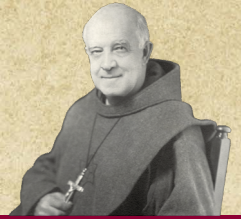


Father Paul of Graymoor Guild



The Membership Newsletter

A Letter From the Director

Dear Friends,

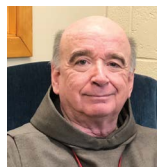
We can just about see the light at the end of the tunnel. Vaccines are rolling out at greater speed; children are returning to in-person school; restaurants are beginning to welcome back more patrons. Here at the Holy Mountain, we are looking forward to seeing old and new faces at Masses, prayer services and retreats.

As we welcome a departure from what has certainly been one of the most difficult times in recent memory, we realize that life will never be exactly the same as it was before. After 12-plus months of wearing masks, continually sanitizing hands and avoiding large crowds, we will naturally be hesitant to return to what we once considered normal. Some aspects of our pre-COVID-19 lives will likely not return; new habits formed during isolation will probably take hold.

We can welcome this “new normal” in a very prayerful way. Just as our founder, **Servant of God, Fr. Paul Wattson, SA**, turned to prayer as he pushed through with his vision of Graymoor in the midst of the Great Depression and other challenges, we too must always look to our Lord for guidance as we embark on this journey.

It seems fitting that this year has been named by Pope Francis as the Year of St. Joseph. If anyone knew about living prayerfully in the face of adversity, it is certainly Christ’s earthly father. His quiet conviction, his unwavering dedication to his family. Such characteristics make St. Joseph a wonderful example for us as we emerge from this pandemic.

Let us look forward to a new beginning, filled with hope, good health and a renewed commitment to abiding in Christ’s love.



Fr. Patrick Cogan, SA

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



Adapting Fr. Paul’s Message in the Digital Age

Servant of God, Fr. Paul Wattson, SA was a Christian media pioneer in many ways. In 1903, as an Episcopal clergyman, he started *The Lamp*, “a Catholic Monthly Devoted to Church Unity and Missions.” The Latin phrase *Ut Omnes Unum Sint* (“that all be one”) was featured on every page of the publication.

The Lamp announced that the first Church Unity Octave to pray for a reunification of Christianity would take place Jan. 18-25, 1908. The dates chosen represented the timespan between the Feast of St. Peter’s Chair in Rome

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Report favors, great and small

FatherPaulofGraymoor.org

(845) 424-2150

**To request a blessed prayer card and medal call 888-720-8247
or visit FatherPaulofGraymoor.org/PrayerCard**

(Continued from front)

and the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul. Along with **Mother Lurana White, SA**, co-founder of the Society of the Atonement, Fr. Paul envisioned Catholics and non-Catholics joining together as God intended.

As the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (as it was eventually named) began to spread, Fr. Paul used other media to promote the event. For example, the Ave Maria Hour, which first aired in 1935, also touted the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

Through the years, the Graymoor Ecumenical & Interreligious Institute has kept the original message of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity alive as it has adapted to new methods of communication. When COVID-19 severely impacted how we communicated with one another, we took a cue from Fr. Paul's multimedia savvy and initiated the first all-digital Week of Prayer in 2021. All of the tools needed to partake in the theme, "Abide in My Love...You Shall Bear Much Fruit," were available online: daily Scripture and prayer guides, homily notes, etc. Friars communicated with the prayerful via Zoom and other remote methods. Although this year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity may have been unusual, the impact of the event remained just as powerful as in years past.

We look forward to the world getting back to "normal" as more vaccines are distributed and we are able to more freely go about our daily lives. But, as with every challenge we face, we know that there have been ways to grow in God's love and grace. In 2021, we were reminded of the entrepreneurial spirit of Fr. Paul, as he used the most advanced media of the time to share his message of praying for Christian unity.

We are happy to be able to continue that tradition today by sharing our online ministries:

Online Mass Celebrations – Servant of God, Fr. Paul Wattson, SA was a great preacher whose sermons were fired by Scripture, the Holy Spirit and Christ's redemptive and unifying love. The Friars carry on that proud tradition and celebrate Mass every Wednesday at 10am EST and Sunday at 11am EST on Facebook and the Friars' website.

Visit AtonementFriars.org and follow us on Facebook

Online Gospel Reflections – Fr. Bob Warren, SA has been providing online Gospel Reflections every week for nearly a decade! They are available directly to your email inbox every week, or are available on the Friars' Facebook page and website.

Learn more at AtonementFriars.org/WeeklyReflections

Online Audio Prayers – Prayer, the lifting of the mind and heart to God, allows us to bring our thanks, our petitions, and our sorrow before our Lord. Christ himself encouraged us to pray together: "For wherever two or more are gathered together in my name, there I am in the midst of them" (Matt.18:20). Audio prayers, including the Rosary, prayers to St. Anthony, Mary, St. Joseph and more are available on the Friars' website.

Listen at AtonementFriars.org/PrayFrBob

Online Audio Bible Stories – The Friars' Ave Maria Hour radio program, theatrical audio stories of the Bible and lives of saints, aired over 2,500 episodes from 1935 till 1969. Today, many of those same episodes are available as audio through Blog Talk Radio, iTunes and SoundCloud.

Listen at AtonementFriars.org/AveMariaHour

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.

Join the Guild or invite a friend to join the Guild Today | Call 888-720-8247