



THE CORD

A Newsletter From St. Anthony's Guild

Dear Friend of St. Anthony,

As we look forward to the Thanksgiving holiday, followed by the season of Advent, let's take a moment to pause and look back over the year and praise God for all the good He has accomplished in our lives. Here at St. Anthony's Guild, we are grateful for the opportunity to continue serving God by helping the Franciscans in every field of apostolic work. We friars are grateful every day for your prayers and sacrificial gifts. It is through your generosity that we are able to continue our ministries, educate our younger friars, and care for those friars who are aging. May God continue to bless you, and keep you and your loved ones folded in His arms.

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

In This Issue

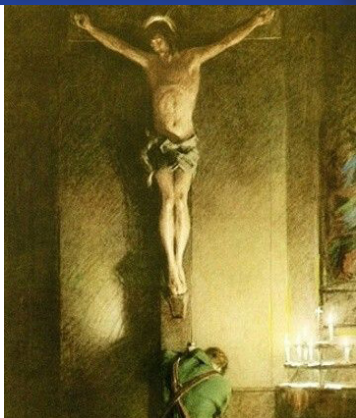
- **Profile of the artist,**
Charles Bosseron Chambers
- **Did you know?** Test your
St. Anthony Knowledge
- **Transitus:**
Fr. Rayner Williams, OFM



Charles Bosseron Chambers, Religious Painter (1882 - 1964)



"The Light of The World"



"The Return"



St. Anthony and Child Jesus



Gubbio

As many of you may know, the artist Charles Bosseron Chambers was a painter, illustrator and teacher in the early 20th Century. His religious paintings have become highly collectible over the years. He is best known for his painting "Light of the World", the most popular religious print in America during the first half of the 20th Century.

Born in St. Louis, Missouri in 1882, he was raised in a devout Catholic household. The youngest of several children, Charles was sent to local schools and graduated from Saint Louis University. He studied art for six years under Louis Schultz of the Berlin Royal Academy and then with Aleis Hrdliczka at the Royal Academy of Vienna. He also studied for six years with Johannes Schumacher in Dresden, and spent some time in Italy.

When his mother's health failed, his family moved to Palm Beach, Florida where he began his art career. Charles is considered a society painter, having done portraits of many of the leading socialites of the early 20th century such as Henry Flagler, Henry Phipps, actor Joseph Jefferson, and others. In 1916 Charles moved to Manhattan with his wife Anne, the niece of Archbishop Patrick Feehan of Chicago, and established himself in the Carnegie Studios, Carnegie Hall, where he had a private studio. He was a member of the Society of Illustrators, in New York City, and the Salmagundi Club, an important art club also in New York City. In April of 1921, his work was exhibited at the Babcock Galleries on 49th Street. In 1923, he illustrated Sir Walter Scott's "Quentin Durward" for Scribner's. In November of

1935, a number of portraits he painted went on display at the Macbeth Gallery on E. 57th Street. Today, his work can now be seen at the Missouri Historical Society in St. Louis and at the Osceola Club in St. Augustine, Florida, among other places.

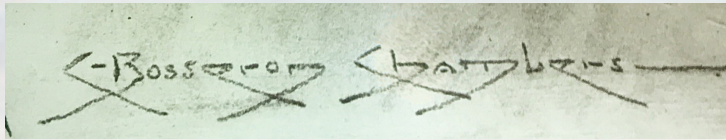
In 1919, Charles was commissioned to do paintings for the side altars in the newly built St. Ignatius Church in Rogers Park, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago. There, he produced a painting of St. Joseph holding the infant Christ. A detail of that painting, the face of four-year old model Gilbert DeMille, son of the custodian at St. Ignatius School, became "The Light of the World." Between 1920 and 1940, millions of copies were sold. The print can be seen over the priest's desk in the 1948 film The Miracle of the Bells. Charles also painted the fourteen Stations of the Cross in the Church.

According to a popular account, one day, Charles stopped by the Church of the Holy Innocents on 37th Street for Mass. Afterwards, he observed a young man before a life-size crucifix and immediately made a quick sketch. In later speaking to the man he had observed, Charles learned that he was a Frenchman who had drifted away from religion since coming to New York, but was now heading back home to fight in World War I, and had prayed for a return to the faith. Later on, Charles produced an oil painting from that sketch.

After the war, he was able to make contact with the soldier, who told him that having survived the war, he had entered a monastery. The refurbished crucifix, now termed

“The Return Crucifix”, is still at Holy Innocents Church in New York City. There is also a stained-glass rendition of his painting in the choir loft.

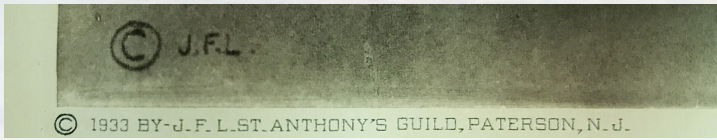
Between 1920 and 1950 millions of Charles’ religious paintings were reproduced and widely displayed. While he continued to accept commissions for society portraits, it was his work in the religious field, prints, holy cards, calendars and magazine covers that brought him national



C.B Chambers Unique Signature

recognition and a steady source of income.

St. Anthony’s Guild founder, Fr. John Forest Loviner and Charles Bosseron Chambers worked together on multiple issues of Anthonian Magazine covers. The Guild continues to maintain a large collection of his original works, many of which were copyrighted by Fr. John back in the 1930’s. Charles Bosseron Chambers died in New York City in 1964.



Copyright by J.F Loviner

Test Your Knowledge of Saint Anthony of Padua

By Fr. Jack Wintz, OFM

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 exhumed and it was found that his tongue had 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.

We are all gifted by God with unique gifts and called to be saints by using those gifts well. What special gift has God given you?

Why is St. Anthony so popular?

Even before his death, St. Anthony was regarded a saint and was well beloved by the people. Soon after his death, there were large numbers of miracles and cures attributed to his intercession. Even before his canonization, crowds came to his tomb to honor him and to pray for their special intentions.

How would you like to be remembered?

Why is St. Anthony known as the finder of lost things?

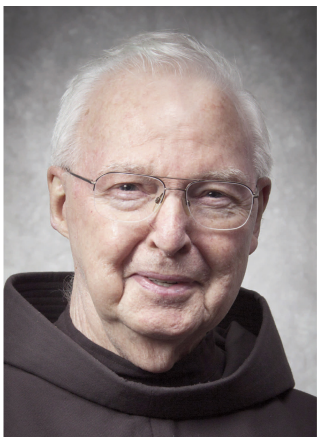
If you were to ask most people who St. Anthony is, they would probably tell you, “Oh, he is the one who finds things that are lost.” The reputation that St. Anthony has is amazing. Stories of lost keys, lost pets, lost money and lost hope number in the thousands. Where did this tradition begin? St. Anthony was a teacher. He had a Book of Psalms that he treasured. It held notes about how he would teach. Remember, there were no printing presses back then and so the book was extremely valuable. A novice who left found his book and took it with him. Anthony prayed and the book was eventually returned.

What is your response when you lose things?



“Transitus” Fr. Rayner Williams, OFM

We continue to pray for Fr. Rayner Williams, OFM who passed away at 88 at Holy Name Friary in Ringwood, NJ. Fr. Rayner was born on April 7, 1927 in Jessup, PA. He was baptized Edward Francis on April 17th 1927 at St. James Church in Jessup. He attended the local elementary school and graduated from Blakely High School in Peckville, PA in 1944.



Before entering St. Joseph Seminary in Callicoon in 1948, he served in the United States Navy. He was received into the Order of Friars Minor, Holy Name Province, on August 12, 1950, at St. Bonaventure Friary in Paterson, NJ., and professed first vows there the following year. He was ordained to the priesthood in Washington, DC on June 11, 1956 by Archbishop Amleto G. Cicognani.

Following ordination, Fr. Rayner continued his studies at

Siena College in Loudonville, N.Y., earning a B.S. degree in economics in 1959. For the next two years, he taught accounting and economics at the college before earning a master’s degree in economics in 1962 from the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, IN. Upon completion of his graduate degree, he returned to Siena College, serving as professor, assistant dean of discipline, director of student personnel and treasurer, until 1970.

For the next 37 years, Fr. Rayner served in the administration of Holy Name Province at St. Francis Friary, West 31st Street, in New York City. He was the assistant secretary of the province (1970-1971), secretary to the provincial minister (1971-1980), and director of personnel and continuing education (1980-1982). After serving as provincial treasurer from 1982 to 1989, he worked in St. Anthony’s Guild from 1989 to 2007. In 2005, he moved to St. Anthony Friary in Butler, NJ when the Guild Offices relocated to New Jersey, and retired in 2007. Please continue to pray for Fr. Rayner as he did for all of you during his life.



St. Anthony’s Guild • 144 West 32nd Street • New York, NY 10001-3202 • 1.800.848.4538
www.StAnthonysGuild.org • www.TheFranciscanStore.org • www.FriarWorks.org
www.BlessedMother.org • www.StAnthonyShrineForTheSick.org