

# Capuchin BLESSINGS

Summer 2026

## Three Capuchin Friars Ordained to the Priesthood

In a joyful liturgical celebration, Cardinal Seán O'Malley, OFM Cap., ordained three Capuchin friars of the Province of St. Augustine to the priesthood on June 6, 2026.

Friars Luke Kim, Stephen Cantwell, and Ryan Schmeltzer received the Sacrament of Holy Orders at St. Pio of Pietrelcina in Pittsburgh.

During his homily, Cardinal Seán reflected on the profound gift and responsibility of the priesthood. He reminded the newly ordained friars that priestly ordination leaves an “indelible mark” upon the soul and configures a man to Christ forever.

Drawing upon the spirituality of St. Francis of Assisi, Cardinal Seán reminded the ordinands that the Church now calls them to become spiritual fathers while remaining faithful to their Capuchin identity as brothers.

***“Becoming a priest means dying to self, emptying oneself, giving up our own identity to make space for the Good Shepherd.”***

*— Cardinal Seán O'Malley, OFM Cap.*

The Cardinal emphasized that spiritual fatherhood grows through prayer, sacrifice, and closeness to God's people. He encouraged the newly ordained priests to be faithful ministers of mercy, especially through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and to seek out those most in need.

Echoing the example of the Good Shepherd, he urged them to have a special concern for the poor, the wounded, and those who may feel forgotten by society.



Highlights from the Ordination Mass include the laying on of hands by Cardinal Seán O'Malley and the Capuchin friars, moments of prayer and preparation during the Rite of Ordination, and the anointing of Bro. Luke Kim's hands with sacred chrism. Pictured below are the newly ordained Fr. Luke Kim, Fr. Stephen Cantwell, and Fr. Ryan Schmeltzer with Cardinal O'Malley.



## Capuchin Friar Named Bishop-Elect of Venice, FL

Pope Leo XIV has named Fr. Emilio Reyes Biosca-Agüero, OFM Cap., Bishop-elect of the Diocese of Venice in Florida. The appointment was announced by the Holy See on May 13, 2026.

The son of Cuban immigrant parents, Fr. Emilio entered the Capuchin Order in 1986, made his perpetual profession in 1990, and was ordained to the priesthood on January 8, 1993.

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## Faithfulness Bears Fruit



*On June 6, three Capuchin friars were ordained to the priesthood, bringing to fruition years of prayer, discernment, study, ministry, and formation.*

Their ordination was a joyful occasion for the Province and a reminder that no vocation develops in isolation. Behind every Capuchin friar stand countless individuals who have helped him answer God's call - parents, family members, parish communities, teachers, formators, fellow friars, and faithful benefactors.

For generations, friends of the Capuchins have played an important role in sustaining the Province and helping ensure that future friars are prepared to serve God's people. Their generosity helps support the formation of men discerning Capuchin life, the care of senior friars who have dedicated their lives to the Catholic Church, and the many ministries entrusted to the Province.

The newly ordained priests featured in this issue are the fruit of faithfulness that began years ago.

***"To be a spiritual father, one must first be a son."***

— *Cardinal Seán O'Malley,  
OFM Cap.  
Ordination Homily*

Those who answer God's call to Capuchin life in the years ahead will likewise depend upon the prayers, encouragement, and generosity of those who believe in the mission of the Province and wish to see it continue long into the future.

### How Friends of the Capuchins Help Build the Future

- Support the formation of men discerning Capuchin life
- Care for senior friars who have spent decades serving the Church
- Strengthen ministries throughout the Province
- Provide flexibility to respond to emerging needs
- Help ensure a vibrant Capuchin presence for future generations

### Five Ways Friends Support the Capuchins

#### 1. Gifts Through a Will or Trust

A future gift that supports the Capuchins after your lifetime.

#### 2. Beneficiary Designations

Retirement accounts, life insurance policies, donor advised funds, and other accounts can name the Province as a beneficiary.

#### 3. Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs)

Individuals age 70½ or older may make tax-efficient gifts directly from an IRA.

#### 4. Gifts of Appreciated Securities

Stocks and mutual funds may offer attractive tax advantages while supporting the Province.

#### 5. Outright Gifts of Cash

Flexible gifts that immediately support the lives and ministries of the Capuchin friars.

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

Friends who include the Capuchins in their estate plans and share their intentions with the Province are welcomed into the Capuchin Heritage Circle, recognizing those whose generosity will help support the friars who will serve God's people in the years ahead.

Membership includes individuals who have informed the Province of their intention to remember the Capuchins through a will or trust, beneficiary designation, charitable gift annuity, life-income gift, or other estate-planning arrangement.

If you have already included the Capuchins in your plans, we would be honored to learn of your intentions and welcome you into the Capuchin Heritage Circle.



# Looking Ahead with Hope

## Planning for the Future

*Many friends of the Capuchins thoughtfully consider how their charitable giving can reflect both their current priorities and their long-term values. Whether supporting the Province today or remembering the friars through future plans, each gift helps sustain the lives and ministries of the Capuchins.*

### Charitable Gift Annuity:

Many benefactors want to make a meaningful gift to the Capuchins while also maintaining dependable income for themselves or a loved one. A Charitable Gift Annuity can help accomplish both goals. Many donors appreciate the opportunity to support the Capuchins while receiving dependable income that they will not outlive.

#### What is a Charitable Gift Annuity?

A Charitable Gift Annuity is a simple agreement between a donor and the Capuchin Province of St. Augustine. In exchange for a gift of cash or appreciated securities, the Province agrees to make fixed payments to one or two beneficiaries for life. After all annuity payments have been made, the remaining value of the gift is used to support the lives and ministries of the Capuchin friars.

#### A charitable gift annuity provides:

- Fixed payments for life
- Attractive rates based on age
- A charitable income tax deduction
- Potential tax advantages depending upon the assets used to fund the gift
- Support for the Capuchin friars and their ministries

In this way, a charitable gift annuity can provide benefits both to the donor and to those who will carry forward the Capuchin charism.

We would be pleased to provide a complimentary, personalized gift annuity illustration to support your discernment.

| American Council on Gift Annuities<br>Recommended Gift Annuity Rates<br>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% |     |       |

### Donor Advised Funds

A Donor Advised Fund (DAF) is a charitable giving account that allows individuals and families to make charitable contributions, receive an immediate tax deduction, and recommend grants to qualified nonprofit organizations over time.

Many donors appreciate the flexibility and convenience of supporting the charities and ministries that matter most to them through a single charitable giving account.

#### Why Donors Appreciate DAFs

- Support multiple charities from a single account
- Involve family members in charitable decisions
- Simplify charitable recordkeeping
- Create a long-term charitable giving strategy
- Support the Capuchins today while maintaining flexibility for future giving

#### New for Fidelity Charitable DAF Donors

The Province of St. Augustine can now receive grants electronically through Fidelity Charitable's ACH/EFT payment system.

This enhancement simplifies the grant process, reduces mailing delays, and helps donor-recommended grants reach the Province more efficiently.

If you maintain a Donor Advised Fund through Fidelity Charitable, recommending a grant to support the Capuchin friars has never been easier.

## Here to Help You



Each person's circumstances are unique. If you would like to learn more about supporting the Capuchins through planned giving, I would be happy to assist you.

Stephanie Pedersen  
Planned Giving Officer  
720-635-5213  
StephaniePedersen@Capuchin.com

# Capuchin BLESSINGS

## Generations of Faith

On June 6, three of our brothers were ordained to the priesthood, marking an important milestone in their journey of faith and service.

As we celebrate these newly ordained friars, we also continue to give thanks for the recent appointment of our brother, Fr. Emilio Biosca, OFM Cap., as Bishop-elect of the Diocese of Venice, Florida.

These joyful occasions remind us that God's work unfolds across generations. Each vocation is nurtured over many years through prayer, encouragement, formation, and the witness of faithful people. No friar walks this journey alone.

As I reflect on these joyful events, I am mindful of the many Capuchin friars who have gone before us. Their lives of prayer and service helped create the foundation upon which today's friars continue to build. I also think of the countless families, parishioners, benefactors, and friends whose support has strengthened our Province through the years.

These newly ordained priests are the result of years of faithful prayer, formation, and support. Their ministry now becomes part of a living tradition that will continue to bear fruit in ways known only to God.

I am grateful for your prayers and friendship. Through your support, you help ensure that future friars may continue proclaiming the Gospel and serving God's people.

Please join me in praying for our newly ordained priests and for Bishop-elect Emilio as they begin these new chapters of service to the Church.



May God bless you today and always!

*Father John*

Fr. John Pfannenstiel, OFM Cap.

### Our Legal Title:

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**EIN: 25-6028798**

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Gift results may vary. Consult your personal financial advisor  
for information specific to your situation.

## Bishop-Elect *continued*

Following his ordination, Fr. Emilio was assigned to the Capuchin missions in Papua New Guinea, where he ministered among the people of the Southern Highlands. He later served the Church in Cuba, ministering in the land of his family's heritage.

Since March 2019, he has been Pastor of the Shrine of the Sacred Heart in the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C.

The Diocese of Venice, established in 1984, serves Catholics across 10 counties in southwest Florida. As Bishop-elect, Fr. Emilio will succeed Bishop Frank J. Dewane, who has shepherded the diocese since 2007. Fr. Emilio will be consecrated and ordained as a bishop on July 11.



Capuchin Bishop-Elect Emilio Biosca-Agüero and retiring Bishop Frank J. Dewane engage with reporters following the press conference announcing the appointment on May 13.

## Sister Death's Roll Call

Ordained to the priesthood in 1964, Fr. Victor Kriley answered the call to missionary service almost immediately, departing for Papua New Guinea barely a month after his ordination. Over the next two decades, he served the people of the Southern Highlands, ministering in Mendi, Kagua, Ialibu, Margarima, and Tari. He learned Tok Pisin, embraced the local culture, and devoted himself to sharing the Gospel with the people entrusted to his care.



Fr. Victor's ministry was marked by his commitment to prayer and his ability to encourage the faith of others. In Ialibu, he worked with local leaders to establish small faith-sharing groups that gathered regularly in homes and villages for Scripture reading, prayer, and song. Those gatherings enriched the faith of countless families and left a lasting impact on the local Church.

After 20 years in the missions, Fr. Victor returned to the United States, where he continued his priestly ministry in parish and hospital settings. Parishioners in York, Pennsylvania, and patients at York General Hospital and Sacred Heart Hospital in Cumberland, Maryland, benefited from his pastoral care and quiet presence.

In his later years, Fr. Victor was lovingly cared for by his family and Capuchin brothers. He died on March 7, 2026, at the age of 88, having given 68 years as a Capuchin friar and 62 years as a priest in service to God's people.