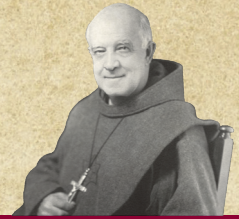


Father Paul of Graymoor Guild



The Membership Newsletter

A Letter From the Director

Dear Friends,

Here on the Holy Mountain at Graymoor, we are celebrating a number of anniversaries that highlight once again the legacy of **Servant of God Fr. Paul Wattson, SA**.

First and foremost, this February we remembered the 80th anniversary of Fr. Paul's passing into eternal life. His death, while a time of sorrow for the Friars and those who loved him, was only the beginning of his impact on the community he founded, and the many people they served.

A second anniversary, the 60th anniversary of the St. Anthony Shrine located here at Graymoor (discussed more in the article on the back of this newsletter), is one symbol of how Fr. Paul's legacy extended beyond his lifetime. His devotion to St. Anthony was passed on to the Friars, the thousands who visit Graymoor on pilgrimage, and the many others who ask the Friars to lift up their intentions in prayer to St. Anthony.

Still a third anniversary, the 50th of the Graymoor Spiritual Life Center, demonstrates how the spirit of the Apostle of Unity and Charity (as Fr. Paul is often called) lives on today. The Graymoor Spiritual Life Center may have been founded 30 years after Fr. Paul's death, but the events hosted there are, at their heart, always seeking to offer healing and God's love to participants. In a particular way, the Center has been a place of refuge for those who are in recovery from addiction, and their loved ones.

Why note these milestones? It is not merely a way of remembering significant moments in the history of the Friars. Rather, it is an opportunity to recognize that the humble, faithful life of Fr. Paul has had far-reaching consequences. Similarly, as Fr. Paul continues on the path to canonization, we recognize that he may be guiding us still, as an intercessor in heaven. May each of us be disciples of unity and charity this year, sharing the charism of Fr. Paul, a full eight decades after his death.



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

Remembering Fr. Paul's Passing

Servant of God Fr. Paul Wattson, SA, passed into eternal life before dawn on Feb. 8, 1940. He was 77. Radio stations and newspapers broadcast the news coast to coast, and messages of condolence began pouring into Graymoor from around the world.

On Feb. 12, some 300 people packed into Little Flower Hall in the Friary for Fr. Paul's funeral liturgy, and another 1,000 or so gathered outside to listen by loudspeaker.

New York Auxiliary Bishop Stephen Donahue celebrated the Mass, joined by Bishops Eugene J. McGuinness of Raleigh, N.C., and Louis La Revoire Morrow of Krishnagar, India. Fr. Ignatius Smith, OP, Dean of the School of Philosophy at Catholic University, eulogized Fr. Paul.

"Standing out supreme among the great qualities of his great heart was his courage," Fr. Smith said. "It can be explained only when we know of his constant and consuming sense of the living presence of God at all times and everywhere and in everything he thought and did."

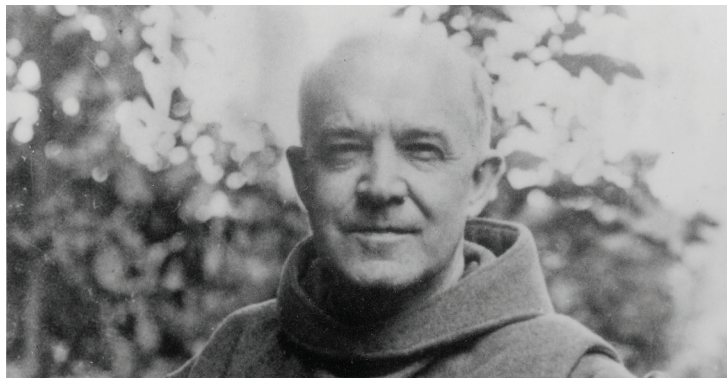
Fr. Paul's body lay in repose after the service. More than 2,500 visitors came to pay their last respects before a procession carried God's faithful servant to his resting place at Graymoor. Today, 80 years later, Fr. Paul's spirit and legacy live on in the mission, ministry and charism of the Friars of the Atonement.



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

Our 100-Year-Old Perpetual Novena

A Tale of Three Anthonys



For over a hundred years now, the Franciscan Friars of the Atonement have offered a Perpetual Novena to St. Anthony of Padua. Thousands of your petitions flood our mailbox every year, and we immediately bring them to the feet of St. Anthony, asking for his prayers and intercession on your behalf. The origin of this novena is a heartwarming tale.

And it all started with a telegram...

It was 1912. Fr. Paul Wattson was preparing for the dedication of the new St. Francis Chapel at Graymoor. As he walked through the new chapel with a young Br. Anthony, they paused together for a moment to admire the new life-size statue of St. Anthony that had just been installed near the altar. That's when another friar came rushing in to hand Fr. Paul an urgent telegram.

A desperate mother in Philadelphia needed prayer. Her baby boy, also named Anthony, was gravely ill—near death. She telegrammed to beg the Friars to pray for the restoration of baby Anthony's health. Immediately Fr. Paul and Br. Anthony dropped to their knees in front of

the statue and began interceding for the restoration of baby Anthony's health.

Every evening the Friars gathered together in front of the statue of St. Anthony to pray for the child's health. Then, after two weeks of intense intercession, another telegram arrived as suddenly as the first. Baby Anthony was cured! He had miraculously recovered from his deathly illness, and was now as healthy as could be. Out of gratitude, the mother included a small donation to the Friars.

Word of the miraculous cure soon spread, and others began sending their petitions to Fr. Paul, asking him to pray for them in "St. Anthony's Corner." Every night Fr. Paul would kneel in front of the statue of St. Anthony, read off all the petitions that he received, and entrust them to St. Anthony's intercession. He also dreamed of expanding this "corner" into a national shrine.

Today we continue Fr. Paul's Perpetual Novena at the St. Anthony Shrine, dedicated 20 years after Fr. Paul's death to fulfill his dream of creating a place of pilgrimage where people like you could bring their petitions to St. Anthony year-round. After years of dedicated service in active ministry, our Friars retire home to Graymoor, dedicating their remaining years to the "ministry of prayer," and pray daily to St. Anthony on your behalf.

To learn more, watch "Graymoor's Perpetual Novena to St. Anthony" and "Ministry of Prayer" at AtonementFriars.org/Videos



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***.