Thomas Hill celebrates 60 years as a Capuchin friar, having completed his novitiate in Baraga, Michigan in 1959. Thomas is a native of Fond du Lac WI. He has served in ministry in a variety of ways throughout the province as well as in Newfoundland, Canada. Among his ministries as a Capuchin, Tom helped form young Catholics through campus ministry, as well as supporting and strengthening the sacrament of marriage through his work with the National Marriage Encounter movement.





Larry LaCross, born in Alpena MI, celebrates 50 years as a Capuchin this year, having joined the order in 1969. Larry currently serves as the local minister at St. Bonaventure Monastery in Detroit. Past assignments include development director for the province, as well as a year in Australia serving at a parish.

"In my fifty years as a Capuchin, I have been blessed in so many ways," said Larry. "The communities I have lived in have been life-giving with the basics of our way of life,

community prayer, meals and recreation together. The province has always kept pace with our changing reality in many ways for which I am grateful. Most of my ministries have been internal. I have been gifted with fine people to minister with, who believe in our way of life. For me, I will always be grateful for the opportunity to care for our sick and elderly friars. Caring for one another in community is of utmost importance to me. Hopefully, my future years will be as happy and rewarding as the first fifty."

Joseph Howe celebrates 60 years as a professed Capuchin friar this year. A native Detroiter, Joe joined the Capuchins in 1959. During his 60 years as a friar, Joe has ministered throughout the Midwest. He was called to serve at the Capuchin general curia, our headquarters, in Rome from 1970-1976. Joe currently ministers at Capuchin Retreat in Washington Township MI north of Detroit.



"I consider it an honor to have served God for over 60 years as a Capuchin friar. At 90 years of age, I have been blessed in countless ways, and I am forever thankful that my patron, St. Joseph, has always come to me," said Joe. "Although this journey that God has commissioned me for has led me to many places, for now, I will humbly continue to serve at the Capuchin Retreat."



Augustine "Gus" Cops celebrates his 60th jubilee year as a Capuchin friar. Gus, a native of the Netherlands, joined the Capuchins in 1959. He currently resides in the Milwaukee area. Gus has ministered at St. Lawrence Seminary, the Capuchin Soup Kitchen, as a preacher at the former Saint Clare Capuchin Retreat, as well as in pastoral ministry in Illinois, Wisconsin, Montana and Michigan.

"I'm very thankful to God for calling me to be a Capuchin Franciscan. St. Francis and many friars have been an inspiration to me," said Gus. "It has been a privilege to serve God's people in a variety of ministries."



