



# The Fatima Shrine NEWSLETTER



August 2025

Directed by the Barnabite Fathers

Visit the Fatima Shrine online: [www.fatimashrine.com](http://www.fatimashrine.com)



## Christmas in July was a Tremendous Success



### In Memoriam

**Fr. Richard M. Poblocki**

September 29, 1957 - June 29, 2025 Ordained September 29, 1983 - Buffalo Diocese



A devoted son of Buffalo, Fr. Rick answered his calling on his 26th birthday when Bishop Edward D. Head ordained him at St. Philip the Apostle Church. For over four decades, he faithfully shepherded Catholic communities across Western New York—from his early ministry in Cheektowaga and West Seneca to his pastoral leadership in Portville, Bolivar, Dunkirk, and Buffalo, concluding his service at St. Josaphat Parish in Cheektowaga until retirement in 2022. Beyond his parish duties, Fr. Rick annually served as a Healing Priest at Fatima Shrine, offering spiritual comfort and prayers for healing to countless visitors. Known for his deep love of the Saints and mystical spirituality, he found his greatest joy in faithful service to the Church and her people.

**Fr. Frank M. Papa, CRSP**

Ordained 1966 - December 29, 1940 - July 10, 2025



Born in wartime Italy, Fr. Frank's extraordinary 58-year ministry spanned three continents and six nations. From hospital chaplaincy in Buffalo to founding Barnabite communities in the Philippines, India, and Indonesia, he embodied the missionary spirit of St. Anthony M. Zaccaria. Through thousands of Masses, countless confessions, and tireless spiritual direction, he lived as a true son of St. Paul—serving Jesus and His people with unwavering love and devotion.

"Well done, good and faithful servant." - Matthew 25:23

### Feature Article: An Interview with Barbara Hall and Marie Ciavatta. Volunteer Extraordinaire

Here they were on *Lori and Friends*.



Image Courtesy of Lori Caso

Photo (left to right) Barbara Hall, Lori Caso, Marie Ciavatta, Bob Hall, Mary Ann Buchan, Fr. Peter Calabrese.

**INTERVIEW WITH BARB & MARIE ON PAGE 4**



The Barnabite Fathers thank all who visited, attended the funeral, or sent condolences and donations in honor of Fr. Frank. Your love for him and us was sincerely felt.

## 2025 Healing Mass Schedule



Aug 3 - 6:30pm

Fr. Richard DiGiulio



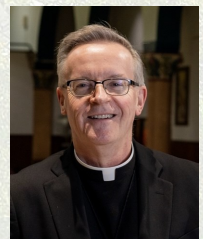
Sept 7 - 6:30pm

Fr. David Tourville



Oct 5 - 6:30pm

Fr. Dan Young



Nov 2 - 6:30pm

Fr. Bill Quillivan

August ~ Dedicated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary

# Fatima Shrine Newsletter

## UPCOMING SHRINE CELEBRATIONS & EVENTS

### August 2025

#### (Dedicated to The Immaculate Heart of Mary)

##### Sat. Aug. 2 - 1st Saturday Devotions

Confessions: 30 minutes before Mass - Rosary Procession  
Mass 8am & 11:30am & 4:00pm - 12:15 Adoration & Benediction

##### Sat. Aug. 2 - Knights of Columbus Food Collection

Collecting food before and after the 11:30am & 4:00pm Mass.

##### Sat. Aug. 2 - Men's Breakfast

9am Breakfast in the Cafeteria then from 9:30 to 10:30

**Guest Speaker**, followed by Rosary in the Basilica,  
then 11:30am Mass - 12:15 Adoration & Benediction.

##### Sun. Aug. 3 - Healing Mass (6:30 pm) with Fr. Richard DiGiulio

##### Sun. Aug. 10 - Coronation Sunday (3pm Rosary & 8pm Candlelight Procession)

Homilist: Rev. Don Watkins

##### Sat. Aug. 23 - Hispanic Day

##### Sun. Aug. 24 - Filipino Mass @1:30pm with Fr. Albino Vecina

Followed by a Social in Fatima Hall, all are invited.

##### Sun. Aug. 31 - Vietnamese Day

### September 2025

#### (Dedicated to The Sorrowful Mother)

##### Sat. Sept. 6 - 1st Saturday Devotions / Food Collection / Men's Breakfast

##### Sun. Sept. 7 - Healing Mass (6:30 pm) with Fr. David Tourville

##### Sat. Sept. 20 - Korean Day

##### Sun. Sept. 28 - Filipino Mass @1:30pm with Fr. Albino Vecina

Followed by a Social in Fatima Hall, all are invited.

##### Sun. Sept 28 - Rosary Crusade

The Fatima Shrine is  
Designated as an  
Official Site for the  
Jubilee 2025



See the Display in the Blessed Sacrament  
Chapel and at the East Doors.

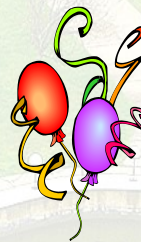


#### August Birthdays

Aug. 16 - Bernie Jones, Jr.  
Aug. 18 - Breadan Kirwan

#### September Birthdays

Sept. 9 - Donna Baker Handy  
Sept. 12 - Kathy Curcione  
Sept. 16 - Sean McFarland



It would help us greatly if we could email you the Newsletter, it will save postage for the shrine. If you would like The Fatima Shrine Newsletter emailed to you.



Let us know by emailing us at: [fatimashrinecommunications@gmail.com](mailto:fatimashrinecommunications@gmail.com)

The QR Code simplifies the email direct to our offices. Thank You.

SUBSCRIBE



## IN DEFENSE OF MARRIAGE...

Do whatever He tells you (Jn 2:5). These poignant words spoken by Our Lady to her Divine Son at the Wedding Feast at Cana says it all - all in the sense that this directive sets the stage for Jesus' first public miracle and the elevation of marriage to that of a Sacrament.

In the Catholic tradition, a Catholic marriage is truly a Sacrament, one of the seven Sacraments. It is a Sacrament because the wording of the vows are spoken to Christ himself as the two parties speak that wording to each other.

There are two areas worth examining further: "for better or for worse" and "to love and to cherish." I omitted trailing words intentionally because these are powerful words, and Jesus heard them and blessed them over the couple as they were articulated. In this day, it is very common practice to consider divorce when there are difficult issues that seem unresolvable. There are times when divorce is the only answer. However, it is important to consider the words --- "or for worse" since divorce is a civil action, but the vows are both civil and highly spiritual according to the Catholic understanding. This can become a powerful summons to prayer --- prayer to recover oneself and prayer for your partner. What about prayers of forgiveness not only for your partner, but what about forgiveness for yourself for whatever part you may have played in the marital breakup? Indifference toward a partner, not excluding pride and stubbornness --- these are real sensations which can affect and infect anyone when differences arise. Insight and knowing oneself can alter the impact of those vices.

The concentration must be focused on the family, children especially. They are the innocent victims. The sight of apparent praying for the family and praying for the other parent is powerful and truly healing, since those segue into "to love and to cherish." Even though the couple cannot continue as a couple, love was the basis and must be nurtured, if only on a heightened spiritual level, because those vows were spoken before Jesus. It is a blessing to pray for a former spouse to facilitate healing and forgiveness, which are paramount in this situation.

Personally, I pray a decade of the Rosary every day for my former wife. All of my daughters have heard me say that my dream is to find their mother and hold her hand in Heaven one day. This is a deep spiritual love, and it is cherished and held deep within my heart.

by Alfred J. Picogna OFS



# Fatima Shrine Newsletter



## A BARNABITE MOMENT August 2025

Rev. Joseph M. Tabigue, CRSP



### The Five M's: A Vocation Story

Father Joseph's journey to the priesthood is beautifully structured around five pivotal "M's" that trace God's calling from baptism to ordained priest. Currently Fr. Joseph is the Pastor of Our Lady of the Rosary in San Diego, CA. He is also the local Superior and Provincial Vicar for North America.

### Divine Beginning

Joseph was born on September 24th (Feast of Our Lady of Mercy) and baptized on December 12, 1976 (Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe) in St. Michael's chapel, Joseph's path was marked by Marian devotion from the start. Uniquely among his siblings with creative "J" names (honoring their parents' July wedding), Joseph alone received a biblical name, a providential sign of his special calling.

### MISERY

At age seven, Joseph lost his mother, forcing his family to rebuild their lives. After remarriage, bandits robbed them of everything, compelling the family to flee to a new town. This early suffering became the foundation for understanding God's mercy through hardship.

### MERCY

The family relocated to Balingasag, a deeply religious town where they rebuilt their lives from scratch. Here, surrounded by strong Catholic traditions, Joseph's stepmother ("Mama") raised six children with love. The family developed regular prayer habits, attending Mass weekly and praying the rosary together, slowly healing and growing stronger.

### MARILYN

During high school, Joseph developed a crush on a beautiful girl named Marilyn who prayed at church before classes. Following her to church to see her, Joseph discovered his prayer life deepening dramatically. He found himself wanting to spend more time before the Blessed Sacrament, eventually sensing his calling to priesthood. After high school, he entered seminary, completing six years of philosophical formation in Marikina, then studying theology in Rome, graduating cum laude.

### Crisis and Confirmation

Before ordination, Fr. Joseph experienced profound doubt about his vocation. During a week of intense prayer and discernment, reading about Prophet Elijah's crisis on Mount Carmel, Fr. Joseph heard God's voice in "a murmur of gentle breeze." Matthew 5:37's call for simple "yes" or "no" responses moved him to surrender completely to God's will.

### MAGNIFICAT

On May 29, 2004, Fr. Joseph was ordained, singing Mary's song of joy in his heart. Like Mary accepting God's call, he embraced his priesthood with overwhelming gratitude for God's mercy despite his unworthiness.

### MASS

The final "M" represents the Eucharist as the source and summit of his priestly life. The Mass sustains, nourishes, and strengthens him daily, providing energy for life's challenges and serving as food for his spiritual journey.

Fr. Joseph concludes that the five M's form one large "M" the imprint of Mary in his palm, symbolizing how the Blessed Virgin guided his entire vocation story from baptism through priesthood.



## From Fatima:

### A Radiant Connection: Our Lady of Fatima and the Immaculate Heart of Mary

The message of Fatima is more than just a moment in history—it is a blazing call from the heart of Heaven, and at its center burns the radiant Immaculate Heart of Mary. When Our Lady appeared to the three shepherd children in 1917, she didn't just bring warnings—she brought hope, wrapped in the loving fire of her Immaculate Heart.

This Heart, pure and aflame with divine love, was shown to the children as a refuge and a pathway to God. Mary pleaded for consecration to her Immaculate Heart, not for her glory, but to draw souls into deeper union with Jesus, who desires mercy over judgment. Fatima revealed that through her Heart, peace could be restored to the world and salvation poured out like light breaking through the darkness.

In her apparitions, Our Lady specifically asked for the First Saturdays Devotion—a powerful act of reparation to her Immaculate Heart. This included confession, Holy Communion, reciting the Rosary, and meditating on its mysteries. Why? Because her Heart had been wounded by the sins of the world, and yet it remained open—offering grace, forgiveness, and peace to anyone who would respond. It was Heaven's invitation to become co-workers in a divine plan of mercy.

The Immaculate Heart is not just a symbol—it's a mission. Through Fatima, Mary opened her Heart to the world so that we might take refuge in it, be formed by it, and be sent forth from it as apostles of peace. As she told the children, "My Immaculate Heart will be your refuge and the way that will lead you to God." Today, her Heart still beats with that same loving urgency, calling us back to Christ through prayer, penance, and the triumph of grace.

by James Dacey Jr. OFS

## OUR REGULAR HOURS

### OFFICE & GIFT SHOP

Monday-Thursday 9am-5pm

Friday 9am-7pm

Saturday & Sunday 9am-5pm

### CAFETERIA

Fridays 11am-7pm

1st Saturdays 9am-4pm

### MASS SCHEDULE

Monday—Friday 11:30am & 4pm

Saturdays 8am, 11:30 & 4pm

Sundays 9am, 12Noon & 5pm

Confessions 15 minutes before each Mass.

# Fatima Shrine Newsletter

## Coronation Sunday Invitation - August 10, 2025

You are all invited to join us for **Coronation Sunday** on August 10th at the Fatima Shrine in Lewiston, NY, as we honor Our Lady with a special celebration that builds upon the rich tradition of past Coronations while embracing a beautiful new dimension. This year, we envision our gathering as a vibrant cultural rosary procession, where the diverse communities that make up our faith family will come together to pray the rosary in procession, and celebrate the mysteries of the rosary through the unique gifts and traditions each culture brings.

Drawing inspiration from previous years, we invite families and individuals from all cultural backgrounds to participate in the Rosary Procession (where each decade will be a different Cultural experience), beginning at 3:00 pm, ending with the crowning of Our Lady on top of the Basilica. The day will conclude with our beautiful 8:00 pm Candlelight Rosary. Let us unite our voices and cultures, our hearts in shared faith, and our steps in procession as we crown Our Lady Queen of Heaven and Earth. Come and be part of this special day with us here at The Fatima Shrine. Rev. Don Watkins will be the homilist.



Photos from 2024: Sharon Heil carrying the Crown and Jim Irwin placing it on our Lady.

**We Invite You to Join Us on this Spectacular Day.**

## FATIMA BOOKSTORE: BOOK REVIEW

by James Dacey Jr.

### How To Live By Grace

#### Divine Fruitfulness in Human Action

by Fr. Wojciech Giertych, O.P.

This book is a refreshing exploration of what it means to live a truly fruitful spiritual life. This isn't dry theology, it's a vibrant roadmap for discovering how divine grace can transform our everyday actions into something extraordinary.

What sets this book apart is Father's masterful ability to make complex Dominican theology accessible and practical. He weaves together rich scriptural insights with real-world applications, showing how grace isn't just an abstract concept but a living force that can energize every aspect of our lives.

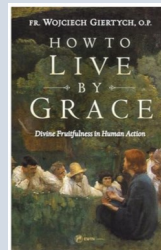
The central theme of "divine fruitfulness" is beautifully developed throughout. Father demonstrates how our cooperation with God's grace can make our work, relationships, and daily decisions bear lasting spiritual fruit. His insights into the relationship between human effort and divine assistance

offer a balanced perspective that avoids both spiritual passivity and self-reliance.

The writing is clear, engaging, and filled with practical wisdom readers can immediately apply. Father has a gift for taking profound theological truths and presenting them in ways that inspire rather than intimidate.

This book will appeal to anyone seeking to deepen their relationship with God and discover their true purpose. Whether you're a seasoned spiritual seeker or just beginning to explore questions of faith, "How To Live By Grace" offers valuable insights that can transform your understanding of authentic living.

**Highly recommended for anyone ready to discover the joy and freedom of living by grace.**



ORDER DIRECT

Order  
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Copy  
Today

**\$18.95 + Tax + Shipping**

## FEATURE ARTICLE: Barbara Hall and Marie Ciavatta: Dedicated Volunteers at the Shrine

*Barbara Hall and Marie Ciavatta have been the driving force behind fundraising at the Fatima Shrine for over a decade. We spoke with them about their work creating basket raffles and organizing bake sales.*

### How did you both get started volunteering at the shrine?

**Barbara:** I started in 2008 right after I retired. I just wanted to help and give back since I finally had the time. I began as a baker for the Shrine's Bakers Guild, and that led me to the Festival of Lights basket-making committee. That's really where my volunteering roots took hold.

**Marie:** I've been volunteering since my retirement from teaching. My teacher's sorority, Alpha Delta Kappa, got me started in fundraising through their annual basket auction for scholarships.

### Barbara, you also have a long history with Sacred Heart Villa School?

**Barbara:** That goes way back to 1977 when Bob and I moved here from Queens and enrolled our daughter Tina in kindergarten there. Our son Bryan followed in 1987. We became so close to the sisters, they truly became family. My mother would visit from New Jersey and share cookies and demitasse with them, even singing their favorite Italian songs! We've been on their fundraising board ever since.

**Marie:** I got involved with Sacred Heart Villa through Barbara.



# Fatima Shrine Newsletter

## FEATURE ARTICLE: Continued

Let's talk about those basket raffles. How many do you create each year?

**Barbara:** We make at least 200 (for these events) baskets for the Festival of Lights and Christmas in July events, plus holiday baskets combined with our bake sales. That December 8th sale has really grown, we're up to 25 to 40 baskets now because we keep coming up with new ideas! In addition we make 45-50 baskets for the Garden Party and this year we made over 50 Easter Baskets that we sold!



**Marie:** Between the shrine and the Villa, we create hundreds of baskets with different themes; holidays, children, household items, garden items.

**What's your process for creating them?**

**Barbara:** It's really an art form! Sometimes it starts with just one item, then we check our inventory around a theme, thinking about colors and functionality. Marie has her favorites, anything Minnie and Mickey Mouse, plus purses, scarves, and jewelry.

**Marie:** I search everywhere; Walmart, Hobby Lobby, Burlington, TJ Maxx, Marshalls.

**Barbara:** We shop when stores have items marked down 50 to 75%, though donations have been decreasing. Sometimes we get surprised with collections like the roosters we received this year! Everyone loves money trees, lottery scratch-offs, and gift cards.

**Those bake sales are legendary too. How do you organize them?**

**Barbara:** We have pop-up sales on Fish Fry Fridays where about six of us decorate tables with seasonal themes. For our major December and Palm Sunday events, I changed them from single-day to three-day sales when I became chairperson. This lets us make those Christmas cookie trays that fly off the tables.

**Marie:** The bakers choose what they want to make, they're not told what to bake.

**Barbara:** I personally call everyone on our list. The magic happens when each person drops off their specialties. Our regulars know what they want, Marie's chocolate-covered Oreo treats, Charlene's pizzelles, my cherry cheesecake tarts. This year we reached a new high, over \$10,800 for our bake sales and small raffles!



**What's your proudest achievement?**

**Barbara:** All of it, honestly. We have fun doing what we do. I'm grateful for everyone I interact with. We share a common goal, raising money for Mother Mary's home where pilgrims and locals can find guidance, forgiveness, and peace.

**Marie:** Raising amounts beyond what was expected.

**Barbara also wanted to say that there is another very important part of our success: We are incredibly grateful for our amazing bakers, loyal customers, and dedicated supporters. Our friendships have flourished and grown because of these wonderful relationships!**



**What's your biggest challenge?**

**Barbara:** Getting young people involved. Many of us are seniors, and we wonder who will take over when we can't do this anymore.

**Marie:** Trying to get more volunteers involved. They don't need to do everything—just what they can handle.

**Any advice for potential new volunteers?**

**Barbara:** Come join us! We're a fun group and we enjoy what we do. It's contagious and rewarding!

**Marie:** Try it—you will like it.

**Barbara:** Grassroots events work best because they're personal. Even when money is tight, there always seems to be a little extra to give when people can participate directly.

*If you're interested in volunteering with Barbara and Marie's team at the Fatima Shrine, whether for baking, basket-making, or other fundraising activities, they would love to welcome you.*



# Fatima Shrine Newsletter



## EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Wed. & Fri. 12:00noon - 4:00pm  
In the Blessed Sacrament Chapel.

Adorers are always needed... inquire at the shrine office or call 716-754-7489

St. Padre Pio had an extraordinary devotion to Eucharistic Adoration.

## The Legion of Mary at The Fatima Shrine

Our Praesidium -  
**Our Lady Mother of Divine Providence,**  
meets at 1:15 pm in Fatima Hall every Sunday, with the exception of the 4th Sunday when there's a Filipino Mass - on those days we meet at 10:00 am. We pray the rosary and structured prayer.  
**JOIN US!!**



Have you ever considered becoming a:

# Rosary Maker

*Join us!*

Our Lady's Rosary Makers of The Fatima Shrine

## BIBLE REFLECTION GROUP

*In my heart I treasure your promise*

*Psalm 119:11*

**Mondays at 7:30pm in Fatima Hall**

Discussion to focus on the Readings from the upcoming Sunday Liturgy.

**PLEASE BRING A BIBLE**

**For info call:**

**Fr. Peter Calabrese at 754-7489**

**Would you like to JOIN US**

**Remotely? on ZOOM**

**Meeting ID: 936 8091 2873**

**Password: 863876**

## ✠ PRAYER INTENTIONS ✠

Please remember in your prayers:

**The Barnabite Fathers**

Especially for the health and well-being of

**Frs. Richard Delzingaro,**

**Peter Calabrese and Albino Vecina**

**and for the repose of the soul of Fr. Frank M. Papa CRSP**

**and for the men around the world in Barnabite Formation, and**

**the Barnabite monthly intentions:**

**August:** Moved by the Love of God for men, may we ourselves be more loving with our Affiliates, the Laity of St. Paul, and so many of our collaborators, offering them a true and sincere opportunity of mutual sharing in our Pauline-Zaccarian spirituality, we pray.

**September:** May our Vocations be spurred on to a radical choice for the Crucified Lord, and to be available for our mission, where the same Lord and his Church will want to send them by our Congregation, we pray.

Let Us Pray For

**All those who asked the shrine for prayers.**

For an end of abortion and for world peace  
and for solidarity and victims of war.

✱

For the Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV and his Monthly Intentions:

Dr. Megan Johnson	Craig Allan	Elaine & Bob Pagani
Barbara Johnson	Debbie Baldwin	Joanne Robbins
Peggy Johnson	Mary Bucciarelli	Anne Sauvageau
Kathy Kean	Sue Campbell	Jackie, Kathy &
Camille Kiedrowski	Ermo Cercone ✠	Jeremy Slattery
Barbara Krueger	Julie O'Connor-	Abigail Schuster
Ron Lester	Colvin	Anthony Villa
Jarod Lombardi	Carmela Esposto	Jim Kirkpatrick
Gabriella Markle	Kathy Gallagher	Lisa Sfrangio
Bill McKrell	Dr. Talitha Arndt	Jacob Beanblossom
Paul Moran	Pat Morreale	JoAnn Sniatecki
Edward Grant	Dorothy Janicki	Jackie Jones
Anne Forrestel	Wendy Sullivan	Doug & Paula Grant
James W. Kirkpatrick	Doug Scouten	Danielle

<http://www.apostleshipofprayer.org/>

The Barnabite Fathers remember all visitors & Shrine supporters  
in their daily Community prayers, and thank you for yours.

## Fatima Shrine Council #14622



..for information on membership to join,  
Call Fr. Peter Calabrese at 754-7489 .  
or you can e-mail the Council through .  
the Shrine: [office@fatimashrine.com](mailto:office@fatimashrine.com) .

# Fatima Shrine Newsletter

## BONUS PAGES

### More Pictures from the Christmas in July Benefit



**Thank You Everyone who attended our Christmas in July Benefit. It was a success because of you.**

# Fatima Shrine Newsletter

Access to these extra pages is through an email subscription and you can access them at our website: [www.fatimashrine.com](http://www.fatimashrine.com)



## Symbols on St. Anthony of Padua Statues

St. Anthony of Padua statues typically include several symbolic elements that represent different aspects of his life and ministry. Here are the main symbols you'll find:

- The Christ Child** - Perhaps the most distinctive feature, St. Anthony is often depicted holding the infant Jesus. This represents a vision he reportedly had and symbolizes his devotion to Christ. It also references his powerful preaching of the Gospel.
- Book** - St. Anthony is frequently shown holding a book, representing his profound knowledge of scripture and his status as a Doctor of the Church. He was known for his exceptional preaching and teaching.
- Lily** - A white lily or lilies often appear in St. Anthony statues, symbolizing his purity, innocence, and integrity. The lily is a traditional symbol of chastity in Christian iconography.
- Franciscan Habit** - St. Anthony is depicted wearing the simple brown robe of the Franciscan order, often with a cord with three knots representing the vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience.
- Tonsure** - The distinctive haircut of medieval monks may be visible, showing his devotion to religious life.
- Bread** - Sometimes St. Anthony is associated with bread, representing his charity toward the poor and the St. Anthony Bread tradition of giving to those in need.
- Fish** - In some depictions, a fish may be included, referencing a miracle where he allegedly preached to fish when people wouldn't listen.



These symbols collectively represent St. Anthony's role as a teacher, preacher, miracle worker, finder of lost things, and his special devotion to the Christ Child and the poor.

## Saints Feast Days in August

Draw a line to match the Saint with their Feast Date

Aug 20	St Plus X
Aug 28	Assumption of Mary
Aug 8	St Rose of Lima
Aug 21	Passion of St. John the Baptist
Aug 4	St Clare of Assisi
Aug 27	St Monica
Aug 15	St John Vianney
Aug 24	St Lawrence
Aug 6	St Dominic
Aug 14	Queenship of Mary
Aug 29	St Maximilian Kolbe
Aug 1	St Bartholomew
Aug 23	St Alphonsus Liguori
Aug 22	St Bernard
Aug 10	Transfiguration of Jesus
Aug 11	St Augustine

Thank you so much for playing.

## Fatima Shrine's Famous FISH FRY

Haddock Fish (deep fried or baked) French Fries or Baked Potato, Cole Slaw and a Roll & Butter



**\$14.50**

Cafeteria is Open Friday's 11am - 7pm

Answer Key





# Obituary

## Fr. Frank M. Papa, CRSP

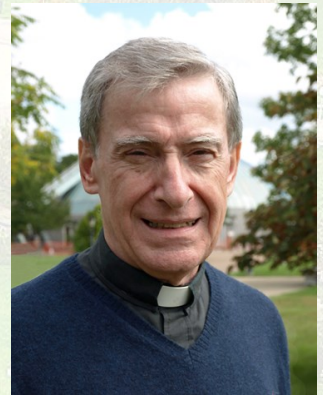
Ordained 1966: Dec. 29, 1940 - July 10, 2025



Rev. Frank M. Papa, CRSP, 84, of the Barnabite Fathers at Our Lady of Fatima Shrine in Lewiston, NY, passed away peacefully on Thursday, July 10, 2025 at Niagara Hospice House. Born in Tocco Caudio, Benevento, Italy, he was the beloved son of the late Giuseppe and Filomena (Sacomanno) Papa. Fr. Frank is survived by his dear siblings, Antonino Papa and Maria Papa, as well as many nieces, nephews, confreres, and friends. In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by his sister, Isabella Papa, and his brother, Fernando Papa and his priest uncles who inspired his vocation, Fr. Antonino Saccomanno, Barnabite, and Dom Augustino Saccomanno, Benedictine monk of Monte Cassino.

Fr. Frank studied theology at the Pontifical Urban University in Rome, St. John Vianney Seminary in East Aurora, NY and received his Licentiate in Sacred Theology in 1967 from the Catholic University of America, Washington, DC. He was also a certified Hospital Chaplain.

He first entered the Barnabites at their minor seminary in Arpino in 1951 making his solemn Profession in 1962 at San Felice a Canello and ordained a priest by Bishop Pius Benincasa at St. Joseph Cathedral Buffalo, NY on May 21, 1966. Father served as Chaplain at Sister's Hospital in Buffalo from 1966-1971 when he was transferred to Fatima Shrine as Director of Students (Seminarians) and Youth Ministry. From 1977 to 1982 Fr. Papa was pastor at Assumption Parish, Elfrida, Ontario. Father was then transferred to Bethlehem, PA (1982-1986) again working in formation of seminarians and teaching religion at Bethlehem Catholic High School, returning to Western NY in 1986 as a Co-Director of Fatima Shrine and Novice Master for three years before beginning a whole new ministry. He also served as Pastor of Holy Family Parish on the Tuscarora Nation from 1987-1989, overseeing the construction of its current church.



In 1989 Fr. Frank was tasked by the Barnabite Superior General to be the Founder of the Barnabite Community in the Philippines. He would spend almost 8 years there recruiting the first Barnabite Seminarians, building the Motherhouse Seminary in Marikina Heights, Metro Manila and forming the first Barnabites there who today are the core of the English Speaking Province.

Having done the ask so well the General called again. In 2007 Fr. Frank Papa began the Barnabite adventure in India. He remained there until 2010 setting in motion the foundation that hosts a seminary, an orphanage and soon to be opened family living center. After spending some time assisting in the Philippines and the North American Province Fr. Papa was elected in 2012 to the Order's General Council in Rome and named Vicar General. At the conclusion of his mandate he again came to the Shrine in 2019 serving as Associate Director until his passing. Father has been chaplain to many movements and groups including Cur-sillo, Knights of Columbus, Engaged Encounter, and Cerebral Palsy Foundation. He has at various time been a Master of Novices, Formation Director, Superior, Provincial Chancellor, Treasurer, and Counsellor.



The list of places and jobs do not do his priesthood justice. Father was a tireless worker expending his energy for love of his Order and the People of God. He was at home in the pulpit, in, the confessional, the hospital, on a ladder with a hammer or paintbrush, as well as the altar and the chapel. Diligent in prayer and reading, he loved to help people understand God's love and apply the Faith directly and simply to their lives. He enjoyed engaging people in conversation and inevitably drawing them toward collaborating in the mission. He will be missed by confreres and faithful alike.

**WE LOVE YOU AND MISS YOU FATHER FRANK !!!**