



THE ST. ANTHONY COMPANION

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Companions visit Normandy for 75th Anniversary of D-Day



On a remarkable journey, which took place June 5-9, 2019, Fr. Martin Kobos, OFM Conv., co-founder of the Companions of St. Anthony, and Mr. Joseph Hamilton, Director of Mission Advancement for the Our Lady of Angels Province and Director of the Companions of St. Anthony, represented the Franciscan Friars Conventual at the 75th Anniversary D-Day commemoration ceremonies in Normandy, France.

As we shared in our spring issue, Fr. Martin and Joe participated in numerous events commemorating Friar Ignatius Maternowski, a Conventual Franciscan who was the only military chaplain to die on D-Day and who is memorialized with a monument in the village where he was killed. As promised to our faithful Companions, Fr. Martin celebrated a commemoration Mass for the intentions of

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Louis Marion, the only surviving witness of Fr. Ignatius and his wife Anne-Marie, wave goodbye to Fr. Martin after a visit to their home, following ceremonies in Gueutteville, where Fr. Ignatius died.

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our Companions of St. Anthony as well as for Fr. Ignatius and the Fallen Heroes of D-Day.

On June 6, 2019, Fr. Martin and Joe attended the 75th Anniversary D-Day commemoration at Normandy American Cemetery, Colleville-Sur-Mer, France. The event featured speeches by President Donald Trump of the United States and President Emmanuel Macron of France and numerous tri-color flyovers. In the course of the day, Fr. Martin expressed his gratitude to the nearly 10,000 soldiers buried in the cemetery, living veterans of the D-Day invasion, as well as blessing numerous active duty soldiers. The day was a time of solemn remembrance of the heroism of our soldiers and the bonds of friendship that forever link the countries of the United States of America and France.

On June 7, 2019, in Amfreville, France, Fr. Martin represented the Province at the ceremony for Charles DeGlopper, a native of Grand Island, NY

whose personal sacrifice earned him a posthumous Medal of Honor. Later, Fr. Martin and Joe were invited back to the home of Louis Marion, the only surviving witness of Fr. Ignatius Maternowski from the village of Gueutteville where Fr. Ignatius died. There, Mr. Marion participated in a video conversation, recounting his memories of D-Day and Fr. Ignatius. He and Anne-Marie, his wife of 68 years, were most hospitable hosts. Mr. Marion's memories of the occupation and liberation of his village have become valuable additions to the story of Fr. Maternowski.

On June 8, 2019 Fr. Martin and Joe attended the ceremony commemorating Fr. Ignatius

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“The memory of Fr. Ignatius’ heroism and self-sacrifice has been held dear and remembered by the good people of Gueutteville. The monument before us recalls Fr. Ignatius administering the Sacraments to his dying comrades. The downed glider and the tranquility of the pastoral scene stand in stark contrast to the violence surrounding this brave son of St. Francis of Assisi on D-Day. Yet Fr. Maternowski brought France’s gift, Lady Liberty’s bright torch of freedom, back to a France darkened by war. For all you have done to keep the memory of Fr. Ignatius alive in your hearts and within the historic tradition of Normandy, we thank you.”

—An excerpt from Fr. Martin’s speech at the memorial for Fr. Ignatius Maternowski, June 8, 2019:



To see the full video of Fr. Maternowski’s memorial ceremony, go to www.companionsofstanthony.org

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Maternowski at the site of his monument in Gueutteville. Presented by the U.S.-Normandy Memory and Gratitude Association, the event featured numerous speeches including Fr. Martin's on behalf of the Fran-

ciscan Friars Conventual. Ms. Kelly M. Carrigg, Lieutenant Colonel, US Army, retired, former teacher at St. Francis High School in Athol Springs, NY, and currently on staff at the US Embassy in Paris, coordinated Fr. Martin's itinerary and translated

at the ceremony. At the conclusion of his speech, Fr. Martin presented Mr. Daniel Briard and Mr. Eric Labourdette of the Association gifts of a flag flown over the US Capitol with its official citation from the House of

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(Top) Following the ceremony in Gueutteville, Fr. Martin blesses a shrine to the Blessed Virgin Mary which was credited with protecting villagers huddled in a small storage room, during the D-Day invasion. Accompanying Fr. Martin were two active duty US Army chaplains, Major Daniel King (left) and Lieutenant Colonel Brian Koyn. (Below) After the blessing, church pastor Fr. Marie-Bernard Seigneur posed for a photo with Fr. Martin and the two Army chaplains.



Mr. Daniel Briard, President of US-Normandy Memory and Gratitude Association, displays an American flag presented to him on June 8, 2019.



Fr. Martin Kobos expressed his gratitude to D-Day veteran Ray Wallace, aboard official transportation to the Normandy American Cemetery on June 6, 2019.

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Representatives and a 508th PIR flag signed by Rock Merritt, the fellow Normandy veteran who served with Fr. Ignatius. Many wreaths were placed at Fr. Ignatius' memorial including one from the Companions of St. Anthony. The memorial was even featured in the Picauville newspaper. The Friars thank all of their Companions who sent prayer intentions and offerings for this special commemoration of their own loved ones who were among the heroes who also served in World War II.

Immediately following the ceremony in Gueutteville, Fr. Martin was asked to bless a shrine to the Blessed Virgin Mary which is located in a small storage room attached to the site of the former German infirmary during the occupation. It was in this storage room that the Guet-



“Jesus reminds us you can’t outpour your heart more than laying it down on behalf of someone else. All our brothers and sisters who poured out their lives, poured out their blood, in the soil of Normandy prove that. Yet these stories are not 75 years ago, or thousands

of years ago in Scripture, but they’re our stories now. It’s not Fr. Ignatius’ story only—it’s your story and my story. How capable the human spirit is of giving love so generously. And so we honor the warriors, the heroes—and we understand the discipleship to which we are all called, the generosity of love that Jesus teaches us.”

– An excerpt from Fr. Martin’s homily at the Commemoration Mass for Fr. Ignatius Maternowski, the Companions of St. Anthony, and the Fallen Heroes of D-Day



To see the video of the Commemoration Mass, go to www.companion-sofstanthony.org

teville villagers huddled for safety during the D-Day invasion.

Erected in 1948, the shrine honors Our Lady's protection of the village during this time. The villagers showed Fr. Martin the bullet holes that pierced the walls of the building and remain in place to this day. They also shared the faith of their loved ones who trusted in the grace of God to strengthen and protect them during the darkest hours of the war. Accompanying Fr. Martin on this holy task were two active duty US Army chaplains, Major Daniel King and Lieutenant Colonel Brian Koyen.

Later that morning, about a mile away from Fr. Ignatius' memorial site, Fr. Martin presided over Mass at Eglise Saint-Ferreol de Cauquigny, a small church which was badly damaged during the fighting. The Commemoration Mass, said in memory of Fr. Ignatius Maternowski, OFM Conv., the Companions of St. Anthony, and all of the Fallen Heroes of D-Day, was preceded by a brief service and welcome by Fr. Marie-Bernard Seigneur, pastor of Our Lady of Peace parish, Sainte Mere Eglise.

Speaking at Fr. Ignatius' ceremony as well as providing a reading at Mass was Dr. John Dabrowski, a retired US Army historian and a representative for the WWII Chaplains Memorial Foundation. At the conclusion of Mass, a villager announced that this was, as far as he knew, the first Mass in English in the church's 800-year history.

Upon returning to the United States, Fr. Martin and Joe have continued corresponding with the many friends and colleagues they encountered in Normandy, and plans are underway

for commemorations in June 2020. Please continue to pray for Fr. Maternowski, all the heroes of D-Day, and all those who faithfully serve our country. They truly are the Greatest Generation.



Wreaths placed at Fr. Ignatius' Memorial, including one from the Companions of St. Anthony (lower left).

MISSION REPORT

Thank You: The water is flowing in Ghana

Many villages in Ghana, West Africa do not have a source of clean drinking water nearby. Children must often walk miles to the nearest water source, first thing in the morning. Tired from the walk and carrying a heavy load of water, these children are often too tired to perform well in school, or miss it entirely.

Therefore it is with great excitement that we share the good news that we have completed the Wells for Ghana project! Started in summer of 2018, the campaign raised funds to dig three wells in



Fr. Ishmael Besing, OFM Conv. (above), blesses the new well at St Ambrose School, while the map (at right) illustrates in red the locations of the three new wells in Ghana.



Ghana to provide fresh, clean water. With the help of our Companions, we installed wells in three educational facilities.

Center of Hope for God's Children in the eastern village of Yendi, serving poor, abandoned children, is an orphanage run by the Medical Sisters of St. Joseph.

St. Anne's Primary School in the village of Bongo on Ghana's northern border with Burkina Faso serves over 600 children in Kindergarten through the 8th grade.

St. Ambrose College of Education in Dormaa Akwamu is on Ghana's western border with Ivory Coast. St. Ambrose was established in 2009 by the Catholic Diocese of Sunyani, serves 588 students, and is one of 40 public colleges in Ghana.

Thank you and may God bless all the Companions who helped make this possible.



Fr. Adam Mutebi Klag, OFM Conv. (top left) and the children of Matugga parish in Uganda, where Fr. Adam serves as pastor, thank the Companions of St. Anthony for their support. Fr. Adam, who was recently in the United States as part of the FMA's summer mission preaching program, was born and raised in Poland, where he entered the Order, professed vows as a Franciscan, and was ordained a priest.



FMA
Franciscan Mission Association

From the beginning, the Companions of St. Anthony have supported the missionary works of the Franciscan Friars Conventual around the world. Help us share the hope of the Gospel. Please give today! www.franciscanmission.org.

“God Gave Us Brothers...”

Franciscan Vocation News

Celebrating our Jubilarians



On July 22, 2019, the Our Lady of the Angels Province held its Annual Jubilarian Mass for our friars celebrating Profession and Ordination Anniversaries. We recognized 28 Jubilarians (listed to the right) sharing a combined 1,205 years of ministry. Pictured above, the Companions of St. Anthony's very own Fr. Richard-Jacob Forcier (left) with Fr. Raymond Borkowski, who celebrated his 65th year of Profession.

Profession



(Above left) On July 22, 2019, at the Shrine of St. Anthony in Ellicott City, MD Friar Raad Eshoo, Friar Joseph Krondon and Friar Antonio Moualeu, professed their Simple Vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience. (On the right) On July 17, 2019, at St. Bonaventure Friary in Chicago, IL, Friar Christopher M. Fernández, was invested in the Franciscan Friars Conventual habit by Minister Provincial, the Very Reverend Fr. James McCurry.



Ordination



On April 27, 2019, at the Basilica of St. Stanislaus, Bishop & Martyr in Chicopee, Massachusetts, Friar Christopher Dudek and Friar Benedict Abugu were ordained to the Sacred Order of the Priesthood by Bishop Mitchell T. Rozanski of the Diocese of Springfield, Massachusetts.

2019 Jubilarians

Profession Jubilarians

80 years

Friar Lucjan Krolkowski, OFM Conv.

70 years

Friar Benedict Fagone, OFM Conv.

65 years

Friar Raymond Borkowski, OFM Conv.

60 years

Friar Joseph Angelini, OFM Conv.

Friar Julian Zambanini, OFM Conv.

50 years

Friar Mark Szanyi, OFM Conv.

Friar Ross Syracuse, OFM Conv.

Friar Dennis Mason, OFM Conv.

40 years

Friar Joseph Benicewicz, OFM Conv.

Friar Russell Governale, OFM Conv.

25 years

Friar Gregory Spuhler, OFM Conv.

Friar Robert Benko, OFM Conv.

Friar Michael Lasky, OFM Conv.

Friar Pedro DeOliveira, OFM Conv.

Friar Vincent Rubino, OFM Conv.

Ordination Jubilarians

65 years

Friar Boniface Reinhart, OFM Conv.

60 years

Friar Augustine Pilatowski, OFM Conv.

50 years

Friar Anthony Francis Spilka, OFM Conv.

Friar Martin Breski, OFM Conv.

Friar Joachim Giermek, OFM Conv.

40 years

Friar Vincent Gluc, OFM Conv.

Friar Raphael Zwolenkiewicz, OFM Conv.

Friar Gregory Hartmayer, OFM Conv.

Friar Michael Sajda, OFM Conv.

Friar Joseph Dorniak, OFM Conv.

Friar Peter Knaapen, OFM Conv.

Friar Thomas Reist, OFM Conv.

25 years

Friar Michael Lorentsen, OFM Conv.

THE ST. ANTHONY COMPANION

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www.companionsofstanthony.org

Proper Estate Planning is Essential

Your thoughtful remembrance of the Companions of St. Anthony, Ellicott City, Maryland in your Will can help us share your faith in the Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ with the least of our brothers and sisters throughout the world.

Your legacy will live on through our service to the poor and needy in soup kitchens and homeless shelters, Catholic schools, hospitals, parishes and prison ministry. Your generosity will assist the Franciscan Friars Conventual serving as parish priests, teachers, chaplains, counselors, preachers, in retreat centers and youth programs and as missionaries in distant lands.

How can you remember the Companions of St. Anthony in your Will?

If you have already prepared a Will, a simple codicil can be added. If you have not yet written your Will, please contact an attorney to assist you.

Here are four options for making a bequest:

1. A Percentage of Your Estate: To leave a percentage of your estate to the Companions of St. Anthony, please state in your Will: "I give, devise and bequeath to the Companions of St. Anthony of Ellicott City, Maryland, ____% of my estate."

2. Specific Property: To leave a specific piece of your property, please state: "I give, devise and bequeath to the Companions of St. Anthony of Ellicott City, Maryland, (de-

scription of property), located at (exact location)."

3. Residue of Your Estate: The portion of your estate that is left after specific bequests to your family and loved ones have been distributed is referred to as the "Residue."

To leave such a bequest, please state: "All residue of my estate, including real and personal property, I give, devise and bequeath to the Companions of St. Anthony of Ellicott City, Maryland."

4. Specific Dollar Amount: A bequest of any amount will be deeply appreciated and would have an important impact in caring for the poor and needy.

To leave a specific dollar amount, please state: "I give, de-



vise and bequeath to the Companions of St. Anthony of Ellicott City, Maryland, the amount of \$_____."

Your Will is a legal record that allows you to have a voice in the distribution of the assets you have been blessed with during your lifetime. It ensures that your wishes are carried forth, and the people and causes that you love are provided for.

Please be assured that a revocable gift listed in your Will can be changed at any time.



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