



Forty years later, ‘The Dream’ lives on

BY TONI CASHNELLI

The Sisters of the Atonement have a ritual when they lead people to rooms at their guest house in Assisi.

They pause at Room 12 to announce, “And this is where **Fr. Murray Bodo** wrote his book about Francis.” It’s the “Washington slept here” kind of association that gives a place the aura of a shrine.

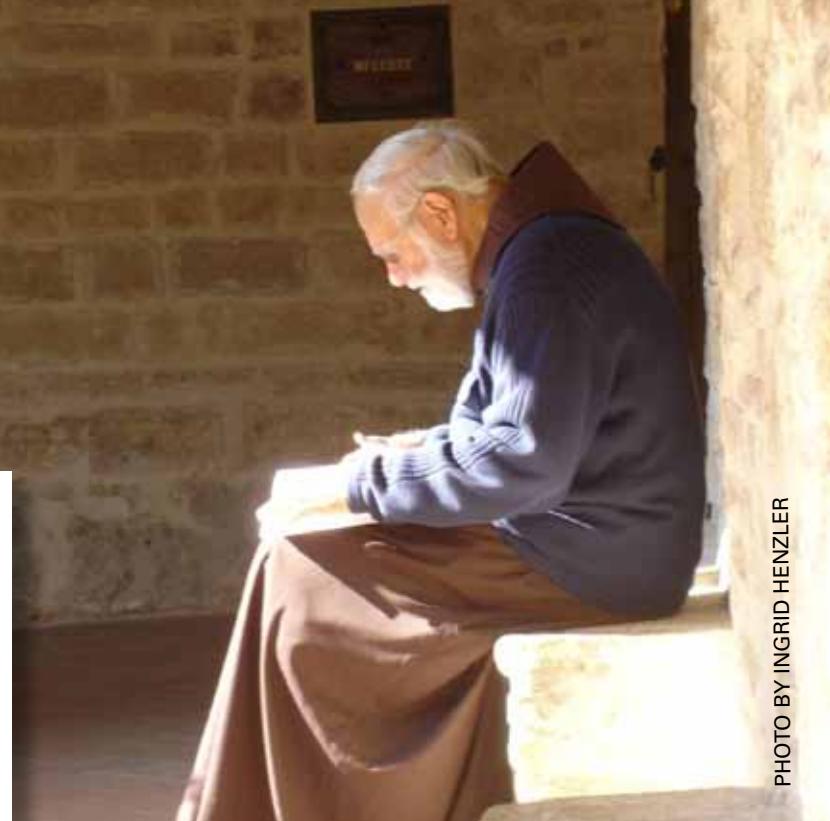
Murray laughs as he reveals this, as though it is beyond belief that a space he once occupied would become an object of veneration. But what happened in Room 12 could best be described as a minor miracle. In 1972 Murray, a teacher and an up-and-coming poet, produced a slim paperback of prose that defined his future and continues to inspire readers around the world in ways he could never have imagined.

Asked to name their favorite book about their favorite saint, many choose *Francis: The Journey and the Dream*, a work that far surpassed the expectations of its author and its publisher (St. Anthony Messenger Press, now Franciscan Media). More than 200,000 copies have been sold in English, Spanish, German, Italian, Chinese, Maltese, Portuguese, Slovenian and Korean. Last year when SAMP suggested a 40th-anniversary hardback edition, “I remember being stunned that it was 40 years” since its release, says

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Marking a milestone

Save the date: SJB Province will commemorate the 40th anniversary of *Francis: The Journey and the Dream* with a lecture by its author on Sunday, April 22. **Murray Bodo** will repeat the presentation he gave in November at St. Bonaventure University for the Ignatius Brady Lecture series, “The Writer’s Journey, the Poet’s Passion”. The time and place are yet to be determined. Stay tuned.



Murray Bodo writing at San Damiano in Assisi. He's been part of the team for Franciscan Pilgrimage Programs since 1976.

FROM JEFF

We friars have five “priorities” or core values that are to shape and guide our lives. Though developed a bit more in our documents, simply put, they are 1) prayer, 2) fraternity, 3) minority, 4) mission, and 5) formation. In my own experience one or the other may get more emphasis at certain times, for example, “prayer” when I am on retreat or “formation” when I am studying or taking a workshop, but in some ways they can’t be separated and they all need to be part of the rhythm of our daily lives. Each influences and colors the others. When I pray, I pray as a member of a fraternity and out of my experience of mission. I bring my experience of mission back into prayer and prayer sends me back into mission. Minority shapes my living of fraternity and minority calls me to depend on the brothers. Ongoing formation strengthens all of this. I like to think of them like the transparencies often found in anatomy text books. You can study the transparency of the nervous system or the transparency of the digestive system, but they are printed on transparent plastic precisely

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Roman was witty to the end

BY FRANK JASPER, OFM

(Frank was homilist at the funeral for Roman Pfalzer, held Dec. 29 at St. Clement.)

At 93 and second oldest in the province, **Roman Pfalzer** outlived his classmates, most of his family and even his funeral plans. Even though his brother, **Miles Pfalzer**, was ordained with him, he wanted **Valens Waldschmidt** to preach for his funeral. Both had their own health concerns and were unable to do it.

I first met Roman at St. Clement when I was in grade school and he was the second assistant. **William Faber** was the pastor, **Callistus Solbach** was the senior assistant and the newly ordained **Humbert Moster** was third assistant. As I recall Roman was very shy, quiet and incredibly neat. Every hair was in place and he was just as precise when he questioned the students in religion class. He carried out his duties in a highly responsible way. He devoted most of his time to the youth group that met almost daily in the clubroom under the convent. He collected the money for snacks and refreshments.

Roman's career spanned almost every parish in our province in the Midwest and Southwest. He had 21 different assignments. He was always the assistant, never the pastor, and he served well in that capacity. He likely had so many assignments because he was open to the provincial's call to help resolve problems with personnel.

He was a simple friar, gentle, easy to live with and highly responsible in carrying out his duties. When Roman was in Batesville, **Norbert Bertram** told me the pastor was on vacation and he had five funerals to do in one week. When Norbert apologized for so many funerals, Roman said, "That's what I'm here to do."

Even with dementia, Roman shared the Pfalzer trait

of being quick-witted. In the physician's office, the doctor was checking for dementia by asking him some questions like the date and who was the president of the United States. Finally Roman said, "Doctor, you're a well-educated man. You should know these things."

Again, Roman was in the doctor's office and the doctor asked him if he could walk to the other wall and back without holding on to anything. Roman thought for a moment and then said, "No, I don't think so." "Why not?", the doctor asked. "Because you're standing in my way." At the sharing during his wake, many friars told stories of Roman's witty comments that were always clever and never hurtful.

Roman was a "neat freak." His room and his grooming were always impeccable. Even at Franciscan Terrace, he loved to show off his crisp, new, colorful shirts. Of course, it's always good to have a neat freak in the friary, considering all the rest of us. It makes life easier.

Of his seven siblings in Louisville, Juvenal, Roman and Miles became Franciscan priests. Miles is the only one who survives.

Roman was first and foremost a man of service. He exemplified that service by his willingness to move so many times and to serve in so many diverse parishes. His consistent, unassuming service made him truly a "servant of the Lord." Roman, may the Lord reward you for your faithful service.



Roman Pfalzer, OFM

DIRECTORY UPDATES

■ From **Gene Mayer**: "On a pre-addressed envelope to be returned to St. Margaret Hall I noted that they now have the four-digit zip code of **1896** instead of 1828."

■ **Dominic Lococo**'s new phone number is 513-825-5125. His cell phone remains the same: 513-328-5125.

LET US REMEMBER

■ **Mark Pax**, brother of the late Bart Pax, OFM, and Ulric Pax, OFM, of OLG Province, died yesterday as the result of an auto accident in Versailles/Russia, Ohio.

He was 67 years old. According to Duane Torisky of OLG, the Mass of Christian Burial will take place at 10:30 a.m. Friday, Jan. 13, at the Church of St. Remy in Russia, Ohio. Please keep the family in your prayers.

■ **Margaret I. Carney**, the mother of Sr. Margaret Carney, OSF, of St. Bonaventure University, died Jan. 10 from complications following surgery. She was 94 years old. The Mass of Christian Burial is at 10 a.m. Jan. 13 at St. Thomas More Church in Brentwood/Pittsburgh. Margaret's address is: Office of the President, St. Bonaventure University, St. Bonaventure, NY 14778. Her e-mail is MCARNEY@sbu.edu.