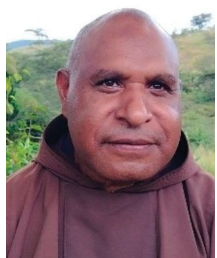


Capuchin BLESSINGS

Winter 2026

Historic Election in Papua New Guinea Missions

The Capuchin friars serving in Papua New Guinea elected new leadership in November during their triennial Chapter, marking a historic first for the mission that began more than 70 years ago.



For the first time since Capuchin friars arrived in Papua New Guinea in the mid 1950s, a Papua New Guinean friar has been elected superior. Fr. Neil Blue, OFM Cap., was elected Custos, the friar responsible for overseeing the life and ministry of the Capuchin mission in the country.

The Chapter, which is held every three years, brings together all professed friars in the mission to renew their Capuchin brotherhood, address pastoral priorities, and elect leadership. Fr. Neil has been a Capuchin friar for 25 years.



Fr. Bob Marva, Provincial Minister of the Capuchin Province of St. Augustine, presided over the Chapter. He is pictured (second from left) with the newly-elected council.

Fr. Neil and the members of his council will serve until the next Chapter, scheduled to be held in three years, when the friars will again gather to review the life of the mission and elect leadership.

Growth of the Capuchin Mission

The Capuchin mission in Papua New Guinea was originally entrusted to friars from the Capuchin Province of St. Augustine in 1956.

Early missionaries embraced this faraway place, where travel between villages often required hours, sometimes days, of walking, river crossings, or small aircraft. The friars served communities separated by dense jungle and mountainous terrain, making pastoral ministry physically and mentally demanding.

From its earliest years, the mission emphasized parish ministry, catechetical formation, and service in some of the country's most remote regions.

Over the decades, friars from the United States, Papua New Guinea, India, Tanzania, and Kenya have served this emerging mission territory.

Today, more than 60 Capuchin friars minister throughout Papua New Guinea. Over 40 of those friars were born and raised in the country, reflecting the development of local vocations and long-term formation efforts.



With the Southern Highlands as a backdrop, Capuchins gathered for what would be a historic Chapter in Papua New Guinea.

Council Elected to Support Custos

The Chapter also elected a council to assist Fr. Neil in leadership and governance. The newly elected council members are: Fr. Onesmus Wambua (Kenya), Fr. Joseph Chacko (India), Bro. Venantius Valuta (Papua New Guinea), and Fr. Al Carver (United States).

The council represents the international composition of the Capuchin mission and will advise Fr. Neil on pastoral and administrative matters, the formation of new Capuchin friars, and service to the people of Papua New Guinea.

Capuchin BLESSINGS

Six Most Common Ways to Make a Legacy Gift

As a new year begins, many people naturally take time to review their finances, reflect on their priorities, and ensure that their plans continue to reflect what matters most to them. For supporters of the Capuchin friars, legacy giving offers meaningful ways to extend faith, values, and generosity into the future.

There is no single “right” way to make a legacy gift. Instead, the most suitable option is often the one that aligns best with your personal circumstances, family commitments, and long-term intentions. Below are six of the most common ways friends of the Capuchins choose to support the Province through planned giving.

1. A Bequest in a Will or Trust

A bequest allows you to include the Province in your will or living trust. This gift takes effect only after your lifetime and can be structured as a specific amount, a percentage, or a portion of what remains after other obligations are met.

2. Beneficiary Designations

By naming the Province as a beneficiary of a retirement account or life insurance policy, you can make a lasting gift simply by updating a designation form with your financial institution. This option is often one of the easiest to review and revise.

3. Qualified Charitable Distributions

For those age 70½ or older, a QCD allows gifts to be made directly from an IRA to a qualified charity. These distributions can count toward required minimum distributions and may offer favorable tax treatment.

4. Gifts of Appreciated Stock

Donating long-held securities can be a tax-efficient way to support the friars. Many donors find that gifting appreciated assets allows them to give more than they might with cash alone.

5. Charitable Gift Annuities

A charitable gift annuity provides fixed payments for life in exchange for a one-time gift. At the end of the annuity term, the remaining value supports the Capuchin friars in the Province of St. Augustine.

6. Other Planned Gifts

In some cases, donors choose to give real estate or other special assets. These gifts are considered individually and can be discussed in advance to ensure they align with both donor intentions and the needs of the Province.

A legacy gift is not about making a single decision all at once. Often, it begins with a thoughtful review and a simple conversation - with family, trusted advisors, or our office.

Charitable Gift Annuities

Support the friars while receiving fixed payments for life

As the year begins, many people take time to review their income sources and consider how best to balance generosity with financial security. A charitable gift annuity offers a way to support the Capuchin friars while receiving dependable payments for life.

With a charitable gift annuity, you make a one-time gift to the Province. In return, the Province agrees to pay you - and, if you wish, a spouse or other loved one - fixed payments for life. These payments are not affected by market fluctuations and provide a predictable source of income.

Charitable gift annuities may offer additional benefits, including a charitable income tax deduction and the possibility that a portion of each payment may be tax-advantaged, depending on your age and the funding asset. At the end of the annuity term, the remaining value of the gift supports the ministries of the Province.

(continued at bottom of next page)

Beneficiary Designations

A Simple Way to Make a Lasting Impact

For many Capuchin supporters, the beginning of a new year brings an opportunity to review retirement accounts, insurance policies, and other financial records. In the midst of that review, one of the simplest and most meaningful ways to support the Capuchin friars is through a beneficiary designation.

By naming the Province as a beneficiary of a retirement account or life insurance policy, you can make a legacy gift simply by completing a form with your financial institution. This type of gift does not require changes to your will and can be updated at any time as circumstances evolve.

Beneficiary designations can apply to:

- IRAs
- 401(k) and 403(b) plans
- Other qualified retirement accounts
- Life insurance policies

Many donors are surprised to learn how impactful this option can be, particularly with retirement assets. Because these accounts are often taxed when passed on to heirs, designating a charitable beneficiary can be a thoughtful and tax-conscious way to steward what God has entrusted to you.

Even a modest percentage can make a lasting difference, supporting the friars' ministries, care for senior friars and/or the formation of future Capuchins.

If you have already named the Province as a beneficiary, we would be grateful to know. Sharing your intentions allows us to express our thanks and welcome you into the **Capuchin Heritage Circle**, our legacy society honoring those who have chosen to remember the friars in this special way.

Charitable Gift Annuities *cont.*

Many donors choose to fund a charitable gift annuity with cash or appreciated securities. Gift annuities are often especially appealing to those who value stability, simplicity, and the satisfaction of knowing their generosity will continue to bear fruit for the Capuchin friars in support of men in formation and senior friars.

We are happy to provide a personalized, no-obligation gift annuity illustration to support your discernment. Contact: Stephanie Pedersen at StephaniePedersen@Capuchin.com or call: 1-800-224-0330.

How to Update a Beneficiary Designation

A simple review many people complete at the start of the year -

1. Contact your financial institution

Reach out to the custodian of your retirement account or life insurance policy and request a beneficiary designation form. Many institutions also allow updates through an online portal.

2. Name the Capuchin Province of St. Augustine as a beneficiary

You may choose to designate a specific percentage or portion of the account. This allows you to provide for loved ones while also supporting the Capuchin friars.

3. Return the completed form

Once submitted, the designation becomes part of your account record. No changes to your will are required.

Beneficiary designations can be updated at any time, making them a flexible way to reflect changing circumstances or intentions.

If you would like assistance or sample language to ensure the Province is properly identified, we are always happy to help.

One simple update today can become a gift that supports the Capuchin friars for generations to come.

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%		

Capuchin CORNER

The Faithful "Yes!"

Seventy years ago six Capuchin friars from this Province said a quiet but courageous “yes” to God’s call to serve as pioneer missionaries in what was then a very remote and primitive region of Papua New Guinea. They left behind familiarity and comfort, trusting that the Lord would provide all that was needed for the work ahead.

That faithful “yes” bore fruit in ways those first friars could scarcely have imagined. Over decades of patient ministry, relationships were built, faith communities were formed, and local vocations were nurtured. In November, we witnessed a profound milestone when a Papua New Guinea national was elected to leadership - a moment that speaks powerfully to the enduring impact of sacrificial service and long-term commitment.

This same spirit of faithfulness continues to shape our Province today. It is reflected in the lives of our friars in formation, who are discerning their own “yes” to Capuchin life, and in our senior friars, whose prayerful witness sustains our ministries even now. It is also reflected in the lives of our benefactors.

Faithful friends like you make it possible for our Province to look toward the future with hope. Through thoughtful planning - including the instruments highlighted in this newsletter - you help ensure that our formation program remains strong and that our senior friars are cared for with dignity.



Thank you for your goodness and faithfulness. Be assured of our prayers for you and your intentions, offered daily with deep gratitude. May God bless you abundantly in this new year!

Father John

Our Legal Title:

Province of St. Augustine of the Capuchin Order

220 37th St., Pittsburgh, PA 15201

1-800-224-0330 • 412-682-1300

www.CapuchinFriar.org

EIN: 25-6028798

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 HERITAGE C • I • R • C • L • E

The Capuchin Heritage Circle honors friends who have chosen to remember the friars through a legacy gift. Members of the Capuchin Heritage Circle are individuals and families who have quietly and thoughtfully included the Province in their estate plans, ensuring the work of the Capuchins continues well into the future.

Membership is comprised of persons who self-identify as having included the Capuchins in their will or trust, named the Province as a beneficiary of a retirement plan, life insurance policy, or other account, or made a legacy gift through other estate planning tools. Charitable gift annuitants are also recognized as members of the Capuchin Heritage Circle.

What unites these faithful friends is not the size or type of their gift, but the spirit in which it is made. Heritage Circle members share a deep love for the Capuchin friars and a desire to ensure that future generations will know the same prayerful presence, humble service, and commitment to the Gospel that has shaped their own lives.

Through their foresight and generosity, members of the Capuchin Heritage Circle help support the formation of new friars, the care of our senior brothers, and the good works and ministries of the Province. Their legacy gifts are, in many ways, a final and lasting “yes” to the mission they have supported faithfully over the years.

The Capuchin friars are profoundly grateful for the members of the Capuchin Heritage Circle and the trust they place in the Order. Their example encourages others to reflect prayerfully on how their own values and faith might continue to bear fruit for the Catholic Church.

Here to Help You

Please use the enclosed card and envelope to request information about making a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) from your IRA, naming the Capuchins as a beneficiary of your IRA, recommending a grant from your Donor Advised Fund, or sharing a bequest with the Capuchins.



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