

Father Paul of Graymoor Guild



The Membership Newsletter

A Letter From the Director

Dear Friends,

No one could have anticipated what 2020 would bring to all of our lives. As we looked hopefully to a new decade, we were suddenly thrust into a world that most of us have never experienced. It is only with faith in God that we can successfully weather the storm caused by a pandemic, civil unrest, rising unemployment and more. In fact, it is at these exact times we realize that it is God who is guiding us through the storm.

Our founder, **Fr. Paul Wattson, SA, Servant of God**, understood this very well. How else could he have begun the good works on the Holy Mountain with so little, and experienced so many challenges, without knowing that the will of the Almighty was leading him where he was most called to be? How else would he have kept moving toward his mission of helping those in need, in a time when much of the world was experiencing great challenges, without the firm belief that our Sovereign Lord was by his side?

Indeed, the times in which we are living are eerily similar to the era in which Fr. Paul began his mission at Graymoor. The Great Depression resulted in people losing their jobs and homes; families who once had more than enough to eat suddenly faced the physical and emotional pain of hunger. Certainly, Fr. Paul must have at times wondered how he would finance the missions he wanted to establish. And yet, through God's grace, he did.

We must pray for that same strength of spirit, to believe that God will provide for our daily needs as we look to help those who suffer.

As we conclude the 12-month celebration of the final year of Fr. Paul's earthly life, we know that his legacy lives on, and will continue to live on, at Graymoor, through the Spiritual Life Center and St. Christopher's Inn, through the works of our priests and brothers around the world, and through those of you who remain faithful to Fr. Paul's vision.



Fr. Patrick Cogan, SA

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



Our Lady of the Atonement

Fr. Paul's devotion to Mary began well before he was received into the Roman Catholic Church, and it continued throughout his life. In 1903, Fr. Paul enclosed a pamphlet in the first issue of his publication, *The Lamp*, encouraging devotion to Our Lady by praying the Rosary.

On April 10, 1919, after petitions by Fr. Paul, Pope Benedict XV gave formal approval for the church's recognition of Mary under the title Our Lady of the Atonement. Fr. Paul believed that Mary's claim to this high title rested on the fact that she consented to become the Mother of the Redeemer and that she suffered with Jesus during the Passion.

We continue to honor Mary's special place in our lives and ask for her intercession, as Fr. Paul eloquently wrote:

We salute you, Holy Mary, Daughter of God the Father, and entreat you to obtain for us a devotion like your own to the most sweet Will of God.

We salute you, Virgin Mother of God and Son, and entreat you to obtain for us such union with the Sacred Heart of Jesus that our own hearts may burn with love of God and an ardent zeal for the salvation of souls.

We salute you, Immaculate Spouse of God the Holy Spirit, and entreat you to obtain for us such yielding of ourselves to the Blessed Spirit, that He may, in all things, direct and rule our hearts and that we may never grieve Him in thought, word or deed.

Report favors, great and small
FatherPaulofGraymoor.org

Fr. Paul's Inspiration: "Do All the Good We Can"

We all feel weary and frustrated at times. For most of us, these past months of the current pandemic has intensified those feelings. Certainly, Fr. Paul understood these human emotions and wrote to inspire others to remember to do good in Christ's name:

Christ came into the world and united Himself with our humanity, going about ministering to humanity because He wished to save them, and in His mystical body He wishes us to do the same, for we are now His instruments. When He went up into Heaven, He said, "Go ye into all the world and make disciples of all nations," and they were to go and carry out all these ministrations to the sick and poor, the blind, the lepers. And whatever it was, they were to do it in His name and for Him, and by the medium of His spirit they would carry out this ministry of love and of service.

And that should be our work, giving and spending ourselves, as Saint Paul says, "Though the more I love, the less I be loved." "But by the grace of God, I am what I am; and His grace in me hath not been void, but I have labored more abundantly than all they; yet not I, but the grace of God with me," until my labor and activity transcends all my brethren, those Apostles on fire with the fire of divine love, traveling and carrying themselves to the very limits of the world for the Gospel, even though the penalty be at length a martyr's crown.

There is a motto which we should take and fulfill in our life, "Do all the good we can, in all the ways we can, to whomsoever we can," as long as God gives us the spirit and joy of service.



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***.