

## Ordination of Fr. Paul to the Priesthood - June 16

The Most Rev'd Archbishop [John Farley]

Your Grace:

May I wear my Religious habit when I am ordained? Ten years ago in obedience to what I have every reason to believe was the call of GOD, I embraced that habit as the outward and visible sign of things of the Atonement and the Holy Rule of St. Francis, which I had inwardly and orally vowed and professed.

By virtue of the Holy Father's blessing, taking the Society of the Atonement under his protection, I was received into the Catholic Church in the same habit, admitted to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Order of St. Francis vested in it and by Your Grace I was Confirmed in it.

Your Grace will easily understand, therefore, how much I desire to receive the exalted dignity of the Catholic Priesthood, clothed in the humble garb of a Friar Minor of the Atonement, that when Your Grace's hands are imposed, the Unction from on High may establish me forever not only a Priest, but as a Priest-Religious, for when Aaron was anointed, the Holy Oil "ran down to the shirt of his garment." [Lev.8:12,30]

Humbly begging of Your Grace this added favor,

I am your obedient son in the Sacred Heart,

Paul James Francis, S.A.

(Handwritten letter of Fr. Paul to Archbishop John Farley, penned at St. Joseph's Seminary, Yonkers, N.Y., June 9, 1901.)