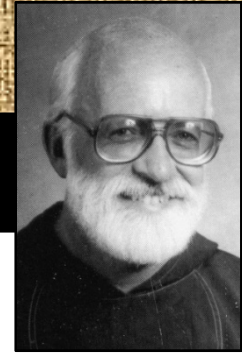


+Earl (Robert) Gallagher was born on 03 August 1945 and died on 03 June 1999 at the age of 53 in New York City.

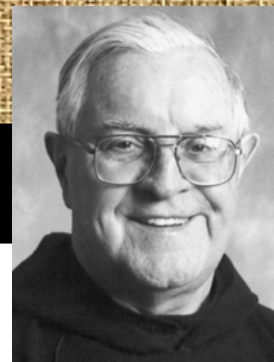


Our fun-loving friar came to us from Brooklyn NY. In the summer following his seventh grade, the vivacious young man met a friar who inspired him to pursue the priesthood with the Franciscans. He worked to improve his poor scholastic record to be eligible for the high school seminary. His friend would eventually guide him toward the Capuchins. In the minor seminary he directed his boundless energy toward notable success in the classroom and other activities. He entered the Order in 1963. He studied philosophy in Hudson NH, and theology in Garrison NY. His boundless vitality found release during his summer breaks by helping at a nursing home, working with special-needs children, and assisting in parish catechetical programs.

Meanwhile, he prepared for missionary work in Honduras CA even before his ordination in 1971 by taking courses in Spanish. His pastoral work would begin at Our Lady Queen of Angels, as coordinator of the catechetical program. In his five years in E. Harlem NYC, he became a special favorite of the youth, since he was a priest to whom they could easily relate. In 1976 Earl was off to Honduras. Since the people found his religious name difficult to pronounce, they preferred to call him *Padre Beto* (diminutive for Roberto). His adventurous disposition was a natural fit in Honduras, especially since the mode of transportation was either jeep or mule. He traveled far and wide from his parish near the El Salvador border, to bring the sacraments to his people and cultivate a kinship with their style of life, which for so many of them was day to day subsistence. Concern for the hard life of the *campesinos* was characteristic of his twenty-three years in Honduras. Many friends in the United States sent help for his parishioners, both in the time of civil unrest and in the difficult days following unexpected natural disasters.

At a time when he was helping refugees from El Salvador to survive, Beto was suspected of cooperating with the foreign guerillas. Honduran soldiers twice beat him severely. His own safety demanded that he be brought nearer to the Capuchin mission center in Nueva Ocotepeque, where he had always been welcomed by the young men training to become Capuchins. Ironically, this vibrant friar died tragically in his own country while on the way to visit some friends in New York City, killed by a reckless driver as he crossed a midtown street. His body was returned to Honduras and buried within his parish church at San Marcos after a Mass attended by the bishop, many clergy, and the largest crowd of people ever seen in that part of the country, who had come to weep and bury a very loved and admired priest.

+ Owen (Edward) Shelley was born on 13 December 1919 and died on 5 June 2009 at the age of 89 in Yonkers, NY.



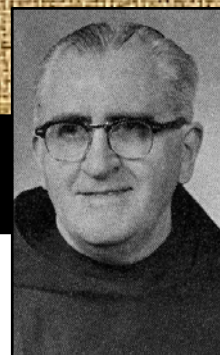
Our friar was born in Brooklyn, NY. The family moved to the nearby Capuchin parish of St. Michael where he began an attraction to the Capuchin priesthood. Owen gratefully attributed his early inclination in that direction after he had observed a friar-priest's special reverence before the Blessed Sacrament. In 1933 he enrolled at the Seraphic Seminary in Garrison, where he proved to be a serious student and well-liked because of his cheerful disposition. He graduated in 1937 and the following August entered the novitiate at Saint Felix Friary, Huntington, Indiana. The novice master attested to his above average intelligence, and his sincere desire to be a good friar and priest and very serious about his spiritual life.

After philosophical studies in Garrison and theology at St. Anthony Friary in Marathon, WI, he was ordained on May 16, 1945. Early on his weakening eyesight would call for special glasses to help him read, although he was always able to function very well at whatever work he was called to do. His first assignment was as parish priest at St. Elizabeth in Milwaukee, WI, followed by a short time at St. John Church in NYC and one year at Sacred Heart, Yonkers, and then for another year at St. John the Baptist.

Owen then began an assignment that was difficult for him because it was away from parish work in the city where he felt fulfilled. He became the first guardian of the province's novitiate, located in the countryside of Milton, MA. Yet while there, Owen was instrumental in establishing several fraternities of the Secular Franciscan Order and beginning what would become a successful Pre-Cana program. Also, he planned the renovation of the public chapel and the construction of a new wing to prepare for a growing number of novices.

In 1955 he went back to St. John the Baptist Church as assistant and then pastor and guardian for three years. In 1959 at St. Francis Chapel in Springfield, MA, Owen established the procedures and practices that would make this popular spiritual oasis for shoppers and workers in the downtown area a most successful provincial work for over forty years. In 1961 he returned to St. Michael as assistant and then as pastor and guardian for six years. In 1970 he began the work for which he was exceptionally fitted, namely, hospital chaplain for two years at North Shore Hospital in Manhasset, NY, and then for almost twenty-seven more at Huntington Hospital LI. His cheerful manner and priestly compassion were welcome in every room every day and his pleasant disposition did not fail him in retirement.

+Michael (Thomas) Egan was born on 28 August 1907 and died on 07 June 1969 at the age of 61 in New York City.



Our friar came from Sacred Heart, Yonkers, a man whose astute power of observation and judgment was in evidence throughout his life. This would be revealed in very funny and occasionally pointed commentary on the foibles of his brothers, which he would share with other friars. Although his formal education ended after one year of high school, his deep curiosity about current events and developing ideas sharpened his native intelligence for many years to come. He had worked as a clerk and an auto mechanic until, at the age of twenty-five, he felt a call to religious life, declaring to the provincial that he wanted *"to give the rest of my life to God that he may do with it as He sees fit."* His novitiate began at St. Bonaventure in 1933 and upon its completion he remained in Detroit as sacristan until July. For the next two years at St. Francis, Milwaukee WI, he demonstrated a capability of filling any need in the community and doing so cheerfully.

At Sacred Heart he would spend one year at the position for which he would become most noted. As the friendly and efficient porter for the next twenty-five years, Michael would move between St. John NYC (the friary then known as St. Fidelis) and Queen of Angels NYC and St. Michael, Brooklyn. His only break was three years as cook at St. Fidelis, Interlaken, from 1952 to 1955. He placed his varied talents at the service of the community, responding in obedience to the needs that were made known to him. In every place he made great contributions to the fraternal mood in the friary, and was not above playing practical jokes on the brothers, even the guardian. He was the perfect ambassador of good-will in every place where he served. Every guardian wanted to make use of his personable instincts as porter, and would often reluctantly accede to a provincial's intent to transfer him away. His genuine interest in people coupled with his great sense of humor made callers at the friary door very much at ease. Any visitor was equally comforted by the spiritual insight that he could bring into whatever area of discussion took place. He was a great conversationalist.

He returned to St. John Friary NYC in 1955 to be a fixture there for many years. He proved to be humble and obedient in his own unique way, often adding a descriptive comment as he responded to a request. Whenever he and other brothers with the same work and similar personalities got together, many of the friars tried to be within earshot. When his health failed, he remained in residence and endured a difficult sickness in preparation to meet the God who had indeed used his distinctive talents to the full.

**+Stanislaus (Francis) Matchekosky was born on 09 March 1901 and died on 09 June 1963 at the age of 62 in Peekskill, New York.**

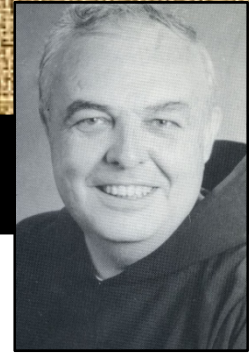


Our friar came out of Brooklyn to enter the Seraphicate in Yonkers NY where he was a serious student, very much aware of his academic limitations. This strong and athletically-inclined young man knew well enough that he needed help with his studies and would humbly accept the time his more gifted classmates could spare for tutoring him. Never harboring any doubt in his own mind about his vocation to be priest in the Capuchin Order, he was able to convince the rector and faculty by his sincerity and evident piety that he should be allowed to enter the novitiate in 1919. From St. Bonaventure in Detroit MI he went to St. Anthony, Marathon WI to continue his studies for the priesthood. Ordination came in 1926 and he was sent to serve at St. Elizabeth parish in Milwaukee for three months of parish experience.

After September his pastoral efforts would be concentrated at St. Benedict the Moor Mission in Milwaukee for the next sixteen years. During that time because no superior could serve more than six consecutive years, he replaced the pastor as guardian of the community for three interim years, remaining an assistant and caring for essential needs without disturbing the community's procedures already in place. He willingly relinquished that role in 1936, but did return to St. Benedict as guardian in 1945. In the meantime he would serve a term as superior of St. Felix Friary, the novitiate in Huntington IN. His self-effacing demeanor, exemplary prayerfulness, and simplicity of life were his personal contributions to the novices' training in the Capuchin life. He directed the community with an appropriate awareness that the fundamental responsibility belonged to the novice master.

Three years as assistant at Our Lady of Sorrows NYC would be his final pastoral service. Before long the people would get to know this saintly priest, whose sincere charity, dispensed with a ready smile, could set aside any difficulty that was giving them anxiety. They would come to recognize his unsophisticated piety, his filial devotion to Our Lady, and his profound devotion to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. Also at this time his health began to be a problem, but in his final assignment as chaplain to the sisters at Mt. Saint Florence in Peekskill from 1952, he never slowed down. Stanislaus would keep up a full schedule with patience and gentleness, ever cheerful in dealing with the young charges who lived at the home. The friars at Mary Immaculate, Garrison, were always edified during his frequent fraternal visits. Eventually this gentle friar and dedicated servant of God succumbed to his encroaching weakness and died in prayerful serenity.

+Francis (James) Lonergan was born on 17 February 1938 and died on 10 June 1991 at the age of 53 in New York City.



Our friar came from Sacred Heart, Yonkers NY, graduating from both the parish elementary and high school. He was never afraid of work, which would become very evident in subsequent years, because he held a job during his eighth grade and throughout high school. For the year prior to entering the novitiate in 1957 he had found employment at the Gestetner Corporation as a bookkeeper. His post-novitiate training took place at Mary Immaculate where he assisted the tailor, and at St. Anthony, Hudson NH, where he was the launderer. Final vows brought him back to Garrison where he remained four years to serve the community in the tailor shop and laundry. Everyone came to realize that Francis took up every task with an uncomplaining spirit, doing everything assigned to him with responsibility and total dependability. He would take on extra work by his own initiative as a duty to God and his brothers. In 1965 he moved to St. John NYC to assist in the office of the Capuchin Mission Association where he would remain for the next twenty-six years, under six different priest directors. They all would come to rely very heavily upon him as he went about his work with a pleasant and ready interest in everyone who came through the door or telephoned.

Francis was a friar fully alive, always on the go, not only in his work for the missions but in many other operations at St. John's, especially for twenty years assisting in the auxiliary services for the All Night Vigil that was held each month. For the friars he cheerfully assumed many extra duties and other chores to help in the smooth operation and convenience of the community. He was faithful in opening the church every morning at six o'clock. For him Seventh Avenue and W. 31st Street in Manhattan was the garden spot of the world where he was known to area business people and merchants. The staff at the general post office on Eighth Avenue knew him well, since his work at the mission office required frequent visits.

His personality and work ethic can only be described as the example of a very contented friar, happy to be in the position of assistant and a support person within the community. He never looked for any thanks or sought any special recognition. His cheerful disposition from sunrise to sunset indicated that he had found holiness in fulfilling the commitment he made to God at twenty years of age to live the Capuchin life faithfully. The unexpected death of our brother during the night, a friar described by the homilist at his funeral as '*a sermon that walked on two feet*', was discovered very early because the doors of the church had not been opened for the morning Mass.

+Celsus (Joseph) Repole was born on 21 May 1913 and died on 15 June 2002 at the age of 89 in the Bronx, New York.



Our friar, born in New York City, came to us at the age of 25 from Woodside, Queens and followed a younger brother into the Order. After high school he attended Fordham University to earn a B.S. in history. There was no question that this eldest son of Italian immigrants, a man of considerable energy and intelligence, would dedicate his life to something very useful. He decided to follow the path of his younger brother into the priesthood as a Capuchin. After spending one year at St. Mary's College in Kentucky for Latin, he entered the novitiate at St. Felix Friary, Huntington IN, in 1938. Because of previous college credits, only one year of philosophy in Garrison was needed to catch him up with his younger brother in the house of theology at St. Anthony, Marathon WI, and they were ordained together in 1943.

Celsus would begin his parish ministry at Our Lady of Sorrows NYC and remain there for eleven years. His powerful presence in the affairs of the parish, which included a forceful preaching style, induced people to offer him help as he formed groups for the spiritual well-being of adults and youth. He became the founding chaplain of the Catholic Sea Cadets, an association that combined community service with a military style discipline, which eventually extended to other parishes and a membership of thousands. To promote this enterprise he discovered within himself a special aptitude for raising and soliciting funds, a flair that would be used very effectively at his following assignment in 1955 to the novitiate in Milton MA. There he would almost single-handedly provide the monies needed to maintain the formation program by running penny sales with raffles and conducting bingo-style games of chance. He also sold items from department store rummage sales that he himself had bought and repaired, such as, music boxes.

In many respects these money-raising enterprises were a diversion from an extended pastoral involvement. He taught medical ethics to nurses at Carney hospital in Dorchester and served as chaplain there for two days each week. At that time the largest Pre-Cana conference in the Archdiocese of Boston began under his direction. Pastoral assistance on weekends and talks or spiritual conferences to parish groups were a few outlets for his apostolic zeal. He continued his work after moving to the new friary in Abington MA and remained there until failing health required a move to St. Clare in 1995 that did not, however, necessitate being fully retired. A heart attack during the provincial chapter of 2002 would require nursing home care, where this life-long active friar prayerfully acknowledged that his work was done.

+Peter Damian (Anthony) Preziosi was born on 14 May 1932 and died on 21 June 1977 at the age of 45 in Garrison, New York.

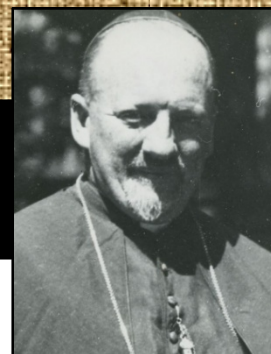


Our friar came from Holy Redeemer parish in Freeport LI, NY, to enter the Seraphicate in Garrison NY. As a freshman his quiet, pleasant, helpful and fun-loving disposition made it easy for some to describe him and even call him *precious*, a take on his family name. Through high school he would show a scholastic brilliance and solid piety that would give that term a much more profound meaning after he entered the Order, which he did in 1950. His rare gift of humor and his infectious laugh made him a delightful entertainer, bringing an atmosphere of joy into community life during his student days, and as a teacher and even into his parish ministry. Following the novitiate, he completed studies in philosophy and theology at Garrison and was ordained in 1958. More study followed toward a graduate degree in Latin and Greek from Fordham University and another in religious education from Boston College, with some opportunity during those years for pastoral experience. In 1963 he began six years as professor in the formation program for clerical students at Hudson NH, and then four years as the director.

By this time our gentle brother had already proven himself to the province. Elected to the definitory in 1973, he lived first at the Provincialate and then became the mission secretary at St. John NYC. In 1975 the Archdiocese had asked the province to assume responsibility for the parish of St. Joseph in New Paltz NY. Peter was pleased to become the first Capuchin pastor and began a new phase of his priestly life. The people soon learned that they had a saintly man as their spiritual leader. He had always made prayer a priority that was reflected in the deep faith with which he celebrated the Eucharist and that sometimes gave a mystical tone to his preaching. In time this humble and obedient servant of the Lord would show to the province and to his people a degree of holiness that they had only suspected. Some months after he was re-elected to the definitory in 1976, a malignant cancer was discovered. He began a series of treatments that did not help. Two months before his death, his resignation as pastor was accepted by the Archbishop.

In a letter to a friar friend he wrote: *"I have not prayed to be cured or not cured, simply... to trust in our Savior who loves us. Being asked by God for the first time any serious sacrifice, I cannot bring myself to manifest a preference."* In the infirmary at Garrison, he grew frailer each day and appeared to be a skeleton wrapped in skin. After offering Mass in his room, the provincial reflected with him on the dying moments of St. Francis, and then gave him permission to leave for eternal life. He died a few hours later.

+Bishop Matthew (Aloysius) Niedhammer was born on 11 September 1901 and died on 25 June 1970 at the age of 68 in Puerto Cabezas, Nicaragua.



Our friar was the second of three brothers from Our Lady Queen of Angels parish, East Harlem NY, who became Capuchins. The two oldest entered the Order together in 1920 and were both ordained in 1927. His first twelve years as a priest were divided between the minor seminary in Garrison, as a parish priest at St. Michael, Brooklyn NY, and in Montana at St. Labre Indian Mission. In March 1939 the first American Capuchins arrived in the mission field of Nicaragua. Matthew joined them three months later, to spend the rest of his life there. In 1940 he was appointed as the first Superior Regular and expressed his view that the move was unwise because the Americans were still sharing the mission territory with the Capuchins from Catalán in Spain. Nonetheless, by 1943 he would be chosen to replace the Spanish bishop as the Vicar Apostolic of Bluefields. Although raised to the episcopacy at St. Patrick's Cathedral NYC in June, he did not take possession of his See until November so that the Spanish Capuchins could make a responsible transition. Matthew continued as Superior Regular, but only for a short time.

During his four years at the parish in Siuna he had become acquainted with the physical and pastoral difficulties in ministering that vast territory. The people were poor, the climate was hot and humid, the weather rainy, and the terrain swampy. Travel, often lengthy, was by river or by mule. Matthew freely delegated to priests in the far-flung areas whatever power he was able, such as, to administer confirmation and to grant dispensations. He braved the inconveniences of travel so that he might get to know his people and their needs. His fervent interest in the proper care of churches and the Blessed Sacrament was reminiscent of St. Francis, as well as his deep devotion to Mary. The establishment of schools, orphanages, and clinics became his pastoral priorities, and he used his influence with government officials to make them realities. His respect for Latino and Indian culture was shown in true Franciscan simplicity by his style and personal attire. His motto was equally unassuming: 'Que Vengan Vida'. (*That they may have life*).

By 1967 Matthew faced difficulty maintaining a balance in the pastoral approaches that developed following the Second Vatican Council. A request for a Coadjutor of his choice was declined by Rome, but in 1969 he openly discussed the possibility of retiring. High blood pressure and a weak heart had taken its toll. Eventually at his home in Puerto Cabezas he succumbed to a stroke. The body of this faithful servant of the church was buried from the cathedral in Bluefields with a crowd in attendance from every social class.