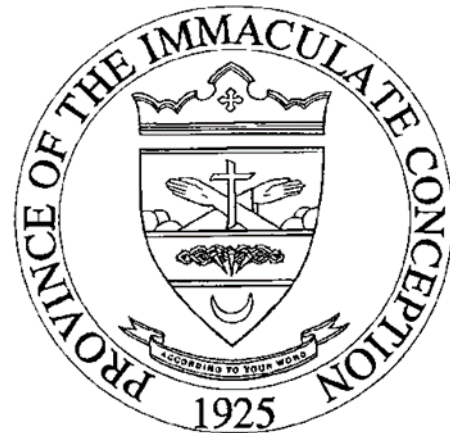


# Franciscan Friars

## Third Order Regular

Immaculate Conception Province, USA  
March, 2014

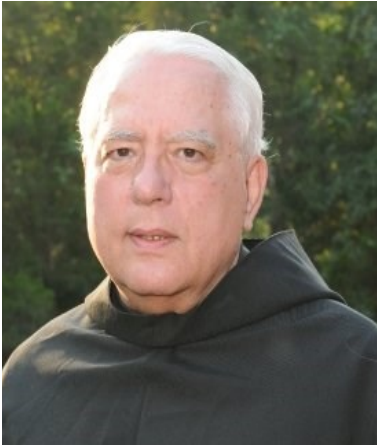


Among the gifts that we have received and continue to receive  
from our magnanimous Father of mercies  
and for which we must express our deepest thanks to our glorious God,  
there is our vocation,  
which the more perfect and greater it is,  
the more we are indebted to him.  
Therefore the Apostle writes:  
Recognize your vocation.  
The Son of God has become for us the Way  
that our blessed Father Francis,  
his true lover and imitator,  
has shown and taught us by word and example.  
St. Clare, Testament, 1247



## OUR JUBILARIANS—2014

### SIXTY YEARS OF PROFESSION



Fr. Cyprian J. Mercieca, TOR



Fr. William W. Santre, TOR

### FIFTY YEARS OF PROFESSION



Fr. Vianney J. Cunningham, TOR

## TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF PROFESSION



Fr. Bradley C. Baldwin, TOR

## TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF ORDINATION



Fr. Blase R. Romano, TOR

*Congratulations!*

## FLORIDA NEWS



It seems like ages ago that I started to train for the Half Marathon in Miami on February 2, 2014. Well, I did it and was able to raise over \$2,400 for Team Challenge and the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America. I ran the race for all those who suffer from these painful, medically incurable diseases that attack the digestive system but especially for one of our friars who has Crohn's Disease.

By six o'clock on a warm Miami morning, twenty five thousand runners were lined up in their assigned corral to wait for the starting gun. Representatives of every conceivable age and fitness levels, coming from several countries, running to qualify for the Boston Marathon, running to raise funds for a particular charity, running to achieve a Personal Best in time or just for the fun of running – no matter what the reason, all were there to run! One hundred of those runners were running for Crohn's and Colitis. Some of them were affected by Crohn's or Colitis or they had friends or relatives who are living with these or had succumbed to complications from these illnesses.

As I ran, I kept the reason for my running always before me – raising funds to assist the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America in its efforts to find a cure for these diseases, knowing too that the funds raised will help to improve the quality of life of the children and adults affected by inflammatory bowel diseases. I also wanted to finish the race because the Province was fully backing me. The donated funds were the tangible signs that the friars were my cheerleaders. [Thank you for your support and for the prayers.] A special thanks too for allowing me the time to train for and run in the race. Thanks also to the many lay persons who provided prayerful and monetary support.

Of the 25,000 thousand runners I came in at 6051, completing the 13.1 miles in 2 hours and 16 minutes! Of all the persons in my age group category (50 -60) I came in at the 174<sup>th</sup> place! My medal will be placed in the Archives of the Province.



So the race for a cure continues and we continue to pray. I hope that I will be able to continue with Team Challenge and the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America. I have not given up running because the race goes on, so may we all run a good race.

Peace and all good.

Fr. Anthony Aarons, TOR

## WORLD DAY FOR CONSECRATED LIFE



Sister O'Malley, Sister West and Brother Tello at the February 1 Mass for the World Day for Consecrated Life at Mary, Queen of the Universe National Shrine in Orlando, FL.

### IMPORTANT DATES

- **PLEASE RETURN YOUR FINAL BALLOTS BY MONDAY, MARCH 24, 2014.**
- **PROVINCE CHAPTER AT SAN PEDRO CENTER, WINTER PARK, FL  
Monday, May 5 through Friday, May 9**



## VOCATION OFFICE

### **ANNUAL *FOCUS* 11 DAYS IN ORLANDO, FL**



Each year the Diocese of Orlando, FL presents its FOCUS 11 days for children and young adults at Holy Family Church. The idea behind the event is to offer a day of activities aimed at helping 11 year-olds (sixth-graders) as well as those in 11th grade (high school Juniors) learn more about vocations in the Church. Studies show that vocation decisions often form at the critical ages of 11 and 16 and so these are the target age groups for the event. This year however, the normally three day event was increased to four days with the extra day being devoted to children in parish religious education programs and also young adults. It is the single largest program for vocations in the Orlando Diocese and given the large number of friars who serve in Orlando, an important one for our Province. I was privileged to be present for these days, ably assisted by Br. Tello (Sunday evening) and Fr. Anthony Aarons (Sunday, Monday and Tuesday).

Representatives from a number of religious orders were present for the gathering each offering information, take-away items and most importantly their presence to the more than 2000 young people who attended the four days. Our memento for the young people was a pin featuring Pope Francis and a quote from a homily he gave at last year's World Youth Day. It was a hit! All of the friars will receive one of these at the upcoming Province Chapter.

