



Capuchin Franciscan Friars

PROVINCE OF ST. AUGUSTINE

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Thanks be to God, we have three more Capuchin priests!

On a beautiful June morning, our Capuchin family rejoiced as Fr. Stephen Cantwell, Fr. Luke Kim and Fr. Ryan Schmeltzer were ordained to the priesthood. Family members, friends and brother friars filled the church with grateful hearts, thanking God for these three men who have answered His call to serve His people.



*From left, Fr. Luke Kim, Fr. Stephen Cantwell,
Cardinal Sean O'Malley, and Fr. Ryan Schmeltzer*

For these newly ordained priests, the day was the culmination of many years of prayer, study, sacrifice and formation. But it was also a day made possible through the faithful generosity of friends like you.

Today, Fr. Stephen is serving at the Shrine of the Sacred Heart in Washington, D.C., where his knowledge of Spanish allows him to minister to a diverse parish community. Fr. Luke has returned to St. John the Evangelist Parish in Philadelphia, PA, where he serves the people he first came to know as a deacon. Fr. Ryan is now ministering at Our Lady of the Mountains Parish in Cumberland, MD, bringing Christ's love to the faithful there.

Each day these young priests celebrate the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. They hear confessions, baptize infants, comfort grieving families, visit the sick, prepare couples for marriage and proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Every one of these sacred moments is possible because generous benefactors invested in their education and formation. Your kindness helped prepare these three priests.

Now I ask you to help prepare those who will follow them.

Although we rejoice in these recent ordinations, there are other young Capuchin friars now walking the same path. They are studying philosophy and theology, deepening their spiritual lives and preparing themselves to serve Christ and His Church with humility and fidelity.

The journey to the priesthood takes many years. Tuition, books, room and board, healthcare, pastoral training and spiritual formation represent one of the largest and most important



*Above, Cardinal Sean ordains Fr. Luke.
At right, the three friars react to
Cardinal Sean's homily.*



commitments our Province makes each year. We want every young man whom God calls to receive the finest education and formation possible, but we cannot do it alone.

That is why I am asking for your help today.

Would you prayerfully consider making a generous gift to support the education and formation of our Capuchin seminarians?

Your generosity is far more than financial assistance. It is an investment in the future of the Church. Long after your gift is made, it will continue to bear fruit in every Mass celebrated, every Confession heard, every child baptized, every family comforted and every soul led closer to Christ by a Capuchin priest.

Years from now, another young friar will kneel before the altar to be ordained. He will begin a lifetime of preaching the Gospel and administering the sacraments. When that day comes, you can know that your generosity helped make his priesthood possible.

Thank you for your faithful friendship, your prayers and your generous support of our Capuchin ministries. Together, we are helping prepare the priests who will serve God's people for generations to come.

May God richly bless you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. John".

Fr. John Pfannenstiel, OFM Cap.

P.S. Every Capuchin priest begins his ministry with years of careful education and spiritual formation. Your gift today will help prepare the next generation of Capuchin priests who will celebrate the Eucharist, preach the Gospel and serve God's people with compassion and joy. Thank you for remembering our seminarians.