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**SIENA COLLEGE FRANCISCAN PRIEST WRITES BOOK  
ABOUT GOSPEL MESSAGES IN MODERN-DAY LITERATURE**

LOUDONVILLE, N.Y. — Dec. 6, 2010 — Siena College scholar in residence, the Rev. Peter Fiore, OFM, has written a book about Biblical messages in modern-day literature and art.

*The Gospels Are Now: Timeless Gospel Themes and Life, Literature, and the Arts* examines events from Christ's life as shown in literature and the arts.

Fiore, an expert in classical authors like Dante, Milton and Donne, takes timeless Gospel stories and shows how their themes are reflected in present-day writings. "I see a great deal of Biblical and theological themes in the great books and art of today. I always encourage students to look for those themes," said the native of Glens Falls, N.Y.

The former English professor, department chairman and dean emeritus of the Siena School of Liberal Arts, said he began writing the book three years ago because people often ask him about the connection between Biblical themes and literature.

"I see this project as a synthesis of my long experience as a literature professor and a priest-professor," said the Franciscan priest of his sixth book, published this year by Ex Libris.

In the book's 30 chapters, he covers authors John Steinbeck, Flannery O'Connor, Shirley Jackson, Herman Melville, Franco Zeffirelli and others. Some of the works described include *Waiting for Godot*, *Raisin in the Sun*, *Man of La Mancha*, *Our Town*, and *Schindler's List*.

He discusses, for example, how Oscar Schindler, the main character in *Schindler's List* who helped save Jews in the Holocaust, mirrors the story of the good Samaritan in the New Testament. Author John Steinbeck, too, he said, explored the Christian theme of the vine and the branches in *The Grapes of Wrath*.

Fiore's other books include *Personal Journeys: Essays on Dante, Donne, Milton, Hopkins, Waugh and Flannery O'Connor*, and *More Personal Journeys: Essays on Chaucer, Shakespeare, Augustine, Newman, Chesterton and Greene*.

The Gospels are Now can be purchased through Amazon.com and Barnes and Noble.com.

Fiore, a graduate of Siena College, earned a master's degree in English from The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., and a doctorate in English from London University in England.

He has worked at Siena College since 1956 and preaches at St. Mary's Parish in Ballston Spa, N.Y. He is a member of the Holy Name Province Franciscans, based in New York City.

**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 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary last year. Today, St. Francis, whose feast day is Oct. 4, remains one of the most widely-known saints, revered 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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