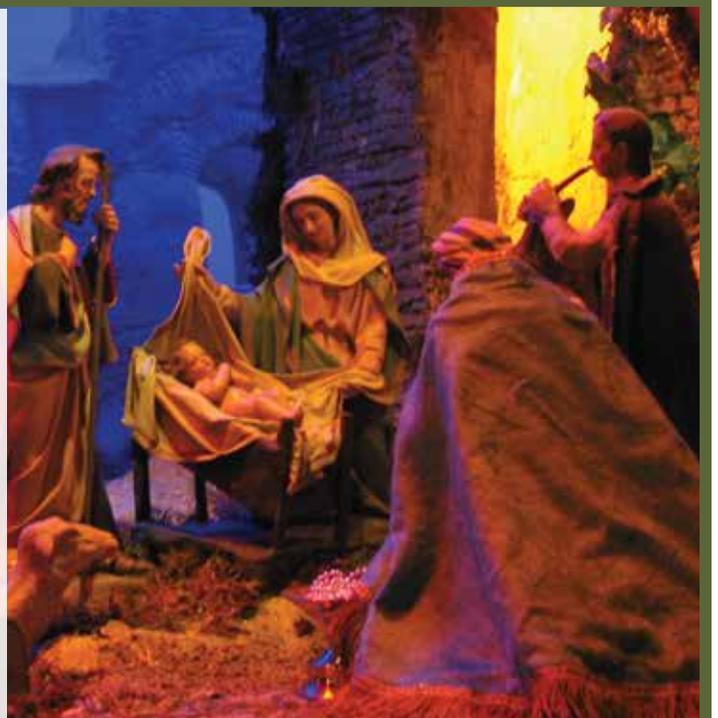
Founded in the 11th century, the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem originally had the charge of defending, by force of arms, the sacred sites in the Holy Land as well as the protection of Christian pilgrim visitors.

**Mother of the Church, Virgin Holy,
Gateway of eternal glory,
Be our refuge, guide us on
To the Father and the Son
O clemens - O clement!**

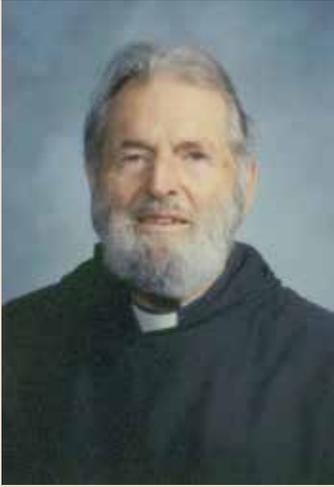
**Virgin clement, virgin loving
Virgin sweet, O Mary mother
Hear the blessed prayers of all
Who on thy loving kindness call
O pia - O loving!**

**Mother of God, O Glorious One
Bearing the Father's only son
Pray for us and pray for all
Who celebrate thy memorial
O dulcis - O sweet one!**

(from a Servite choir book, Bologna, ca. 1270)



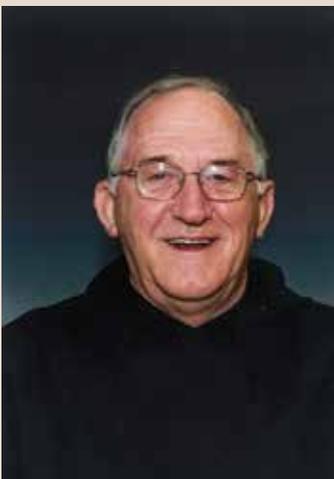
IN MEMORIAM



Fr. Peter M. Rookey, O.S.M., a solemn professed friar and priest, died Wednesday, September 10, 2014 at Our Lady of Sorrows Monastery, Chicago, Illinois. He was ninety-seven years of age and a priest for seventy-three years. He was born October 12, 1916, in Superior, WI. Fr. Rookey entered the Servite Order on September 8, 1930, and professed solemn vows on November 1, 1938. He was ordained a priest on May 17, 1941. Fr. Peter served as Assistant Master of Novices, Mt. St. Philip, Granville, WI; Assistant Pastor, Assumption Parish, Portland, OR; Assistant Master of Students, Mater Dolorosa Seminary, Hillside, IL; Assistant Master of Professed Students, Novices & Postulants, Benburb Priory, Benburb, Ireland; Servite General Consultor, Rome, Italy; Assistant Pastor, Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, Chicago, IL; Servite Foundations in Louvain, Belgium and Germany; Assistant Pastor, St. Marie du Lac Parish, Ironton, MO; and Director of The International Compassion Ministry. Visitation was Saturday, September 13, and Sunday, September 14, 2014, at Our Lady of Sorrows Basilica, Chicago, IL. The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Monday, September 15, 2014, also at Our Lady of Sorrows Basilica, Chicago, IL. Interment was in the Servite Section of Queen of Heaven Cemetery, Hillside, IL.



Fr. John M. Le May, O.S.M., a solemn professed friar and priest, died Tuesday, September 23, 2014, at Resurrection Hospital, Chicago, Illinois. He was eighty-six years of age and a priest for thirty years. He was born May 3, 1928 in Detroit, MI. He professed solemn vows on October 18, 1953. Fr. Le May served as a missionary in the Servite Missions in KwaZulu Natal, Republic of South Africa as a Servite Brother from 1951 to 1980. In 1980, he began his studies for the priesthood at Hales Corners Seminary, Hales Corners, Wisconsin, and was ordained a priest on June 16, 1984. Following his ordination he returned to the Servite Missions in KwaZulu-Natal, Republic of South Africa. In 2007, he retired to the United States and was assigned to Our Lady of Sorrows Monastery as a retired friar. Visitation was Friday, September 26, 2014, at Our Lady of Sorrows Basilica, Chicago. The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Saturday, September 27, 2014, also at Our Lady of Sorrows Basilica. Interment was in the Servite Section of Queen of Heaven Cemetery, Hillside, IL.



Fr. Robert M. Anderson, O.S.M., a solemn professed friar and priest of the Order of Friar Servants of Mary, USA Province, died Thursday, October 23, 2014 at Laurelhurst Nursing Facility, Portland, OR. He was seventy-five years of age and a priest for forty-nine years. He was born October 30, 1938, in Long Pine, Nebraska, the son of Roscoe and Clara (Haak) Anderson. Fr. Anderson entered the Servite Order on September 6, 1952. He professed his solemn vows on December 8, 1962 and was ordained a priest on July 11, 1965. He was a missionary in the Servite Missions in Zululand, South Africa; Pastor, Holy Trinity Parish, Westminster, CO; Novice Master for the Servite Western Province at St. Anthony Pucci Priory, Denver, CO; Pastor, St. Rita Parish, Portland, OR; Pastor, Assumption Parish, Denver, CO; Formation Director and Regional Coordinator for the Inter-Southern Africa Conference (ISAC); Parish Priest, St. Denis Parish, Tuart Hill, Australia and Parish Supply, The Sanctuary of Our Sorrowful Mother, The Grotto, Portland, OR. Visitation was Sunday, October 26, 2014, and the Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Monday, October 27, 2014, both in the Chapel of Mary at The Grotto, Portland, OR. Interment was in The Grotto Servite Cemetery, Portland, OR.



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Today

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Notes

from the National Shrine of St. Peregrine

PRAYER FOR HEALING

Lord Jesus, we appreciate the grace and care that you give to us each day. Your presence and strength are the resources that we need to face our fears, cancer, and serious illness. You give us warmth of heart to know that you are with us. You truly guide us. You give us angels to provide healing messages when we are sad, lonely and confused.

Through St. Peregrine and our caregivers, we gather the courage of the Holy Spirit to be devoted to God and to accept God's journey of love for us all. As we remember the angels and our patron saints in prayer, may we be joyful that we are in their beautiful company and support. We ask this, O Lord Jesus, now and forever, Amen.

Mark your calendars - The Feast Day Mass of St. Peregrine will be celebrated on Saturday, May 16, 2015, at the 11am Mass.

Become a part of the growing St. Peregrine ministry family and prayer partners by visiting and "liking" us on facebook:

www.facebook.com/TheCancerSaint

At the National Shrine of St Peregrine (Our Lady of Sorrows Basilica in Chicago), a healing Mass and blessing with relic of St. Peregrine is celebrated at 11:00am on the third Saturday of the month. There is a healing Mass and blessing in Spanish on the second Saturday of each month, also at 11:00am.

