During the annual Week of Prayer lecture and service in Rome sponsored by the Centro Pro Unione, the Lay Centre at Foyer Unitas and the Vincent Pallotti Institute, the Friars presented the Paul Wattson Christian Unity Award to the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, and the Faith and Order Commission of the World Council of Churches.

“‘We were pleased to commemorate our centenary celebration of prayer for Christian unity by awarding it to two ecumenical agencies that are integral to the future of Christian unity and who themselves are celebrating 40 years of collaboration in promoting the Week of Prayer,” said Fr. James F. Puglisi, SA, Minister General and Director of the Centro. “One hundred years ago, our founder, Fr. Paul Wattson, SA, began an annual period of prayer devoted to the cause of Christian unity and it is fitting that on this important anniversary we acknowledge the progress that has been made in the ecumenical movement since 1908.”

When Fr. Tom Orians, SA led a group of students from Felician College on a “Midnight Run” to hand out food and clothing to the homeless living on the streets of New York City this winter, he was surprised to find many of them knew of the Friars’ work at St. Christopher’s Inn. On the streets of New York, homeless men talk of going to the Holy Mountain.

Calling it a “great place”, they spoke of lessons learned at St. Christopher’s Inn. Even though they were still living on the street, they said the Holy Mountain had made a difference in their lives: they had stopped drinking.

The Inn has welcomed men since 1909, providing them with shelter, food and clothing.
GLAD TIDINGS
BY FR. BOB WARREN, SA

Suppose you had to choose one word to describe Christianity? What would it be? How about “resurrection”? It is the foundation of our church. Without it, there wouldn’t be one. Which makes it strange that Easter has never captured our hearts the way Christmas does, despite the fact that it is the greatest Christian feast. Probably because it is more pleasant to think about the warmth of God’s birth among us than puzzle over His rising from the dead.

Let’s face it, most of us fear death. Jesus had to calm the disciples down because their first reaction when they saw the empty tomb was terror. We read that they locked themselves in an upper room. That empty tomb held too many unknown possibilities. Some of us know how that feels. Sometimes it is easier to remain in a familiar situation, no matter how painful it is, rather than make a change or leave a bad situation. All of which betrays our misunderstanding of resurrection: resurrection is not resuscitation. It does not mean coming back to the same old life. Resurrection is a new presence to life. Jesus died for us. He rose for us. He came alive to give us life, a share in God’s own life, not only the life hereafter but also life in the here and now.

I shall never forget when I was called to the hospital bed of an 85-year-old African American lady. She was to undergo a life-threatening operation. She lay there in bed with no teeth, but with the most entrancing smile this side of Heaven. I asked her, “Do you always have that beautiful smile?” She said she did. “You see I live every hour. Some of them are sad like this one, but even so I live every hour.”

My Easter prayer for each of you risen Christians is: do not waste Christ’s resurrection. Live every hour, live it to the fullest. To God in Christ Jesus Our Lord.

WHO YOU HELPED IN 2007

The Friars rely on the generosity of people like you to help them fulfill their mission of ministering to the poor, sick and needy, and healing the wounds of a divided Christendom. Here is a sample of their good works, which they hope to continue with support from you:

Do Not Fear to Hope

- 60+ people living with HIV/AIDS received spiritual support, insights from their peers, food vouchers, rent assistance and help with funeral expenses.
- St. Joseph’s Rehabilitation Center in Saranac Lake, NY
  - 253 families received help in coping with the effects of a loved one’s addiction
  - 312 men and women received inpatient treatment for chemical dependency
  - 1,036 people visited St. Joseph’s 5 community clinics for help with addiction
- St. Christopher’s Inn at Graymoor
  - 885 homeless men found shelter, food and clothing
  - 154 families received help in coping with the effects of a loved one’s addiction
  - 807 men received treatment for chemical dependency
  - 8 men received their G.E.D.
  - 9,500+ shirts, pants and other clothes were distributed to men in need
- Friars
  - Friars’ medical and living expenses
  - Materials, testing, and training for Vocations candidates
  - Restoration and preservation of the Ave Maria Hour’s Life of Christ series from decaying vinyl records to CD. This old-time radio program which dramatized the lives of the saints and stories from the Bible aired from 1935-1969 and was presented the Golden Bell Award for outstanding religious broadcasting by Ed Sullivan in December 1959.

Three Chances To Golf For A Cause

Support the Friars, Putt for $10,000 & Bid on Silent Auction Items

Tee off the golf season on June 9 at the 16th Annual St. Christopher’s Inn Golf Classic or attend the dinner and silent auction honoring Jim Gilman and Fr. William Drobach, SA.

Spend a summer day in the Adirondacks at the St. Joseph’s Golf Tournament held at Lake Placid Mountain Course on August 11.

Then get that last round of golf in before the season ends at the Graymoor Golf Classic on September 22. Proceeds from the tournaments and silent auctions benefit the Friars’ ministries. Don’t miss out on the fun! Call Lisa at 845-424-3671, ext. 3126.

“Nothing Wasted” continued from page 1

Getting inspiration from above, the Friars sent the seminarians elsewhere for studies and renovated the structure, housing the Minister General and Treasurer’s offices as well as the departments for the Graymoor Ecumenical Institute, Vocations, Archives and Public Relations. The 6th floor became a retreat and conference center in 1970. And there was still room for the print shop, post office and shipping department.

Through the years numerous high-powered ecumenical and interfaith meetings and dialogues have been held in St. Pius X Building. Cardinal Augustin Bea, SJ, first president of the Pontifical Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity, and Archbishop Arthur Michael Ramsey of Canterbury both came to accept the Fr. Paul Wattson Christian Unity Award.

Today the forty-eight-year-old building is the residence of some 25 friars on the top floors with bedrooms for retreatants of the Spiritual Life Center in the middle floors and lecture halls and administrative offices on the floors below. For a listing of spiritual and recovery retreats and events available, visit www.graymoorcenter.org.
Luke’s Story

“I had everything – a wife, a nice home in the suburbs, my own business – and lost everything. When I went to the Inn, I was homeless, estranged from my wife and unemployed. I had no purpose, no faith, no direction. I came right from detox and only planned to stay long enough to let me think straight. Instead, I went into the treatment program to get the help I needed. Every night after dinner, I'd walk the grounds and I found something there – hope.

I found my faith, my spirituality. The mountain is truly a place of miracles. I've reconciled with my wife, I've found a job. Staying sober allowed me to get to a different level. I'm okay. The Friars are truly ministers of the street. No matter how depressed and hopeless I felt, the Friars were able to meet me on a level that I could grasp. Without these people, I wouldn’t be having this conversation today.”

Recovering His Life

“Luke” came to the shelter program at St. Christopher’s Inn and then went through the treatment program. He is one of the many men the Inn helps each year.
Fr. Brian Terry, SA  
*Director of Novices, Assisi House*

“When I was 11, my family moved to Sterling Park, VA where the Friars of the Atonement were starting Christ the Redeemer Parish and we became very involved there. In college, I discovered that the field of psychiatry wasn’t for me, but I was interested in theater. I helped out with the Godspell production at Christ the Redeemer. That led to helping out with the parish catechesis program and youth ministries at St. Luke’s. I became a certified youth minister. Then it seemed time to decide how I was going to be involved with ministry, as a layperson or a religious. I looked at different communities and eventually realized that I was comparing them to the Friars and their ecumenical atmosphere. I have relatives who are Catholic, Methodist, Jewish. The Friars were very open to that. I felt at home with them.”

*Editor’s note: The Friars still minister at Christ the Redeemer, which celebrated its 35th anniversary in 2007.*

Bro. Raymond Luis, SA  
*Toronto*

“I was born into a very religious Roman Catholic family in the Philippines. As an altar server at eight, I had my first inklings that religious life might be in my future. At the suggestion of my pastor, I entered the college seminary, but later concluded that God probably wasn’t calling me. I got a job working at a bank and was enjoying a relatively comfortable life. But religious life still held some interest for me. In the summer of 1998, a former seminary classmate suggested that I investigate the Franciscan Friars of the Atonement. I did and my call was rekindled.”

*Editor’s note: You can read more about Bro. Raymond in the January 2008 issue of Columbia from the Knights of Columbus.*

Fr. Martin Madison, SA  
*Spiritual Director for Pilgrimage Tours*

“I was a student at Catholic University in 1950 with plans to become a successful architect. Like JFK, I wondered why I was so fortunate and others weren’t. I wanted to share the blessings God had given me. I became involved in teaching once a week at a Boys’ Home, where my avocation of sharing the good news with the poor became my vocation. One Christmas, a friend invited me to his home in North Carolina. He was from Christ the King parish, one of three African-American parishes where the Friars of the Atonement ministered. Since he was planning on joining the community, the Friars had invited him to Christmas dinner and I went along as his guest. The whole spirit there made me want to become a friar. Two years later, I left the architecture program to go to the Friars’ seminary. I even became the pastor of Christ the King, my story coming full circle.”

FYI: Fr. Martin will be leading two pilgrimages in 2008. One to Medjugorje in August, the other in November to Fatima, Lisbon, Spain & Lourdes. For more info, contact 206 Tours at 800-206-8687.

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**ANSWERING THE CALL**

Vocation Candidates Gather in Rome to Begin Formation Program

Five men who are answering the call gathered in Rome to take the next step in the journey. Under the guidance of Fr. Dan O’Shea, they will enter the Friars’ European Formation House and continue to explore their call.

**MEET THE CANDIDATES**

John Baptist Lusala  
Baby John Aloysious  
Carlos Nelson Madrid  
Angelito Andig Cortez  
Deogratias Musabingo

This February, John Baptist Lusala, Baby John Aloysious, Carlos Nelson Madrid, Angelito Andig Cortez, Deogratias Musabingo entered the residential candidacy phase of the Friars’ International Formation Program. Please continue to pray for vocations to the Church and for the men in our formation program.

For more information on becoming a friar, visit www.atonementfriarsvocations.org
IS EASTER EARLY THIS YEAR?

It depends on which calendar is used. In the 4th Century, Christians agreed on one date, but that changed with the advent of the Gregorian calendar.

For most Christians, March 23 seems awfully early for Easter. Yet for over 600 million Christians in the Orthodox East, Easter isn’t until April 27. In fact, the setting of the date for Easter was one of the first ecumenical quandaries the early Church faced. In some places it was associated with the Sunday within the Jewish week of Passover, and in others it moved around throughout the spring.

In 325, the First Ecumenical Council of Nicea determined the formula we still use today: Easter would fall on the Sunday after the first full moon after the spring equinox. The Roman Julian calendar was followed, and the perpetual date set for the spring equinox was March 21, assuring that March 22 would be the earliest date for Easter.

This was determined for two important reasons. First, there should be one Easter for the sake of the unity of the Church. The second was for the sake of accuracy. Easter Sunday should be as close every year to the actual Sunday upon which the Resurrection of the Lord occurred.

And so it was, until a concern was raised in the Renaissance West that the Julian solar calendar was “slipping down the year” on accuracy. The calendar was corrected scientifically, and in 1582, the new solar calendar, called the Gregorian calendar, was introduced in the West. It eventually became the official calendar of the Catholic, Anglican and Protestant churches.

The Orthodox East in the Greek, Syriac, Coptic, Armenian and Slavic countries continued to use the Julian calendar on the grounds of the original reasons for the dating by the Council of Nicea: the sake of the unity of the Church and accuracy. Also, in popular culture, the long tradition of the Julian calendar seemed in a mystical way to be more accurate, even if scientifically incorrect.

Most recently in the ecumenical work that has been going on since the Second Vatican Council, Catholics, Anglicans and Protestants have been in dialogue with the East to try to come up with a new formula acceptable to all, using the latest in astronomical science, to find a common date for Easter. But keep in mind, using the Julian calendar is done out of sincere respect for ancient tradition and popular feeling for accuracy.

As in the fourth century, the reasons are gravely serious: the unity of the Church and accuracy. The Church’s very birth in the mysteries of Easter and Pentecost must be a sign to the world also of its unity.

25th Anniversary Celebration

During the Week of Prayer, an ecumenical service was held on January 24 at St. Andrew the Apostle, the Friars’ parish in Apex, NC to kick off the 25th Anniversary Celebration since their founding. Local Christian churches joined the parish in prayer and song, including the choir from Apex First Baptist Church.

WEEK OF PRAYER EVENTS

Opening liturgy of the Week of Prayer at St. Paul’s Basilica in Toronto. Fr. Damian MacPherson, SA serves as the Director for Ecumenical and Interfaith Affairs in the Archdiocese of Toronto.

Friars, Sisters and guests gather for a prayer service in the chapel at Graymoor where the first Church Unity Octave was held in 1908.


Fr. James Loughran, SA, Director, Graymoor Ecumenical & Interreligious Institute at St. John’s Evangelical Lutheran Church in Poughkeepsie, NY.

“In ecumenical dialogue, we seek the truth.”
In hope we were saved. With these words from the epistle to the Romans (8:24), Pope Benedict begins what many consider his most readable encyclical to date. (Spe Salvi, November 30, 2007). The Pope reassures us that hope is very much related to faith as we find it in the Bible. As such it cannot be isolated from faith and love. It is hope that springs from a real encounter with God.

As one who admires the Holy Father for his academic brilliance and theological insights, I was reminded of my very early years as a priest. One spiritual conference stressed the need to upgrade and highlight the importance of this second of the three theological virtues: faith, hope and love. This does not mean any diminution of faith and love. But with Spe Salvi, we have to consider hope as a virtue saved from neglect. The encyclical says the “distinguishing mark of Christians is the fact that they have a future.” This future is not rooted in an optimism for human progress alone, however important such optimism may be. Human freedom can never guarantee lasting happiness nor can the noblest human efforts give us heaven on earth. Christian hope is based on the unshakable foundation of God’s all-powerful redemptive love conveyed to us in Jesus Christ and directed to the ultimate goal of eternal life in God. All secular philosophies and social theories cannot by themselves lead us to this future.

A former doctoral student of Pope Benedict’s says Spe Salvi is “one of the most remarkable to come from a successor of St. Peter” and that the Pope “is speaking more as a Christian thinker than a Church administrator.” The Pope reminds all of us that our most urgent need is faith in God. After all Catholic doctrine acknowledges faith, hope and love to be theological virtues. This is our way of saying that all three arise from and are rooted in God. When we speak of hope, we are confessing that without God there is no hope.
PILGRIMAGE TO THE SHRINES OF ITALY

Fr. Brian Terry, SA, Fr. Emil Tomaskovic, SA, and Fr. Bob Warren, SA will be leading a pilgrimage to shrines in Italy October 13-23, 2008. The group will visit Rome, Sorrento, Capri, Montecassino, Assisi & Florence and include a papal audience. Anyone interested in joining should contact the Renaissance Group at 800-304-8259 or email ezio@rengp.com by April 15.

WHY I GIVE TO GRAYMOOR

By supporting the Friars’ ministries, I support the priorities in the world today. My monthly donation allows them to plan for the future knowing they can rely on me.

– Herb J., California

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EVENTS

MARCH 19 –23
Holy Week Retreat

APRIL 8
GEII Lecture in anticipation of the Pope’s Visit
Speaker: The Right Rev. John R. Flack, Director of the Anglican Center in Rome & Archbishop of Canterbury’s Representative to the Holy See
Topic: The Rollercoaster: Rome and Canterbury through 40 Years
St. Peter’s Lutheran Church
619 Lexington Avenue/54th St., New York, NY 10022
5:30pm; RSVP 212-870-2330

MAY 15
St. Christopher’s Inn
Board of Director’s Dinner
New York Botanical Gardens
Honorees: Project Renewal & Gerry Cooney, former boxer

JUNE 9
St. Christopher’s Inn Golf Classic
Mt. Kisco Country Club
Honorees: Jim Gilman & Fr. Bill Drobach, SA

JUNE 13
Heritage Day – Graymoor

JUNE 14
Friars’ Jubilee Celebration

AUGUST 3
Juan Diego Sunday

AUGUST 11
7th Annual St. Joseph’s Golf Tournament
Lake Placid

SEPTEMBER 3
Sponsor Day – Graymoor

SEPTEMBER 22
Graymoor Golf Classic
The Garrison

OCTOBER 2-5
Come & See Weekend
Contact Vocations 845-424-2126

OCTOBER 10
15th Annual Sharing Hope Celebration Dinner
The Pierre, NYC

For more info, 845-424-3671
**Friars on the Airwaves**

Fr. Tom Oriens, SA is the host of a new hour-long radio program *Friar Fire* on Radio Felician College that addresses issue of today’s world from a Franciscan perspective and plays Christian rock music. Listen online at [www.felician.edu](http://www.felician.edu). Click on the WRFC icon on your screen’s lower right corner. Show airs: Mondays at 2pm, Tuesdays at midnight, Wednesdays at 6pm, Thursdays at 5pm, Fridays at noon, Saturdays at 8am and Sundays at 5pm.

On January 13, Fr. James Loughran, SA appeared as a guest on both the BBC’s *All Things Considered* and *Considering Faith: Common Ground for the Common Good*, a radio program hosted by the Minnesota Council of Churches to talk about the Week of Prayer and ecumenism.

**Continuing to Dialogue**

Fr. Elias Mallon, SA spoke on *Islam, Franciscan Values and the Contemporary World* to a group of over 250 staff and faculty at Felician College on January 16. In December, he gave a lecture at the Institute of Asian Studies at the University of Bonn in Germany on *World Shi’ite Islam and the Possibilities of Dialogue*.

**“Itte, Irasshai!”**

“Go, but come back to us” was what Fr. Pacificus Von Essen, SA and the congregation prayed for fellow congregants H.E. Minoru Shibuya and his wife (seated) at the Catholic Atonement Center in Yokohama. After Mass, they offered best wishes as he prepares for his new appointment as Japanese Ambassador to the Netherlands.

**Plans to Celebrate Diamond, Golden and Silver Jubilees**


**Friar Concelebrates with Cardinal Egan**

Fr. Bob Warren, SA and Fr. James Tubridy concelebrated Mass with Edward Cardinal Egan at Our Lady of Loreto in Cold Spring in honor of the parish’s 100th anniversary.

**Congratulations**

Fr. Art Johnson, SA, Parochial Vicar at Christ the Redeemer parish in Sterling, VA received the Outstanding Individual Service Award for the Private Sector from the Loudoun Human Services Network for his efforts and assistance in establishing a Cold Weather Shelter in Loudoun County and for his advocacy for affordable housing.

**Rest in Peace**

Fr. Bosco Schmidt, SA
November 2, 2007

Fr. Michael Daniel, SA
November 22, 2007

Let us also remember and pray for our benefactors who have passed.

**Graymoor Today**

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Editor: Heather Fullerton

*GRAYMOOR TODAY* is a publication of the Franciscan Friars of the Atonement, a Roman Catholic religious community with social, ecumenical and pastoral ministries in the United States, Canada, England, Italy and Japan. Since 1898, they have worked for the reconciliation of men and women with God and each other as well as serving those in need.