



FRANCISCAN FRIARS OF THE ATONEMENT

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To our St. Joan of Arc Parish Family,

The Friars and Sisters of the Atonement recently concluded the celebration of our 125th Anniversary. In past years, nearly 300 friars ministered in parishes around the world. Sadly, times have changed. As you are undoubtedly aware, there is a critical shortage of priests in religious vocations today, and our own community now comprises fewer than 50 Friars. Consequently, we have had to withdraw from several ministries that were particularly significant to us.

The Friars' ministerial contract with the Archdiocese of Toronto to staff St. Joan of Arc parish will expire on June 30, 2025. During our 27-year tenure in the Archdiocese, the Friars have joyfully served in parishes, ecumenical offices and food banks, seeking to spread our mission of *at-one-ment*. With profound regret, I recently informed His Eminence Francis Cardinal Leo that the Friars will be unable to renew our contract due to the shortage of Friar priests to staff our ministries at Graymoor and elsewhere.

I wish to thank you for your many years of support and for your gracious hospitality to the Friars who have been privileged to serve each one of you in your vibrant parish. You invited us into your homes and allowed us to share your family's milestones. We pray that our ministry has been a Blessing to the Archdiocese of Toronto, your Christian neighbors and members of other Faiths, and especially to you, our dear friends.

May God continue to Bless all of you at St. Joan of Arc parish for many years to come and extend the hospitality you gave the Friars to your new Shepherd in the coming months.

Peace and all good always,

Emil F. Tomaskovic, SA
Minister General

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