

Capuchin BLESSINGS

Autumn 2025

Two Capuchin Brothers Make Solemn Profession



"The world may see you as nothing, but God sees you as something and as someone for whom He gave His Son Jesus as Savior and example."

- Fr. Bob Marva

Provincial Minister Fr. Bob Marva received the solemn vows of Bros. Federico Viquez and Pablo Lopez in August. The profession was witnessed by dozens of friars and a host of family and friends.

Solemn vows are lifelong promises a friar makes to God through poverty, chastity, and obedience. In these vows, a friar gives his whole life to Christ and to serving God's people as a Capuchin.

During the ceremony, the brothers were reminded that professing vows means letting go of worldly priorities to embrace fraternity, prayer, and service. Bros. Federico and Pablo now belong fully to Christ and to their Capuchin brothers, finding strength in community life and in the daily choice to love as Jesus loves.

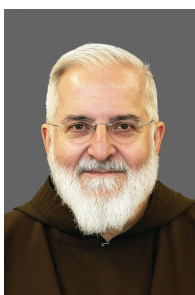


Bro. Pablo Lopez embraces the crucifix; Bro. Federico Viquez professes vows to Provincial Minister Fr. Bob Marva; the newly professed celebrate with Fr. Michael Herlihey.

Capuchin Friar Sparks Growth

Fr. Joseph Tuscan has brought new life to the Confraternity of Christian Mothers! Not only has the Catholic organization for mothers grown in the United States, Fr. Joseph has also been welcomed around the world to establish local chapters of the Christian Mothers.

Fr. Joseph has discovered that many mothers are hungry for the support and devotional life of the Christian Mothers. Once established, a local chapter is led by women with the support of the parish priest. They foster prayerful devotion and relationships with one another for the most important job in all the world.



Fr. Joseph is a hard worker, constantly on the road and attending to the needs of the Confraternity of Christian Mothers. He gives recollection days and retreats, meets with local leaders and provides guidance to priests who support the Christian Mothers of their parishes.

Jubilarians Celebrate Milestones

Each autumn, the Capuchin friars celebrate with their brothers who have reached anniversary milestones.



Fr. Albert Alexandrunas

Heading the list of jubilarians are Fr. Albert Alexandrunas and Fr. Roger White. They made their first vows of Capuchin friars 65 years ago. The same two friars also celebrate 60 years of their priestly ordination.

The same year Fr. Albert and Fr. Roger were ordained, three young men made their first vows. Cardinal Sean O'Malley, Fr. Paul Kuppe and Fr. Bill Gillum were 21 years old when they professed Capuchin vows at the novitiate in Annapolis, MD. Now in their 80s, each keeps busy and is in good health.



Fr. Roger White

In June 1985, Fr. Michael Joyce and now Bishop Donald Lippert were ordained to the priesthood. Fr. Michael is on the staff of Borromeo Seminary near Cleveland. Bishop Don is head of the Diocese of Mendi in Papua New Guinea. He was ordained bishop in 2022.

Lastly, Fr. David Nestler celebrates 40 years as a Capuchin friar, having professed first vows in July 1985.

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New Income & New Tax Benefits

Imagine creating a dependable stream of income for yourself while also supporting the Capuchin friars. That's the beauty of a Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA). It's a unique way to receive fixed payments for life, gain tax benefits, and leave a legacy of faith with the friars.

What a CGA Offers You

- Fixed lifetime payments at attractive rates
- Payments for one life, or for you and your spouse together
- Partially tax-free payments (depending on your situation)
- An immediate charitable deduction for part of the gift
- Capital gains relief if you fund it with appreciated stock

Donor Story

Jim, age 80, funds a CGA with \$50,000 of appreciated stock. He avoids paying capital gains tax on the transfer, receives an immediate income tax deduction, and locks in annual payments of \$4,050 for life. Best of all, Jim knows that after his lifetime, the remaining balance will support the Capuchin friars he has admired for decades.

Flexibility with Stock

If you use appreciated securities:

- You pay no capital gains tax at the time of transfer.
- Part of the gains are completely eliminated.
- The rest are spread out over the life of your annuity payments.

Closing Thought

Few financial tools let you create income for life, lower your taxes, and support a favored non-profit like the Capuchins in one step. A charitable gift annuity does all three.

For a confidential, no obligation, complimentary illustration, call our CGA Administrator Carol Arbuckle at 412-496-4816, toll-free 1-800-224-0330, or, email: Carol@Capuchin.com.

Capuchin
HERITAGE
C • I • R • C • L • E

The legacy society of the Province of St. Augustine of the Capuchin Order

Membership is comprised of persons who self-identify as having included the Capuchins in their will or trust, made a gift by beneficiary designation of a retirement plan, life insurance policy or other account, or made a legacy gift from other estate planning tools.

American Council on Gift Annuities Recommended Gift Annuity Rates

Effective January 1, 2024 | Rates subject to change

Age	Rate	Age	Rate	Age	Rate	Age	Rate
60	5.2%	68	6.1%	76	7.2%	84	8.9%
61	5.3%	69	6.2%	77	7.4%	85	9.1%
62	5.4%	70	6.3%	78	7.6%	86	9.3%
63	5.4%	71	6.4%	79	7.8%	87	9.5%
64	5.6%	72	6.6%	80	8.1%	88	9.7%
65	5.7%	73	6.7%	81	8.3%	89	9.9%
66	5.8%	74	6.8%	82	8.5%	90+	10.1%
67	5.9%	75	7.0%	83	8.7%		

Avoid Taxes on Your IRA

It may seem hard to believe, but paying income tax on every dollar from your IRA may not be as mandatory as you think. Even if you are taking Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs), there is a way to reduce your tax burden and support the Capuchins at the same time. This option is called a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD).

How it Works

If you are 73 or older, the government requires you to withdraw money from your IRA each year - and to pay income tax on those withdrawals. But the same government also allows you to make a direct transfer from your IRA to a qualified charity. When you do this:

- The transfer counts toward your RMD.
- You pay no income tax on the amount transferred.
- Your gift makes an immediate impact on our Capuchin lives and ministries.

*You can satisfy your RMD
while lowering your tax bill –
and helping the Capuchin friars.*

Donor Story

Helen, age 75, must take a \$15,000 RMD this year. She doesn't need the income and worries about the tax bill. Helen asks her IRA administrator to transfer \$10,000 directly to the Capuchins. That \$10,000 satisfies most of her RMD and avoids income tax. She only pays tax on the remaining \$5,000. Helen is grateful that she can lower her taxes while supporting the Capuchin friars' lives and ministries.

Important Details

- You must be age 70½ or older to make a QCD.
- For a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) to count, it must go directly from your IRA custodian to the charity. Some custodians mail the check made payable to the charity directly to you. In that case, simply forward it to the charity to complete the gift.
- You will not receive a charitable income tax deduction for the gift, but the transfer avoids taxable income altogether.

Ease the Pains of Capital Gains

Do you own stock that has grown in value? Selling it can create a big capital gains tax bill - but giving it directly to the Capuchins can help you avoid that pain. By donating appreciated stock, you support the Capuchins' ministries and keep more of your resources working for good.

Why Donating Stock Makes Sense

- You avoid paying capital gains tax.
- You receive an income tax deduction for the full fair market value.
- You can make a more significant gift at no additional cost.
- You can even repurchase the stock at its new, higher basis, resetting your portfolio for the future.

*Giving stock is a smart way
to help the friars and keep more
of your resources working for good.*

Donor Story

Carlos bought shares of a utility company years ago for \$5,000. Today those shares are worth \$20,000. If Carlos sold them, he would owe tax on the \$15,000 gain. Instead, he donates the shares directly to the Capuchins. He avoids the capital gains tax, receives a \$20,000 charitable deduction, and helps sustain the friars' ministries. Later, Carlos uses the cash he would have donated to repurchase the stock at the new, higher basis.

Closing Thought

If you're holding appreciated stock, consider making your gift the smart way. A direct transfer of stock can spare you taxes and bless the friars' work at the same time. Contact us, and we'll be happy to guide you through the simple steps.

Capuchin CORNER

Blessings of Joy

This issue of *Capuchin Blessings* is filled with joy. We celebrate the solemn professions of Brothers Pablo and Federico, the growth of the Confraternity of Christian Mothers, and the many faithful years of service offered by our jubilarians. These moments remind us of God's abundant blessings at work among us.

At the center of this issue, you'll also find helpful planned giving information - practical ways to support the friars while being good stewards of God's blessings.

You may also notice a modest facelift in the look of *Capuchin Blessings*. We hope this refreshed design makes our stories and mission even more inviting.



In gratitude, my brothers and I pray for you and your intentions every day. Thank you for all you do for us.

Peace and blessings,

Father John

Here to Help You

Please use the enclosed card and envelope to request information about making a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) from your IRA, naming the Capuchins



as a beneficiary of your IRA, recommending a grant from your Donor Advised Fund, or sharing a bequest with the Capuchins.

Or, contact Stephanie Pedersen, our Planned Giving Officer, directly at 720-635-5213 or email: StephaniePedersen@Capuchin.com.

Our Legal Title:

Province of St. Augustine of the Capuchin Order

220 37th St., Pittsburgh, PA 15201

1-800-224-0330 • 412-682-1300

www.CapuchinFriar.org

EIN: 25-6028798

Information is not intended as tax, legal or financial advice. Gift results may vary. Consult your personal financial advisor for information specific to your situation.

Sister Death's Roll Call

Fr. Brian Newman died on June 30, at St. Augustine Friary in Pittsburgh, shortly after his 90th birthday.

Born in Charleston, WV, he professed vows as a Capuchin in 1956 and was ordained in 1961. Soon after, he began



nearly 50 years of missionary service in Papua New Guinea as rector, novice master, and spiritual director, where he formed generations of friars.

Returning to the United States in 2013, Fr. Brian continued ministry at Capuchin College in Washington, DC, and later at St. Augustine Friary.

Known for his zeal, prayerfulness, and Franciscan joy, he remained a faithful priest and friend to many.

He loved to share stories of his missionary years, often recalling the people of Papua New Guinea with gratitude. His witness continues to inspire, reminding us of the joy found in a life given to Christ.

News Notes

In May all of the friars came together for the Provincial Chapter. Every three years a Chapter is called to elect a Provincial Minister and Council. Fr. Robert Marva was re-elected to serve a second three-year term. Fr. Emilio Biosca, Fr. Brian Stacy, Fr. Paul Zaborowski and Fr. John Paul Kuzma were chosen by the friars to serve on the Council.

The day before Brothers Pablo and Federico made their perpetual vows as Capuchins, the friars held the annual picnic in a Pittsburgh area park. It's always good to catch up with each other, play lawn games and enjoy a feast of hamburgers and hot dogs and numerous side dishes.

Each year on August 2, the Franciscan family celebrates the Feast of the Portiuncula, a small chapel in Assisi that



was dear to St. Francis. It means "the Little Portion," and it was given to St. Francis by the Benedictine monks. In gratitude St. Francis paid "rent" with a gift of fish for the monks. It still stands today under the protective Basilica of Our Lady of the Angels. This year, Provincial Fr. Robert Marva delivered a bowl of fish-shaped gummy candy to the Benedictine monks at St. Vincent Archabbey.