



# FRANCISCAN FRIARS OF THE ATONEMENT

Office of the Minister General  
40 Franciscan Way  
PO Box 300 - Graymoor  
Garrison, NY 10524-0300  
TEL: (845) 424-2113

March 28, 2025

To our St. Joan of Arc Parish Family,

I would like to thank each one of you for your kind letter of March 15 from your community to ours.

The good news in your heartfelt letter is that the Franciscan Friars of the Atonement have served you well over the last 27 years and that we will be missed as we will miss you. I hope our ministry has helped you grow in your faith, instilled with the Friars' spirit and charism of *at-one-ment*.

The bad news of our situation is that our contract expires on June 30<sup>th</sup>, and we cannot commit to an extension beyond that date. If the Friars were to continue staffing St. Joan of Arc, it would mean closing one of our other ministries and making major changes at others. We simply do not have sufficient Friar personnel. I hope I adequately conveyed in my previous letter, and I will restate here, that the decision to leave the parish and the Archdiocese of Toronto was extremely difficult and weighs on our hearts.

I appreciated your sharing your thoughts and concerns for the parish related to the Friars' departure, and I have conveyed that information in a letter to Bishop Kasun.

Please know that you are a member of our family, and we welcome you to visit us at Graymoor, especially during this holy Jubilee Year. I am glad to know we served you well, and we are pleased to entrust a wonderful parish and faithful community to your new pastor.

May God bless and watch over you. Please pray for an increase in vocations that we will have sufficient priests to shepherd all in the body of Christ.

Faithfully yours,

Emil F. Tomaskovic, SA  
Minister General

cc: Francis Cardinal Leo, Archbishop of Toronto  
The Most Reverend Robert Kasun, C.S.B., Auxiliary Bishop of Toronto

V. REV. EMIL F. TOMASKOVIC, SA  
MINISTER GENERAL  
[ETomaskovic@atonementfriars.org](mailto:ETomaskovic@atonementfriars.org)

REV. DENNIS POLANCO, SA  
1ST COUNCILOR  
VICAR GENERAL  
[DPolanco@atonementfriars.org](mailto:DPolanco@atonementfriars.org)

REV. JAN JANOSZKA, SA  
2ND COUNCILOR  
[JJanoszka@atonementfriars.org](mailto:JJanoszka@atonementfriars.org)

BR. PAOLO S. NICOSIA, SA  
3RD COUNCILOR  
PROCURATOR GENERAL  
Piazza Sant'Onofrio, 2  
I-00165 Rome, Italy  
[PNicosia@atonementfriars.org](mailto:PNicosia@atonementfriars.org)

REV. KENNETH CIENIK, SA  
4TH COUNCILOR  
[KCienik@atonementfriars.org](mailto:KCienik@atonementfriars.org)

REV. CHARLES J. SHARON, SA  
SECRETARY GENERAL  
TREASURER GENERAL  
[CSharon@atonementfriars.org](mailto:CSharon@atonementfriars.org)