



Capuchin Franciscan Friars

PROVINCE OF ST. AUGUSTINE

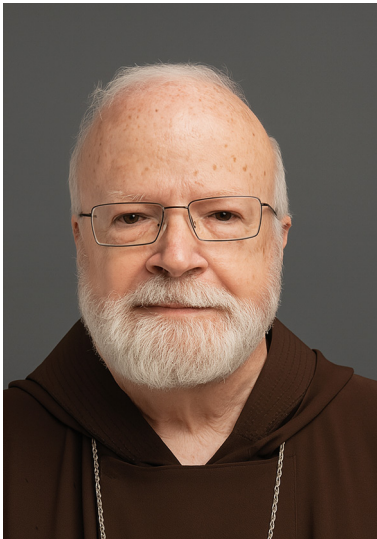
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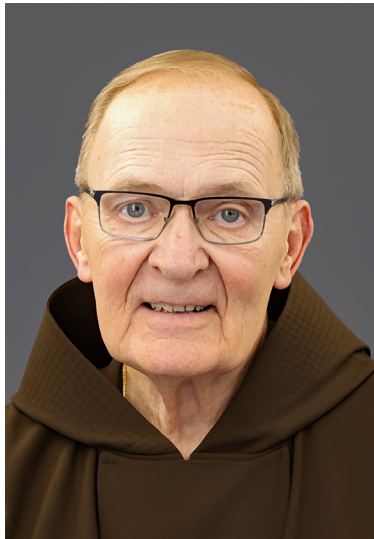
It's that time of year when the Capuchin Friars celebrate milestone anniversaries. As always, our hearts are moved to give thanks to God for the vocations we have been blessed to receive and live.

We are also deeply grateful for you — our faithful and wonderful friends. Your love, prayers, and support make our way of life possible. Thank you so much.

Among the friars celebrating jubilees this year, three especially surprised me. I hadn't realized how quickly the years had passed, and now these three men are already celebrating 60 years of Capuchin life: Cardinal Sean O'Malley, Fr. Paul Kuppe, and Fr. Bill Gillum. Remarkably, they are still keeping plenty busy!



Cardinal Sean O'Malley



Fr. Paul Kuppe



Fr. Bill Gillum

This trio of friars made their first vows as Capuchins in 1965. The Second Vatican Council concluded at the end of that year, and none of the changes to the Mass had yet been implemented. The cultural and social upheavals of the late 1960s and 70s were still on the horizon. These men truly lived through—and served faithfully amid—many changes in the Church, the country, and the world.

As we honor the jubilees of our older friars and their great contributions to the Church, I ask for your generous support.

Cardinal Sean, of course, was not always a cardinal or a bishop, but he was always devoted to the Church and loves being a Capuchin friar. He became well known in Washington, D.C., where he lived among the poor and offered six or seven Masses every Sunday. He built up a Catholic presence in the city that remains vibrant today.

He was later named bishop of the Virgin Islands in the 1980s, then served as bishop in Fall River, MA, and Palm Beach, FL. Ultimately, the Holy Father appointed him Archbishop of Boston and later named him to the College of Cardinals. Just last year, at age 80, he was relieved of the day-to-day duties of being Archbishop. Cardinal Sean now calls two places home: the Cathedral Rectory in Boston and Capuchin College in Washington.



*Classmates Cardinal Sean and Fr. Paul
chatting at breakfast.*

Fr. Paul Kuppe studied at the University of Chicago after ordination, seeking to understand how best to minister in tough urban settings. He put that learning to good use as a priest and pastor in a working-class neighborhood of Pittsburgh and later in a struggling neighborhood in Southwest Baltimore. He loved the work and was deeply loved by the people he served.

In 1998, Fr. Paul was elected Provincial Minister, a role he held for six years. Today he serves on the pastoral team of a parish along the Ohio River in the Pittsburgh suburbs. He remains a wonderful example of Capuchin life and apostolic zeal.

We depend on you to provide care for our senior friars. Like our founder, St. Francis of Assisi, we rely on your generosity. Would you prayerfully consider helping us?

Fr. Bill Gillum began Capuchin life as a lay brother, making vows the same year as Cardinal Seán and Fr. Paul. After several years of service, he discerned a call to the priesthood and was permitted to study philosophy and theology. Following ordination, he joined the faculty of St. Fidelis Seminary in Herman, PA. When the school closed, he pursued his passion for ministering to adults with severe mental disabilities.

Fr. Bill has a heart for those considered “less fortunate.” His love for them reaches deep into their hearts. When he encounters a person with severe disabilities, he sees someone created in the image and likeness of God.

Now living at Capuchin College in Washington, he continues to serve the poor and needy. Like St. Francis, Fr. Bill sees Jesus Christ in every person he meets. He is a Capuchin friar who remains close to the “little ones.”

Will you help the Capuchin Friars care for these men who have given a lifetime of service to God’s people?

Know that you are in the prayers of all of our Capuchin Friars, hoping that you and your family come to know every grace and blessing God has given!

With gratitude,

Fr. John Pfannenstiel, OFM Cap.

P.S. Your generous gift to the Capuchin Friars will help us take care of our senior friars.