



# Capuchin Franciscan Friars

PROVINCE OF ST. AUGUSTINE

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These two friars just keep going.

Br. Bob Toomey is in his 80s, and, frankly, not many of the friars think of him as retired, much less old. Fr. Leon, at 92, has slowed down somewhat, but he is always smiling and present for all of our community prayers, meals and get-togethers.

It's true that we have a very healthy number of young friars. We count ourselves blessed with the young men who have become part of our Capuchin community. We also have our senior friars, and they are a blessing of strength and a great example.

## **Can you help us give them the care they deserve in their retirement years?**

Br. Bob professed his first vows as a Capuchin friar after having worked in the world for more than a couple of decades. His work ethic is second to none, and he enjoys making visitors and guests feel welcome.

He is known all around the Capuchin world. For many years he hosted foreign Capuchin students at Capuchin College in Washington, DC, as they pursued studies at Catholic University. Br. Bob's name will come up in conversation in far-flung places like India, Brazil, Zambia, Angola, Poland, Italy and many other countries. He knows how to give tours, complete official documents, and throw a party!

For a good number of years Br. Bob also directed the Capuchin Volunteer Corps. After graduating from college, young women and men dedicated one year of service to the poor and needy in various U.S. cities. They could count on Br. Bob to help them flourish in their ministries. He enjoyed working with young people and was very effective as director of CapCorps.

These days Br. Bob still does the shopping for the friary and makes sure meals are properly set out. He lends a hand to wash dishes and prepares special feast day treats. He's a happy friar.

Now to Fr. Leon, who dedicated many years of service to the people of Puerto Rico. His love for them continues to this day.

He often recalls the early days of his missionary labors in the remote mountains and valleys of Puerto Rico. Some areas were only accessible either only on foot or by horse. Fr. Leon wanted to reach everyone, no matter how isolated they were. He has the heart of a shepherd.



*Br. Bob Toomey*

Fr. Leon also devoted many years to training young Capuchin friars. He was demanding and compassionate, inviting the young men to a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ and living our Capuchin life faithfully and productively.



*Fr. Leon Leitem*

He returned to the States later in life and put his excellent Spanish skills to work in predominantly Latino parishes. He tirelessly attended to his flock, never turning anyone away and trying his best to meet their needs in times of grief, confusion or loneliness. Many people turned to him for spiritual guidance.

Obviously, Fr. Leon is now fully retired. Yes, he has a few medical challenges, but he is healthy and happy, able to take care of himself for the most part, and has a good set of legs that don't require a walker or even a cane to get around.

Both Br. Bob and Fr. Leon have family nearby and are able to stay in close touch with brothers and sisters, nieces and nephews.

These two friars have given many years as Capuchin friars; they have touched many lives. They are faithful to prayer and the friars.

### **And they need you!**

We must provide for Fr. Leon and Br. Bob ... and about 40 other senior friars. Your generous contribution will be most appreciated.

These senior friars have given their best. They have devoted themselves to following Christ as Capuchin friars.

**I am certain you want to help make sure they are able to get the best care.**

**Can you help us provide for them?**

You are remembered every day in prayer, especially at the holy Mass offered each morning. We pray for the intentions you hold dear and are ever thankful for your love and support.

**May I count on your help?**

Sincerely,

Fr. John Pfannenstiel, OFM Cap.



**PS. Your generous gift for our senior friars will help us give them the care they need and deserve after so many years of faithful service.**