



# THE CORD

A Newsletter From St. Anthony's Guild

Dear Friend of St. Anthony,

Fall has arrived! The Franciscan Friars are ready to celebrate the Great Novena of St. Francis beginning on September 25th. St. Francis is especially remembered for his generosity to the poor and his love of animals. We can all serve God by being thankful for the good things He has given to us. Like St. Francis, we should look for ways to use our talents in the service of God and one another. St. Francis realized that the best gift we can give to God is the gift of ourselves. I will be praying for all my St. Anthony Guild members during this special time and wish you all a joyous feast day. Thank you for your ongoing support.

May St. Anthony Bless You,

Fr. David Convertino, OFM  
Executive Director of St. Anthony's Guild

## Fr. John F Loviner, OFM 1896 – 1970

The founder of St. Anthony's Guild, Fr. John Forest Loviner, OFM, was born on the feast of St. Anthony of Padua, June 13<sup>th</sup>, in 1896, in Columbus, Ohio. His parents died while he was still a child, and he was raised at the St. Vincent Orphanage in Columbus. In 1912, supported by the Franciscan Sisters of Stella Niagara, John went off to St. Joseph's Seraphic Seminary in Callicoon, N.Y.



In 1916, he was received as a novice and professed temporary vows the following year. Fr. John made his solemn profession of vows in 1920 and was ordained a priest in 1923 at St. Joseph Cathedral, Buffalo, N.Y. At the direction of his superiors, Fr. John initiated St. Anthony's Guild the year after his ordination, working from St. Bonaventure Friary in Paterson, N.J., with volunteers who wrote and typed letters asking for financial support for seminarians and missionaries. He purchased a building at 389 Main Street in Paterson and in 1927 began publication of **The Anthonian Franciscan** Magazine.

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*"Where there is charity and wisdom,  
there is neither fear nor ignorance."  
-St. Francis of Assisi*

The Guild Press, which opened in 1930, became one of the largest publications of catechetical literature in the United States. Over 800 titles in theology, philosophy, history, and hagiography were published. The National Catholic Almanac was published by St. Anthony's Guild from 1936 to 1971. Fr. John moved the Guild to 508 Marshall Street, where more than 200 people were employed. He distributed over 700,000 pieces of religious literature to the armed forces and sent Bibles and other religious books to missionaries all over the world.

As early as 1937, Fr. John had begun an experimental farm in Lafayette, N.J. with Rutgers University to improve farm animals and farm products in the hope that he could help missions in South America. In 1955, he completed the dream of building St. Raphael's novitiate built in Lafayette. Fr. John was a man of vision with a talent for doing the right thing and the courage to take risks. His ministry continues to be a major source of support for the sick and aged Friars of Holy Name Province, as well as for those in formation and in the missions.

Fr. John died on September 12<sup>th</sup>, 1970, at Umbrian Farms, Lafayette, where he lived. He was 74 years old, a professed friar for 53 years and a priest for 47 years.

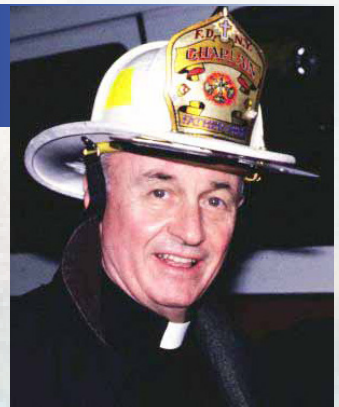
## Remembering Fr. Mychal Judge, OFM

Former NYC Fire Chaplain - 1933 – 2001

As we approach the 17<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the September 11<sup>th</sup> terrorist attacks, we continue to remember one of our own, Fr. Mychal Judge, OFM who was the first official casualty of the attacks that day. His death certificate is number 0001. He was the first known death in the attack on the twin towers. Mychal was born in Brooklyn, N.Y., on May 11, 1933. After one year at St. Francis Prep in Brooklyn, he enrolled at St. Joseph's Seraphic Seminary, Callicoon, N.Y.

In 1954, he was received into the Franciscan Order at St. Bonaventure Friary in Paterson, N.J., and professed temporary vows the following year. Fr. Mychal professed solemn vows in 1958 and was ordained to the priesthood

in 1961 in Washington, D.C. Fr. Mychal served in a variety of priestly roles, beginning with a year at St. Anthony Shrine in Boston, then as parochial vicar at St. Joseph Parish in East Rutherford, N.J., until 1966, and at Sacred Heart in Rochelle Park, N.J. After a year as moderator of the Secular Franciscans at St. Francis of Assisi Church in New York City, Rochelle Park, N.J. he returned to East Rutherford as guardian and coordinator of the team ministry for six years. Then came





a stint in academe as assistant to the president of Siena College, Loudonville, N.Y.

Fr. Mychal returned to parochial work in 1979 as pastor of St. Joseph Church in West Milford, N.J. until 1985 when he took a renewal year at the Franciscan Study Centre in Canterbury, England while serving as a supply chaplain to a U.S. Air Force installation. Returning to St. Francis Church in 1986, he assisted the West 31<sup>st</sup> Street parish until being appointed chaplain to the New York City fire department in early 1992. Fr. Mychal spent much of his time ministering to the homeless who came to the Breadline at St. Francis Church in New York City. This is where he found God: in the faces on the street, the hurting, broken and needy of this world.

Fr. Mychal was a “Big Apple” priest all the way. The easy swing in his gait, the panache, the big-time energy, the heart-on-the-sleeve commitment to New York City as

the capital of the world and an instinct for action all resulted in his knowing and being known by many of the City’s significant movers and doers. In 1996, he was deeply involved with the grieving loved ones of the 230 people killed when TWA flight 800 crashed in the waters off Long Island.



On Sept. 11, 2001, Fr. Mychal died while administering Last Rites to New York City firefighters at the scene of the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center in lower Manhattan. His untimely death while serving in the midst of a great tragedy captured headlines across the country. People from all walks of life mourned him. Fr. Mychal’s death touched and inspired many who struggled to understand the terrorist attacks and who were deeply moved by his heroic actions.

Fr. Mychal was 68 years old, a professed Franciscan for 46 years and a priest for 40 years. We miss him greatly.

## Test Your Knowledge of Saint Anthony of Padua

By Fr. Jack Wintz, OFM

**What does the name Anthony mean?** Anthony (Antony or a variety of variations) is a very popular masculine name. Its usual nickname is Tony. It is one of the top ten popular names in the US. The origin of the name is not clear, but its meaning is sometimes explained as “priceless one” or “one of great value.” As a family name, it is best known from the historical figure Mark Anthony. **How did you get your name and what does it mean?**

**Is St. Anthony the only saint with that name?**

There are many saints with the name of Anthony. Besides St. Anthony of Padua there is St. Anthony of Egypt (or Anthony the Great) the founder of Christian monasticism. It was this Anthony who was the patron of the Franciscan Abbey near the home of the young Ferdinand who took the name of Anthony when he left the Augustinians and joined the Franciscan Order. Who else holds your name and how do you feel connected?

**How could a young boy of 15 make a decision to enter religious life?** According to the early biographers, St. Anthony lived with his parents very near the Cathedral church in Lisbon. His parents were faithful people who provided Anthony with the guidance of the local clergy.

Anthony (actually Ferdinand was his baptismal name) asked to join the Augustinian community there at the age of 15. He lived in the monastery there for two years and was visited often by old friends. He asked to be transferred to another monastery one hundred miles from Lisbon where he could avoid



distractions and concentrate on prayer and learning. What decisions did you come to during your teenage years?

**When was St. Anthony declared a saint?** Anthony was only 36 when he died on June 13, 1231. A year later, he was canonized a saint by Pope Gregory IX. Some years later, Anthony’s body was transferred and it was found that his tongue remained in its original form. St. Bonaventure, head of the Franciscan Order, was present and cried out: “O blessed tongue, you have always praised the Lord and led others to praise Him!” Anthony is still revered as a great preacher of God’s Word, a man of great zeal and a humble friar yet filled with courage.



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BRIAN J. JORDAN, OFM

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Two days after the terrible attack against the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001, a union construction worker made a remarkable discovery within the ruins of World Trade Center 6. He saw a cross-like beam that stood on top of a heap of debris. The purpose of this book is to trace the thirteen-year odyssey of this iconic cross from World Trade Center 6, to its position atop a concrete abutment within the World Trade Center during the recovery and rebuilding period, to the outside wall of St. Peter’s Roman Catholic Church across from Ground Zero and finally to the National 9/11 Memorial Museum where it remains today.



St. Anthony’s Guild • 144 West 32nd Street • New York, NY 10001-3202 • 1.800.848.4538  
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