

GRAYMOOR TODAY

Newsletter of the Franciscan Friars of the Atonement

ST. ANTHONY'S CORNER

"Saint Anthony Works Miracles!"

St. Anthony, gentlest of Saints, your love for God and charity for his creatures, made you worthy, when on earth, to possess miraculous powers. Miracles waited on your word, which you were ready to offer on behalf of those in need.

Encouraged by this, I ask you to hear my prayers.

A benefactor affirms:

"Thank you Friars for bringing St. Anthony into my life. The beautiful medal and prayer card you sent me arrived exactly when I needed them. My job was unbearable! My boss was going through a lot of personal stress and seemed to take it out on us employees. The night I received the novena, I prayed to St. Anthony to help me endure and intercede to improve the situation. Two days later my boss was reassigned to a new office and I was promoted to supervisor—something I would never have imagined happening."

"It was truly a miracle from St. Anthony!"

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THE YEAR OF SAINT PAUL

AND FATHER PAUL OF GRAYMOOR — by Fr. Fred Alvarez, SA

Pope Benedict XVI has proclaimed June 28, 2008 to June 29, 2009, the "Year of St. Paul," to commemorate the Saint's birthday and honor this great writer of Christian truths, who traveled the world of his time to propagate those truths.

To observe the Pauline Year, the Holy Father is proposing to the faithful: penitential pilgrimages to the Apostle's tomb in Rome, study conventions and special publications on Pauline texts. He wants dioceses, shrines, places of worship and organizations dedicated to St. Paul to mark the bimillennial with special events. In his homily proclaiming the Pauline year, he also said, "Lastly, there is one particular aspect to which special attention must be paid during the celebration of the various moments of the 2,000th Pauline anniversary: I am referring to the ecumenical dimension."



Fr. Paul of Graymoor circa 1937

When Fr. Paul, the founder of Graymoor, was 10 years old, he was listening one day to his father praising the Paulist Fathers. It was then that an inner voice said to him, "...you will found some day, a preaching order like (continued on page 4)



THE STORY OF THE CRÈCHE

by Fr. James Gardiner, SA, Director, Graymoor Spiritual Life Center



It was Christmas Eve 1223 and St. Francis of Assisi was sensing the need to "do something special" near the little town called Greccio. He enlisted the help of a friend named John and told him what he had in mind.

John, as the story is told, "ran with haste and prepared in that place all the things the saint had told him." He brought in a manger, hay, an ox, and an ass. When all was ready, people from all over the valley came with torches and were "filled with joy" at what they saw and "Greccio was made, as it were, a new Bethlehem."

(continued on page 6)

Over 100 crèches are displayed at the Graymoor Spiritual Life Center during the Christmas Season. This charming example is a new addition from Buenos Aires, Argentina.

GLAD TIDINGS



by Fr. Bob Warren, SA

It cannot be denied that we have commercialized Christmas and we have sanitized it. Take, for example, the Christmas card and the image of the nativity scene, which is always presented as a tableau of angelic choirs.

A babe in a manger, Mary and Joseph in clean clothes, humble sweet shepherds with well-scrubbed and properly posed animals and richly dressed wise men with fabulous gifts. It is not an accurate portrayal of the first Christmas.

To start, take the shepherds—they were looked down upon as the lowest of the low by the establishment of their day. Then we have the Magi, certainly wise men of a sort, but not Jews, not people of the covenant. They were looked upon as outsiders not to be trusted.

Mary and Joseph were poor peasants wearing travel-worn dirty clothes. Bethlehem was a scruffy village of no account and the manger—we are not talking about a nice crib from a toy store but a feeding station for animals. In dressing up the nativity story to look like a movie set, we miss the point of the incarnation.

And that is that God came into and among our human existence with all its limitations and flaws. Christmas is a sign of God's desire to embrace our brokenness. God came into our lives to nourish us, to feed our hungry souls. Christmas shows us the overwhelming love that God has for all of us.

It would seem that God's method of judging must be different from that of the world. Just recall the message of the angels—I bring you good news for all people. All people! That means that Christmas is for everyone no matter who you are. If you are not treated like royalty by the world, if you feel outcast from your church, if your job makes your life seem menial, if your life is full of burdens, you have a special spotlight on God's stage and He has a special place for you in His heart.

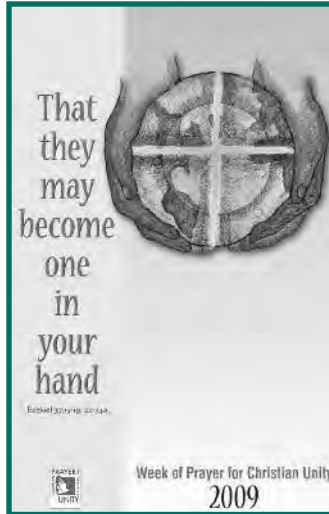
What is Christ's Christmas message? Simply this—be you saint or sinner, rich or poor, you belong at the stable. Christ did not come to earth to exclude anyone. His arms reach out to all who turn to Him. Whoever we are, whatever we have done in the past, all of us belong at the stable.

And that is *Glad Tidings*.

WEEK OF PRAYER 2009

by Fr. James Loughran, SA

Director, Graymoor Ecumenical & Interreligious Institute



As the friars have done now for more than 100 years, they will once again urge all in the Church to pray for Christian unity during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, January 18 – 25, 2009.

With the centenary of the Week of Prayer behind us, and urged by the theme “pray without ceasing,” we continue to pray for the unity of Christians as Christ wills it. We do not know when Christians will reach full visible unity in every place, and so we urge the Holy Spirit by our prayers to answer the prayer of Jesus and make it happen in our time.

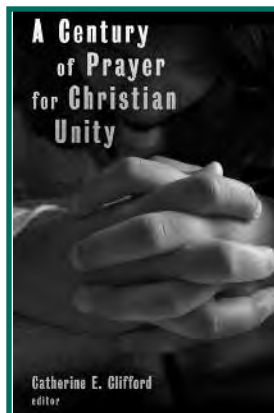
As with all things promised us by God, our patient faith in His Word will be rewarded with that gift of unity.

The scriptural theme for 2009 comes from the Christians of Korea. Divided North and South—as was the ancient kingdom of Israel—they have chosen a theme from the book of the Prophet Ezekiel, *That they may become one in your hand* (Ezekiel 35:15-19, 22-24a). It speaks of their own national aspirations for unity as well as the commitment of Christians there for unity. In that story, God tells Ezekiel to gather two sticks together and hold them as one in his hand. Thus the Israelites will be made one again. In the two pieces of the wood of the cross, we Christians are made one by the atonement of our Lord Jesus Christ. The theme then resonates well in both the Old and New Testaments as a sign of God's will that believers should be united by love, a love that experiences great sacrifice.

Pray for the unity of Christians this January 18 – 25, “that they all may be one” (John 17:20).

Materials to celebrate the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in local parishes are made available by Graymoor Ecumenical & Interreligious Institute, Graymoor, P.O. Box 306, Garrison, NY 10524.

For more information, visit www.geii.org.



A Century of Prayer for Christian Unity is a celebration of the 100-year history of the Week of Prayer. It is a wonderful resource for understanding the theology and practice of common prayer for the reconciliation of Christians.

Contributors are among the best informed Anglican, Roman Catholic, Baptist, and Reformed theologians. Each essayist offers significant insights into the history, theology, and spirituality of the Week of Prayer in particular, and of ecumenical prayer in general.

The book, to be released in January, can be ordered from the Graymoor Book & Gift Center: 845-424-3671, ext. 3155 or www.graymoorbooks.com.

THE YEAR AT GRAYMOOR – A SAMPLING OF EVENTS



WILDFLOWER BLESSING — Inaugurating National Wildflower Week in May, Fr. Ed Boes, SA, blesses wildflower seeds, which are planted nearby after Mass in Pilgrim Hall.



BLESSING THE ANIMALS — St. Francis of Assisi is the patron saint of animals. In honor of his feast day in October, Fr Jim Gardiner, SA, blesses Graymoor's special visitors.



JUAN DIEGO DAY — In honor of the saint, pilgrims come to Graymoor in August to enjoy a festive procession and an afternoon of music, food, and family fun.



9/11 COMMEMORATION — A prayer service is held at the World Trade Center Cross. Erected by Ironworkers of Local 40, NYC, it is constructed of steel girders and ash from the WTC site.

PILGRIMAGE RETREATS WITH THE FRIARS IN 2009

The Basilica of St Paul Outside the Walls, Rome

APRIL 23 ~ MAY 3 "ST. FRANCIS'S CANTICLE OF CREATION"

Join with us in celebrating the Easter beauty of Italy's nature that inspired the Saint's famous Canticle of Creation.

AMALFI COAST, FLORENCE, ASSISI, ROME

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OCTOBER 20 ~ 30 "IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF ST. PAUL"

Trace St. Paul's evangelical journey through Greece and Asia Minor, where he proclaimed the Good News to the Gentiles.

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For more information visit: www.AtonementFriars.org/pilgrimage**

PRICES ARE BASED UPON CURRENT TARIFF AND EXCHANGE RATES AND ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

2009 ~ THE CENTENNIAL OF CARING

In the early 1900's, when Fr. Paul and Sr. Lurana arrived at Graymoor, homeless hungry wanderers were a common sight along the Albany Post Road (now Route 9). Men found their way to the "Holy Mountain" where they were generously offered food and lodging.

In the summer of 1909, while a few men were felling trees to build a chicken coop, Fr. Paul visited Washington DC where he saw a picture of Abraham Lincoln's log cabin. Resolving that the coop would lodge the "pilgrims of the road," he named it St. Christopher's Inn, after the patron saint of travelers. He called the men *Brothers Christopher*.

In 1920, in need of more space, Fr. Paul bought an army barracks that could house 50 men. By 1928, a second Inn had been completed. In 1931, **Fr. Anselm Di Pasca, SA** became the first director and took over Fr. Paul's oversight role. With the Brothers Christopher doing most of the work, a third Inn, accommodating 100 men, was completed in 1933. In



St. Christopher's Inn, 1928

1952, a new wing was added, allowing for 200 more.

Throughout the years, the friars recognized that many of the Brothers Christopher struggled with alcoholism. In 1960, AA meetings were initiated. In 1961, the Matt Talbot Reception Center opened, providing space for another 75 men and room for AA meetings. In 1967, friars staffing the Inn requested that the ministry be formally expanded to include alcohol rehabilitation. A year later, basic counseling, referrals, and medical services were introduced. In the early 1970's, with the increase of drug use in society, men arrived with dual addictions. As they had in the past, friars and lay staff met this new challenge.

In 1991, under the direction of **Bro. Gregory Lucrezia, SA**, a \$5.5 million expansion and renovation was begun. Completed in 1993, the project provided much needed dormitory space, including counseling rooms, and separate rooms for the friars.

Fr. Bernard Palka, SA was named director in 1993. Over the years, the Inn has moved to the forefront of fighting the challenges of chemical dependency. In 1996, the Inn received an Outpatient Alcoholism Counseling license, and in 1999, a Substance Abuse Outpatient Treatment Center license as well as an Article 28 license from the NYS Dept. of Health to operate as a Diagnostic and Treatment Center.

Today, St. Christopher's Inn continues to provide temporary shelter, free of charge, while offering the most comprehensive services including addiction treatment, health care, psychiatric services and spiritual guidance. Over the last century, it has saved and rehabilitated the lives of tens of thousands of Brothers Christopher, healing the minds, bodies, and spirits of fathers, brothers, and sons who have lost their way.

Commemorating 100 years of hope and compassion in 2009, St. Christopher's Inn is building a Centennial Brick Walk underwritten by benefactors.

SHARING HOPE WITH RUSSIA

In September, **Fr. Bill Drobach, SA, SCI** Vice President, travelled to St. Petersburg, Russia to consult with the *House of Hope on the Hill*—one of Russia's first private rehabilitation clinics, which models its program after St. Christopher Inn. Reciprocally, the Inn welcomes House of Hope staff who visit the United States each year to study its multi-dimensional treatment program in action.

"The Russians have a terrible problem with alcoholism," says **Fr. Bernie Palka, SA, CEO & President**; "they came over to this country a number of years ago looking for models. They visited various rehabilitation centers; but when they came here, they found our no-frills program really attractive and one that could be adapted to their culture." St. Christopher's has been working with the House of Hope for over a decade.



Fr. Bill (standing at left) with House of Hope staff.



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THE YEAR OF SAINT PAUL

the Paulists." When it came time to make his first profession of vows and to take the name of a saint to imitate, he remembered that voice and took the name of Paul the Apostle and greatest missionary of the Church. Fr. Paul, like his namesake, excelled as a writer, but because he was busy founding a religious order at home, he could not go to the missions like St. Paul. However, through his missionary enterprise the *Union That Nothing Be Lost*, he collected millions of dollars to build churches, hospitals and schools in China, Africa, Japan, Korea, the Philippines, and elsewhere, as well as for missions at home.

St. Paul was so much the ideal for Fr. Paul that he named him one of the eight Patrons of the Society of the Atonement and called his first monastery St. Paul's Friary. Through the years Fr. Paul reminded his friars that they were Pauline as well as Franciscan. He never stopped telling them how it was St. Paul's letter to the Romans that God led him to when he was looking for a name for his religious order. The passage was, "We joy in God though Our Lord Jesus Christ through whom we have now received the *atonement*." (Romans 5:11)

SERVING VETERANS ~ OUR NEWEST POPULATION OF THOSE IN NEED

by Bob Ross, President/CEO

Regardless of one's political views, there can be little debate that the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have become expensive endeavors. Nearly daily, there are reports on the costs—not just financial, but the far greater losses of loved ones and the more than 16,000 wounded. One statistic that has yet to be quantified, however, is the number of veterans affected by post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), a reoccurring, sometimes debilitating response to major trauma.

Due to a number of factors including multiple tours of duty, longer deployments, and a stop-loss policy that extends military commitments beyond contract dates, experts estimate that 20% of veterans returning from the wars struggle with PTSD. To escape their often-terrifying episodes, many turn to alcohol and other drugs. This combination results in further debilitation.

St. Joseph's has been working with returning veterans as part of their general population for years. Recently

Dr. Edward Tick, a recognized expert on PTSD, began working with Tina Smith, St. Joe's Deputy Director of Outpatient Services to increase services to veterans. As Tick writes in his book *War and the Soul*, "Though the affliction that we call today post traumatic stress disorder has had many names over the centuries, it is always the result of the way war invades, wounds, and transforms the souls of warriors."

Earlier this year, to address the increasing population of affected veterans, the NYS Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse requested proposals from agencies interested in establishing long-term community residences for veterans suffering from substance abuse and PTSD. St. Joseph's submitted a proposal to construct a 12,000 sq ft residence adjacent to the Center. During the summer, St. Joseph's was identified as one of four applicants to receive the award.

Father Paul opened St. Christopher's Inn 100 years ago to improve the lives of the most needy, and the friars established St. Joseph's in 1970 to care for men and women suffering from alcoholism. Just as then, we hold the hope that our existing program will be expanded in a new and very meaningful manner with the addition of a long-term residence for veterans. While there will be many steps to fulfilling this vision, a community residence for veterans at St. Joseph's Rehabilitation Center will address the nation's newest population of those in need.

ST. JOSEPH'S FELLOWSHIP

Over Columbus Day weekend, New York State OASAS Commissioner Karen M. Carpenter-Palumbo joined more than 300 St. Joseph's Fellowship members for their 37th Annual Reunion. Members of the Fellowship are past residents of St. Joseph's who gather each year to share with each other, family, friends, and invited guests the joy of sobriety. Special recognition pins were given to those celebrating five through 30 years of sobriety.



John Harvey (left) receives his 25-year sobriety pin from Fellowship President, Robert Morea. Commissioner Carpenter-Palumbo looks on.

A highlight of the weekend was a letter from NYS Governor David Paterson, which was read aloud at the dinner, "On behalf of all New Yorkers, I commend St. Joseph's Fellowship and those who have made successful recoveries through this program. Your presence is an example to others that sobriety can be a reality."

FRIARS CELEBRATE HOPE

On October 10th, the friars held their Annual *Sharing Hope Celebration* in New York City. At the dinner, Graymoor Awards are presented to individuals who embody the friars' charism and who have shown a commitment to helping others and inspiring hope.



Shown with Minister General, **Fr. James Puglisi, SA** (rear center) are recipients of this year's Graymoor Awards: Anthony J. Cernera, PhD, President of Sacred Heart University and founder of the Center for Christian-Jewish Understanding (left); Andrea and Renato Berzolla, of Riverside, CT, (center) and Dr. Frank E. Lucente, FACS, Vice Dean for Graduate Medical Education and Professor and Chairman of the Department of Otolaryngology, SUNY Downstate Medical Center (right).

For more information and photos, visit www.AtonementFriars.org/SharingHope

VOCATIONS - PEACEMAKERS OF THE FUTURE

With so many places around the world in desperate need of peacemakers, the friars are considering strengthening their international formation program. This past Summer, **Bro. John O'Hara, SA**, Director of Vocations, **Bro. Jim Daly, SA**, **Bro. Tim MacDonald, SA**, and **Bro. Simon Peter Ango**, visited Africa to assess the potential for a foundation in Kenya.

The three-month stay was facilitated by the Kenyan Province of the Friars Minor providing lodgings at their Provincial house in Nairobi. In July, the Vocation Team held two *Come and Meet* Retreats, one in Nigeria and another in Kenya. Several men expressed interest in learning more about the Atonement community. "We accomplished what we set out to do," said Bro. O'Hara after the trip.

Below are Bro. O'Hara's photographs from his *peacemakers of the future* trip.



continued from page 1 THE STORY OF THE CRÛCHE

For almost 800 years, artists all over the world have followed the example of St. Francis and used their imaginations as well as materials at hand to create crèches that reflect their own particular culture and times.

The Graymoor collection was started by the late **Fr. Joseph Egan, SA**, and represents almost every continent and country. The crèches are made from materials as different as straw, wood, ceramic, stone and paper—even elk horn. The latest addition, from Buenos Aires, Argentina, was discovered by Dr. Maria Ruiz and her husband Jose Santos while they were vacationing there this summer.

The crèches, a charming reminder of what the Christmas season is about, go on display in mid-December. If you or any of your friends are in the area, come and see them. Maybe you, too, will experience "new joy" as did the people in Greccio almost 800 years ago.

For information on Graymoor Spiritual Life Center retreats and events visit www.graymoorcenter.org.



Fr. Paul Wattson Lecture Series

January 12, 2009

at St. Mary's University, Halifax, Nova Scotia

V. Rev. James F. Puglisi, SA,

Minister General,

Franciscan Friars of the Atonement

February 23, 2009

at University of San Francisco, California

Elsa Tamez, translation consultant,

the United Bible Societies, and Emeritus Professor,

Latin America Biblical University

With these lectures, which began in 1974 at Catholic University of America, the friars honor the memory and work of their Founder, Fr. Paul Wattson, and continue their efforts to realize the prayer of Jesus: "That all may be one." (John 17:21).

Fr. Paul Wattson Lecture Series information is available at www.AtonementFriars.org/lecture



BELL TOWER NOTES



Bro. Raymond Rodriguez Luis, SA, was ordained a deacon by Coadjutor Archbishop John Michael Miller, CSB, of Vancouver in August. He has been assigned to St. Joseph the Worker parish in Richmond, British Columbia, Canada.

Fr. Elias Mallon, SA set up a three day program in June entitled “The Condition of Christians in Iraq” based upon the experiences of a Dominican sister visiting the United States who was born and educated in Iraq. Because her family, which has lost several members in the violence, is still in the country, she requested anonymity. Fr. Mallon was able to arrange co-sponsors and set up programs at venues including the UN Church Center and a press conference at the offices of the Catholic Near East Welfare Association.



Bro. Gregory Lucrezia, SA, Secretary General, received a Peacemaker Award at the Franciscan Federation Conference in Denver in July. The awards honor “a member of each congregation or province whose life and actions model for others a person who has moved out of his/her comfort level toward a deeper sense of Franciscan Evangelical Life and who inspires others to do the same.”

Fr. Damian MacPherson, SA, Director of Ecumenical and Interfaith Affairs for the Toronto Archdiocese, was among 20 guests who shared a fast-breaking feast with a Turkish family at their north Toronto home during Ramadan. “Christians know, as do Muslims, how to feast and how to fast,” he says. “This gives us the opportunity to cast aside our attitude and a part of our thinking, to be invited to such hospitality and to create a new level of fellowship.”



In May, members of local churches gathered at the Chapel of Our Savior in Brockton, Massachusetts with **Fr. Malcom Martin, SA** (center) to observe the 100th anniversary of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. The Rev. Patricia Hayes of Christ Congregational Church was the preacher. The service ended with the pastors leading an ecumenical hymn.



Fr. Daniel Callahan, SA, aka *The Iron Friar*, completed his 10th Iron Man competition at Lake Placid on July 20.

The grueling 140.8-mile journey consists of a 2.4-mile swim, a 112-mile bike ride, and a 26.4-mile run. Fr. Callahan, associate pastor at St. Joan of Arc parish in Toronto, takes part in the event to raise money for St. Joseph’s Rehabilitation Center.

Rest in Peace



Fr. Peter Tomaino, SA
1917 – 2008

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

FRIARS THANKFUL FOR FOUNDATION GIFTS

Through foundation grants, we are able to continue our ministries of helping those with addictions, meeting the needs of those who seek spiritual healing, and promoting interfaith dialogue. We are deeply grateful to the following foundations for their support:

Thomas and Agnes Carvel Foundation—to support the development of the family program at St. Joseph's Rehabilitation Center.

Bruce L. Crary Foundation—for general operating support for St. Joseph's.

Fund for the Poor—for food in 2008 for St. Christopher's Inn residents regardless of their special dietary needs.

Charles A. Mastronardi Foundation—for world-wide support of the friars' ministries.

Entergy Charitable Foundation—to install a new flat screen TV and DVD/VCR in the multipurpose/training room at St. Christopher's Inn.

New York State Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services—to construct a new building for veterans at St. Joseph's. (see page 5).

Wasily Family Foundation and *Broadway Cares*—to provide emergency assistance to people with HIV/AIDS through the Do Not Fear to Hope ministry.

McEwen Family Foundation—has supported St. Christopher's Inn for over 50 years.

McCaddin-McQuirk Foundation—to support the training and education of seminarians.

In addition, grants have been received from the *John McDougall Foundation*, *Valentino Family Fund*, *John C. and Katherine Kelly Fund*, and *Kathryn Moss Fund*.



EVENTS

DECEMBER 23 ~ 25

Christmas at Graymoor Retreat
Graymoor Spiritual Life Center

DECEMBER 24

Christmas Eve Mini-Retreat

Graymoor Spiritual Life Center

Begins with First Vespers and procession to the outdoor crèche, includes a festive dinner and concludes after Midnight Mass.

DECEMBER 30 ~ JANUARY 1

New Year's on the Mountain Retreat

Graymoor Spiritual Life Center

DECEMBER 31

New Year's Eve Mini-Retreat

Graymoor Spiritual Life Center

Begins with First Vespers, includes a festive dinner and concludes with the First Mass of the New Year.

JANUARY 18 ~ 25

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

For more information

800-338-2620

TIS THE SEASON OF GIFT-GIVING...



In these times of economic uncertainty it may be difficult for you to consider supporting your favorite charities. Here are a few ways you can make a *planned gift* to the Franciscan Friars of the Atonement—a gift that offers powerful benefits for you and ensures that our work will continue:

Life-Income through Annuity Gift. You can make a gift now, obtain tax benefits and receive income for the rest of your life. And your gift can be tailored to meet your needs. A Graymoor Annuity Gift has attractive rates and fixed scheduled payments for life. Plus, because it's part gift you would be entitled to an income tax deduction for the gift portion of the annuity.

Estate Bequest. Making a will makes you think about the future. It sets down your wishes and plans for your estate, whatever its size. Without one, state law dictates who and what your relatives receive. A bequest to your favorite charity enables more of your hard-earned estate dollars to remain productive after your lifetime.

For more information visit www.AtonementFriars.org/plannedgiving.

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**For more information on planned giving, please call
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800-338-2620, ext. 3126, or send in this form.**

Mail to Fr. Emil Tomaskovic, Graymoor, PO Box 301, Garrison, NY 10524

GRAYMOOR CONTACTS:

Benefactor Services 845-424-3671 ext 3519
Book & Gift Center 845-424-2100
GEII 212-870-2330

St. Christopher's Inn 845-424-1005
Spiritual Life Center 845-424-2111
Vocations 845-424-2126

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