



Capuchin Franciscan Friars

PROVINCE OF ST. AUGUSTINE

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Now in their 80s, two friars have no intention of settling in for a do-nothing retirement!

Fr. John Getsy and Fr. Scott Seethaler remain active and always ready to serve God's people. After many years of Capuchin life and priestly ministry they just can't seem to stop!



Fr. John and Fr. Scott chat after breakfast

Of course, as they grow older there is good reason to be self-concerned. But not Fr. John and Fr. Scott. They know that God has called them to be Christ to others: to give guidance to those who seek direction, to comfort those who are burdened, to offer the Body and Blood of Christ for spiritual nourishment in the Mass, and the mercy of God in confession.

Both came of age in the pre-Vatican II church and world, a very different time than our own. But Fr. John and Fr. Scott have traveled the years well in faith and prayer.

Through the years they have helped many. Now I turn to you to help Fr. John, Fr. Scott and our senior Capuchin friars.

Fr. John Getsy was assigned to St. Fidelis College Seminary after his ordination. He then became Novice Master in Annapolis, MD. Later on he was assigned to work in parishes and grew to love the people he served in Pittsburgh, rural Pennsylvania and the center of Cleveland.

Today Fr. John lives at St. Augustine Friary, the Capuchin motherhouse in Pittsburgh. Every day he drives 45 minutes to offer Mass for the Sisters of St. Francis of Milvale, and 45 minutes back home. Even in bad weather, Fr. John rarely misses.

He is also a reliable "help-out" priest. Many surrounding parishes call Fr. John to celebrate Masses and hear confessions. They can count on him. He will make room in his schedule to help, and if he cannot, he tries his hardest to find another priest who is available.

Fr. John celebrated his 84th birthday last month.





Fr. Scott Seethaler will celebrate 60 years as a Capuchin friar this year.

A well-known preacher, Fr. Scott is not on the preaching circuit anymore. There is no more waiting in airports or long drives to give parish missions or being the featured speaker at a conference. These days he stays closer to his home at the motherhouse, but he seems to be in demand as much ever.

He has been and is a spiritual director to many. Fr. Scott helps people to discern what God is calling them to do. Seminarians, college students, engaged couples, married women and men, priests and nuns are among those who have found help from Fr. Scott.

He also offers Mass at a local assisted living facility, celebrates Mass at the local parish, and is often available for confession. He remains a go-to guy for recollection days and conferences, as long as they are nearby.

Fr. Scott also remains involved in a hospital he founded a number of years ago in southern Mexico. Named after his mother, The Anna Seethaler Hospital in Oaxaca serves the poorest of the poor. He raises money to help the indigent needing medical attention and offers advice to the managers of the hospital.

Fr. John and Fr. Scott are but two of many senior Capuchin friars, many of whom are cared for at St. Augustine Friary. All of them remain faithful to their vows. They are prayerful and happy men.

They also need your help.

Caring for those who have raised us - our parents and grandparents - is not a burden; it is a great blessing and privilege that we embrace.

For Capuchin friars, there are about 40 parents and grandparents!

These wonderful friars have been there for those in need for many years. As they grow older they need care, and now they need you!

I promise you that Fr. John, Fr. Scott and all the senior friars pray for you every day, and they will most grateful for your generosity.

May I count on your help?

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. John". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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.