

# Father Paul of Graymoor Guild



## The Membership Newsletter

### A Message From the Director

Dear Guild Member,

During the Christmas season, the classic film *The Sound of Music* once again aired on television. Each time I watch it, I reflect upon the story. I think it is about people and their choices—the beautiful songs have specific messages.

After my last viewing, I took a walk around Graymoor, admiring the grounds and pausing to pray in the various chapels. Suddenly the lyrics of one of the songs came to me—“Nothing comes from nothing, nothing ever could.” Looking around the gorgeous surroundings that winter day, I realized that those words symbolize how the campus known as Graymoor came to be. We are here today through the faith and goodness of our founders.

Servant of God Father Paul of Graymoor was a man of deep faith and profound trust. When he arrived at Graymoor on October 3, 1899, he walked to the summit of the hill, fell to his knees, and dedicated his surroundings, which he did not yet own, to the service of God. He believed so strongly in God’s Providence that he knew the needs of the recently founded Society of the Atonement would be met daily. This was the foundation from which Father Paul lived and the basis for “The Mount of Atonement.”

Father Paul first lodged in the unfinished section of St. Francis Convent, which was then under construction. On October 17, 1899, when the Sisters took up residence in the completed convent, he moved to a paint shack on the property, which



he called “The Palace of Lady Poverty.” This was his home from October 1899 to April 1900.

After Father Paul’s death in 1940, a life-long friend of his wrote to the Friars: “You ought to have seen Graymoor in the early days! No one in the world but Father Paul could have started ‘from scratch,’ without a nickel, and built up the glorious institution that now is a model for the church.”

The Holy Mountain of Graymoor still serves as the home for the Franciscan Friars and Sisters of the Atonement, as well as a place of prayerful reflection and rest to hundreds of pilgrims each year. The spirit of Father Paul of Graymoor is all around us, inviting us to find “At-One-Ment” here on “The Mount of Atonement.”

*Yours in Christ,*

*Father Joe DiMauro, SA*



**Father Joseph DiMauro, SA**  
**Director, Father Paul of Graymoor Guild**

*Fr. Joe prays for the intentions of Guild members and for the canonization of Father Paul of Graymoor each day and during a weekly Mass offered for Guild members.*

*Submit your prayer intentions at:*

***FatherPaulofGraymoor.org/Prayers***



## Welcome to Graymoor

In 1898, when Servant of God Father Paul of Graymoor and Mother Lurana sought out Graymoor to be the foundation for their newly formed “Society of the Atonement,” they certainly felt the spirituality of this Holy Mountain, and understood its significance.

Today, 120 years later, Graymoor is still the headquarters for the Franciscan Friars and Sisters of the Atonement, and the grounds are open from dawn to dusk, year round, for people of all faiths to enjoy. Visitors will find an array of beautiful chapels and shrines on a mountain top and surrounding valley that encourages moments of peace and quiet reflection, while inviting the spirit of Father Paul, and reminding us of his desire for everyone to live in harmony with themselves, others and God.

A visit should begin in the Graymoor Welcome Center, where pilgrims can join others from all over the world by signing the Guest Book, and view a brief video covering the history and foundation of Graymoor. Maps are available to help lead the way on a spiritual journey around the Holy Mountain. While all the chapels and sites of interest are clearly indicated, both on the map and on the grounds, there are some places of particular import. One is the historical St. Francis

Chapel. Facing the altar, to the left, you will find the statue of St. Anthony, where in 1912 Father Paul and the Friars began their perpetual novena to St. Anthony. Another is the tomb of the Servant of God Father Paul of Graymoor, which bears the words of Christ, “That They All May Be One.” A replica of Michelangelo’s Pieta looks over the tomb. The St. Anthony Shrine, a destination for thousands of pilgrims who flock to Graymoor on his June feast day, is the culmination of Father Paul’s dream to have a magnificent shrine dedicated to this Franciscan Saint of Miracles. The Crucifix at the entrance to Graymoor stands 15 feet tall. It serves as a wayside shrine for hundreds of travelers on Route 9 each year.

I hope you will come and enjoy a prayerful and relaxing visit to Graymoor.

***For more information***

***AtonementFriars.org/WelcomeToGraymoor***

## Favor from Father Paul

“My wife and I were looking for a bigger house, as our family numbered five children and ourselves. It was difficult finding a suitable house in a good school district.

I asked Father Paul to assist us in finding the needed house. Within a few days, we came across the house that was needed.

Thank you, Father Paul.”

– N.W., Newburg, NY

***Please send your petitions and favors received.***

***EMAIL: Favors@FatherPaulofGraymoor.org***

***Call: (845) 424-2150***

***To become a Guild Member; to order prayer cards or find out how you can support the Cause for Father Paul’s canonization, please visit: FatherPaulofGraymoor.org, or call 888-720-8247.***