

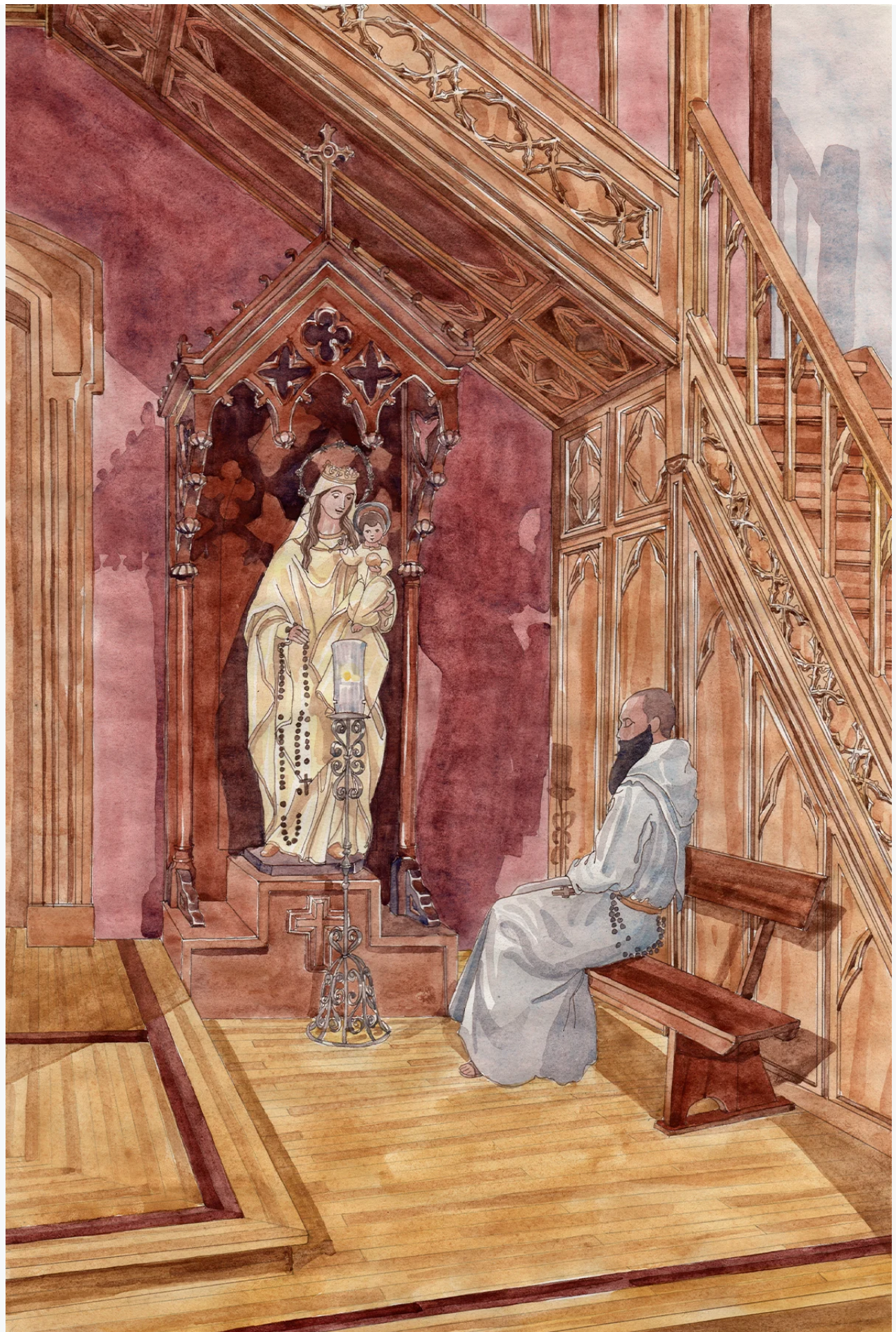


## Friends of the Newark Monastery Fall Newsletter

Latest news and updates from the Friends of the Newark Monastery

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*Artwork by Br. Francois Fontanie, CFR*



## Within These Walls

By Fr. Giuseppe Maria Siniscalchi, CFR

The tide flows in and the tide flows out. The sun rises and the sun sets. The seasons roll in and the seasons roll out. Through the constant flow of time, the Truth of the Gospel casts its light onto all of creation. Through the passing of the years, the heavy stone walls of Most Blessed Sacrament Friary stand unfazed. Beauty never wavers, always born afresh.



Built in the Eighteen Hundreds as a home for cloistered Dominican Nuns from France, the monastery rose in a field surrounded by farms, trees and cattle. As the pages of the calendar patiently and relentlessly flipped over, the isolation of the monastery slipped away, eventually being encompassed by a multi-cultural neighborhood of working-class immigrants and their children. Great wars flashed and faded; the face of the neighborhood evolved; the monastery stood firm. As an unwavering presence of peace, stability and calm, the monastery weathered the civil tumult of the 1960's and 70's. Rather than destroy these epic walls, the riots hailed their virtue – in fact, their necessity in a chaotic and turbulent sea. The ensuing poverty and hostility were likewise impotent against the regal walls of love and truth.

From where shall come my hope, laments the Psalmist. From within these walls, cries out the monastery.

In recent days, within these heavy stone walls, hope expressed itself over fear, light was reborn despite the darkness, and love prevailed against the cancer of isolation and selfishness.

Within these time-defying walls, eight young friars publicly proclaimed to the world and to the fallen universe their desire to continue to live the radical vows of poverty, chastity and obedience – vows that shake the foundation of all passing empires.

Within these triumphant walls, six novices stripped away the caperone and professed vows to live like Christ: pure, poor, and postured to always say yes – sending shockwaves against the forces of evil and darkness.

Within these inviting walls, four young men laid down their secular garb and donned the humble and ancient habit of St. Francis of Assisi, beginning their canonical year of novitiate – promising and being promised.

Within these walls, perhaps most strikingly and uneventfully, the Friars faithfully pray together, serve their neighbors and like their predecessors, the Dominican Nuns, beseech God's timeless and unflickering mercy upon all of humanity – a stability that the flashes of the moment cannot curtail.

May this dignified citadel of peace and truth stand firm until that Great Day of the Lord when the tides will flow no more, the sun will no longer shine and the seasons cease to roll. Then we will all know the glorious Truth and victory of Our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ who is the unending source of all that is good.

Please pray for us that we may faithfully await His arrival and receive Him joyfully when He comes: every day in the Eucharist until His glorious coming on the Cherubim and Seraphim when

all will be marvelously consummated. Please be assured of our prayers for you, your loved ones and all the world.

“I am with you always, to the close of the age.” Mt 28:20



## Lord, what do You want to do in me?

Fall will soon be upon us with its blaze of colors and crisp mornings. It is a season of wonder—and also of wondering and introspection. My pre-autumnal examination begins with my backyard. I had not accounted for a hotter summer in my lawn-care plan. The grass that was lush and green in the spring is now sparse and dull, underlaid with a layer of thatch and interspersed with clover and dandelions. The soil, depleted of

nutrients, has grown acidic and dense with moss. I should have prepared the soil better last fall: my dethatching was shoddy; I ran out of grass seed and used a variety that was not drought-tolerant; I failed to give the lawn an extra boost of iron and fertilizer mid-summer; and I did not set the sprinklers for optimal watering.

While I survey my lawn’s misery and begin thinking about what it will need in the coming year, my faith tells me that my Lord is surveying a different field—my heart. The examination of my yard becomes a living parable, echoing the way our Lord’s parabolic farmer walks his land after the harvest. I may have my own assessment of my spiritual condition, yet the Lord knows the true state of my heart. He sees where I have allowed His grace—so freely given—to take root, and where and how much of it I have squandered; which virtues have flourished and which old habits have returned; and where the soil has become hardened, depleted, or crowded with the weeds of distraction, attachment, impatience, ingratitude, and self-love. Just as I gave the lawn water, fertilizer, and care and it still became depleted, so too my soul—despite receiving spiritual moisture from outward disciplines, requires a major pre-Advent overhaul from the Master Gardener.

As I prepare my lawn care plan for the coming year, I know our Lord has a specific God-care plan for me—and one for you. The question, then, is not merely, “What will I do for God this coming year?” but rather, “Lord, what do You want to do in me?” As the earth must submit to me to bear better fruit next year, will I submit to Him to cultivate, prune, nourish, and purify me so that my life may bear greater fruit? For the Lord does not merely desire a lukewarm, pseudo-maintained soul. He seeks a heart that is alive, fruitful, and completely His—a heart that is completely kindled by the fire He has lit (Luke 12:49), the fire of the Holy Spirit that purifies and renews.

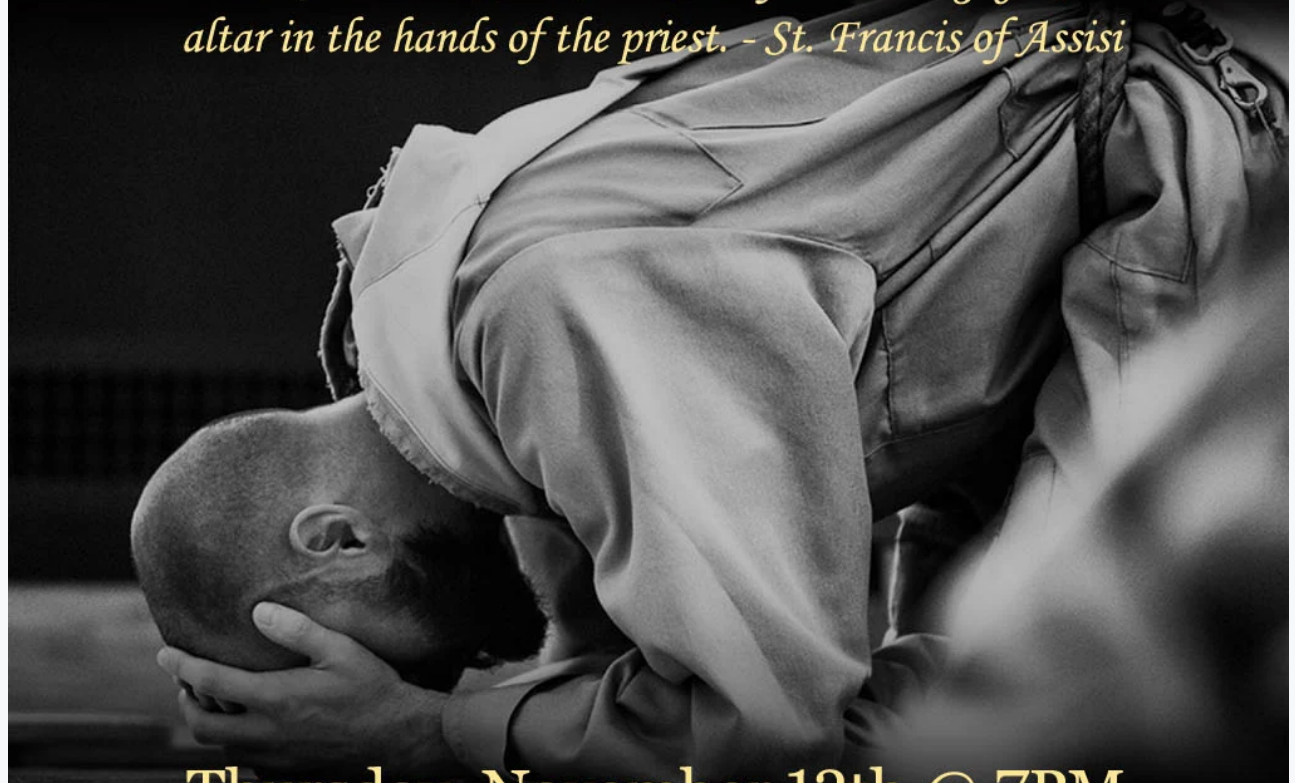
It may be painful. It will require Him to prune my attachments, uproot comforts, break through hardened places, and expose what I prefer to leave untouched. Yet I must surrender and go deeper into prayer, Scripture, the Eucharist, Confession, acts of charity, trials, and even suffering as He lovingly cultivates the field of my heart—for fruitfulness all year and beyond!

¡Viva, Cristo Rey!

Deacon Raj Srinivasa

An Evening with the  
**FRANCISCAN FRIARS of the RENEWAL**  
Presented by The Friends of the Newark Monastery  
Eucharistic Adoration, Music & Reflection by the CFRs

*Let the entire man be seized with fear; let the whole world tremble;  
let heaven exult when Christ, the Son of the Living God, is on the  
altar in the hands of the priest. - St. Francis of Assisi*



**Thursday, November 12th @ 7PM**  
**Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Mountainside, NJ**



**Wine & Cheese Social Immediately Following**  
Come Meet the CFRs and the Friends of the Newark Monastery  
[www.friendsofthenewarkmonastery.org](http://www.friendsofthenewarkmonastery.org), [friendsnewarkmonastery@gmail.com](mailto:friendsnewarkmonastery@gmail.com)

### Message from the Board

The sole purpose of the Friends of the Newark Monastery is to maintain the building, walls and property of the friary, as well as, covering the cost of insurance and enhancements of the property. All of our funding remains entirely dependent on the



generosity of donors. As every Friar freely dispossesses himself of any personal properties or benefits, our support allows the friars to focus entirely on their apostolate and the formation of novices. Their mission of evangelization, renewal and service to the poor of the Newark area has grown to include a soup kitchen, retreat center and novice formation and education. The work done

at MBS Friary truly has a global reach. The novices formed at Most Blessed Sacrament Friary are sent out across the United States and globally.

The Most Blessed Sacrament Friary was built in 1880 and is over 40,000 square feet. Maintaining a structure like this takes a lot of work. While the friars do a lot of the work that needs to be done themselves, there are many large projects which require hiring professionals at a substantial cost. We are seeking donations for continued maintenance and several upcoming projects.

You can help by using the PayPal Donation button below or by sending your donation to:

Friends of the Newark Monastery, Inc.  
Most Blessed Sacrament Friary  
P.O. Box 175  
South Orange, New Jersey 07079

The Friars continue striving to follow the spirit of St. Francis and their community's inspiring charism, which is now more important than ever. We hope and pray that God blesses you and that you can support the Friars of the Most Blessed Sacrament Friary.

We pray that you have a blessed fall season.

Yours in Christ,  
The Board of the Friends of the Newark Monastery



May God bless you abundantly for your continued support. Thank You!



The Friends of the Newark Monastery is a non-profit organization formed by a group of lay Catholics who, at the request of Fr. Benedict Groeschel, arranged to purchase and maintain the Most Blessed Sacrament Friary so that the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal could bring their mission of evangelization, renewal and service to the poor of the Newark, New Jersey, as well as for the formation of new friars to send into the world.

**Friends of the Newark Monastery**

PO Box 175  
South Orange, NJ 07079

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