



**Franciscan Friars
Holy Name Province
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For Immediate Release

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**NORTH JERSEY PRIEST CELEBRATES 50 YEARS
AS A FRANCISCAN FRIAR**

E. RUTHERFORD, N.J. – July 6, 2010 -- The Rev. Joseph Hertel, OFM, director of St. Anthony's Guild here, is marking 50 years as a member of the Order of Friars Minor, more commonly known as the Franciscans. He is affiliated with Holy Name Province, headquartered in New York City, which on June 24 celebrated a Jubilee Mass to honor 10 friars who marked 50 years as Franciscans.

Since first professing vows as a Franciscan friar in 1960, Hertel's bilingual ministry has included missionary work in Puerto Rico, serving as a pastor to both Hispanic and English-speaking churches in New York and New Jersey, and directing global fund-raising efforts for the Province.

Ordained in 1966, Hertel began his ministry as a missionary in Puerto Rico. When he returned to the United States in 1976, he was assigned in to Holy Cross Church, a mainly Hispanic parish in the Bronx, N.Y.

In 1982, the Paterson, N.J., native was appointed pastor of the church where he attended school and grew up, St. Bonaventure Parish. He served there until 1985, when he was asked to direct the Boston office of the Franciscan Missionary Union, a fund-raising partner of the province. In 1990, he was assigned to Queen of Peace Church in West Milford, N.J., and from 1992 to 1996 was pastor at St. Francis Church on West 31st Street in Manhattan. From 2005 to 2008, he was pastor of St. Joseph Church in E. Rutherford.

Hertel was named director of St. Anthony's Guild in 1996 and remained there until 2005. He was reappointed director of the Guild in 2009. He directs the Province's main global fund-raising efforts and has chaired the National Catholic Development Conference.

A graduate of St. Bonaventure University in Allegany, N.Y., Hertel studied theology at Holy Name College in Washington, D.C., and philosophy at St. Francis College in Rye Beach, N.H.

“My ministry has taken many shapes over the years, and I’ve enjoyed doing it all,” he said.

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

Questions and photo requests should be directed to Jocelyn Thomas, HNP director of communications, at 646-473-0265 ext. 321 or 732-829-1513 (mobile) or jthomas@hnp.org

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