

Capuchin Franciscans Western America Province

The friars of the *Western America Province* seek to serve Christ in a variety of ministries throughout California and Northern Mexico. Our ministries include work in parishes, schools, chaplaincies, retreat houses and the missions. In all these ministries, from San Francisco to Watts to Monterrey, Mexico, our goal is always the same—to be a joyful presence of hope and salvation to all, especially to those most in need. Wherever we are, we seek to find the power of Christ working in His people.

The Capuchin Franciscan Friars are a Roman Catholic religious order of brothers and priests inspired by the life and ideals of St. Francis of Assisi. Francis was a unique and dynamic individual who lived life with a passion for peace, honesty and charity. While society was turning away from Christian values, Francis embraced the message of Christ and lived simply serving the poor. The Capuchins were founded in 1528 inspired by Francis' dynamic vision. We came to the United States in the nineteenth century to serve poor immigrants looking for a new life.

In America as elsewhere we strive to share our rich heritage of contemplative prayer, preaching the Word of God, and caring for those in need. In this tradition of service, Capuchins find inspiration and hope. Today, the Capuchins serve throughout the world and are one of the largest religious Orders of men in the Church, with about 11,000 members.

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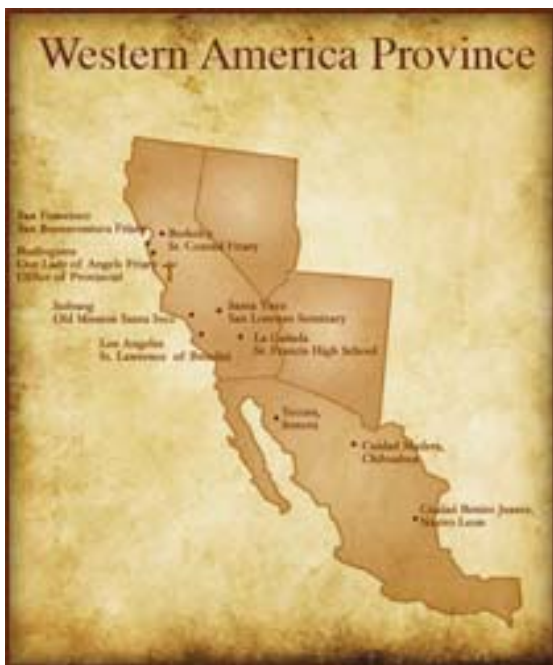


www.olacapuchins.org

Our Lady of Angels Mother of Vocations Pilgrim Statue



**Capuchin Franciscans
Western America Province
“Celebrating 100 Years”**



Fr. Tony Marti (left), president of St. Francis High School, with Fr. Mike Walsh, Brother Tran Vu, Fr. Hung Nguyen and Brother Hai Ho (kneeling).

Our Lady of Angels Mother of Vocations Pilgrim Statue

Rosary & Prayer Program

The Capuchin Franciscans of the Western America Province will celebrate their 100th Anniversary in 2010. In commemoration of the Centennial event, parishes and friaries will have the opportunity over the next year to host the Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady of Angels, Mother of Vocations.

We are asking you and your parish community to join us on the first Tuesday of the month, or a designated date and time of your choice, to pray the Rosary (and other devotional prayers) for vocations to the priesthood and religious life, especially to the Capuchin Order.

During this Anniversary year, we hope you will encourage your local communities to realize the power of our collective prayers to promote vocations to the Church and to create an additional awareness of the ministries of the Capuchins on the West Coast.

-CF WAP Anniversary Team

The History of the Pilgrim Statue

"This past July I lived with our postulants in our new friary which is located in a housing project for the poor in Durango, Mexico. There I worked on my Spanish and helped out in a local parish which has one priest for 50,000 people.

On one of my excursions into the city, I saw this statue in an old religious goods store. Knowing that the province was looking for a statue which would not only serve as a source of devotion for our vocation prayer groups, but for one that would have made a pilgrimage herself, I bought the statue and transported it to the United States.

Our Lady of Angels - the name of the only church that St. Francis would ever call his own - ties our Franciscan heritage to Mary, the mother of the ultimate vocation on earth, Jesus Christ."

-Fr. Matthew G. Elshoff, OFM Cap.
Provincial Minister
Western Province
Capuchin Franciscans

Pilgrim Statue / Location

October 2009

St. Francis High School/La Cañada

November 2009

St. Bede the Venerable/La Cañada

December 2009

St. Lawrence of Brindisi/Watts

January 2010

American Martyrs/Manhattan Beach

February 2010

Old Mission Santa Inez/Solvang

March 2010

San Lorenzo Seminary/Santa Inez

April 2010

Our Lady of Angels/Burlingame

May 2010

Province Office
Assisi Friary/Burlingame

June 2010

OLA Friary/Burlingame

July 2010

St. Conrad Friary/Berkeley

August 2010

San Buenaventura Friary/San Francisco

September 2010

TBD

October 2010

TBD

November 2010

Queen of Angels/Lompoc

December 2010

Old Mission Santa Inez

Western America Province Vocation Prayer

"Lord Jesus Christ, you called St. Francis of Assisi to follow you in living the Gospel life. You inspired others to follow him by the power of his example. We ask you to increase vocations to the Church, to the Capuchin Order, and especially to our own Province.

Inspire young men to devote their lives in your service by following the Capuchin Franciscan vocation. This we earnestly petition through our Seraphic Father St. Francis and Our Lady of Angels, Patroness of our Province.
AMEN."

Prayer to "Our Lady Of Angels"

*Hail, O Lady, Holy Queen of Angels,
Mary, holy Mother of God,
Who are the Virgin made Church,
chosen by the most Holy Father in heaven
whom He consecrated with His most holy beloved Son
and with the Holy Spirit the Paraclete,
in whom there was and is
all fullness of grace and every good.*

*Hail His Palace! Hail His Tabernacle!
Hail His Dwelling! Hail His Robe!
Hail His Servant! Hail His Mother!*

*You, oh Blessed Virgin, who are so honored
because you carried our Lord in your most holy womb,
intercede for us as we pray to God for an increase in
vocations to the Church,
especially to the Capuchin Franciscan way of life.
By your humble example, enkindle in the hearts of
young people the courage to let all their will,
as much as grace helps, be directed to God,
desiring to please only the Most High Lord Himself
and, thereby, respond joyfully to the heavenly gift of
love.*

*As you faithfully received our Lord, Jesus Christ,
pray that we too might become
bearers of the Word,
instruments of peace, ministers of hope,
and sharers in the great mystery of divine love.*
Amen.