



**Franciscan Friars
Holy Name Province
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For Immediate Release

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**NORTH JERSEY FRANCISCAN PRIEST WITH UPSTATE ROOTS
MARKS 50 YEARS AS A FRIAR**

BUTLER, N.J. — June 10, 2010 — The Rev. John Alderson, OFM, pastor of St. Anthony Church here, is this month marking 50 years as a member of the Order of Friars Minor, more commonly known as the Franciscans. He is affiliated with Holy Name Province, headquartered in New York City.

Alderson, who grew up in Rochester, N.Y., will celebrate the 50th anniversary of professing his vocation as a Franciscan at the Province's annual celebration on June 24. While he works in parish ministry now, he spent most of his career teaching and counseling students at Bishop Timon-St. Jude High School in Buffalo, N.Y. He began by teaching social studies and counseling students in 1967.

After spending his first year in ministry at the Franciscans' St. Anthony Shrine in Boston, he was quickly assigned to the Upstate New York high school. If he had to pick whether parish work or teaching was more rewarding, he said he couldn't make a choice. "I like them both," he said.

Alderson, 71, earned an undergraduate degree in philosophy from St. Bonaventure University in Allegany, N.Y.; a master's degree in counseling from Siena College in Loudonville, N.Y.; and a teaching certificate in social studies from Niagara University in Niagara, N.Y. He attended seminary at Callicoon, N.Y., and at Rye Beach, N.H.

Alderson's previous assignments include St. Mary Church, Pompton Lakes; St. Joseph Church, West Milford; and St. Anne Church, Fair Lawn; all in New Jersey; and at the former St. Patrick-St. Rita Parish, Buffalo, N.Y.

He said he treasures his vocation, and has enjoyed both parish and educational ministry. "I feel so lucky to be a friar. If I had my life to live over, I'd be a friar in a minute," he said.

He will return to Bishop Timon-St. Jude High School this fall as school chaplain.

About Holy Name Province

Holy Name Province is one of seven provinces in the United States that belong to the Order of Friars Minor. Holy Name is the largest U.S. province, with ministries in 12 states along the East Coast. Its more than 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.

The Order, founded in 1209 by St. Francis of Assisi, commemorated its 800th anniversary last 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.

Information about Holy Name Province can be found on www.hnp.org

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