



**Franciscan Friars
Holy Name Province
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For Immediate Release

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**GENEVA, N.Y., NATIVE FRIAR LAWRENCE ANDERSON
ORDAINED A FRANCISCAN PRIEST**

POMPTON LAKES, N.J. – May 21, 2010 -- Lawrence Anderson, OFM, will be ordained on May 22, becoming a priest with Holy Name Province, an East Coast community of the Order of Friars Minor, more commonly known as the Franciscans.

Anderson, who has been in ministry as a brother at St. Mary Church, Pompton Lakes, N.J., will be ordained at an 11 a.m. Mass at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Manhattan, Holy Name Province's flagship church. Theodore Cardinal McCarrick, archbishop emeritus of Washington, D.C., will celebrate the Rite of Presbyteral Ordination of Anderson and Brother David Phan, OFM, of Long Beach Island, N.J.

Anderson, 45, a second-career priest, grew up in Geneva, N.Y., and, before entering religious life, was a high school campus minister at the Aquinas Institute in Rochester, N.Y., and an upstate New York diocesan youth minister. He also worked at a radio station in Alaska.

He was interested in the Franciscans, he said, because of their philosophy and devotion to St. Francis, their patron saint. "There is a quote from St. Francis that I love and is my philosophy: 'We are called to heal wounds, unite what has fallen apart, and bring home those who have lost their way.' This is why I wanted to be a priest."

He earned master's degrees in social work from the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., and in pastoral ministry from Christ the King Seminary in East Aurora, N.Y. He holds a bachelor's degree in philosophy from Wadhams Hall Seminary and College in Ogdensburg, N.Y.

Anderson, the son of Charles Anderson and Janet Mae Delaney, joined the Franciscan formation process to enter religious life at the age of 38, after carefully discerning the calling, and initially thought about being a brother and not a priest. "I always wanted to

be a Franciscan, first and foremost,” he said. “I was on track to be a brother. I didn’t think about becoming a priest until a year or two ago.”

But a joy of preaching and a gift in writing homilies encouraged Anderson to continue his spiritual journey and become a priest. He said he looks forward to saying his first Mass on Pentecost Sunday May 23.

“As a priest, I will have the opportunity to enter people’s lives. It’s a privilege and an honor — as a priest — to enter people’s lives in an intimate way. It’s humbling.” In fact, he said, the whole process of becoming a priest was a humbling experience.

While he will continue his assignment in parish work at St. Mary, he looks forward to a broad and rewarding ministry experience. “I like the variety of ministries — from baptisms to funerals to weddings — that a parish provides, especially the sacramental aspect. This parish is a great place to learn about the sacraments as a new priest.”

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

Questions and photo requests should be directed to Jocelyn Thomas, HNP director of communications, at (646) 473-0265 ext. 321 or 732-829-1513 (mobile) or jthomas@hnp.org

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