



FRANCISCAN FRIARS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

SPRING 2019

Light in The Desert



A Letter from Our Community Servant

Dear Friends of FHS,

Thank you for your support of the Franciscan Friars of the Holy Spirit. The Lord is working in powerful ways in our community. There has been a lot of transition and trial of late, but the Holy Spirit is guiding us through it. We are honored to serve under Bishop Olmsted who continues to lead and guide our community every step of the way.

This January we began regular coverage of all the Sunday Masses at each of our missions. With nine active missions and overlapping Mass times, it takes four priests to cover all of the Masses on Sunday. We have relied on the help of Diocesan

priests for the past three years but are moving toward independence as we continue to grow and gain stability.

Additionally, this year we began a retreat-based youth ministry approach which has been wildly successful. We are focusing our energy and effort into providing opportunities for our youth to have life-changing encounters with Jesus through prayer, fun, and fellowship.

As a final note, we are teaming up with **The Word and the Rock** and **NABI** to put on a faith-based basketball camp for youth this summer. We are excited to reach youth on the reservation who do not regularly attend church and

and provide them with an opportunity to encounter the love of Jesus through sport.

Jesus said, **“I came to cast fire on the earth, and would that it were already kindled!”** (Luke 12:49).”

Thank you for all of your prayers for our community. Please continue to pray for us as we seek to be living flames of the Holy Spirit on the earth. We pray that you are set ablaze by His Fire and become a light in the darkness.

God Bless you,
Fr. Antony, FHS

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **MAY 27** – Final Tuesday Night Healing Mass on the Rez, Spring Semester
- **JUNE 1** – Deacon Peter Teresa McConnell’s Priestly Ordination and First Mass
- **JUNE 15** – Temporary Profession of Vows for Brothers Elijah and Lawrence
- **JAN 8-18, 2020** – Holy Land Pilgrimage with Father Antony & [soon-to-be] Father Peter Teresa



Thank you for your prayerful support & abundant generosity.

If you feel called to contribute materially to the work of the Friars, please contact:

Brittany Vanden at (817) 917-1188,
brittany.vanden@becomefire.faith,
or online at www.becomefire.faith/give

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In just two short years, Father Athanasius and his confreres at Greyfriars House of Studies have planted firm roots in Detroit, Michigan and many have experienced the good fruit of their work of ministry. Here he shares not only some of his day-to-day life but what's to come.

An interview with Cleric Master, Father Athanasius Fornwalt



You are the Cleric Master of the Franciscan Friars of the Holy Spirit. Explain this role and how it serves the order.

The Cleric Master can be described as a twofold job. First, the Cleric Master is the 'house father' who is responsible for providing for the material and spiritual needs of the brothers who are in studies. Second, the Cleric Master helps each brother to continue to discern the call to religious life and the priesthood as well as to provide formation in the Franciscan life and the apostolate so that they are prepared one day for lifelong service in the community and to the people of God.

We've heard of some new significant evangelization initiatives that have been promoted in the Archdiocese of Detroit. What has your part been in all this?

The AOD is in the middle of a massive reform and renewal project that follows the directives laid out by Archbishop Vigneron in his

Apostolic Letter, **"Unleash the Gospel."** I was able to assist this project in a small way this year as a member of the Evangelization team. We hosted five Mercy Nights in the AOD along with eight Kerygma Nights. I also helped with some strategic planning and the development of a diocesan evangelization model.

What are the most significant challenges that Detroit Catholics face and where do you see change?

The challenges for Catholics in the AOD are similar to those Catholics throughout the United States. Church attendance is down as compared to previous generations of fervent Catholic culture. Parish mergers and closures are taking place. The city continues to heal from the race riots in the '60s and the turmoil and division caused by racism. Many people are moving back to the city, but most of these are unchurched millennials.

It's just been announced that you have been given a new parish ministry assignment.

Tell us about this unique opportunity and where you see Greyfriars House of Studies accompanying that.

I will be the Administrator of St. Mary's of Redford, which means I will be like an acting Pastor of the parish. As such, I will no longer be on the evangelization team at the AOD. Also, we will be moving our residence from Most Holy Trinity's rectory to St. Mary of Redford. The move is an exciting one. The parish will provide ample opportunities for the men who are in formation to develop pastoral competencies. The rectory is more spacious and will give us room to grow over the years. We are also excited to have a singular focus: the parishioners and neighbors of St. Mary of Redford.



Friars and friends gather at Kathy's Place for the 2nd Annual FriarQ

Our second annual **FriarQ Gala** in February was a great success and the catalyst for the full funding of our vocations program for the next academic year. Thanks to your generosity, Brothers Elijah and Lawrence will join Brothers John of the Cross, Xavier, and Paul for the 2019/2020 academic year at Sacred Heart Major Seminary, with all expenses covered. We look forward to seeing you all at next year's FriarQ!

This event and its accomplished goal would not have been possible without the time, talent & treasure

of our community's benefactors. We would like to thank Scaramella Faith Foundation, Catholic Cemeteries and Funeral Homes, the Catholic Community Foundation, Relevant Radio, Arizona Cardinals, Gila River Casinos, Mount Claret Retreat Center, Beyond Woodworking, DeLaney Auction House, Mary Immaculate Gifts and Books, The Sacred Art Gallery, Gateway Chevrolet, Fulton Ranch Garcias, Desert Botanical Gardens, House of Comedy, The Vig, Passport Coffee & Tea, King's House, Valley Light Gallery, Nick's Italian Cuisine,

Assisi Gift Shop at Saint Mary's Basilica, Hesscor, Incorporated, Crescent Crown Distributing, Gila River Sand and Gravel, Cemex, Hanson, Arizona Materials, Rock Solid, Cal Portland, Mona Cisneros, Robert Penn, Joseph Nemmers, Joe and Jennifer Gambino, David and Marjorie Schumacher, Clark and Leticia Albright, Tom and Angela Shellenberger, Edmee Beale, Paul and Beth Zucarelli, Pat Kane, Thomas Doll, Charlie and Angie Klutz, Chris and Tricia Feagles, and Steve and Mary Hess.