



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

Franciscan Nursing Home Makes U.S. News Honor Roll

RINGWOOD, N.J. — April 7, 2009 — The Holy Name Friary long-term care facility, run by Holy Name Province Franciscans, is among the 27 elite facilities cited in the March 13 issue of *U.S. News & World Report* as “America’s Best Nursing Homes.”

Of the 15,000 nursing homes in the United States, only 27 earned honor roll status by the well-respected magazine for getting five-star ratings in all categories. It reported: “All 27 garnered a perfect five stars in each of the four yardsticks the federal government applies to nursing homes: overall rating, health inspections, nurse staffing, and quality measures of individual care.”

The survey covered the period from October 2007 to Dec. 31, 2008

In a memo to staff following a survey visit by state inspectors last month, Holy Name Friary (HNF) director Rev. A. Francis Soucy, OFM, wrote: “While the survey seems to be a measurement of compliancy of the friary function with state and federal regulations, it is also a time for us to present the intangibles to the survey team.”

“The success of your job performance is demonstrated by all the dots and dashes being in the right place, it is *you* who demonstrate the intangibles that make our place special for the friars and a comfortable place for regulators to visit.”

“Our five-star rating should be presented as crowns for the heads of each of you. Thank you, congratulations, be happy, and keep it up.”

The Rev. John O’Connor, OFM, Holy Name’s provincial minister, said that this ranking is “a reminder to me, that when it comes to being on the cutting edge of excelling in ministry, from the young to the old, from the poor to the middle class, no one does it better than Holy Name Province.”

Holy Name Friary was one of six faith-based nursing homes that comprised 25 percent of the honor roll, and included Home of the Innocents in Louisville, Ky.; Lourdes Health Care Center in Wilton, Conn.; Lutheran Senior Services at Breeze Park, St. Charles, Mo.; Ursuline Center in Toledo, Ohio; and Little Sisters of the Poor-Mullen Home, Denver.

Only two other New Jersey facilities made the list, one in Lakewood and one in Newark.

Located in northwest New Jersey near scenic Ringwood State Park, Holy Name Friary accommodates 29 residents – Franciscan men from several provinces. Fr. Francis has served as its director since the facility opened 20 years ago, in January 1989.

The friars' healthcare facility received the highest possible rating after a recent review by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Holy Name Friary received a five-star rating on Dec. 18 from CMS, which evaluated 15,000 public, private and nonprofit nursing homes in the United States.

The staff of HNF was also recognized earlier this year by the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services and the N.J. Hospital Association for its exemplary care in the prevention of pressure wounds and urinary tract infections.

HNF director of nursing Kathy Manger said recently, "the Franciscan attributes of faith and prayer allow the facility to function as a family and to provide support for both residents and staff."

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. It is commemorating in 2009 the 800th anniversary of the founding of the Franciscan Order. Information about the province can be found in a video on Holy Name's Web site, <http://www.hnp.org/>

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