



## CAPUCHIN FRANCISCAN FRIARS

Province of St. Augustine

Office of the Provincial Minister  
220 - 37th Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15201-1893

Phone: (412) 682-6011  
Fax: (412) 682-0506  
www.capuchin.com

Province of St. Augustine

Office of the Provincial Minister

Third Sunday of Lent  
March 11-12, 2023

Dear Parishioners of Saint Joseph Parish,

This summer marks the forty-fourth year since the Capuchin Friars were invited to tend to the pastoral care of St. Joseph Parish in York. It was a great moment for us friars as we ventured out of western Pennsylvania into the heartland of the Commonwealth, to serve in the Diocese of Harrisburg. The first friars, Father Roman, Father Greg, Father Gervase, and Brother Art moved into the former rectory turned friary on Princess Street, thus beginning a new chapter in the life of the Parish and of the Province of St. Augustine.

The people of St. Joseph welcomed us with open arms into a faith-filled, yet challenged community. The parish was divided between two campuses; one downtown with the church and friary, and the other with the school and significant property in East York. The downtown community was in the midst of change and transition, and most parish members had moved easterly toward the school. A significant debt put strain on the parish's ability to grow and develop programs and ministries to the expanding parish and school, and the increasing numbers necessitated Masses on Sunday at both the church and school campuses.

Over the years, our Capuchin presence, strong lay leadership, and the commitment of the parish community have allowed the parish to overcome its debt, grow its membership, and unite the community in one new church and educational complex, making it a shining example in the Diocese of Harrisburg of what vibrant parish life is all about. The parish today is strong with many ministries, involved laity, financial stability, and a commitment to Catholic education evident in its excellent Catholic School. Well done, St. Joseph Parish!

So, it is with bittersweet pride and deep gratitude that the Capuchin Friars are returning the pastoral care of St. Joseph Parish to the Diocese of Harrisburg. Our charism as Franciscans calls us to bring communities together, to grow in faith, and to serve where the need is greatest- to tend to the poor, the vulnerable, and the voiceless in our Church and our society. We Capuchins have helped this community to grow in living and proclaiming the Gospel, in building Church, and serving the needs of others. It is time now to share our charism with others who are in need. We friars are better brothers and ministers of the Gospel because of the ministry we have shared with you here.

Our prayer as friars is that you continue to build on this foundation of faith that began here over one hundred years ago. Thank you for your love, support, and prayers over these many years together. Know that St. Joseph Parish will always be part of the history of the Province of St. Augustine. I ask that you may always remember us in your prayers. St. Joseph and St. Francis, pray for us!

Sincerely,

*Rev. Robert Marva, OFM Cap.*

Very Rev. Robert Marva, OFM Cap.  
Minister Provincial

