



**Franciscan Friars
Holy Name Province
Communications Office**
129 West 31st St., 2nd Floor
New York, NY 10001- 3403
646-473-0265 ext. 321

For Immediate Release

CONTACT: Jocelyn Thomas, director of communications
jthomas@HNP.org

**TWO MEN TO PROFESS FINAL VOWS AS FRANCISCANS
WITH HOLY NAME PROVINCE IN NYC**

NEW YORK — Aug. 24, 2011 — Two men from Holy Name Province will profess solemn vows as Franciscans in the East Coast religious community on Aug. 27 in Midtown Manhattan.

The two religious brothers, both originally from Upstate New York, will make their profession at an 11 a.m. Mass at St. Francis of Assisi Church on West 31st Street, one of more than 20 parishes maintained by Holy Name Province. The friars — Brothers Stephen DeWitt, OFM, and Daniel Horan, OFM — will make life-long commitments to observe the Rule of St. Francis by living in chastity and obedience, with nothing of their own.

The Very Rev. John O'Connor, OFM, HNP provincial minister, will celebrate the Saturday morning Mass.

Both DeWitt and Horan joined the Franciscan formation, or training, program in 2005. Both are currently completing their master's in divinity degrees at the Washington Theological Union.

DeWitt, 29, a native of Buffalo, N.Y., graduated from St. Bonaventure University, Allegany, N.Y., in 2004 with a bachelor's degree in history and theology and then studied for a year at the University of Dayton in Ohio. An alumnus of Canisius High School in Buffalo, DeWitt completed an internship at St. Anne's Parish in Lima, Peru, last spring. He will be ordained a deacon on Sept. 3 at the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C., and anticipates to be ordained to the priesthood in May 2012.

“What attracted me to the friars was my experience of community, both in my interactions with friars at St. Bonaventure as part of a vocation group there and my experience as a summer intern at Mt. Irenaeus Franciscan Mountain Retreat,” DeWitt said.

Horan, 27, who grew up in Utica, N.Y., earned a bachelor's degree in theology from St. Bonaventure in 2005 and a master's degree in systematic theology from the WTU in 2010. He also will be ordained a deacon on Sept. 3 at the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception with an anticipated ordination to the priesthood in May 2012. As part of his Franciscan education, Horan served an internship at Siena College, Loudonville, N.Y., teaching in the religious studies department.

“I have felt for several years now that this was indeed what God was calling me to live and my response was affirmative. What this occasion means to me is a very special time dedicated to

recognizing and celebrating that vocation with my brother friars, family and friends. It is a time to celebrate God's gift of religious life and the many blessings that comes with that."

About Holy Name Province

Holy Name Province is the largest of seven entities in the United States belonging to the Order of Friars Minor. With ministries in 12 states along the East Coast, its nearly 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 in 2009. 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 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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