

Capuchin BLESSINGS

Summer 2025

At the National Basilica in Washington, DC

Capuchin Friars Ordained as Deacons

In a liturgical celebration earlier last month, Bishop Evelio Menjivar-Ayala ordained four Capuchin friars to the transactional diaconate.

Brothers Stephen Cantwell, Luke Kim, and Ryan Schmeltzer, joined by their classmate Collin Mary Brown from the Province of Mid-America, marked this formation milestone at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC.

During the rite of ordination, each friar pledged his obedience to the bishop and received the laying on of hands, a gesture tracing back to the apostles.

The men were vested with the stole and dalmatic, liturgical garments symbolizing their new role of service, and presented with the Book of the Gospels as a sign of their commission to preach the Word.



The Capuchin friars ordained as Deacons (left to right): Ryan Schmeltzer, Collin Mary Brown, Stephen Cantwell, and Luke Kim.

As deacons, these friars are entrusted with preaching the Gospel, assisting at the altar during Mass, baptizing, witnessing marriages, and carrying out charitable works. Their role reflects the heart of the

diaconate — service to God's people in word, liturgy, and charity.

This ordination marks not only a personal milestone for each friar but also a moment of joy and hope for the Capuchin Order and the wider Church.

The four deacons will continue their ministerial formation and graduate studies at The Catholic University of America in preparation for ordination to the priesthood. They reside at Capuchin College.



Smart Giving

A Gift that Gives Back for Life

Have you ever wished there were a way to support the Capuchin friars and receive steady income for yourself or a loved one? A Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA) may be the answer.

A CGA is a simple and meaningful way to make a gift to the Capuchin Province of St. Augustine while also providing fixed, lifetime income for one or two individuals. It's a solution grounded in faith, generosity, and financial stewardship.

Here's how it works:

- You make a gift of cash or assets (like appreciated stock) to the Province.
- In return, you receive lifetime fixed payments — a portion of which may be tax-free.
- After your lifetime, the remainder supports the lives and ministries of the Capuchin friars.

Benefits of a CGA include:

- Lifetime income with rates based on your age
- Immediate charitable deduction for part of your gift
- Tax-advantaged payments (a portion may be tax-free)
- Support for the Capuchin friars — now and in the future

A special note for IRA owners:

Thanks to a recent change in tax law (Secure Act 2.0), individuals aged 70½+ can make a one-time gift from their IRA (up to \$50,000) to fund a CGA — a new option that combines generosity with stewardship.

If you'd like to learn more about a CGA, confidentially and with no obligation, call our CGA Administrator Carol Arbuckle at 412-496-4816 or email: Carol@Capuchin.com.

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%		

Understanding Charitable Gift Annuities

A simple guide for our friends and benefactors

What is a CGA?

A charitable gift annuity is a way to support the Capuchins while receiving fixed payments for life. It's part gift, part income stream — and fully grounded in stewardship.

How do the payments work?

- Based on your age at the time of the gift
- Quarterly payments for life (via check or direct deposit)
- Rates set by the American Council on Gift Annuities
- A portion of your income may be tax-free

What are the benefits?

- Steady, predictable lifetime income
- Charitable tax deduction in the year of the gift
- May reduce capital gains tax if you use appreciated stock
- Leaves a lasting legacy to help support the Capuchin friars

Can I include my spouse?

Yes — CGAs can cover one or two lives, often a husband and wife.

Is there a minimum gift?

Our CGAs begin at \$2,000. Larger gifts can increase income and impact.

What happens when I pass away?

The remaining value of your gift supports the Capuchin friars' lives and ministries — and your legacy continues through our work.

A Living Legacy — *Rooted in Love*

Planning a will or trust is one of the most caring acts you can do for your loved ones and for the causes that have shaped your life. It's not about how much you have; it's about the values you want to carry forward.

A will or trust is a thoughtful way to ensure your wishes are honored, your loved ones are provided for, and your values live on.

In addition, by including a gift to the Capuchins, you help advance the friars' lives and ministries by forming and training new Capuchin friars, caring for our senior friars, and bringing the message of Jesus Christ to a world in need.

Indeed, by remembering your family and the Capuchin friars in your will or trust, you leave a legacy of love.

Why create a will or trust?

- Ensure your wishes are known and honored
- Provide clarity and peace of mind for your family
- Leave a legacy that reflects your faith and priorities

Gift Designations

- Unrestricted, supporting wherever the need is greatest in the lives and ministries of the friars
- Designated for specific purposes such as:
 - ✓ Formation of men discerning Capuchin life;
 - ✓ Seminarians preparing for the priesthood; and
 - ✓ Care of our senior friars who have given their lives in service to the Catholic Church

We invite you to explore your estate plans in a prayerful way through our complimentary guide, ***Your Living Legacy*** — a planning tool designed to help you take your first steps with confidence and clarity. **Use the enclosed form and envelope to request your copy of *Your Living Legacy*.**

Friends who remember the Capuchins in their will or trust and inform the Province about their commitment are welcomed into the Capuchin Heritage Circle, a community of faithful stewards whose legacy helps build the Kingdom of God by advancing the lives and ministries of the Capuchin friars.

3 Easy Steps to Begin Your Legacy Plan

A simple guide for our friends and benefactors:

1. Reflect on your values.

Think about the people, ministries, and causes that have shaped your life. What legacy would you like to leave behind?

2. Request our complimentary guide.

Our estate planning tool, ***Your Living Legacy***, can help you organize your thoughts, identify goals, and prepare to meet with an attorney — all at your own pace.

3. Talk with your advisors.

Once you feel ready, speak with your family and your legal or financial advisor. They can help you create a will or trust that aligns with your intentions and supports what matters most.

When considering a gift for the Capuchin friars, you can:

- Leave a specific dollar amount
- Name the Capuchins as a beneficiary of a percentage of your estate
- Designate retirement assets or life insurance
- Direct your gift to the area most dear to you — formation, vocations, senior friar care, or a specific ministry.

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

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

Capuchin Heritage Circle is the Capuchin Province of St. Augustine's legacy society.

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.

Capuchin CORNER

Come Holy Spirit!

The joy and hope of Easter are alive in our Church! Christ has conquered death. He brings us new life. We rejoice in His resurrection.

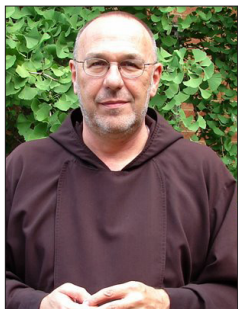
We rejoice, too, in His Ascension into heaven. At Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came to dwell among us. These holy days remind us that God's promises are sure. His mercy is endless. His love never fails!

In this edition of *Capuchin Blessings*, we share joyful news. Four of our brothers were recently ordained transitional deacons. They are signs of Easter hope. These men have said "yes" to God. They are preparing to serve the Church as Capuchin priests. Please pray for them as they continue their journey of formation and faithful service.

Since our last newsletter, the Church has received a new Holy Father. Pope Leo XIV was chosen to lead us. May the Holy Spirit guide him with wisdom and strength! We ask the Holy Spirit to bless his ministry and help him shepherd the faithful with love and humility.

The witness of our new deacons — and the election of a new pope — remind us that God is always working. He continues to call his faithful forward to serve. He invites each of us to trust Him more deeply and follow where He leads.

Thank you for walking with the Capuchin friars. Your prayers and financial support help form and sustain the next generation of friars. My Capuchin brothers and I are so grateful.



We remember you in our daily Masses and fraternal prayers.

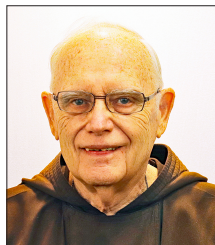
May the Holy Spirit fill your heart with peace! And may the risen Lord bless you always!

Father John

Sister Death's Roll Call

Born in Pittsburgh's Mount Oliver neighborhood, Fr. Allan Wasiecko entered St. Fidelis Seminary in 1955, responding to the call of Capuchin life. He was ordained a priest on his birthday, October 19, 1968. Shortly thereafter, he set out for the missions in the Southern Highlands of Papua New Guinea.

Fr. Allan spent nearly 48 years ministering to parish communities in Pangia and Ialibu, where he was



beloved for his calm spirit, heartfelt preaching, and joyful Franciscan witness. Whether teaching the faith or caring for animals, he lived the Gospel with humility and warmth. Parishioners and friars alike were drawn to his wisdom, gentle presence, and pastoral heart.

The Capuchin brothers in Papua New Guinea elected him to the Vice-Provincial Council and eventually as Vice-Provincial. Later, he also directed the formation of future friars in Madang, helping to pass on the charism of St. Francis to a new generation.

In 2015, due to a bureaucratic error involving his work visa, Fr. Allan was unexpectedly expelled from the country he loved so deeply. He returned to the United States and served briefly in sacramental ministry at St. John the Evangelist Parish in Philadelphia before his health required more consistent care at St. Augustine Friary in Pittsburgh.

Fr. Allan never stopped longing for the missions. His heart remained in Papua New Guinea until the end. Fr. Allan died January 30, 2025. He was 82.

Here to Help You

Use the enclosed card to request information about making a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) from your IRA, naming the Capuchins beneficiary of your IRA, or recommending a grant from your Donor Advised Fund.



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

Our legal title is: Province of St. Augustine of the Capuchin Order • 220 37th St., Pittsburgh, PA 15201

Our Federal Identification Number or EIN: 25-6028798

This 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.

CAPUCHIN FRANCISCAN FRIARS

PROVINCE OF ST. AUGUSTINE

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