

Father Paul of Graymoor Guild



The Membership Newsletter

A Letter From the Director Fr. Paul Introduces Chapter Meetings as a Cornerstone of Community

Dear Friends in Christ,

Several months into my new position as the President of The Father Paul of Graymoor Guild, its mission is continuing to thrive and advance.

The Guild was established in 2016 to promote the cause for canonization of **Servant of God Father Paul Wattson, SA**. Canonization is the official recognition by the Catholic Church that a man or woman is now in heaven and is a saint. The canonization process can take a number of years as the Church seeks information that demonstrates that a deceased man or woman is in heaven (a virtuous life, miracles due to his or her intercession, etc.). Father Paul is now officially recognized as a Servant of God, which is a stage along the path to canonization.

The mission of the Father Paul of Graymoor Guild is to share information about the life and legacy of Father Paul Wattson, SA, and to provide resources to enrich understanding of his ministries through the written word, video, audio and photographic records. The Guild provides a prayer community focusing on his cause for canonization.

I invite you to join us in prayer in two ways. The first is to ask for Fr. Paul's intercession in your own life or the lives of your loved ones! Ask him to petition Our Lord on your behalf! If you have had a prayer answered in this way, please let me know. The second way to pray with us is to pray for Fr. Paul's canonization. If he is canonized then his life and legacy will be more widely known to the universal Church and, therefore, more people will be able to look to him as a witness to unity and charity.

Yours in Christ,



Fr. Patrick Cogan, SA

Fr. Pat Cogan, SA
Director, Father Paul
of Graymoor Guild

Fr. Paul convened the first General Chapter of the Franciscan Friars of the Atonement in May of 1937, and expressed sincere gratitude for the growth in the number of Friars. One of the main reasons that Fr. Paul called this General Chapter meeting was because he felt the community needed a Cardinal protector, just as the Sisters of the Atonement had a Cardinal Protector. In order to do this, the community needed to establish a *Decretum Laudis*, or an official status of their congregation recognized by the Holy See.

During the first Chapter, the Friars established a canonical structure for their community and for the first time elected leaders. Fr. Paul was unanimously elected Minister General for a six-year term. This would prove to be Fr. Paul's only General Chapter, and his only official term as Minister General. He passed away in February, 1940, and the then current Vicar General, Fr. Raphael Grande, SA, took over as Minister General until the next General Chapter in 1943.



Report favors, great and small

FatherPaulofGraymoor.org

(845)424-2150

Fr. Paul's Global Legacy

Servant of God Fr. Paul Wattson, SA, is known as the apostle of Christian unity and charity. Throughout his life, that meant loving people on the margins, people who were suffering, and all his neighbors, including those with different belief systems. Because of the humble, but profound way that he strove to participate in God's plan of At-One-Ment, his legacy has reached far beyond what he achieved during his lifetime. Today, the seeds that Fr. Paul planted have taken root and born fruit not only at Graymoor in New York, but throughout the United States and the entire world. Following are just a few examples of how his mission has spread:

- One of the most well-known universal initiatives that started with Fr. Paul is a world-wide week of prayer for unity in the Christian Faith. Each year, from January 18 through January 25, churches and representatives of Christian faiths around the world join in what is known as the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in an effort to fulfill Christ's prayer in John 17:21, "that they all may be one."
- The Catholic Medical Mission Board (CMMB) was established with the help and support of Fr. Paul in 1914 by a doctor out of New York City. Later that year, the first medical missionary of the CMMB departed for China. The Mission continues today, providing crucial health care services to people of all faiths around the world including Haiti, Peru, Zambia, Kenya and South Sudan.
- In 1924, Fr. Paul founded the Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA). The goal of the association was to provide support for Eastern brothers and sisters who live out their faith amongst life threatening situations. CNEWA continues to

thrive, accompanying men, women, and families not only through the provision of basic supplies, but also initiatives that help to alleviate poverty long-term.

- The Franciscan Friars of the Atonement, founded by Fr. Paul, serve not only on the grounds of Graymoor, where thousands of pilgrims come each year to attend retreats, visit the largest outdoor St. Anthony in North America, and to pray in St. Francis Chapel, but also in centers and parishes around the world. The Friars founded and direct Centro Pro Unione, a center for ecumenical and interfaith dialogue and research in the heart of Rome. The Friars provide pastoral care in places such as Toronto, Canada; Brockton, MA; and Tsurumi, Japan. They have a strong and powerful ministry of prayer, a ministry that provides for homeless and addicted men, and a ministry for those with HIV/Aids.

We can continue to look to Fr. Paul's life and works as an example of a true Christian disciple. We also have the opportunity to continue his work through some of the initiatives he has founded and to pray for his intercession so that we too may be ambassadors of unity and charity.



(Photo Courtesy of Catholic Medical Mission Board)



Father Paul of Graymoor Guild members are granted spiritual benefits including:

- Inclusion in a weekly Mass at Graymoor offered for Guild members and their intentions;
 - Daily remembrance in the prayers, Masses and works of the Franciscan Friars of the Atonement;
 - 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 Novena of Masses to the Holy Spirit for the intentions of Guild Members and the canonization of Father Paul of Graymoor;
- The Guild Director will pray for intentions sent to the Guild each day and for the canonization of Father Paul of Graymoor. To find out more about the life and faith of Father Paul, the Guild and how you can support the Cause for Father Paul's canonization, ***please visit FatherPaulofGraymoor.org***.

Find out more about the life and faith of Father Paul and the Guild at www.FatherPaulofGraymoor.org