



Franciscan Friars
Holy Name Province
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For Immediate Release

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**FRANCISCAN CHURCH IN MANHATTAN TO HONOR FRANCISCAN
SISTER, BROOKLYN BROTHERS & DAILY NEWS COLUMNIST**

NEW YORK – Sept. 28, 2009 – To commemorate the memory of St. Francis of Assisi, and mark the 800th anniversary of the founding of the Order of Friars Minor, more commonly known as Franciscans, the Church of St. Francis of Assisi in midtown Manhattan, will honor three people and an organization on Sept. 30, 6:30 p.m.

The Francis Medal, an award given for ministry, leadership, or assistance to the friars, will be bestowed on the Franciscan Brothers of Brooklyn, Sister Nancy Chiarello, OSF, founder of the Dwelling Place shelter for homeless women, and New York *Daily News* columnist Michael Daly, author of *The Book of Mychal*.

The honorees are being lauded for embodying the spirit of Franciscan ministry.

Chiarello, a member of the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany, N.Y., founded The Dwelling Place, a temporary residence for homeless women, in 1977. Daly wrote a biography of the Rev. Mychal Judge, OFM, titled *The Book of Mychal: The surprising life and heroic death of Father Mychal Judge*, published by St. Martin's Press in 2008. He had known Judge and the friars for more than five years before Judge died at the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001.

The awards ceremony is part of the church's 800th Anniversary Convocation, which marks the founding of the order in 1209 by St. Francis. The church is located on West 31st Street.

Also at the 6:30 p.m. Mass, the church will honor the Most Rev. Celestino Migliore, the apostolic nuncio to the United Nations and the permanent observer to the Holy See. Migliore will now be affiliated with Holy Name Province, the province that runs the Church of St. Francis of Assisi. Migliore, a longtime friend of the province, ordained four HNP friars as priests earlier this year.

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 in 12 states along the East Coast. Its 365 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, commemorates its 800th anniversary this 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.

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