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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Six Franciscans Profess Solemn Vows

NEW YORK, N.Y., Aug. 22, 2008 -- Five friars from Holy Name Province will profess their final vows August 23 at St. Francis of Assisi Church on West 31st Street, Manhattan. The 11 a.m. Mass will be celebrated by Provincial Minister Fr. John O'Connor, OFM.

The five are Kyle Haden, OFM, Linh Ngoc Hoang, OFM, Hugh Macsherry, OFM, Steven Mimnaugh, OFM, and Harry Monaco, OFM. Br. Fadi Azar, OFM, of the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land, will profess his solemn vows with the HNP friars.

On Saturday, visitors will view extensive renovations made this summer to the historic midtown Manhattan church. Throughout the past few months, a restoration was made to St. Francis of Assisi that includes a new altar, improved lighting, cleaning of the great mosaic, and installation of a new tabernacle from the former Franciscan seminary in Callicoon, N.Y.

Br. Kyle Haden was born in Berlin, Germany, and raised in Kansas City, Kan. He earned bachelor's and master's degrees in history from University of Missouri, Kansas City, as well as a master's of divinity degree from the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, Il. After his ordination to the priesthood in 1997 in the Archdiocese of Kansas City, Br. Kyle ministered as pastor of three rural parishes in Easton, Kan. He currently lives at St. Stephen of Hungary Church on East 82nd Street and is pursuing a doctoral degree at Fordham University in the Bronx.

"The solemn vow ceremony marks a time of joyous celebration for my family and friends in my profession to Franciscan life," said Linh Hoang, who was born in Saigon, Vietnam. In 1975, Br. Linh fled with his parents and siblings to the United States where they settled in Lebo, Kansas. Br. Linh earned a bachelor's degree in philosophy from the Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium. He also earned both an M.A. in theology and a master's of divinity from Catholic Theological Union. In 2006, Br. Linh completed a Ph.D. in theology from Fordham University. He teaches religion at Siena College near Albany, N.Y.

Br. Hugh, who was born and raised in Baltimore, Md., attended the University of Maryland where he earned bachelor's degrees in philosophy and classical languages and literature in 1997 and secondary education and foreign languages in 2001. He taught

middle school Spanish in the Montgomery, Md., County School System, before joining the friars.

Br. Hugh said that the solemn profession is a public statement of his intention to live as part of the community of Franciscan friars for the rest of his life. "I am sharing my vocation with the whole Church and am asking for the support of everyone who celebrates this profession with me," he said, adding that "God has called me to many wonderful and challenging experiences in my life that have all been part of the vocation that I continue to discern."

Since joining Holy Name Province, Hugh has felt very happy, he said. "The community of brothers has affirmed me and supported me."

Br. Stephen was born and raised in Simsbury, Conn. After earning a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Vermont, he worked as an account manager in the financial services industry in Philadelphia. Br. Stephen holds a master's degree in liberal arts with a concentration in urban studies from the University of Pennsylvania.

Br. Harry Monaco, a native of Ballston Spa, N.Y., earned a B.A. in history from St. Bonaventure University in Allegany, N.Y., where he currently teaches and works in campus ministry. Br. Harry, who also holds a master's degree in social work from Boston College in Boston, Mass., and a master's in divinity degree from the Washington Theological Union, is working on a master's degree in Franciscan studies at St. Bonaventure.

Br. Fadi, who lived with the Holy Name friars in Silver Spring during formation, will be continuing his studies for the priesthood as are Brothers Harry, Hugh, Linh and Stephen.

Earlier this year, five Holy Name friars, were ordained priests. This was province's largest class to be ordained in nearly 20 years. The ceremony took place May 24 at St. Francis Church with Theodore Cardinal McCarrick, archbishop emeritus of Washington, D.C., presiding. The cardinal, who was affiliated to Holy Name Province in 2006, wore his Franciscan habit for the Mass.

The newly-ordained priests, Scott Brookbank, OFM, Zachary Elliott, OFM, Julian Jagudilla, OFM, Gonzalo de Jesus Torres, OFM, and Christopher VanHaight, OFM, are serving in Holy Name parishes in Providence, R.I., East Rutherford, N.J., Raleigh N.C., Manhattan, and Paterson, N.J., respectively.

Holy Name Province, the largest community of Franciscan friars in the United States, has priests and brothers serving in colleges, parishes, urban ministry centers, and a wide variety of social ministries along the East Coast as well as in overseas missions. Information about the province can be found in a video on Holy Name's Web site www.hnp.org <http://www.hnp.org/>

Questions should be directed to Jocelyn Thomas, director of communications, at (646) 473-0265 ext. 321 or 732-829-1513 (mobile) or jthomas@hnp.org Photo to be provided 8/25/08.