

# C<sup>the</sup> Capuchin Journey

CAPUCHIN MISSION AND DEVELOPMENT OFFICE  
WINTER 2012

## Parishes in the Province

Our Lady of Sorrows in Manhattan

Santa Teresita in Guam

St. Alphonsus in Vermont

## Magazine of the Capuchin Franciscans of the Province of St. Mary



The Capuchin Journey is our way of letting you know how the Province of St. Mary fulfills its mission. You, as part of our community, share this vision of service to those in need. Through this magazine, we want you to know how we use the resources you so generously provide. We hope this magazine shows you the work we do and how valuable your contributions are to our ministries. Please feel free to contact us with your comments and suggestions.

VOLUME 10, ISSUE 1  
© 2012 Capuchin Mission  
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### Province Mission

Living the Gospel according to the Rule of St. Francis of Assisi, the friars of the Province of St. Mary proclaim God's reign through:

- Service to others and mutual service to our brother friars.
- Embracing and supporting the needs of the diverse communities among whom we live and minister.
- Responding to the needs of our time through our service to the under-served of our church and society, the economically challenged and the shunned and forgotten.

## Provincial Minister's Letter

### Every one has a role in the Church

When Catholics think of church, they most often think of church buildings, stained-glass windows, and religious statues. They often forget one key element: parishioners.

A church without parishioners is equivalent to a shepherd without a flock. It is church members who make up the foundation of our Church, help build Catholic communities in neighborhoods, villages, and cities, and help us bring the Gospel to life.

In this issue, we highlight several parishes in our Province and provide stories on how each of them has been successful in keeping their communities vibrant. Some of these parishes have a long history with us, like Our Lady of Sorrows, which was founded by Capuchin Franciscan Friars in 1867. Others, like St. Alphonsus in Pittsford, Vermont, have only recently become part of the Province. What all these parishes have in common is their unwavering devotion to their church and community.

This issue also recognizes individuals, like Rosemarie Tempestelli, who was recently named an Affiliate for her dedication to our Vocations Office, and the Cap Corps Volunteers, young Catholic adults who have committed a year of service with the Capuchin Youth and Family Ministries.

We, the Capuchin Franciscan Friars of the Province of St. Mary, are very grateful to all the lay individuals who make up our Province. On behalf of the Province of St. Mary, I would like to thank each and every one of you for your support and for being part of our Province.

May God bless you and your loved ones with peace and every good thing.

Yours in Christ,



Fr. Francis J. Gasparik, OFM Cap.  
Provincial Minister



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# the Capuchin Journey



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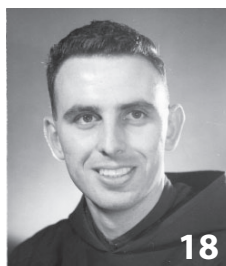
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*On the cover: Father Felixberto Leon-Guerrero during service at the Santa Teresita Church in Mangilao City, Guam. Photo credit: Phil Perez.*

# Parishes

## The heart of the Church

### Parishioners in Capuchin Franciscan-Staffed Churches Help Bring the Gospel to Life

By Dina V. Montes

The parish is the center of most Catholics' spiritual life. It is there that they receive the sacraments and help foster a Catholic community with other parishioners. Just as important as it is to church members, parishes are vital to the Church.

Parishes are the heart of the church. It is through parishes that the gospel is proclaimed and celebrated. The Capuchin Franciscans of the Province of St. Mary have ministered in parishes in New York and New England for more than 150 years. Through Our Lady Star of the Sea Vice Province, Capuchin Franciscans also do pastoral ministry in Guam and Hawaii, and through our mission work, Capuchin Franciscans minister in Honduras, Japan, and other countries where Capuchins are present. In every parish, Capuchin friars preach the message of St. Francis responding to the needs of the community and helping the poor and forgotten.

Capuchin Franciscans ensure that parish communities are kept vibrant by inviting members to take part in community outreach, attend spiritual classes and prayer groups, and take on leadership roles within their parish.

The following pages profile some of the parishes that make up the Province of St. Mary. Just like parishioners, these parishes are unique and different in their own way. One thing they share in common is the spiritual guidance given to them by Capuchin Franciscan friars.

With church closures becoming a norm across the country, it is especially critical to keep parishes strong. We hope the following stories serve to remind us of the importance all Catholics – clerics, religious, and lay people – play in their church and inspire us all to take an active role in our parishes.





# Our Lady of Sorrows Church

## Keeping up with Manhattan's changing scene

New York is a very dynamic city. The city's landscape is forever changing as buildings are constantly repaired, torn down, and built. And the demographic make-up of neighborhoods is altered every 20 years as different ethnic groups and populations move in and out.

Adapting to these changes can be a challenge for city churches. But Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Manhattan's Lower East Side neighborhood has managed to maintain a vibrant parish throughout the years by always engaging its parishioners to take active roles in the church.

Founded in 1867 for German-speaking immigrants, Our Lady of Sorrows on Stanton Street has served different ethnic groups and nationalities as the neighborhood population changed from German to Italian immigrants in the early 20th century, and to Puerto Rican after World War II. The neighborhood continues to change as the area has become gentrified by young professionals and its newest immigrants are Mexican.

Currently, Our Lady of Sorrows Church has an estimated 800 people attending its Sunday services. It's a healthy parish figure that can be credited to the church's numerous ministries and events, and the church staff's efforts in asking parishioners for feedback in how to build a better parish.

"We want this parish to be one in which people feel a sense of ownership and belonging," said Father Tom Faiola, the pastor of Our Lady of Sorrows. "We have a strong pastoral team. Of the six, four are lay people."

Finding leadership roles for people within the parish is something Father Tom takes seriously. Two years ago, he took part in a Pastor Leadership Workshop organized by the Gallup Institute, the research-based performance management consulting company that is prominently known for its Gallup Poll research in the media and political elections. The Pastor Leadership Workshop focused on strength and engagement and is similar to workshops used by private companies to engage employees and fully utilize their skills.

"We've had radical demographic changes in the city and we are trying to get as much lay involvement as possible," explained Father Tom.

He adds that when he first became pastor, he wasn't sure how to best fulfill the interests and needs of his parish. The Pastors Leadership Workshop suggested that pastors inquire from their parishioners directly. Father Tom took the suggestion and distributed questionnaires that asked church members what the parish's weaknesses and strengths were, and what was needed in the parish. It also asked church members to name their talents and strengths – information which was later used to find suitable roles and activities for each participant.

"It's been a boost for the parish," said Father Tom, who will soon be taking a third leadership workshop with the Gallup Institute. "There is a much stronger satisfaction from parishioners. Several nearby churches have expressed interest in taking part the workshop since we've been doing it."



*Left: Fr. Thomas McNamara and Fr. Tom Faiola during a blessing of the animals ceremony with parishioners at Our Lady of Sorrows Church. Above, clockwise from top left: Our Lady of Sorrows Church. Our Lady of Guadalupe celebration held this past December. Fr. Tom with church goers. Parishioners help serve food during an event held in the church hall.*

Our Lady of Sorrows used parishioners' feedback to better its activities and ministries, which cater to parishioners of all ages. For children and young adults, the church has a large youth ministry that organizes activities for different age groups, which range from age five to the late teens. The teen group currently has about 40 participants, who meet every Friday night for prayer and spiritual reflection, attend special retreats, and volunteer in the church's food pantry.

Younger children take part in the children's choir (which performs during mass once a month) and cooking classes that help students develop cooking and team work skills, as well as an arts workshop for boys that focuses on building team cooperation and leadership. The church's youth ministry is so large and active that the church has a full-time youth minister to coordinate activities.

For adults, the church has different societies, groups, and planning committees for church events. Most recently, the planning committees organized the festivities of Our Lady of Providencia, patroness of Puerto Rico, and our Lady of Guadalupe, patroness of Mexico.

Our Lady of Sorrows parishioners have also formed the Couples Movement, a group for married couples that focuses

on strengthening marriages through prayer, group support, and retreats. The Couples Movement Group was started in Honduras by a Capuchin friar and was found to be so successful in improving troubled marriages that several U.S. churches, like Our Lady of Sorrows, have adopted it. Participants meet once a week to pray together and support one another and take part in weekend retreats that encourage couples to discuss troubled areas in their marriage and look for solutions that will solidify their relationship.

Damaris Saliva, a parishioner for the past 20 years, agrees that the church's commitment in building an active community among parishioners has been a huge contributing factor for the church's large parish. Saliva first became involved with Our Lady of Sorrows as a young woman through the youth ministry group. Twenty years later, she has served as a Eucharistic Minister and is actively involved in the church's ministries.

"Our parish is a very precious place to be," Saliva said. "It's a home, for all of us who have been here for so long, but also all those who come into our parish, all those who want to get closer to God. To me, everything that happens in the parish is very dear"

-DVM

# Santa Teresita Church



With a parish that is 3,500 people strong, Santa Teresita Church in Guam is not only a house of worship but also one of the community pillars of Mangilao City, the third largest village in the island country.

Over its 60 years, the church has built a very solid relationship with the community through its various ministries, and by encouraging every church goer to take an active role in the parish, be it singing in the church choir or helping organize an event.

“They are very proud of their parish,” said Father Felixberto Leon-Guerrero, the pastor of Santa Teresita. “We usually have new visitors who come to our Sunday mass, and we always try to make them feel welcomed and invite them to take a role in the parish.”

Santa Teresita is part of the Star of the Sea Vice-Province, which is an independent vice-province with close ties to the Province of St. Mary. The Vice Province of Our Lady Star of the Sea began in 1939 when 11 Capuchin Franciscan Friars from the Province of St. Mary traveled to Guam and Saipan in the South Pacific as part of the Province’s first official mission. In the years that followed, the Capuchin Franciscan Friars expanded the Star of the Sea Vice Province to include Hawaii. By 1982, Our Lady Star of the Sea established itself as a vice-province with its own leadership council, but continues to maintain its close ties to the Province of St. Mary.

The church, named after St. Teresa, marked its 60th Anniversary this year with year-long festivities to commemorate the special occasion, including Sunday fellowship, social gatherings held every Sunday after services so parishioners

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**“At Santa Teresita, we don’t count on just a few. We are all held accountable. There is always a new face ..... someone who has decided I want to serve now.”**

**-Phil Perez, parishioner**

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could get to know one another better, and a “circus” event that drew close to 2,000 people.

Its very well-populated parish makes Santa Teresita unique among churches in the Province of St. Mary family. Another notable characteristic about the parish is how young it is. There are approximately 300 youths participating in the church’s youth programs, which include a youth choir, a youth band, and a faith and fitness program where students



# in Guam

## Big church, small feel



*From left to right: Parishioners taking part in the church's music ministry. Santa Teresita Church; Fr. Felixberto, the pastor of Santa Teresita; parishioners during service. Santa Teresita has one of the largest parishes in the Province and Vice-Province.*

can play basketball and volleyball games. In addition, Santa Teresita also has a Big Brother/Big Sister program and a Boy Scout program.

Youth involvement is so huge that the church has a separate youth facility, a youth office, and a youth lounge, as well as a youth program director who helps coordinate the many different groups and activities.

"We're a very progressive parish," said Phil Perez, a Santa Teresita parishioner for 13 years. "We know we need to make the church attractive for youth, and the youth ministry is helping bring young people to the church."

Adults are also very active in the church's organizations and programs. Santa Teresita has a Knights of Columbus group, the Christian Mothers, the Legion of Mary, and a music ministry, which includes an adult choir group that has been performing regularly during Sunday mass and has been with the church for 30 years.

Perez, who serves the church as an extraordinary minister and evening porter, believes that the true success factor in the church's large parish is the active role every parishioner is asked to take. When he first came to the parish, Perez was

directly asked by Father Felixberto to become the evening porter and help close the church after evening mass, and later asked him to become an extraordinary minister.

"When I think of other parishes, I think of the older people who are in the church. It's always the same people," Perez said. "At Santa Teresita, we don't count on just a few. We are all held accountable. There is always a new face in our parish committees and groups – someone who has decided I want to serve now."

At 60 years, Santa Teresita is relatively young when compared to other churches. But its strong ties to villagers and its large, vibrant parish makes it promising that it will be part of Mangilao City for decades to come.

"For me as a pastor, one of the things that stands out is the generosity of the people," said Father Felixberto. "There has never been a time when we've been short on anything. As soon as we need something we get good feedback. It's the support and the generosity from the parish that makes Santa Teresita a great church."

-DVM



## *Capuchin Spirit Grows in Vermont*

**St. Alphonsus becomes the latest church in Vermont to be administered by Capuchin Franciscans Friars from the Province of St. Mary**

Mary Kay Wilczynski of Pittsford, Vermont remembers the fear she and other St. Alphonsus parishioners felt last year. The then-pastor of St. Alphonsus Church in Pittsford was retiring in June and the Catholic Diocese was having trouble finding his replacement.

“We didn’t know what was going to happen,” Wilczynski remembers. “We wondered if the church was going to close or whether we were going to get a priest who just comes by for mass and doesn’t live in the town.”

A parishioner of St. Alphonsus since the 1980s, Wilczynski, a mother of two, had become an active member of the close-knit St. Alphonsus parish, which is the only Catholic church in Pittsford, a small town in west central Vermont that is home to 2,991 people.

With the pastor soon retiring and no available replacement, the Catholic Diocese reached out to the Province of St. Mary, which had recently established a presence in Vermont by staffing two nearby churches in the last five years.

After review and consideration, the Province of St. Mary

accepted taking over St. Alphonsus Church in July, with Father Richard Crawley becoming administrator of St. Alphonsus in August.

“There are just two of us friars in Vermont and we were afraid we couldn’t wing it,” said Father Richard Crawley. “But it’s a great church with very active parishioners. They really take great care of St. Alphonsus.”

During his initial meetings with the parish council, Father Richard learned that St. Alphonsus had marked its 150th anniversary last year, but there had been no festivities or celebration to commemorate the special milestone. Not wanting to ignore this important anniversary, Father Richard and the parish council began to plan a 151st anniversary celebration that included a special mass, a parish community breakfast, and a photo display that showed St. Alphonsus throughout its 151 years of existence.

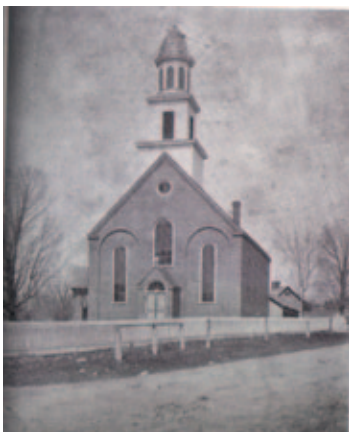
The anniversary celebration helped uplift the spirits of parishioners who participated by creating special anniversary t-shirts and anniversary signs along the main road of town,

*Fr. Richard Crawley (in green vestments) with the parish of St. Alphonsus Church, which recently celebrated its 151st Anniversary.*

notifying townspeople of their church's celebration.

"It really energized the Church," said Father Richard about the celebration. "There's a feeling of security that they now have that they didn't have before."

In addition to being a tight-knit community, St. Alphonsus parishioners also work to help the Pittsford-wide community. This includes packaging toiletries for the local battered women's shelter, and organizing a parish group, Crafters with a Cause, which knits prayer shawls for the sick, and hats and mittens for families who visit



*St. Alphonsus during its early years. The church was built in 1860.*

the local food pantry.

For parishioners like Wilczynski, the Capuchin Franciscan Order's presence is a blessing for her church.

"It's such a relief," Wilczynski said. "We don't have to worry about what's going to happen to our church."

Although still very new to the parish, Father Richard hopes that the Province of St. Mary will become a strong presence in Pittsford.

"This is the first time a religious order has been part of this church," said Father Richard. "The whole notion of an order is new to them, but they have embraced us very well. I would like to think that the Order will be here for a long time and that there will be more friars who will come after me."

-DVM



*Top: St. Dominic Church in Proctor. Left: St. Peter Church in Rutland.*

## Capuchin Parishes in Vermont

Six years ago, there were no churches staffed by the Capuchin Franciscan Friars in Vermont. But that changed in 2006 when the Capuchin Franciscans from the Province of St. Mary began to minister in the central part of the New England state. Now, there are three parishes under the Province of St. Mary, with St. Alphonsus being the latest addition.

Due to a shortage of priests available to minister in Vermont parishes, the Catholic Diocese of Vermont invited the Capuchins in 2006 to staff both St. Peter Church in Rutland and St. Dominic Church in Proctor. Proctor and Rutland are both small towns that have only one Catholic Church (St. Dominic and St. Peter, respectively), making their existence crucial to the area's practicing Catholics. Two Capuchin Franciscan Friars, Father Richard Crawley and Father Thomas Houle, now reside at St. Peter's Friary in Rutland and fulfill pastoral duties at the three parishes.

The presence of Capuchin Franciscan friars has kept the parishes of St. Peter and St. Dominic vibrant. Following St. Francis of Assisi's teachings, these Capuchin-led parishes offer their gifts and talents to serve the sick, homebound, neglected, and economically challenged. Some of the parishes' activities include creating Thanksgiving food baskets for needy families, providing utility bill vouchers for low-income households, donating gifts and funds to our Lady of Guadalupe Pregnancy Center, and donating toiletries and volunteer service to the Dismas House, an organization that provides transitional housing and services to former prisoners.

"They are really happy to have us," said Father Thomas Houle. "There have been some real changes since the Capuchins have come on board. We hope to be here for many years."

*For more information on St. Peter and St. Dominic, visit [www.saintspeterdominic.org](http://www.saintspeterdominic.org)*

# *Sacred Heart Church*

*A history in Yonkers*



In the Province of St. Mary community, Sacred Heart Church in Yonkers, New York is known as the mother church. It's the church where Capuchin Franciscan Friars often make their religious vows and become ordained as priests. It is also the parish to produce the largest number of Capuchin Franciscan Friars – 15 friars total who are presently part of the Province.

Sacred Heart Church not only has a large presence within the Capuchin community, it is also well known in the Yonkers community. The church currently has 1,200 parishioners, and an elementary school and a high school that serve the entire Yonkers community, a city which is populated by more than 195,000 and borders New York City.

Built in 1891, Sacred Heart Church initially served newly arrived Irish immigrants in the community. The church's grounds also include two friaries that have been home to many Capuchin Franciscan Friars. Capuchin Franciscan Friars who were once parishioners of Sacred Heart presently include Fr. Walter O'Brien, Fr. James McIntyre, Fr. John Clermont, Fr. LaSalle Parsons, Fr. Christopher Dietrich, Fr. Raymond Hand, Fr. Jerome McHugh, Fr. John McHugh, Fr. Gordon Combs, Fr. Peter Kaseta, Fr. Paul

Minchak, Fr. Jack Rathschmidt, Fr. Robert Abbatiello, Fr. Joseph Gurdak, and Fr. James Gavin. The constant sight of friars within the community has helped solidify the relationship it has had with parishioners and Yonkers residents.

“I think the long history of the friars being here and the relationship the friars have built with the community accounts for a lot of the success we have at Sacred Heart,” said Father Maurice Moreau, the pastor of Sacred Heart Church.

Lori Maloney, the vice-principal of Sacred Heart Elementary School and a parishioner of Sacred Heart for 19 years, agrees that friars living in the neighborhood add a sense of community to the parish.

“It’s really nice to always see them around,” Maloney said. “I grew up in a Diocesan church and there was always a separation between priests and congregations. But the Capuchins are really unique. Every Capuchin I’ve met is friendly, warm and helpful.”

In addition to its high visibility in the community, Sacred Heart Church has numerous committees and activities for its parishioners. The church holds an annual Our Lady of Fatima procession in October and an Our Lady of Perpetual Help procession in May. In both processions, the parishioners



*Left: Fr. Andrew Nowak, former Parochial Vicar, with parishioners during the Our Lady of Fatima procession. Above: Father Maurice Moreau, pastor of Sacred Heart Church*

and community members become involved in organizing the event.

These committees and groups include the Secular Franciscans, the Solanus Casey Circle (named after Solanus Casey, a Capuchin friar from Wisconsin who ministered in Detroit and New York, and is a candidate for beatification. He lived temporarily at Sacred Heart Friary), Rosary Altar, and the Holy Name Society, a men’s religious society.

The church’s activities also serve the Yonkers-wide community through various ministries, which

*Continued on page 17*



## New Affiliate Honored

To be named an affiliate of the Capuchin Franciscan Friars of the Province of St. Mary is to be a special friend and supporter of the Province. It’s a special recognition bestowed on lay individuals who have dedicated their time and service.

Recently, this special recognition was given to Rosemarie Tempestelli for her 10-year service to the Office of Vocations, which works to prepare young men who have entered the formation process to become friars. A special Affiliation Ceremony was held on October 1, 2011 at Sacred Heart Church in Yonkers, New York.

After spending a decade working at the Province of St. Mary’s Vocation Office in New Paltz, Tempestelli is retiring. Throughout her years at the Vocations Office, the Bronx-born Tempestelli was instrumental in helping formation candidates and those interested in the Capuchin life feel welcomed and helped guide many of today’s Capuchin Franciscan friars through the six to eight-year process of formation.

“It wasn’t just a job for me. It was a large part of my life,” Tempestelli said about her Vocations Office position. “I got to meet so many of the candidates – some of them are now friars. It was such a proud feeling seeing them move on and attending their profession ceremonies and seeing them progress in their formation.”

As office manager, Tempestelli worked with Brother Tim Jones in answering questions and phone calls from young men interested in joining the Capuchin life, helped prepare applications for candidates and organized functions and events for the candidates and the Vocation office. Some of the Capuchin priests she saw enter the Vocation program as candidates include Father Arlen Harris, Father Michael Greco, Father Andrew Novak and Father Tom McNamara.

“They were like my children, seeing them move on through life,” Tempestelli said. “I was very grateful to work for the Capuchins and meet so many great candidates. They were all so conscientious and spiritually mature.”

The mother of three will now be spending her retirement years with her family and caring for her young grandchildren.

“Rosemarie offered her service in welcoming and nurturing countless young men interested in discerning the Capuchin Franciscan way of life,” said Provincial Minister Father Francis Gasparik. “Her loyalty and discretion are legendary among the friars, which has made her a trusted friend of many over those ten years.”



# Cap Corps Volunteers 2011/2012

New class - largest in program's history - helps spread Gospel to youth

By Katie Purple

This past August, eight young adults arrived at Capuchin Youth and Family Ministries (CYFM) in Garrison, New York to begin a year-long commitment of spreading the Gospel to teenagers and rebuilding the relationship between the church and youth. These young adults participate in the Cap Corps Volunteer Ministry, a one-year resident program for recent college graduates and college-age youth.

As Cap Corps Volunteers, they devote their time to organizing and executing youth retreats offered by CYFM. This includes giving talks on all aspects of the Catholic faith, facilitating small groups, and mentoring teenagers. Throughout their service, Cap Corps Volunteers live in community with other volunteers and share meals and prayers at least three times a week, including sharing in the Eucharist at least once a week.

The Cap Corps Volunteer Program (formerly called the Lay Assistant Program) began in September 1993 out of a desire to provide teenagers with young, enthusiastic role models.

“Through their words and by pouring their lives into service, our Cap Corps Volunteers demonstrate the Christian life of discipleship to our young retreat participants,” explains Tom Brinkmann, Executive Director of CYFM. “Together, the Cap Corps Volunteers give 85 retreats during their year of service and touch the lives of close to 4,000 young people, nurturing their faith and strengthening their families.”

Cap Corps Volunteers also assist in CYFM operations by fulfilling duties that range from updating the organization's

website to reaching out to CYFM alumni.

In addition, Cap Corps Volunteers help run CYFM's three week-long service projects that minister to communities and families in need in areas like New York State's Hudson Valley and the Appalachian region of Harlan County, Kentucky. Cap Corps Volunteers are also helping extend CYFM's retreat ministry to the Boston city area, an expansion that was able to be done successfully with this year's eight Cap Corps Volunteers, the largest number of volunteers to date.

Other Cap Corps Volunteer-assisted projects include “God's TYM” programs in local parishes. “God's TYM” (God's Total Youth Ministry), is a trademark program of CYFM and emphasizes the importance of young adults ministering to teens. In this program, Cap Corps Volunteers minister in parishes by running meetings, encouraging faith sharing, and planning social activities and service projects.

The life of a Cap Corps Volunteer is very similar to the life of the early apostles. The eight volunteers live together in a communal setting, willingly contribute their gifts for the growth and wellbeing of their community, and strive to grow together in Christ.

In the following page are the brief biographies of the 2011/2012 Cap Corps Volunteers.

*Above, from left to right: Fr. Fred Nickle, Tom Brinkmann, the Cap Corps Volunteers 2011-2012, and Br. Lake Hermann*



**Amy Kelley**

A native of Newtown, Connecticut, Amy recently graduated from Western Connecticut State University (WCSU) where she studied social sciences with a focus in family studies. At WCSU, she was involved in the Student Government Association,

served as a resident assistant and a peer tutor, and worked as an intern at the Newman Center Campus Ministry office.

In January 2011, Amy went on a mission trip to Kingston, Jamaica where she tutored elementary school children and helped with construction in the area. She credits her time in Jamaica as leading her to do a year of service that would help others grow in their faith. Amy feels blessed to be a part of the CYFM community.

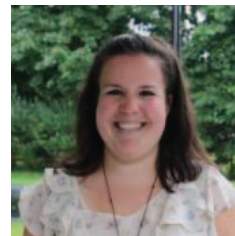


**Angela Cortese**

Angela was born and raised in Otisville, New York and graduated in 2009 from Orange County Community College with an associate degree in exercise science. She has worked as a YMCA personal trainer, class instructor, and life coach, and has been certified as an Emergency Medical Technician by New York State.

Her interest in the Cap Corps Volunteer program started in 2006, when she began feeling lost and disconnected from God. Following an extensive hunt for spiritual direction, she took a chance by searching “New York Catholic retreats” on Google,

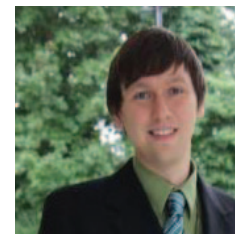
which lead her to CYFM’s website and its Capuchin Outreach Program. Angela believes she has grown in so many ways this year through her Cap Corps Volunteer service. It has always been her passion to serve others, and she is very happy to do what she loves all year long!



**Caitlin Cienki**

Caitlin Cienki is from East Greenwich, Rhode Island and recently graduated from Hofstra University with a degree in speech communications and rhetorical studies.

Caitlin believes her volunteer service is helping her form a better personal relationship with God. Working with the young teenagers is helping her understand her faith while simultaneously encouraging them to develop a lifelong relationship with God. She believes that she can learn as much, if not more, from their questions and inquiry about faith, as they will learn from her. In the future, she plans to receive a master’s degree in education, so she can continue to work with elementary school children.



**Joseph Lindzius**

Born in Ashland, Wisconsin and raised in Chicago, Illinois, Joe Lindzius is the youngest of four children. At an early age, his mother and father,

*Continued on page 17*

## At A Glance: Cap Corps Volunteers

The Cap Corps Volunteer ministry is a Catholic, one-year resident volunteer program for college graduates and college-age youth. In the spirit of St. Francis of Assisi, Cap Corps volunteers share common prayer and simple living in a Catholic faith community, and serve those in need.

The cost of sponsoring a Cap Corps Volunteer is about \$15,000, a modest amount when compared to the \$45,000 it would cost for a full-time staff member. Sponsorship covers room and board, insurance, training, and educational costs.

In a year, a Cap Corps Volunteer will:

- Plan, prepare and carry-out more than 90 retreats for Catholic youth at the Capuchin Youth and Family Ministry (CYFM).
- Serve in a local Catholic parish as youth minister and organize weekly youth meetings and activities.
- Mentor the faith life of nearly 5,000 young people touched by the ministry of CYFM.
- Participate in three one-week missions that serve the poor. These missions include working in the Hudson Valley or rural Appalachia. The Cap Corps Volunteers lead 40 to 50 high school and college-age youth in service to the poor and elderly during each of these experiences.



If you would like to support the Cap Corps Volunteer Program, visit [www.capuchin.org/capcorps](http://www.capuchin.org/capcorps) or call the Mission and Development Office at 212-564-0759.

# News Briefs



## Province Helps Those in Need During Thanksgiving and Christmas

New York City churches from the Province of St. Mary celebrated Thanksgiving Day and Christmas by distributing warm clothing, food, and serving meals to the poor. In New York City, St. John the Baptist, Our Lady of Sorrows and Church of the Good Shepherd participated in the annual tradition through turkey give-aways and by opening their doors to serve the traditional Thanksgiving meal to individuals and families in need. St. John the Baptist's Food Pantry, the Bread of Life, distributed 200 turkeys, 200 chickens, and 150 cooked rotisserie chickens.

Meanwhile during the Christmas season, Province of St. Mary friars and employees donated coats, jackets, gloves, and other warm clothing, which will be distributed by St. John the Baptist Church and Our Lady of Sorrows in Manhattan, and St. Francis Table in Queens in January.



## Punk Rock Friar: Father Charles Sammons Profiled in Local Newspaper

In early January, Father Charles Sammons was profiled in the *Jamaica Plain Gazette*, a local newspaper in Ja-

maica Plain, Massachusetts. The article, titled "JP's Punk Rock Friar," focused on Father Charles's knowledge of Punk music, and how the music genre was the gateway to his relationship with Jesus Christ and the holy scripture.

"If you're going to worship as God an executed criminal, you have already involved yourself in a critique of everyone who sets themselves up as an authority and power in this world," Sammons is quoted as saying in the article. The article expands on Father Charles' affinity to underground music scene and St. Francis teachings.

Born in New Haven, Connecticut, Father Charles was a fan of the Misfits, Slayer and other punk and metal bands as a youth. When he entered college, he read the New Testament and realized he wanted to become a Christian. Father Charles was invested in the Capuchin habit in 2001 and currently resides in St. Francis of Assisi Friary in Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts.

To read the full news article, visit our website, [www.capuchin.org](http://www.capuchin.org).



## Father Regis Armstrong Honored

In December, Felician College in Lodi, New Jersey recognized Father Regis Armstrong with an honorary doctorate for his research, expertise and published works on St. Francis of Assisi and St. Clare of Assisi.

Born on Long Island, New York, Father Regis is a world-renowned expert on Saint Francis of Assisi and Saint Clare of Assisi. He has authored nine books and many journal and encyclopedia articles, and edited a number of other books. He earned a doctorate

degree in Historical Theology and Spirituality from Fordham University, and served his confreres in various positions of formation and administration.

In addition to translating and editing "Francis and Clare: The Complete Works," and three editions of "Clare of Assisi: Early Documents," he was editor-in-chief of the four volume "Francis of Assisi: Early Documents," and has written "St. Francis of Assisi: Writings of a Gospel Life," and "True Joy," along with a large number of articles, many of which have been translated into Italian, French, Spanish, Chinese, Korean, and Japanese.

He taught at the Pontifical University Antonianum in Rome where he was also Vice Rector, and at the Franciscan Institute of Saint Bonaventure University, Olean, New York, as well as the Franciscan International Study Centre in Canterbury, England, where he served for ten years as a Governor. He is co-founder of the Franciscan Institute of Asia, where he also taught.



## Fraternity Day 2011

Dozens of Capuchin Franciscan friars from the Province of St. Mary came together at St. Pius Church in Middletown, Connecticut on November 11 for Fraternity Day. The day served as an opportunity to celebrate the 11 friars and priests who celebrated their jubilees – anniversaries of time spent in the priesthood and religious life.



*Cap Corps, continued from page 15*

Mary and Richard, introduced him to the Catholic faith. He was educated in grammar school by the Sisters of St. Casmir and in high school by the Irish Christian Brothers. During high school he found great joy in serving others by volunteering at soup kitchens, visiting nursing homes, and tutoring. Joe spent time as a friar in discernment with the Midwest Province of St. Joseph Capuchin Franciscans. Most recently, he was a pastoral assistant at St. Mark Church in Dorchester, Massachusetts, where he worked with youth at a newly-formed after-school program and directed two Sunday choirs, one for youth and one for the growing Vietnamese community. Joe believes his one-year service commitment with CYFM is an exciting opportunity to learn new skills and abilities.



**Katie Purple**

Born and raised in Avon, Connecticut, Katie graduated from The Catholic University of America in 2011 with a bachelor's degree in English and minors in Theology and Spanish. While in college, Katie became very involved in Campus Ministry and was the president of the women's group,

Gratia Plena, for a year.

During this time, she developed her enthusiasm for Pope John Paul II's *Theology of the Body*, which led her to an internship with the Theology of the Body Institute. CYFM first attracted her with its genuinely caring community and its Franciscan tradition. She is excited by the opportunity of helping others build a relationship with God during a retreat and making catechism fun. After her year with CYFM, Katie hopes to continue her education in theology. In her free time,



**Katie Steele**

Katie graduated from Loyola University in Chicago with a bachelor's degree in psychology and a minor in pastoral leadership. While in college, she developed a true passion for campus ministry and had several

formative experiences that have led her to consider a career in that field, including a mentoring role, a completed internship in retreat ministry, and spending two summers working at a Catholic Youth Organization Camp.

Katie feels blessed to be a part of the CYFM community and help youth and young adults discover and grow in God's love. In the future, Katie would like to pursue a master's degree in divinity and/or pastoral studies and campus ministry, and work professionally in a ministry capacity, where she hopes to impact young people as much as her mentors and chaplains have impacted her.



**Kelly Hughes**

Born and raised in Marlton, New Jersey, Katie graduated from Provi-

dence College last year with a bachelor's degree in psychology and a minor in music. During her college years, Kelly was involved with Campus Ministry and various human services internships and volunteer opportunities. Her fondest memories include singing in the Campus Ministry Liturgical Choir, serving on the Pastoral Council as the Student Minister of Worship and Liturgy, and volunteering with Habitat for Humanity and the Special Olympics. Kelly was drawn to the Cap Corps Volunteer program's unique opportunity for growth, not only in ministry skills and experience, but also in faith.

Following her year with the CYFM community, Kelly will attend Boston College to obtain a master's degree in pastoral ministry and social work.



**Will Grogan**

Will graduated from the University of Scranton in Scranton, Pennsylvania as a communications major with a focus in broadcasting and advertising. In college, Will developed his faith and desire to do service through the Office of University Ministries. He was also the vice-president of student government, a member of Habitat for Humanity, a player on the ultimate frisbee club team, an on-air deejay for the radio station, and a resident assistant.

To Will, being a Cap Corps Volunteer means fulfilling the mission of furthering the Gospels and preparing young people to be strong Catholic leaders not just tomorrow, but today in their own parishes. Will is deeply touched by the welcome this year's Cap Corps Volunteers have received from the CYFM community and is happy to return the favor by giving this year his time, energy, faith, and love.

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*Sacred Heart, continued from page 13*

include running a food pantry on the church grounds and organizing volunteers for other organizations like Sharing Community, a homeless shelter. During Christmas time, parishioners have a Jesse Tree and use the opportunity to collect gifts for children in need.

And of course, there is the elementary school, which opened in 1893, and the high school, which opened in 1925. The school serves the entire Yonkers community and has more than 650 students from pre-kindergarten to 12th grade, and also has a strong alumni network.

Parishioners like Maloney believe that Sacred Heart Church's long history and community involvement create a deep sense of attachment for church goers. Since 1996, Maloney has lived outside of the parish but still drives to Sacred Heart Church every Sunday because as she explained, once you attend Sacred Heart, you're there for good.

"It's a large church with a very close-knit atmosphere," Maloney adds. "Sacred Heart quickly becomes part of your heart."

-DVM

# Remembering Joseph McCarthy, O.F.M. Cap.

May 9, 1934 - November 11, 2011



The Capuchin Franciscan Friars of the Province of St. Mary mourn the death of their brother, Father Joseph McCarthy who died peacefully on November 11, 2011 at St. Clare Friary, Yonkers, New York.

Fr. McCarthy spent almost 50 years in ministry to Spanish-speaking peoples in the archdiocese and in Puerto Rico. A missionary in Puerto Rico for 27 years, he served at a parish in Utuado, 1972-1978 and 1980-2001. He was Vice Provincial of the Vice Province of St. John the Baptist in Puerto Rico, 1984-1990.

In New York, he developed a Hispanic ministry in connection with Capuchin Youth and Family Ministries in Garrison and served there from 2002 to 2006. He then served in New Hampshire until he moved to the senior friar community of St. Clare in Yonkers last year.

He served at Our Lady of Sorrows in Manhattan, 2001-2002, 1978-1980 and 1962-1968. He established a large school of religious education there and was appointed regional director of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine for lower Manhattan in 1965. He was archdiocesan coordinator of Hispanic youth programs, 1969-1972.

Born in Queens, he entered the Capuchin Franciscans in 1952 and professed final vows in 1956. He studied at Mary Immaculate Friary in Garrison and St. Anthony Friary in Hudson, N.H., and was ordained at Sacred Heart Church in Yonkers in 1960. He served there in 1961-1962.

He is survived by two sisters, Suzanne Harries and Muriel Gilleran.

# Province Directory

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St. Michael Friary  
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St. Joseph The Worker Friary & Parish  
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Phone: 631-286-7921



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Good Shepherd Friary & Parish  
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Our Lady of Sorrows Friary & Parish  
213 Stanton Street  
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St. John the Baptist Friary & Parish  
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New York, NY 10001-2876  
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St. Conrad Friary  
30 Gedney Park Drive  
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Sacred Heart Friary & Parish  
110 Shonnard Place  
Yonkers, NY 10703-2228  
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St. Clare Friary  
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St. Francis of Assisi Friary  
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310 Westfield Street  
Middletown, CT 06457-2047  
Phone: 860-347-4441

## New Hampshire

St. Anne – St. Augustin  
Friary & Parish  
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Manchester, NH 03103-7290  
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**A recently released report found that the Catholic Church is ordaining only 35 to 45 percent of the priests necessary to maintain the levels that the church currently has.**

**Please help us reverse this trend by supporting the educational efforts of friars. You can make a donation today by contacting Sister Elizabeth Fortune at (212) 564-0759, ext. 261., or visiting [www.capuchin.org/giving](http://www.capuchin.org/giving)**