



**Franciscan Friars  
Holy Name Province  
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**FRANCISCAN THOMAS VIGLIOTTA, DIRECTOR OF CAMPUS MINISTRY AT  
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA, CELEBRATES 25 YEARS AS A PRIEST**

**New York native joined Franciscans in 1981, ordained in '85**

ATHENS, Ga. — Nov. 30, 2010 — The Rev. Thomas F. Vigliotta, OFM, director of the University of Georgia's Catholic Center here, celebrated the 25th anniversary of his ordination as a Franciscan priest last month.

Vigliotta, a native of Patchogue, N.Y., was ordained in 1985 after professing vows in the Order of Friars Minor, more commonly known as the Franciscans, in June 1981.

Vigliotta, who has been part of the campus ministry program at the University of Georgia since 2005, and its director for the past three years, was honored at an Oct. 2 reception at the college that attracted students, relatives, staff members, and fellow friars.

He holds a bachelor's degree from St. Leo University in St. Leo, Fla., and a master's degree in education/counseling from the University of South Florida in Tampa. He completed theological studies at the Washington Theological Union in Washington, D.C. Before joining the friars, he spent six years teaching elementary and junior high school.

The friar's first assignment in 1985 was as associate pastor and director of religious education at St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Greenville, S.C., where he served until 1988.

Prior to joining the university, Vigliotta worked with, and coordinated, the HNP Ministry of the Word group for almost 20 years, planning and leading retreats and educational events around the country. He estimates having given retreats and ministry programs in more than 25 states, including Alaska and Hawaii.

His ministry work has also included service as associate pastor of St. Stephen Church in New York, N.Y., and as southern regional vocation director for Holy Name Province, the Franciscan organization with which he is associated.

"I have very fond memories of Oct. 19, 1985, the date of my ordination, not the least of which was my extended family and the many friends who were there with me," he said. "Twenty-five

years later, my family rekindled that day for me by coming to Georgia. The community here in Athens was able to meet my family from Long Island, and I got to introduce my family to my extended family here in Athens.”

Reflecting on his years as a priest, Vigliotta added: “The time has gone by so quickly. The past 25 years have been such a good engagement in ministry beginning with parish work, many years of retreat work, and now in campus ministry. I don’t think I could have maintained any real sense of peace or humor had it not been for the fraternal life that I have shared with so many brother friars over the years.”

### **About Holy Name Province**

Holy Name Province is one of seven provinces in the United States that belong to the Order of Friars Minor. Holy Name is the largest U.S. province, with ministries in 12 states along the East Coast. Its more than 350 Catholic priests and brothers serve in colleges, parishes, urban ministry centers and a wide variety of social ministries, as well as in overseas missions.

The Order, founded in 1209 by St. Francis of Assisi, commemorated its 800th anniversary last year. Today, St. Francis, whose feast day is Oct. 4, remains one of the most widely-known saints, revered for his dedication to peace and for his affection for nature and care for creation.

Information about Holy Name Province can be found on [www.hnp.org](http://www.hnp.org).

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