

Father Paul of Graymoor Guild



The Membership Newsletter

A Message From the Director

Dear Guild Member,

I am extremely happy to share with you wonderful news regarding the cause of Father Paul of Graymoor.

On March 9, the Archdiocese of New York concluded an 18-month investigation into his cause for canonization. With the archdiocese's investigation finished, the materials will now be forwarded to the Congregation for the Causes of Saints in Rome. Father Paul's writings, along with writings about him, were collected together, boxed, wrapped and sealed with His Eminence Cardinal Timothy Dolan's seal.

Cardinal Dolan said the progress in Father Wattson's cause was "an affirmation from above." He voiced gratitude to God and to those who worked on the priest's cause.

The United States Catholic Bishops Conference approved Father Paul's consideration for canonization in November 2014, and the cause formally opened in September 2015 at the New York Catholic Center. At that time, Father Paul of Graymoor was officially named a Servant of God and an apostle of unity and charity. During these months of the investigation stage, various appointed officials carried out historical research, theological evaluations and spoke with individuals who could attest to Father Paul's reputation for holiness.

The Congregation for the Causes of Saints oversees the complex process that leads to the canonization of saints, passing through the steps of a declaration of "heroic virtues" and beatification. After reviewing a cause, including the assessment and approval of miracles, the Congregation presents a case to the Pope, who then decides whether or not to proceed with beatification or canonization.

Our Minister General, Fr. Brian Terry spoke briefly with Pope Francis in November about Father Paul. He gave the pontiff a prayer card, and the Pope "really seemed sincerely interested. He said a saint of unity, a saint of healing, a saint of charity – that is something that is important."

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



The Pietà overlooks Fr. Paul's Tomb atop the Holy Mountain at Graymoor.

New Beginnings, New Challenges

While new beginnings are usually enacted at the beginning of a New Year, this is not the only time that signal significant change. Today, it is common for people to move from one Coast to another because of a new job and for young people to leave home at the beginning of adulthood.

Father Paul was no stranger to new beginnings. After all, he came to Graymoor alone and lived in an old paint shack! Once one companion came, however, others followed, and a friary was built on the top of the mountain. As the community grew, particularly after the Second World War, other buildings were added.

New beginnings are not without their challenges. Open to God's Will despite the obstacles, Father Paul asked for God's blessing to undertake whatever needed to be done. In a world where change seems constant, life can sometimes be confusing and painful. Following in Father Paul's footsteps, though, we can rely on the teachings of the Gospel to guide us and face these changes with Christ as our strength and to give us courage.

With Christ at his side, Father Paul was able to transform a mountaintop into a place where people can become one with themselves, with others and with God. This is at-one-ment—living in the reality of we are and who we were created to be. Living in a harmony that allows us to be more at peace with ourselves and with others. Living a graced existence enables us to be satisfied each day with our own life while facing the possibility of responding to new beginnings and challenges.



A Legacy of Hospitality

Throughout his life, Father Paul practiced many acts of generosity—this charism is still very much alive among the Franciscan Friars of the Atonement today.

Countless people have found refuge on the Holy Mountain at Graymoor. Father Paul welcomed laborers who were working on a system that brought water to New York City, but who had nowhere to go during their unemployed winter months. Alcoholics were welcomed and treated at St. Christopher's Inn. Today, men addicted to drugs continue to find hope and healing there.

In the 1940s and 1950s, African Americans often came to Graymoor—particularly on the Feast of Christ the King each year. In 1960, there were 101 busses of pilgrims who came for this Feast!

Italian emigrants were encouraged to come to Graymoor to honor one of their special patrons, St. Anthony. Similarly, in the 1960s Haitians came out in large numbers on the weekends surrounding the Feast of St. Anthony. St. Anthony continues to be a powerful intercessor, with large numbers coming to Graymoor each year to celebrate.

The Graymoor Spiritual Life Center is well-known for the many retreats that they offer throughout the year. Today, many non-Catholic Christian groups come to the Spiritual Life Center, participating in retreats that come out of their own religious traditions.

During the week, people attend daily Masses offered by the Friars at the friary with friars or the convent with sisters. Along with retreats, such as popular one offered for seniors, Friars are available to minister to individuals as needed.

This is just a brief glimpse into the outreach of the Friars, inspired by the generosity of Father Paul.

Articles are written by Fr. Joe DiMauro, SA, Guild Director

A Favor from Father Paul

Received May 2, 2017

I recently moved. In doing so, important papers needed at work were misplaced. I could not find them.

I turned to Father Paul of Graymoor, asking him to intercede for me that the papers be found. I was getting upset, as these papers were needed for a project that I was asked to do.

The day after asking Father Paul to intercede for me, I looked at my bookcase where I saw a pile of papers I had not noticed before. Looking through the pile of papers, I found the material that was needed at the job.

I am grateful for Father Paul's intercession. Not only were the papers found, but I became peaceful and well. Thank you, Father Paul.

Sincerely, FTD, N.Y.

Become a Father Paul of Graymoor Guild Member

Join the Friars of the Atonement in praying for the canonization of their Founder, Father Paul Wattson, SA. Guild members receive the following spiritual benefits:

- Daily remembrance in the prayers, Masses and works of the Franciscan Friars of the Atonement;
- Inclusion in a weekly Mass at Graymoor offered for Guild members and their intentions;
- Inclusion in the Friars' Holy Week Triduum and Christmas Triduum of Masses;
- Inclusion in the Novena of Masses honoring Our Lady of the Atonement from June 30 to July 9, her Feast Day, and an annual Pentecost Novena of Masses to the Holy Spirit for the intentions of Guild Members and the canonization of Father Paul of Graymoor.

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