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For Immediate Release

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SOUTH JERSEY FRANCISCAN PRIEST'S BOOK ABOUT WORLD WAR II PRISON CHAPLAIN BEING SOLD ON AMAZON

MARGATE, N.J. – July 27, 2010 -- The Rev. Boniface Hanley, OFM, 85, a Franciscan friar with Holy Name Province in New York City and living here in semi-retirement, recently wrote a book about the life of a World War II German priest and prison chaplain.

The story of the late Rev. Franz Stock -- *The Last Human Face: Fr. Franz Stock: A Priest in Hitler's Army* – is timely because the German priest is being considered for beatification. Stock has been granted the title of “servant of God” by Rome, according to Hanley, which means an investigation is open into his sainthood.

The book and e-book, which are being sold online through Amazon, tells the story of the German priest who ministered in French prisons during the war.

“He was so good to the men who were going to be killed and to their families,” said Hanley. “He prepared approximately 1,000 men for their deaths before a firing squad, and went with them as they died in a hail of bullets. He was just being a good priest at the time.”

Hanley, who has authored 13 other books, originally wrote the Stock story in 1988, and signed a contract with Barnes and Noble earlier this year to revise the book it to coincide with Stock's beatification.

“Fr. Boniface has demonstrated himself not only to be a compassionate priest but also a prolific writer,” said the Rev. John O'Connor, OFM, Provincial Minister of Holy Name Province. “He has an attractive writing style that makes his publications, an easy yet interesting read.”

He is also writing a book about Holy Name's more than 100-year history, a monumental task the friar has been researching for years.

Hanley, a Brooklyn native, recently reached his 60th ordination anniversary. The venerable priest celebrated with a Mass attended by more than 40 members of his family from all over the United States. His ministry has included varied roles that include pioneering the Province's mission to Bolivia, serving as cleric master at the Province's house of studies, friary guardian, and pastor at three parishes in the New York/New Jersey area. He lives at the Franciscan Friary in Margate.

His book is getting good initial reviews, and copies are being ordered by Hanley's former parishioners at churches throughout New Jersey. One review on Amazon calls the book an interesting read.

“This is a great biography. In places, it reads like an action adventure novel, but it's all true. One gets the impression that the author, a Franciscan friar himself, could have had a pretty good career as a novelist had he not taken a vow of poverty. His words really paint the picture of what it was like to be in German occupied-Paris and this story will remain with you for a long time.”

For more information, or to order the book,

http://www.amazon.com/Last-Human-Face-Hitlers-ebook/dp/B00378LIEY/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1269444704&sr=1-1

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 affection for nature and care for creation.

Information about Holy Name Province can be found on www.hnp.org

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