

# Capuchin BLESSINGS

Spring 2021

*"A Well-Rehearsed Model..."*

## Christian Mothers Movement Grows

This is a love story, a story that cascades through generations, sails across oceans, and gains momentum in the human spirit of women. Women of faith, that is.

This is the love story of the Christian Mothers.

In the post French Revolution era where secularism reigned supreme, women longed to defend and promote their Catholic faith. In response, Christian Mothers was founded in Lille, France in 1850. Members committed to supporting each other spiritually, while raising their children Catholic.

In time, the organization grew to over one million members in Europe. When the Capuchin friars immigrated to the United States from Bavaria, they brought the rich traditions of the Christian Mothers organization with them.

National Director Fr. Joseph Tuscan, OFM Cap., recently reflected on the genesis of the Christian Mothers founders who experienced the outright assault on their Catholic faith: "Necessity is the mother of invention.

They decided they needed to begin on their knees...it's got to begin with prayer. It's going to have a return to authentic devotional life. They knew it had to have a catechetical part, an intellectual part, and an apostolic part. Smart women. They put all that in place from the very beginning."

Now deceased Capuchin Fr. Bertin Roll, National Executive Director for more than 60 years, penned this about Christian Mothers: "Mothers rule the world. They guide the destinies of homes. This is why God is relying on mothers to keep Christ in the world by keeping Him in their hearts and homes."

Christian Mothers throughout the decades, have turned to **"Mother Love,"** a 308-page book of prayers to guide them in their spiritual life.

But Christian Mothers do more than pray. They actively fundraise and share the fruits of their



labors. For example, in Nigeria the Christian Mothers pay for the seminarian education of three students annually. They have built orphanages and funded a \$1 million facility for widowed women to help them learn a trade. Christian Mothers teach about marriage and family life. They work to help the poor and often prepare mercy meals for funerals.

Fr. Joseph reports the Christian Mothers movement is growing; 20 new fraternities were established in the United States last year. A new fraternity in Tanzania recently requested 800 membership pins!

"It's a wonderful movement. I'm amazed, not just that it still exists, but the quality of women that are in it is just incredible...here and overseas," Tuscan said. "The work they do, the intelligence, the effort they put in...on their own initiative, just like the women who started it, they push it along. The Holy Spirit has been guiding this group.

"It's a historical, thought out, well-rehearsed model. It's something that has worked for generations and more women are rediscovering it all the time."



## Planning FORWARD ...in times of uncertainty

### Ideas for Giving and Moving Forward in 2021

The Capuchin friars continue to move forward with our lives of ministry, service and fraternal prayer. Despite the countless challenges and disappointments generated by the COVID-19 pandemic, many of our friends and supporters are looking forward to the future when they can enjoy community with friends and resume their regular activities.

In response to the current situation, Congress extended some of the COVID relief tax changes to 2021. Illustrated below are a host of resources to help you with your tax planning and to offer some ideas for you to consider if you are thinking about making a gift in support of the Capuchins and our mission in 2021.

#### 2021 Giving Incentives

The CARES Act passed in 2020 included several charitable tax provisions to encourage giving.

Congress has extended these provisions for 2021 including:

- A deduction for charitable donors who do not itemize when filing their tax returns. If you do not itemize but make a cash gift to charity, you will be allowed to take a special tax deduction, up to \$300 (\$600 for joint filers), to reduce your tax liability.
- An increase in the deduction limit up to 100% of a donor's annual income for cash gifts (previously the deduction was capped at 60% of annual income). If you make a charitable gift you will be able to deduct more this year.

#### Estate Planning Website

We invite you to visit our estate planning website: [CapuchinFriarLegacy.org](http://CapuchinFriarLegacy.org)

#### Donor Advised Funds

If you have a Donor Advised Fund (DAF) and wish to help the Capuchin friars this year, you can make a gift from your DAF to support the friars without affecting your personal financial security.

The Capuchins welcome unrestricted gifts. It also honors donor designated gifts to advance the training and education of men preparing for life as Capuchin priests and brothers, and gifts to support the care of its sick and elderly friars.

#### Charitable Gift Annuities

If you are concerned about your financial security given the ups and downs of the stock market, you may want to consider making a gift to fund a charitable gift annuity. You might be surprised by the benefits.

You can exchange your low-performing stock, CDs or cash for guaranteed, lifetime fixed payments. If you make a gift of an appreciated asset, you will not have to pay capital gains when you fund the annuity. You may also benefit from a tax deduction this year and a portion of your payments could be tax-free.

#### Estate Planning

Many of our friends are tending to their estate plans and have requested a complimentary copy of *Your Living Legacy*, designed to help with the early stages of discernment.

You can use the enclosed reply card to request one-page briefs that address a host of estate planning topics including:

- ☐ Transfer on Death Gifts
- ☐ Retirement Account Assets
- ☐ Gifts of Stock
- ☐ Gifts of Life Insurance
- ☐ Bequest Types & Language
- ☐ Charitable Remainder Trusts
- ☐ Donor Advised Funds
- ☐ Charitable Gift Annuity
- ☐ IRA Charitable Rollover
- ☐ Charitable Beneficiary Designations

*A common strategy that can help you achieve your charitable goals is to use a beneficiary designation.*

## Charitable Beneficiary Designations

*A Tax-Wise Way to Leave a Legacy*

### Advantages of Beneficiary Designation Gifts

**Revocable:** You can modify or revoke the beneficiary designations at any time during your lifetime.

**Avoid Probate:** Gifting assets via a beneficiary designation will avoid the probate process.

**Easy to Do:** Simply fill out a brief beneficiary designation form provided by the plan or account administrator. Our legal name and Employee Identification Number are on the back of this newsletter.

**Tax Savings:** By making a gift of your retirement plan to the Capuchins, your estate will receive a 100% charitable deduction, thereby saving estate taxes, and will avoid the income taxes on those assets. By comparison, if your estate were subject to the estate tax, your retirement plan would be subject to estate taxes, and if you left your retirement plan to children or grandchildren, those assets would result in substantial income taxes. From a tax perspective, your retirement plan is a “good” asset to leave to charity and can be a “bad” asset to leave to family.

**Inexpensive:** In most cases, there is no need to amend your will or trust, thus saving legal fees.

# The Picture of Comfort

*Think of the pictures that line your home's walls. Photographs capture special moments of a vacation, reunion, graduation or other treasured event. Photos comfort us. They also remind us there are more cherished memories to be made.*

### Make a Good Memory Today

Would you like to create a great new memory today? Ask us about a charitable gift annuity. It is a great way of giving yourself a present today and every year for as long as you live. It is a cherished moment and the promise of many more to come.

When you fund a charitable gift annuity with us, we send you a check for the rest of your life:

- With precise predictability.
- With possible income and capital gains tax benefits.
- At payment rates that will bring joy to your life.

A charitable gift annuity is one of the most predictable, comfortable and enjoyable things you can do.

### Certainty in an Uncertain World

The payment rate you receive is fixed when you fund it and will never change, no matter what the economy does or how long you live. The payment rate you receive today is the same one you receive tomorrow. You cannot outlive the reliable, predictable benefits that last your whole life.

### Comfort You Can Share

A gift annuity can benefit you and a loved one, such as your spouse. Both of you will enjoy the benefits for as long as either of your lives.

Whether you fund a one or two-person gift annuity, after a lifetime of payments to you, any amount remaining in the gift annuity goes to fund our mission in your name. The gift annuity that served you so well for life will help others even longer.

American Council on Gift Annuities Recommended Gift Annuity Rates (effective July 1, 2020)										
Age	Rate		Age	Rate		Age	Rate		Age	Rate
60	3.9%		68	4.5%		76	5.6%		84	7.4%
61	4.0%		69	4.6%		77	5.8%		85	7.6%
62	4.0%		70	4.7%		78	6.0%		86	7.8%
63	4.1%		71	4.8%		79	6.2%		87	8.0%
64	4.2%		72	4.9%		80	6.5%		88	8.2%
65	4.2%		73	5.1%		81	6.7%		89	8.4%
66	4.3%		74	5.2%		82	7.0%		90+	8.6%
67	4.4%		75	5.4%		83	7.2%			

To request a no-obligation illustration of how a charitable gift annuity could impact your tax return and provide you with lifetime income, return the enclosed card. You may also call or email Carol Arbuckle, Gift Annuity Administrator, at 1-800-224-0330, [Carol@Capuchin.com](mailto:Carol@Capuchin.com).



# Capuchin CORNER

## Easter's Great Gift

It might seem like Sister Death has taken permanent residence in the province. The count of Capuchin friars called by name since December numbers seven.

And since those deaths came in the cold, darkness of winter, the magnitude of loss, much like the pandemic, seemed surreal at times.

We did our best to celebrate these seven friars, to pay tribute to our brothers - their faithfulness to the Catholic Church and the Capuchin Order. We recalled the countless lives they impacted in their roles as pastors, teachers, chaplains, missionaries, and evangelists. They were more than holy men; they were our brothers in fraternity.

But because of COVID-19, these seven funerals were smaller than usual, modest for sure, and certainly sad. The deaths of seven brothers made for a long winter.

Today I thank God for the dawning of spring - its bright colors and signs of new life. The suffering born of Jesus' passion is snuffed out on Easter morning! Death has no victory! He is Risen! Alleluia! Alleluia!

St. Francis of Assisi had a profound love for the Crucified Lord. With a fervent heart and humble spirit, he longed for humanity to know God's great love and mercy. Saint Francis concluded his *Canticle of Creation* this way:

"Blessed are those whom death will find in Your most holy will, for the second death shall do them no harm. Praise and bless my Lord and give Him thanks and serve Him with great humility."



With great faith and hope, we Capuchins know our seven brothers sleep in peace until the Lord awakens them to glory. We thank God that Jesus' death and resurrection make that possible.

*Father John*

## In Thanksgiving for Their Lives Sister Death Greets 4 Friars

In Saint Francis of Assisi's *Canticle of Creation*, he wrote: "Praised be my Lord, through our sister Bodily Death, from whom no living person can escape."

Within nine weeks plus a day, Sister Death called four more Capuchin friars by name.

Most recently, on March 24, Fr. Robert E. McCreary died. Shortly after ordination to the priesthood, he took a pastoral assignment in Puerto Rico where he invited lay partners to be trained and serve as catechists for the faith. After two decades, he returned to the United States and ministered in several places, usually in a pastoral role, but always with an evangelizing spirit.



On February 15, Fr. Reginald Russo died. His legacy of service to the Province and others will be remembered for ages to come. In his more than 50 years as a friar and priest, Fr. Reginald shared his passion for library science at St. Fidelis College in Herman where he directed its renovation and expansion. Another passion, the life and legacy of St. Francis, made him the perfect candidate to serve the Secular Franciscan Order and the Poor Clares of Perpetual Adoration in Cleveland.

The death of Bro. Richard Lubomski on February 8 was particularly difficult for his Capuchin Brothers. Choosing life as a lay brother instead of Holy Orders allowed Bro. Richard to serve several fraternities in the Province. He will be remembered for his attention to detail and pursuit of excellence as a tailor (maker of the Capuchin habit) and bookkeeper. But likely, the friars will miss most his presence as a gifted listener and faithful brother. He was 76.



With news of Bishop Bill Fey's death on January 19, condolences poured in from around the globe. Installed as just the second Bishop of Kimbe, a city in the West New Britain Province of Papua New Guinea, Bishop Bill was renowned for his academic writings, his excellence as a Capuchin educator, and pastoral spirit.

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

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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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