

# *the* **Anthonyan** *love at work®*

JUNE 2007

**In the Spirit  
of St. Anthony**





**THE FRANCISCANS**  
**ST. ANTHONY'S GUILD**  
 4 Jersey Street, East Rutherford, NJ 07073-1012



June 2007

Dear Friend of St. Anthony,

As we prepare to celebrate the feast of our beloved patron St. Anthony on June 13, I am reminded of his exemplary life and the many people who continue to be his witnesses in our world today. It is the generosity of the members of St. Anthony's Guild that allows the Franciscans to continue the legacy of our great saint.

Recently, I read a quotation from St. Anthony that brings to mind the great sacrifices that our members make in supporting the ministry of the Franciscans. "Like the almond tree blooms before all the others, so must helping the poor take precedence over all other acts of a follower of Christ."

As we celebrate the 80th anniversary (1927) of the founding of *The Anthonian*, I hope you continue to enjoy hearing more about St. Anthony and seeing once more how his spirit is alive in many ways through the ministries of the Franciscans.

Once again, please know how grateful I am for your continued support and know that you and your loved ones will be remembered in our novena in honor of St. Anthony. Happy feast day!

In St. Anthony,

Fr. John T. Piccione, OFM



**COVER:** Father Todd Carpenter, OFM, and volunteer Noel Gonzalez discuss preparations for the night activities at the Men's Shelter of Holy Cross Church in the Bronx, N.Y. The shelter is celebrating its 25th anniversary.

**PHOTO CREDITS**

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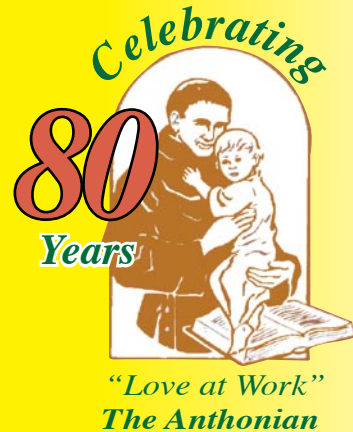
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# the Anthonian

*Love at Work*

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**The Poor Clares** gather with novices from Holy Name and other provinces for prayer, meals and conversation as part of the formation process of the friars.



*THE ANTHONIAN shows God's Love at Work in today's world through the ministries of the Franciscan Friars of Holy Name Province supported by the generosity of the members of St. Anthony's Guild.*

# Sheltering the Homeless for 25 Years

By Fr. Todd Carpenter, OFM

Statistics change and so do moderators, yet for 25 years the Holy Cross Men's Shelter in the Bronx has consistently achieved its goal of offering food and beds to the homeless of New York.

This year, Holy Cross Church in the Bronx, N.Y., is celebrating a special milestone — the 25th anniversary of the founding of its Men's Homeless Shelter. This is just a year after Holy Cross Parish commemorated the 85th anniversary of its founding by the friars of Holy Name Province.

Each winter for the past 25 years, a portion of the basement of Holy Cross has been transformed into a 20-bed shelter and dining room. Each weeknight in January, February and March, the shelter accommodates between 15 and 20 men and two overnight volunteers. During its 25-year history, the shelter has been open a total of 1,439 nights and provided more than

20,000 beds and meals. This winter 847 beds and meals were provided.

Just as in 1982, homelessness continues to be a serious problem today. Reports show that more than 35,000 homeless people are served by shelters throughout New York City. Of that number, 20,763 are adults and 14,257 are children. There are currently 7,241 single adults staying in shelters (5,356 men and 1,885 women). The Bronx homeless shelters house approximately one third of all the New York City homeless. It is estimated that between 3,000 and 10,000 homeless people are unsheltered and living on the streets.

During the winter of 1982, in response to the plight of the homeless



Long-time volunteers Noel Gonzalez and Joan Rocco share stories with Fr. Todd.

Rocco have been on the team all of the shelter's life. Also joining them was Ed Milby from Bethlehem Lutheran Church who had experience setting up a shelter.

throughout New York City, Father Joseph Hertel, OFM, then pastor of Holy Cross, founded the Men's Shelter with several volunteers from the parish. That year, the New York City Department of Homeless Services reported 7,584 people in homeless shelters in comparison to more than 35,000 today.

The first moderator of the Holy Cross Men's Shelter was Father Brian Jordan, OFM, and the original volunteers from Holy Cross Parish were Joe Bello, Carlos Cruz, Inetha Freeman, Phil Weber, Noel Gonzalez and Joan Rocco; Gonzales and

Recent friar moderators at this much-needed ministry include Brother William Herbst, OFM, who served from 1990 to 1994 and Father Thaddeus Sapio, OFM, the longest-running moderator, who has been serving since 1995. A number of volunteers including the maintenance staff of Gonzalez, Roberto Velez, Freddie Rivera and Miguel Viruet keep operational necessities such as lighting, heating and plumbing systems in working order. In 2004, the volunteers installed a hot shower for the guests.

When the shelter opened in 1982,

Hunter College in Manhattan sent personnel to instruct the shelter staff and volunteers in the care of the homeless. They provided guidelines concerning health, hygiene, and management.

Over the years, the shelter has expanded its services. Originally, the facility was located in a small room off the cafeteria of Holy Cross School and was open only on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Initially, a hot meal was not served, though occasionally food from the school lunches was saved for the guests.

"The school staff recommended the shelter open later in the week because the cafeteria had more leftovers on those days," Gonzalez said. The tradition of serving hot meals was started by Alice Serano, the sister of Carlos Cruz, who, once a week, prepared a large pot of stew for the guests. From there, other parishioners began volunteering to prepare meals. In 1986, the shelter was moved to the church basement where it was given a larger space and the schedule was expanded to five days a week.

### Sponsored by Partnership

Holy Cross Men's Shelter is sponsored by The Partnership for the Homeless, a non-profit organization founded in 1982. It addresses homelessness through both direct service and also policy initiatives and advocacy to eliminate the causes of homelessness. Through both public and private funding, The Partnership for the Homeless coordinates and assists more than 100 faith- and neighborhood-based shelters throughout New York City. New Yorkers in need of overnight accommodations register at various "drop-in centers" where Partnership for the Homeless assigns them a shelter and busses them there. Initially, Holy Cross received its shelter guests from a facility at 103rd Street in Manhattan and later from St. Agnes Church on 43rd Street. Today, they are bussed to Holy Cross from a shelter in the Grand Central Station neighborhood.

The shelter on Soundview Avenue would not exist were it not for the guidance of the Partnership for the Homeless which provides their shelters with fold-away cots, fresh



The dining room provides warm meals in a welcoming atmosphere.

linens, blankets, pillows and towels, reimbursement for heating costs, toiletries, cleaning supplies and some food service supplies.

At the Holy Cross Shelter, the men arrive each evening about 7:30 p.m. and are given a home-cooked meal, a hot shower, a warm bed and access to cable television. Their facility comprises two rooms. The first is a dining room with blue walls, cheerful tablecloths and many signs reminding participants of rules; the second is a more secluded room with beds and hooks and hangers for clothing.

Each night, a coordinator is assigned to open the shelter and supervise the volunteers. A parishioner cooks a meal that is picked up at his/her home and brought to the shelter. Many parish groups including the Secular Franciscans also provide meals for the guests. During its three months of operation, the shelter never has had a shortage of cooks or overnight volunteers.

"Everyone has their roles," Gonzalez said. "We even appoint a guest to serve as captain and make sure that the men are all up on time."

The familiarity that the guests have with the procedures and the people at Holy Cross's shelter is evident as they enter the facility. After signing in, they head directly to the bedroom to drop their belongings and then settle into a regular seat for supper.

### Organized by Volunteers

A regimented schedule of activities has been perfected over the years. A typical evening at the Holy Cross shelter includes opening and setting up the facility at 6:45 p.m. and reviewing the logbook, serving guests from 7:45 to 8:15, clean-up at 8:15, followed by recreation, conversation and showers at 8:30, and at 10:00, bedtime with strict lights out.

Mornings include a 5:00 to 6:00 a.m. breakfast, distribution of clean linens and making of beds, and 6:30 pick-up of guests who are driven to the drop-in center. A volunteer reads the shelter for the next night.

Two volunteers stay overnight with the guests to keep procedures running smoothly. Gonzalez noted that there are probably few shelters



**Volunteers Joan Rocco, Carlos Cruz and Inetha Freeman regularly prepare meals for the shelter guests.**



Volunteers and guests pray together.

where two women stay as overnight chaperones. Two regular overnight volunteers are Betsy Feliciano and Mildred Morales. On Thursday nights, two members of the Holy Cross friar community spend the night in the shelter.

Parishioners also bake cakes and donate clothing. Many volunteers have said how much they enjoy spending the night in the shelter, and how blessed they feel to have this opportunity to get to know the guests.

Rocco said that she enjoys volunteering at the shelter because she meets many interesting people. Through the years, guests have had a variety of backgrounds.

“We’ve even had doctors and lawyers here,” Gonzalez said. “The same men come every night for three months.

“Holy Cross Shelter is really home to the men,” added Gonzalez who was affiliated to Holy Name Province in 1998. “The volunteers, cooks and chaperones are *their* guests. After dinner is finished, the men take the lead in cleaning up.”

One guest, a native of Guatemala

who has been coming regularly for two years, said that he likes this shelter because he feels safe.

Gonzalez said, “The shelter has been able to operate successfully these many years due to the assistance of the Partnership for the Homeless, the support of the various pastors of Holy Cross, and the generosity of the parishioners of Holy Cross Church who have donated their time as overnight volunteers, cooks, and bakers.”

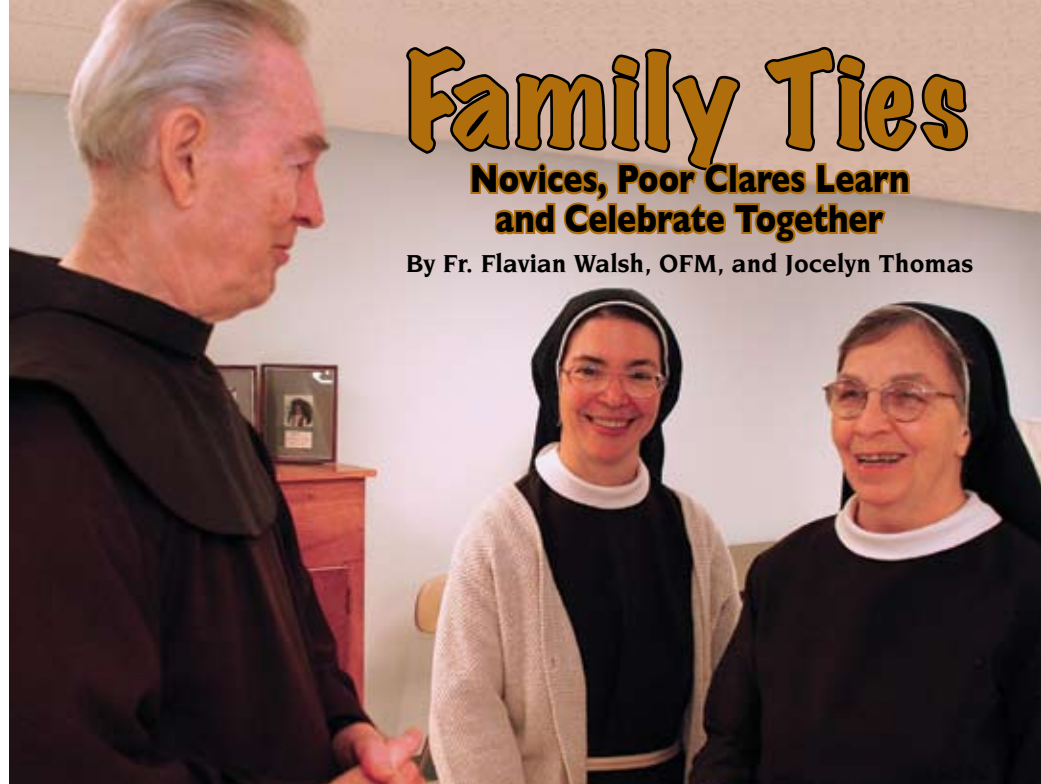
At the end of each season, the men who have made their homes at Holy Cross express their gratitude to the people of the parish by writing a letter of thanks that is published in the church bulletin. On the final evening of the shelter’s 2007 season — the last Friday in March — the parish held a 25th anniversary party for both guests and volunteers. Guests were given “care” packages assembled by parish youth.

Many current and former volunteers joined the men for a prayer service and dessert to conclude this milestone year and to commemorate the warmth of teamwork and shelter.

Holy Cross Men’s Shelter is a true blessing to the community.

—Fr. Todd is pastor of Holy Cross Church in the Bronx.

[www.holycrossbronx.org](http://www.holycrossbronx.org)



# Family Ties

## Novices, Poor Clares Learn and Celebrate Together

By Fr. Flavian Walsh, OFM, and Jocelyn Thomas

Fr. Flavian visits with Sr. Donna (center) and Sr. Florence (right) of the Poor Clares before the Advent scripture sharing in Chesterfield, N.J.

**G**athering life experiences has long been a key ingredient of the formation, or training, process of the Franciscan friars.

In addition to formal study, the new friars of Holy Name Province participate in programs that involve a variety of religious communities to gain valuable knowledge as part of their six-year formation process.

One of the groups that has offered the longest, and perhaps the strongest, bond with the novices, is the Capuchin Poor Clares community whose members join the Holy Name friars in many activities ranging from praying and meals to singing and kite-flying.

It all began in 1999 with a joint celebration of the Transitus, or passing, of St. Francis.

That October, Father Thomas Gallagher, OFM, the Provincial Director of Novices, invited members of the First Order-Capuchin Friars, Second Order-Poor Clares as well as Third Order Regular Sisters and Secular Franciscans of Wilmington to celebrate the Transitus with the novices and the friar community of Wilmington, Del., where the novitiate had recently been relocated from Providence, R.I. Since being named director that year, Fr. Thomas had envisioned all branches of the Franciscan family being



Br. Hugo Medrano, OFM, of Holy Name Province, joins the Poor Clares in song and prayer at the annual picnic at St. Bonaventure University.

an integral element of the novices' formation.

After the celebration of the Transitus, the participants processed through the streets of Wilmington, carrying the paschal candle and a Franciscan habit symbolizing Francis of Assisi. Their destination was the convent of the Capuchin Poor Clare nuns on Jefferson Street.

There, they prayed with the Capuchin Poor Clares from Mexico, and Mother Abbess blessed all with the Blessing of Saint Clare.

Immediately, the Capuchin Poor Clares became part of the formation program for novices of Holy Name Province. For eight years, the novices have also played a role in the life, prayer and liturgy of the sisters.

Twice a week, the novices celebrate the Eucharist with the Poor Clares. On Sunday afternoons, the nuns and the novices celebrate Evening Prayer together in their chapel. Several of the novices have taken an active role in the Poor Clare musical rehearsals for major feasts.

One novice, Brother Dan Horan, OFM, is learning to make habits from Sister Dolores Andrade, OSC, Cap., who has made habits for Cardinal Theodore McCarrick of Washington, D.C., and Cardinal Sean O'Malley, OFM, Cap., of Boston.

The impact of the Wilmington Poor Clares upon the novices is strong and positive. The novices are edified and impressed by the lives of their Poor Clare sisters, who were originally from Mexico.

Fr. Tom said he believed from the start of his involvement with the program that "it is important that the novices experience the contemplative dimension of our charism, and appreciate the life of their Poor Clare sisters. It is enriching for novices and their Franciscan future."

### Summer at St. Bonaventure

As they have done for the past six summers, Poor Clare nuns are traveling this June from many parts of the world to study at St. Bonaventure University in Allegany, N.Y.

Their tuition and travel expenses are covered by a generous grant.

During their stay, 35 to 40 Poor Clare nuns live in a townhouse dormitory where they pray and study with religious men and women of various orders. They study at the Franciscan Institute, and take courses on the life of their founder Clare. Novices of various provinces talk with the Poor Clares, including the Holy Name novices who "enjoy listening to these delightful and remarkable women," according to Fr. Tom.

This contact is an added opportunity for Holy Name novices to expand their appreciation of the Second Order's life and vocation, Fr. Tom said. Each summer, he invites all of the Poor Clares to an afternoon of kite-flying in a campus field. In the evening, Fr. Tom prepares a feast for the sisters in the garden. It is an enjoyable time for both the novices and the Poor Clares as they share a meal, joyful laughter and their experiences as veteran and budding religious.

### Lent/Advent at the Monastery

For the past five years, 14 Poor Clare nuns from New Jersey and their retriever Maggie, short for Magnificat, have been an important part of the novices' lives.

During both Lent and Advent, Fr. Tom and the novices drive approximately 60 miles north each Wednesday to the Poor Clare Monastery in Chesterfield, N.J., where the novices spend the day. Their visit with the Poor Clares begins with an 11 a.m. Eucharist that includes a shared homily by the novices and the Poor Clares, followed by a simple lunch with the sisters filled with conversation and laughter. In the afternoon, they pray evening prayer and visit Maggie in the garden. Later, the novices and Poor Clares gather to read and share their reflections for the readings of the next Sunday liturgy.

A song is played and then the readings are read twice — once by the novices, and then by the sisters. The Holy Name novices use the commentaries in the novitiate

Br. Dwayne Fernandes, OFM, of Christ the King Province in Alberta, Canada, entertains the group during a lunch break.





Br. Stephen DeWitt, OFM, of Holy Name, shares a reflection.

library for their preparation of the interpretation of the Sunday readings. All the novices and the nuns are invited to add their own comments.

Prayer is at the heart of the Poor Clare life, according to the community's Web site. "The nuns come together to pray seven times a day, and throughout the day there is time for meditation, quiet and reflection," the site says. "All prayer is centered around the Mass."

Included in the novices' visit is a reflection segment. The sisters read the Sunday readings and, after a brief period of silence, all are invited to exchange their insights on the scriptures. The Poor Clares easily share their lives in these sessions, and the fruits of their spiritual reading and experience as contemplatives are evident. The novices and the Poor Clares seem to enjoy their time together, and the days are beneficial to all.

Sr. Claire Andre Gagliardi, OSC, former Abbess at Chesterfield, said, "Our Advent and Lenten sharing has been a graced experience. It brings us back to the original charism when the brothers and sisters were one movement."

"I am very grateful to belong to an

order where I have brothers along with sisters," she added. "Having both the feminine and masculine dimension of Franciscan spirituality seems to touch the whole person. Also, sharing the scriptures is important since each of our rules begins with professing to live the Holy Gospel."

The Poor Clare community has been living in the mid-Atlantic area since the summer of 1909 when five nuns came to Bordentown, N.J., from Boston, Mass. They purchased the former motherhouse of the Sisters of Mercy where, for nearly 100 years, the Poor Clares of Bordentown lived the Gospel life in the heart of the Church.

Four years ago, when the building needed repairs that were beyond the sisters' means, the community sold the Bordentown property, and built a simple but attractive monastery in the middle of the woods of Chesterfield Township. In 2003, they moved into their new home — a town of 5,955 now with 14 Poor Clares plus Maggie.

### Lasting Franciscan Ties

During these years, solid bonds between the sisters and friars have been established. Though each novice class has been offered many options as they choose their spiritual directors, many have selected their spiritual directors from among the Poor Clare community. Several of the friars have continued with their spiritual direction after their simple vows, and maintain relationships with the Poor Clares of

Wilmington and Chesterfield.

Sr. Claire Andre said the community has become a place that the friars-in-training come for support, spiritual direction, retreat, and quiet days.

"I find the brothers keep returning to us after they leave novitiate and don't have to," she said. "We seem to share our vocations and our life journey."

The Poor Clares formation director Sr. Patricia Kahler, OSC, said she is grateful for the five years of contact with Holy Name novices.

"I appreciate the Advent and Lent sharing with the novices very much," she said. "We are so happy that, through their visits, the novices are becoming acquainted with St. Clare and the way we here in Chesterfield are living out her charism. We have found that friendships are formed that are lasting. They will bring us future candidates because the friars know about our contemplative vocation and can encourage women whom they meet to consider our form of life," she said.

Sister Florence Vales, OSC, said, "It is a great delight to see the good formation that the Holy Name Province's novices are receiving. We have learned much from the novices' preparation of the Sunday Scriptures, their respectful interchange among themselves, and their attentive listening to us sharing our faith. It is inspiring to see such fine men interested in religious life," she added.

Sr. Pat agrees. "It is encouraging

to see the fine men that Holy Name Province is attracting," she said.

While the Poor Clares express appreciation for sharing meals and friendship with their brothers, the novices, too, are grateful for the opportunity to get to know another branch of their Franciscan family.

"During my time as a novice this year, I have had the privilege

of getting to know several communities of Poor Clares," said Brother Stephen DeWitt, OFM. "My experiences have been nothing but positive and enriching. These

women have taught me much about what it means to be a religious in the Franciscan tradition."



All 11 Poor Clare communities in Holy Name Federation — located along the Eastern seaboard, in Montana, Japan and Bolivia — are related in a special way with Holy Name Province. Father Daniel Lanahan, OFM, of Holy Name Province is the Spiritual Assistant for the Poor Clares. [www.poorclaresnj.com](http://www.poorclaresnj.com)

— Fr. Flavian is Associate Director of the Novitiate of Holy Name Province. Jocelyn Thomas is Director of Communications for the Province.



## St. Anthony of Padua

### Worker of Wonders in Word and Deed

By Fr. Russell Becker, OFM

**T**he Church proclaims the Paschal Mystery achieved in the saints who have suffered and have been glorified with Christ. She proposes them to the faithful as examples, drawing all to the Father through Christ; and through them, she pleads for God's favor. (Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, 104)

This quote from the Second Vatican Council reminds us of the traditional esteem with which the Church holds the holy men and women who have gone before us. We celebrate the saints because they give us the courage to believe that living by the Gospel is not impossible, but very possible. On June 13, the whole Church joins the Franciscans in keeping the feast of St. Anthony. He is beloved by so many because of all that he did in his very short life. Because he was a preacher who made people's hearts stir, like Jesus did, and his preaching was confirmed by marvelous deeds in a way similar to the Lord, he is called the *Doctor of the Gospel*. When people came in contact with St. Anthony, they began to know the Gospel because of his preaching and life. He made Christ visible to them and seen as the One worthy of being followed:

*Christ is our way in example, truth in promise, life in reward; a way that is straight, a truth that does not deceive, a life that never ends.*

**God hears our cries for help.** Tradition tells us that St. Anthony is considered to be a wonder worker. Go to any shrine of St. Anthony and you will see people who seek his intercession. In Padua, there is always the sound of people asking for help at his tomb.

Many of the miracles attributed to St. Anthony helped people to face the confusion in their lives with confidence, as they began to understand just how closely God watches over them. This is what he believed and helped others to come to trust:

*The compassion of God is without limits or measure; it is incomprehensible to our finite intelligence. God's compassion embraces and includes all.*

**Called to be faithful followers.** St. Anthony constantly challenged his hearers to faithfulness:

*To say "Lord, Lord" in the right sense means to believe in our heart, to praise God with our lips, and to bear witness with our deeds. If one of these is lacking, we are not confessing but denying; if our life belies our belief, it counts for nothing to shout God's praises.*

A difficult challenge indeed! Faith which does not result in a change in the way we live is NO FAITH. St. John reminded us that love of God is only true if we love one another. So, St. Anthony preaches that without deeply loving, cherishing and serving all that the Creator creates, we could not really say that we love, cherish or serve the Creator:

*Love is essential, so that without love all our efforts are in vain, no matter how much good we do... With love in our hearts, we will approach God in humility, others with compassion and ourselves with respect.*

And this love spreads:

*When a crystal is touched by the rays of the sun, it gives forth brilliant sparks of light. When people of faith are touched by God's grace, they too must give forth sparks of light in their good works and deeds, and so bring God's light to others.*

We can easily see St. Anthony in this quote, but he was not speaking of himself. He was really inviting his hearers to be the crystals of the ages to come.

**Caring for the Poor.** St. Anthony was gifted with a special vision: he could see Christ in the poor. Since his lifetime, many people have been helped, through his compassion and the compassion he stirs up in those

who look to him for a guide. Today, there are all kinds of ministries to the poor and the outcast, all under the patronage of St. Anthony: hungry people are fed because of St. Anthony's bread; there are shelters for the sick, the homeless, AIDS ministries, homes for battered women and families, and help for refugees often called Anthony Houses. This continues because he has shared his special vision with all of us. Anthony calls us to recognize Christ in the poor:

*Today, Christ stands at our door and knocks in the person of the poor. It is Christ that we honor when we give aid. For he tells us plainly: "When you did this to one of the least of my brothers or sisters, you did it to me."*

He does not just encourage people to help large services to the poor. He wants all of his followers to realize that it is Christ who comes to us personally in the poor when someone asks for help. He does not want us just to help answer the knock on the door of the church or institution, but also the knock on our personal doors. This knock he asks us to answer! For that is Christ knocking, too.

God is wonderful in his saints. In them we find hope. St. Anthony is one of those wonders. Our opening quotation from the Vatican Council echoes the saint's preaching:

*The stonemason and the bricklayer are careful to use measuring lines, pendulums and bobs to make walls straight. Can we not say that the virtuous lives of the saints are the measuring lines stretched out over our souls to make sure our lives take the proper shape and measure up to their good example? Whenever, then, we celebrate the feast of a saint, let us look to them as giving us the pattern our lives should take.*

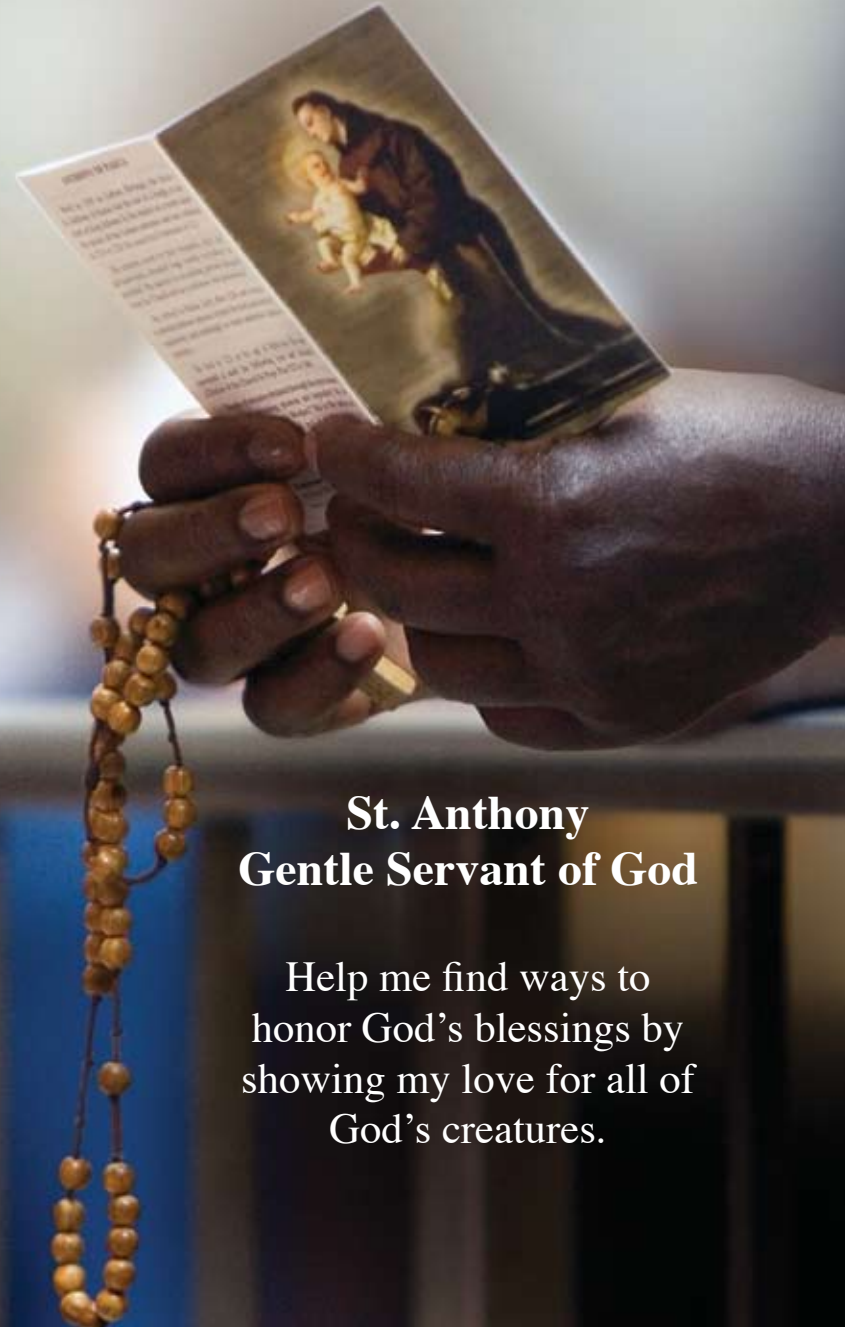
Let us join St. Anthony in prayer, especially on his feast:

*Let us ask the Lord Jesus Christ to pour out on us his grace, that we may ask and receive the fullness of true joy. May he ask the Father to grant us true piety, that we may deserve to come to the place of eternal life. Amen.*



— Fr. Russell is Director of the Franciscan Missionary Union of Holy Name Province.

THROUGH THE FRANCISCAN LENS  
By Br. Octavio Duran, OFM



**St. Anthony**  
**Gentle Servant of God**

Help me find ways to  
honor God's blessings by  
showing my love for all of  
God's creatures.

**St. Anthony's bread...  
a sharing with those who have not.**



## St. Anthony

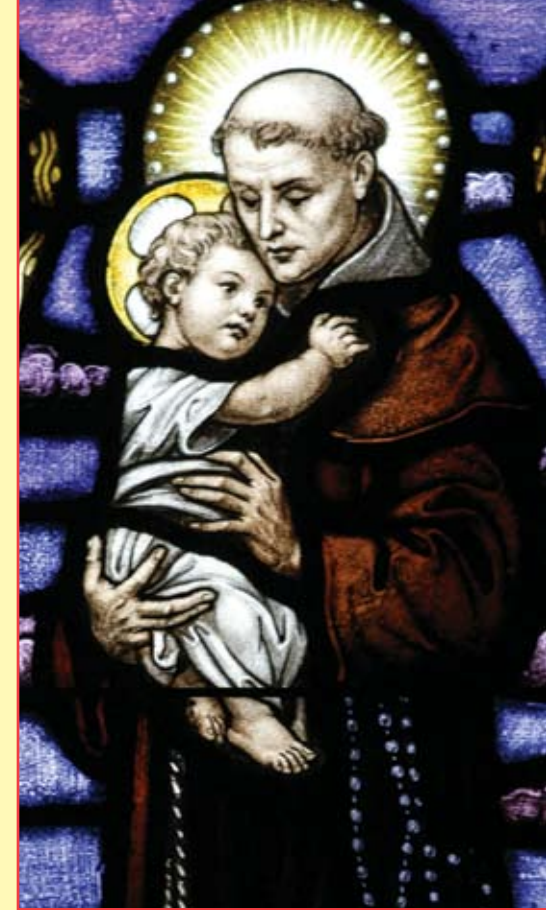
Share your strength that I may cope  
with the trials and troubles of daily life.



You, through whose  
voice the word of  
God was preached,  
intercede for my  
needs.

---

Powerful patron,  
be with me always  
and teach me to  
reach out in love  
and support to  
others.



2007

## St. Anthony of Padua Society

The following members of St. Anthony's Guild  
have generously chosen to remember the  
Franciscans in their will, trust  
or other estate planning.



Josephine Acosta  
Evelyn M. Adams  
Joseph Adams Jr.  
Florence Adler  
Irene M. Armington  
Eleanor Baccarelli  
Edna H. Bader  
Catherine Baldoni  
June A Barberio  
Gertrude B Barrows  
Alvina Bartylla  
Edward H. Bauer  
Keith Beardslee  
Dorothy C. Becker  
Evelyn Bencini  
Roland & Jo Berube  
Betty Blanchard  
Lorraine G. Brehmer  
Mary Louise Brennan  
Janet Bria  
Grace A. Bruno  
Marylane T. Burry  
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## Siena Continues Franciscan Tradition



### College Chooses 10th Friar President By Janet Gianopoulos

Longtime readers of *The Anthonian* need no introduction to Father Kevin Mackin, OFM. He led the Development Office of Holy Name Province as Director of St. Anthony's Guild, before being appointed president of Siena College near Albany, N.Y.

Fast forward 11 years: Father Kevin's schedule has been a deft juggle of meetings, interviews, lectures, sports, special events, speeches and homilies, priestly counseling, on and off campus, days, evenings, and weekends. Life is 24/7, as kids say.

After 25 years in academic leadership, he is stepping down and taking his first sabbatical. The next president, elected in March by Siena's board of trustees, is Father Kevin J. Mullen.

The similarity goes further than simply names. Fr. Mullen, shown at left in photo, earned a bachelor's degree in history from Siena (Fr.

Mackin has a master's in history from the school), was a trustee for 15 years, and in 2005 came to campus as director of the Franciscan Center for Service and Advocacy, and guardian of the friary (Fr. Mackin did the latter in the 1970s).

This June, Fr. Mullen inherits the office of the president.

"Siena College has had a profound influence on my adult life," said Fr. Mullen. "I am happy to be able to give back my skills and energy to the academic community that introduced me to the liberal arts and helped shape my outlook and perspective upon the world."

During the presidential search, Fr.

Mullen outlined his ethos: respect for the human person, relationships (“not only one-to-one, but communal”), justice, and being good stewards of God’s creation. And, he added, “finding what education and business can bring to that.”

The Paterson, N.J., native joined the Franciscans a month after graduating from Siena in 1975. He made his solemn profession of vows in 1979, and was ordained a priest in 1980. He received graduate degrees from the Washington Theological Union and The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

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### The education of Holy Name friars is supported by Guild members.

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From 1987 to 1990, Fr. Mullen taught at Christ the King Seminary in East Aurora, N.Y. (Fr. Mackin was the president-rector there). He has taught at Pope John XXIII National Seminary in Weston, Mass., Weston School of Theology in Cambridge, Emmanuel College in Boston, Felician College in Lodi, N.J., The Franciscan Institute at St. Bonaventure University, The Washington Theological Union, and Siena.

Fr. Mullen’s administrative and leadership talents developed when he was appointed guardian of St. Anthony Shrine in Boston, Mass., a popular downtown church that offers pastoral, liturgical and educational programs.

Fr. Mullen also chaired the board of directors of St. Francis House, a multifaceted outreach effort near the

Shrine, and served on the board of Franciscan Children’s Hospital. He has been a long-time member of the Provincial Council of the Franciscans of Holy Name Province.

In 1999, Fr. Mullen was appointed pastor/guardian of St. Leo’s Church in Elmwood Park, N.J., where he served until his Siena College appointments in 2005.

Fr. Mackin’s legacy includes unprecedented growth in academic excellence in the past decade, with more than 3,000 undergraduates choosing from 25 major fields of study taught by nearly 200 full-time faculty and other professionals, in three schools.

Fr. Mackin said in the January 2007 issue of the journal of the Association of Franciscan Colleges and Universities that “students, by studying with faculty in their disciplines, then engaging in related service or work, and reflecting on Franciscan values may hopefully choose to become life-long advocates for the poor by integrating insights of St. Francis into their professions.”

To that end, Fr. Mullen is looking to build on this spring’s Franciscan Insight courses by “having the Franciscan values of this institution move across all dimensions of the curriculum.”

Siena’s 70th anniversary recalls the school’s beginnings in 1937, with seven friar teachers and 90 students.

Fr. Mackin expressed confidence that his former student can continue growing the path.

“He has the vision, leadership and skills to take Siena to an even higher level of excellence,” said Fr. Mackin. “Siena College is an accredited college where students have the opportunity to develop the skills of mind and habits of heart to live a life of integrity, have a productive career, and influence the common good.”

Fr. Mackin has awarded more than 8,000 Siena College degrees, and remembers most students’ names on sight. “I really appreciate the energy of the students,” said the departing president.

The feeling is mutual. Student Senate president Joseph Hanson said, “I talk to people from other colleges and they don’t even know who their president is. I am able to have dinner with my president. I see him in the gym every day. He roller-

blades around campus. He’s always been there for the students.”

Though there is sadness with Fr. Mackin leaving, Hanson said students do not despair, because “waiting in the wings is another Fr. Kevin.”

Fr. Mullen has lived and worked with Fr. Mackin while the latter led two ministries: Christ the King Seminary and Siena College.

“In both situations, Fr. Kevin had boundless energy and always worked tirelessly to promote the well-being of the institutions,” said Fr. Mullen. “As his successor, I pray that I will have his energy and his sense of dedication. He will certainly be a difficult act to follow.”

— Janet Gianopoulos is Director of News Services at Siena College.

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## St. Anthony, A Friend of God

By Fr. Robert Menard, OFM

In my recent travels to Turkey, I found myself following a stream of people down a crowded street in Istanbul. People began making a turn into a courtyard set back from the street; I followed suit.

I was surprised to find I was entering St. Anthony's, the largest Catholic church in this Muslim city. In the literature welcoming the first-time visitor, I read that Pope John Paul II came to this site during his historic visit in 1979. I wonder if he stood before the image of St. Anthony with other pilgrims lighting candles and offering prayer? As I watched the candle flames dancing in the eyes of each petitioner, I prayed the Prayer of St. Anthony:

*Lord,  
may we sing your song of praise,  
rejoice only in you,  
live modestly,  
abandon our worries,  
and tell you all our needs,  
so that in the refuge of your peace,  
we can live in the kingdom of the celestial Jerusalem,  
with your help who are blessed and  
glorious for eternal ages.*

Later, I learned that many who come to this place of prayer are non-Catholic and adherents of Islam.



**I came to Turkey** in October 2006 to participate in a course sponsored by the Franciscans of Istanbul. Since the Franciscans first arrived in this city in the 13th century, their life and ministry have had ups and downs. In 1993, the General Minister of the Order of Friars Minor moved to re-invigorate the Franciscan commitment to Muslim-Christian dialogue. As part of this effort, he asked the friars of St. Mary Draperis to establish a Center for Ecumenical and Interreligious Dialogue in this historic city. They have invited friars throughout the world to participate in a course on dialogue at this center. Joining me as participants in this course were friars from Brazil, Congo, Morocco, France, Germany, Mexico, as well

as parts of the United States.

For two weeks, thoughtful reflections from several animators challenged us.

Brother Ruben told us about the creation and evolution of the Franciscan Commission on Dialogue which is an effort on the part of the friars to prolong the Spirit of Assisi initiated by Pope John Paul II. Brother Gwendole described the story of St. Francis and his meeting with the Sultan. He pointed out the significance of this encounter on the formation of the vision and mission of the Rule of 1221. This was so revolutionary that a deformation effort was soon undertaken to change the Franciscan spirit of brotherhood into a spirit of crusade. This process can be seen in the hagiographic effort to glorify the martyrs of Marakesh.

Brother Jim brought us into contemporary times by reviewing the status of the bilateral dialogues in which the Church is formally engaged. Besides listening to these well-informed presenters, we traveled to significant sites including Hagia Sophia, the Blue Mosque, St. George's Cathedral at Phanar, the Galata Synagogue, and Tekke (Melveni Derivish Monastery).

**While it was interesting** and challenging to meet with leaders among the various synagogues, mosques and cathedrals, the most inspiring experience was the sharing that took place among the program's Franciscan participants. It was encouraging to hear what other friars and their partners in

ministry were doing in the area of inter-religious dialogue.

Whether it was in Africa, Europe, Latin America or North America, friars were crossing borders into the world of 'the other' to encounter 'a presence' greater than themselves. The spirit of brotherhood is once again moving across the world. And we have a part in it. As friends of St. Anthony, you do, too.

I learned from this fraternal dialogue that many Muslims around the world demonstrate a devotion to St. Anthony. When I shared this with people back home in Virginia, they asked, "How is it that Muslims pray at the shrine of St. Anthony?" Let me share my thoughts, as I shared them with my parishioners.

Muslims are taught to read the Qur'an with great devotion. When they recite, they hear, "When My servant asks...surely I am near. I answer the prayer of the suppliant when he calls on Me (Qur'an 2:186)." The sayings of Muhammad are cherished. Young Muslims often learn to quote, "God has, for my sake, overlooked the mistakes and forgetfulness of my community" (Hadith tradition). Over time, practices were added to the traditions according to regional cultures, popular folk customs and streams of spirituality (Sufi teachings). The honoring of a saint as a friend of God (wali) is such a practice. Offering prayers at this saint's shrine has also gained popularity among some Muslim communities.

**St. Anthony** is seen as a "friend of God" in several parts of the world

(Turkey, Pakistan, Morocco among other places). As an exemplar and intercessor, Anthony's words and witness draw the devotee more intimately into the presence of God. The power of one's prayer is enhanced. His message about Divine love in daily life, about the importance of conversion of heart and respect for all brothers and sisters, and his concern for the welfare of the poor are all very compelling to the faithful Muslim.

After completing the short course on interreligious dialogue in Istanbul, I made my way to another city in South Central Turkey, Konya. There, I joined other pilgrims who had come to pray at the shrine of Jalal al-Din Rumi, another 13th century "friend of God." This Islamic teacher also has a global following. This year is the international year of Rumi.

While under the "Green Dome" of this ancient shrine, at his mausoleum, I read these words:

*In the name of God, the most merciful and compassionate, whose help we ask for and trust in, who keeps the keys to open our hearts . . .*

*Remember the passage,  
"We are with you wherever you are."  
Come back to that.  
When did we ever leave it?*

*No matter, we're in a prison of forgetting.  
Or enjoying the banquet of wisdom,  
We are always inside presence.*

*Drunkenly asleep, tenderly awake,  
Clouded with grief, laughing like lightning,  
Angry at war, quiet with gratitude, we are nothing*

*In this many-mooded world of weather  
But a single brushstroke down,  
Speaking of presence.  
(Prayer of Rumi, b. 1207)*

**As the words turned** around my mind, I remembered the night in the Galata Tekke when the friars and the dervish disciples of Rumi turned around each other in prayer. That night, we prayed in the spirit of Assisi for peace among all religions and peace in the world.

As I embarked on my return flight to the U.S., I took delight in recalling St. Anthony's burning desire to walk among the Muslims of Morocco. He may not have appeared successful in following the first Franciscan missionaries among the Muslims but his openness to the Divine Presence, his humility of heart and compassion for the poor have certainly touched many Muslim hearts around the world.

I pray that as friends of St. Anthony, we might always remember to speak to Muslims today with words of Gospel peace and joy. May we also have the humility to allow the Qur'anic blessing "Salaam" (may peace be upon you!) to inspire us. Heart speaks to heart — something St. Anthony and Rumi both knew well.

*— Fr. Bob is a parochial vicar at St. Francis Church in Triangle, Va., and is guardian of the friar community.*

## My Franciscan Journey

Br. Walter Liss, OFM

**M**y five-year journey as a Franciscan has taken me along many unexpected, challenging, and joyful paths. When people ask me why I joined the Franciscans, I always put the blame on God, since a religious vocation was not my idea. When I joined, the whole idea of a religious vocation made no sense to me. I had a good job, owned my own home, had many close friends, and enjoyed my free time. I thought, why would I want to leave all this? Yet, a desire for living as part of a religious community continued to attract me, and God seemed to keep placing events and people in my life that directed me towards a religious vocation.

The seed for a religious vocation was planted early in my life. I attended Catholic elementary and high schools, both of which were staffed by communities of religious sisters. While I was not the most committed student at that point, I remember being impressed with the prayerfulness, devotion, service, and wisdom of the sisters who taught me. I doubt I would have become a Franciscan had it not been for the witness of the sisters.

My parents were also an essential influence for my vocation. First,



their service to the parish taught me the importance of contributing to a community. Secondly, they instilled in me the importance of commitment, which is inherently part of religious life. I do not recall my parents ever talking to me about the importance and joy of a commitment. Instead I have learned through the example of their life together.

### Expecting the Unexpected

I took studying more seriously after high school; I graduated from college, and eventually earned my first master's degree (the second one is in progress). My professional career was in information technology and my responsibilities ranged from writing programs for statistical analysis to directing computer technicians and programmers. My life as a friar has been quite different.

The following is a reflection on my ministry experiences with three different groups: those who suffered from mental illness, soldiers injured in war, and college students. I chose these experiences because they reflect the diversity of people the friars are called to serve.

My first unexpected encounter was ministering in a residence for people suffering from serious mental illness who were homeless or in danger of being homeless. The first thing I noticed was how polite the residents were; perhaps I had grown accustomed to a lack of politeness in our culture. Some of the residents had previously lived on the streets, received no medical care, and faced constant threats to their lives. Despite their hardships, I found them to be gentle, kind, considerate, grateful, and fun to be around.

I learned many lessons from my experiences at St. Francis Residences including the fact that politeness is always welcomed. I was reminded that unexpected people often show us the face of Christ.

I have never been in the military, nor do I come from a military family, so when I was invited to serve as a chaplain at a military hospital I was not sure what to expect. With a nation at war, I did expect that I would encounter people who were injured in battle. It turned out that most of my time was spent ministering to soldiers who were wounded in Iraq. The injuries were severe — often multiple amputations, brain damage, and disfiguration. I learned new medical terms such as “multi-system failure” and “polytrauma.”

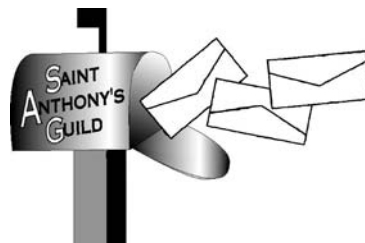
Each week, I saw the realities of war in a way that television could not convey. The faces of war became very personal and the scope of the tragedy all too real. I felt deep compassion for all people

living with the realities of war, and I think I could understand more clearly John Paul II’s reflection that “war is always a defeat for humanity.” My ministry to the wounded and to their families was largely one of companionship. I listened to their stories, prayed with them, and helped them to “pass time” on their long road of recovery.

Next, I was called to work in a college retreat program. I met with students to help plan retreats, I prepared and delivered talks, and I offered spiritual conversation and prayer. The students left me with a tremendous amount of hope for our future and the future of the Church. They enriched my prayer life, invigorated my commitment to ministry, and taught me new ways to have fun. I was deeply moved by their desire and willingness to grow in their life of faith.

Part of the joy I experience as a friar is seeing where God will send me next. I have been privileged to enter the lives of a variety of people and to journey with them into a deeper relationship with God. My life has been greatly enriched. I do hope that those whose paths I crossed have been enriched by my presence. I am very grateful that God led me to the friars, and I thank and pray for those who make possible our way of life and service to God’s people.

— Br. Walter is serving a formation internship at Siena College in Loudonville, N.Y.



## ... And Now From Our Readers

### BUILDING PLANS APPROVED

My husband wanted to put our two sons in a business of their own but we had problems with our county building codes. It was just a mess, because we constantly had to change the drawings for the codes to pass, before we could get our permit to start building. I prayed to St. Anthony to help me, and I promised him \$100 to the Guild, to help the poor. I said a nine-day novena in honor of St. Anthony. Then I got the answer I needed to hear. The drawings got approved. I’m so grateful to St. Anthony, because he is always there for me. Whether it’s a good day or not, I can always depend on him so much. Tonight is the end of my novena. But it doesn’t stop here. I always talk to him. I wish everyone had a relationship with a saint as I do in St. Anthony.

L. A. H., Orlando, Fla.

### LOST WITHOUT HIM

I lost a cross-stitched baby blanket that I wanted to enter in our county fair. I had been searching for it for months. This morning, I said a special prayer to St. Anthony. Within five minutes, I went back to the bedroom (where I had looked and looked

in the closet), and in the corner under some photos there it was.

Also, I had been looking for my birthstone ring (that I got after my grandmother died in 1967). I wanted to give it to my daughter, as we have the same stone. I thought it was in the vault. I looked there. Nothing. Went through my jewelry boxes. Not there. Just as I had prayed to St. Anthony to help me find the blanket, I also asked him to help find my ring. Again, same bedroom, top drawer of dresser, there was the ring in its original box. I promised St. Anthony to send a thank you gift. Here it is. Thank you, St. Anthony. I don’t know what I would do without you.

P. B., Bradenton, Fla.

### DOUBLE THE PLEASURE

My 98-year-old father was in the hospital. While there, he lost his hearing aid. The nurse told me they had bathed him, and the hearing aid might have gone to the laundry with the sheets. She called the laundry, and a girl said she would check for it. I told myself it would never be found but asked St. Anthony for help. Two days later, on Thanksgiving Day, the nurse came in with a

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plastic bag and said: "Is this your father's hearing aid?" It was not only found in the laundry of a big institution, but it did not go through the washing machine. Is St. Anthony really great or what?

About a month later, I attended a church meeting and thought I would wear my new diamond pendant that I got for Christmas. When I got home, I laid the pendant on my bed while I undressed and completely forgot to put it in the box. The next day, I was watching TV in bed and reading. I had slept with it all night. The delicate chain was not tangled, and, thank God, I didn't wash sheets that day. And the amazing part, it was right next to a letter I had received that day with St. Anthony's name labels. There it was — 25 pictures of St. Anthony — right next to the pendant. I didn't even get a chance to ask him for help — and he found it for me. St. Anthony, you are wonderful!

S. R. J., Monessen, Pa.

### SMALL PRAYER ANSWERED

My sister has always worn my mother's wedding ring with her own ring, since my mother passed away on 2/3/65. While shopping at the supermarket, my sister suddenly said, "Mommy's ring fell off my hand." It was a small aisle, and we thought it most likely would roll against the bottom of the shelves. It was not to be found. I thought of the prayer in my St. Anthony of Padua small prayer book, the prayer for the restoration of things lost or stolen. I don't know it by heart but did

ask St. Anthony for help. My sister was standing just about in the spot where it had dropped off. At her feet was the ring. It was lying flat on the floor. It had not rolled away. My small prayer had been answered. My sister is 86, and I am 85. We still have good memories of our parents.

B. R., Cranston, R.I.

### FLOORED BY A FAVOR

I would like to share with you how St. Anthony helped my husband to find a missing computer stick. We couldn't find it anywhere, so I took a candle and lit it up the whole night to St. Anthony and asked him to help us in finding this computer stick. It had several bits of important information on it for my husband. Well, the next morning, my husband found this stick just on the floor before our computer table. And we had checked everywhere before going to sleep, and there was nothing on the floor. We are so thankful to St. Anthony, and that's why I'm sending him this gift of \$40. So again, St. Anthony lets us know that he listens to our prayers and helps us out.

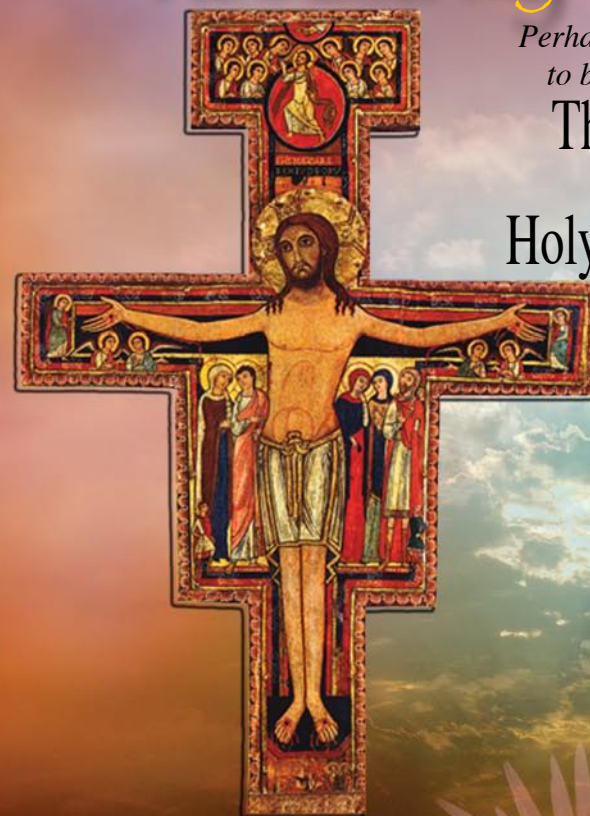
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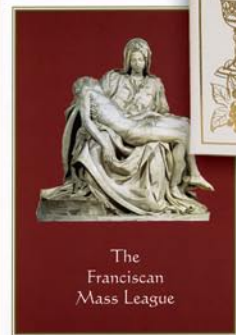
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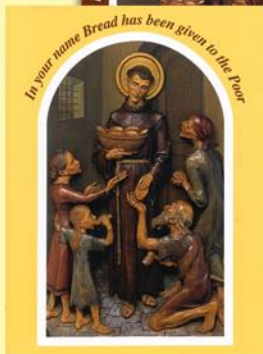
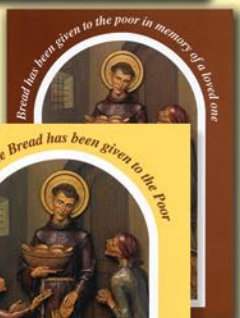
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