

The Chapel of Our Savior Brockton, MA

The Chapel of Our Savior is one of the Atonement Friars' little treasures. Located on the Westgate Mall in Brockton, MA, the Chapel has been ministering to people in the area for one year short of 50 years. Young and old come to the chapel to be nourished by the sacraments through the daily masses and confessions, to stock up on religious goods, from holy cards to rosaries, from spiritual books to beautiful statuary, in our thriving gift shop, to receive spiritual counseling, or just to chat with a friendly friar.

There are two daily masses, with confessions preceding each mass, 6 days a week. The chapel and gift shop are closed on Sundays to allow the patrons to attend their own parish church. This pastoral ministry is really the chief ministry of the friars here in Brockton, as people from all walks of life come to us seeking spiritual nourishment and reconciliation, so as to have a closer walk with the Lord. The ministry is staffed by seven friars. The four priests, **Fr. Malcolm Martin, SA, Fr. Daniel O'Shea, SA, Fr. Jerry DiGiralamo, SA and Fr. Dan Sylvain, SA** take care of the sacramental ministry for the patrons, a number of whom have been coming to the chapel almost since its inception. In the gift shop, **Bro. Thomas Banacki, SA**, manager, and **Bro. Savio McNeice, SA** serve their customers with warmth and friendliness, often offering a sympathetic ear to those who bring their troubles to the gift shop with them. **Bro. Louis Marek, SA** wears many hats here at the Chapel, one of which is to teach RCIA from the parlor of the friary.

This past Spring, a prayer garden was added behind the Chapel, with statues and benches, the Stations of the Cross, and decorated with shrubs and flowers donated by our generous benefactors. Even in the cold weather, some patrons sit in their cars in front of the garden in order to benefit from its serenity.

When asked what he thought was the main reason people continued to come to the chapel, Bro. Thomas replied, "The friars offer what many parishes don't offer. We are open all day, we know most of the people by name, and we extend a warm welcome to all those who come to us."