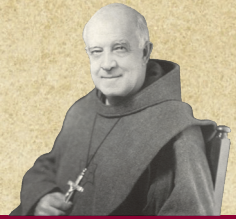


Father Paul of Graymoor Guild



The Membership Newsletter

A Letter From the Director The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is Approaching!

Dear Guild Members,

As the holidays approach, we keep ever in our minds the birth of Jesus Christ - the Savior who came to bring At-One-Ment to the world.

A convert himself, Servant of God Fr. Paul Wattson had a great heart for the cause of Christian unity, understanding that Christ died so that "all may be one" (John 17:21).

Earlier this year, Pope Francis echoed Fr. Paul's sentiments, declaring that "Ecumenism is not something optional". Ecumenism, the Holy Father explains, aims "to develop a common and consistent witness that promotes true justice and support for the weakest through responses that are concrete, appropriate and effective" (Pope Francis, General Audience, January 16, 2019).

It is for this reason that Fr. Paul made ecumenism and interreligious dialogue a fundamental part of his life's work and the charism of the Franciscan Friars of the Atonement. The global initiative, the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (taking place January 18 - 25) is just one of many aspects of Fr. Paul's ecumenical legacy.

Pope Francis reminds us: "we are called to pray so that all Christians may once again be a single family, according to God's will 'so that they may all be one'" (General Audience).

When praying for this important cause, let us ask for Fr. Paul's intercession and seek to walk in his footsteps as we contribute in our own ways to Christian unity in our communities.

Yours in Christ,



Fr. Pat Cogan, SA

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

They Showed Us Unusual Kindness

(cf. ACTS 28:2)



Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2020

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, originally called the Church Unity Octave, an effort initiated by Fr. Paul and first observed at Graymoor in 1908, is now an annual ecumenical event that invites the whole Christian community throughout the world to pray for Unity. Ever since that first observance 111 years ago, the Friars of the Atonement have been distributing resources and materials all over the world to help Christians and Churches unite in prayer from January 18-25th.

In 1923, Fr. Paul shared "A special eight page brochure containing the Papal Brief, the devotions, the daily intentions, the Church Unity Octave hymn and the Universal Papal Hymn, and notes on the Octave – have been distributed from our offices in thousands . . . while the devotions have been reproduced in more than twenty languages. Certainly Graymoor has sent the sound and speeded the prayer for Unity throughout the earth."

Mark your calendars for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity-January 18-25 - and discover many helpful resources to participate at the Graymoor Ecumenical & Interfaith Institute, a ministry of the Friars of the Atonement, at GEII.org.

Report favors, great and small
FatherPaulofGraymoor.org
(845)424-2150

Hospitality Is More Than Hosting: Fr. Paul's Legacy of Encounter

The Franciscan tradition of hospitality is much more than the simple offer of a drink, a meal, or place to sleep. When a person's love for the Lord overflows, hospitality becomes a respite for a tired soul. When given warmly and without reservation, hospitality creates a space for people to encounter one another and share love as a family; the love of the Holy Trinity. To look back on **Fr. Paul of Graymoor's** life, it becomes clear that hospitality may have been Fr. Paul's greatest virtue and gift from God.

When Fr. Paul made plans for Graymoor, he wanted the scenic grounds to serve as a backdrop for those who ached to feel the presence of God. It was in a talk he gave around 1910, Fr. Paul shared, "I want the Graymoor hills and valleys to be filled with the sunshine of the Divine love, upon which God and our Lady and St. Francis and St. Clare and all the Saints and Angels may look down with favor and gladness. [I want it] to be a garden spot of Divine grace, glowing with the milk and honey, the oil and wine of heavenly sweetness and benediction."

Our Founder knew that in nature, one discovers both a special awareness of the sovereignty and magnitude of God, as well as His intimate and personal love. When the



therapeutic surroundings of nature combined with the heart of hospitality demonstrated by Fr. Paul, a legacy of respite and encounter was established.

St. Christopher's Inn is an obvious place of hospitality, refuge, generosity, and healing. Fr. Paul understood that strongholds involving addiction needed to be broken in order for the Brothers Christopher to have the life God desired for them. It's that same spirit of wholeness in Christ that bore the Graymoor Spiritual Life Center after Fr. Paul's death. Retreats for people of all backgrounds are hosted here, providing a reprieve from the hurried and disjointed energy of daily life.

The Graymoor Spiritual Life Center, which celebrates 50 years of operation in 2020, offers weekend retreats that serve to encourage and assist those on the path of recovery. The center also provides opportunities for people seeking solace, a deeper prayer life, a healthier mental awareness, and healing from emotional trauma. In addition to those retreats, the center always offers Christmas and New Year retreats that allow participants to experience the wonder of Emmanuel: God With Us.

Perhaps the wonder of Fr. Paul's legacy is that he simply set out to do the will of the Father. In laying down his own ambitions and picking up his cross with the yoke of Christ, Fr. Paul established a legacy that continually points to God's Divine Providence. God's desire to heal, restore, and give rest to all people is lived out through St. Christopher's Inn and Graymoor Spiritual Life Center.



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***.