

“For the Glory of God”

**A collection of testimonies from individuals
who have encountered the ministry of
Father Jude J. Mili, OFM**



**Compiled by the
Light of Life Community
Core, West Virginia**

April 2007

The **Light of Life Community, Inc.** is an organization that fosters a better understanding of the nature of being a Christian, provides ministries for people to follow the word of the God, gives thanks and praise to the Lord Jesus Christ, and provides opportunities to be renewed in the Holy Spirit.

Chartered in 1978, it has provided numerous programs at the Good Counsel Friary in Morgantown, WV and now continues its mission at a variety of locations.

See our web site for the latest information on current programs.

www.goodcounselfriary.com

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Introduction

A native of Somerville Massachusetts, Father Jude J. Mili entered the Franciscan way of life upon graduation from high school in 1950. He graduated from Immaculate Conception College, Troy, NY in 1955 and from undergraduate work in theology at Mt. Alvernia Seminary, Wappingers, NY in 1960. He was ordained to the priesthood in Wappingers Falls in 1959. He did his doctoral work in moral theology at the Franciscan International University in Rome, Italy, and graduated from there in 1964, returning to Wappingers Falls, NY to teach theology at Mt. Alvernia Seminary and at St. Francis Nursing School, Poughkeepsie, NY and at Mt. St. Mary College, Newburg, NY.

While teaching in Dutchess County, the Lord used Fr. Jude to bring the Cursillo movement to the area, and it was through the Cursillo movement that Fr. Jude made Jesus Christ more real in his life and received the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

In 1968, Fr. Jude left the Poughkeepsie area to come to Morgantown, WV where he was involved in retreat and renewal work. He was a leader in the Charismatic Renewal in the Catholic Church. He served on the National Board for the Marriage Encounter and the National Program Committee for the Christian Family Movement. Fr. Jude has spoken at the Greater Pittsburgh Charismatic Conference, the National Charismatic Conference for Youth in Steubenville, Ohio, and at the Eastern Regional Charismatic Conference in Atlantic City, NJ. Other conferences include Regional Full Gospel Conventions in Virginia Beach, VA and Rochester, NY. Fr. Jude has appeared as a guest on the 700 Club as well as on other Christian TV programs.

Fr. Jude was the Director of the Good Counsel Friary Christian Renewal Center in Morgantown, West Virginia. During his 38 year tenure at the Good Counsel Friary, he established and oversaw numerous charismatic programs in the region. Many persons came to know and devote their lives to the Lord Jesus Christ. Alleluia !!!

Alleluia !!



Praise the Lord !!

["Lawd" as pronounced by Father Jude]

The testimonies within these pages are only a glimpse into the life of a truly remarkable priest and servant of the Lord.

As you turn the pages you will discover life after life touched, in a special way, by Father Jude. All of us can relate to some incident, meeting, encounter in our lives that involved Father Jude's happy spirit.

Absorb, reflect and then pass Father Jude's spirit on wherever and whenever you can. Father Jude didn't hide his enthusiasm for Jesus Christ, he shouted it from the depths of his soul.

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While I was in prison at Morgantown, for a long time, there was a black Baptist chaplain in charge. This lady was more cop than minister. She was bossy, arrogant, and ignorant. During her tenure Fr Jude was the Priest that came to minister to us. One day, I saw that she had asked Fr Jude into her office and I overheard her yelling at Fr Jude. I was angry, but then again I am just a pretender to be a follower of Christ. I try, but mostly I beat my chest and say Father forgive me, sinner that I am. Fr Jude, on the other hand, is a true follower of Christ. Like Christ he suffered in silence that day at the hand of a powerful but ignorant person.....just as Christ would have done. Fr Jude is a true disciple of Christ and he provided an example that day that I shall never forget.

Colin E. "Buzz" Bayliss
Dover, OH

Here is my testimony about a miracle I attribute to Jude.

My name is Maureen Crockett. Our family lived in Wappingers Falls, New York while Father Jude was teaching and preaching at nearby Mount Alvernia Seminary. He converted my husband Bill to Catholicism, and although that was a small miracle since it concerned an avowed Baptist, that's not the true miracle.

Our son Kenneth was born with a heart defect, pulmonary stenosis. We took him to the Bronx, to Montefiore Hospital's Children's Pavilion every year, where the doctors showed us the problem with his heart on some sort of x-ray. They said when he was six years old, he would need corrective surgery to save his life.

Jude moved to Good Counsel Friary in West Virginia, and soon my Bill returned to college teaching and we moved to the Charleston area, three hours south of Jude's new home. We continued to take Ken back to New York's Montefiore Hospital every year, and each time, we saw the problem.

His pediatric cardiologist there is world renowned. Parents bring their children to him from all over. When Ken was six, this doctor and his team told us it was time for Ken's operation. We stopped overnight at the friary on our way north to New York. Jude said he would pray for him, and I thanked him, sure that he would do so, in spite of Ken's terrible behavior at Friary masses. No, Jude said, "I am praying for a cure...and the nuns will pray also." Great, but I didn't believe it would happen.

The surgery was to last a few hours. Bill and I held hands and paced the floor. Three or four hours passed, no doctors came out to talk to us. Finally, three of them appeared in their scrubs. Their faces had serious miens, and they were shaking their heads. I thought, oh, my God, they have killed Kenneth.

No. They said when they opened him up, there was no problem. They told us to take him home; he was okay. They had no explanation, after seeing the situation every year for six years.

On the way home, we stopped overnight at the Friary, of course. It had become our second home. When we told Jude what happened, he shrugged, smiled, and said, "Ofcourse." Is that a miracle? Our Ken is now forty years old, and as healthy as he can be.

Thank you, Jude. Thank you, nuns. Thank you, God
 Gratefully and with love,

Maureen Crockett
Saint Albans, WV

My wife, Kate, and I attended a Marriage Encounter Weekend at Good Counsel 7 or 8 years ago, with Fr. Jude presiding. His gentle, loving spirit, wise counsel, and faithfulness to the Lord all contributed to make it a blessing for us and for our marriage. Although we seldom see him, we think of him and speak of him often, always with the fondest of memories!

Ron Bergman
Gibsonia, PA

My greatest remembrance of Fr. Jude's ministry was found in the history of St. Ursula. The fact is that Fr. Jude had celebrated Christmas Mass at St Ursula's Church for 25 years, without being assigned to that mission church. Little wonder that he had a strong relationship with Pursglove, WV and its people. I also recall that Patty Thomas of the Jesus Mission in Osage WV named one of her children after Fr. Jude.

Sr. Joann Novak
St Louis, MO

While reading a large corporation newsletter I came upon the phrase: "It takes a generation to firmly establish a legacy."

Fr. Jude has served the People of God in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston for a generation-plus. There is no question that his legacy is firmly established.

All thanks be to God for the life of ministry that the Franciscan Friars have shared with the people of West Virginia through the years embodied by Fr Jude Mili. Your legacy will never be forgotten!

Sincerely,

Stanley T. Tuchalski
Washington, DC

I remember vividly the little band of Christian college students who made their way weekly from Alderson-Broadus College up to Good Counsel Friary to attend the meetings of the Light of Life Prayer Group. It was sometime around 1974 or '75. In time they had not only convinced me to let them borrow my car, but also to join them on the journey. Fr. Jude and the Light of Life Prayer Group were of great influence in my life, particularly in those years. I graduated from Alderson Broadus with a degree in Medical Science (Physician's Assistant) but the seed of a vocation was also beginning to grow in my life. I am certain that Fr. Jude Mili's dedication, vigor and joy were all inspirations to me. In time I came to test the waters of my vocation in an Episcopalian Monastery in California, but the Lord had other plans. When I returned from California I knew that I still had a vocation but that it would be in the Catholic Church. Fr. Jude always held the doors of the Friary open to me in those years of discernment. His example was always a model of priesthood for me but one that I could only hope to aspire to. I still would like to be half the priest that Fr. Jude is. Such as I am, I am ever so grateful to Fr. Jude for showing by his life and example that the priesthood can and should be a life filled with love and joy. Striving to follow his example, I have found it to be so. God bless you Fr. Jude, for all you did to help me recognize and follow my life's vocation to the Priesthood of Jesus Christ. It has brought me much happiness in life.

Fr. Casey Mahone

**Pastor, St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church
Parkersburg, WV**

When Father Jude was beginning his ministry at the friary, I had the good fortune of having a retreat with him. He was truly on fire with the Holy Spirit and he inspired me tremendously. He follows Jesus Christ with the charism of St Francis of Assisi. If I were to meet Saint Francis of Assisi in person, it seems to me that Father Jude would be his almost perfect double. The best part of father Jude is that he is like good wine. The more it ages the better it tastes. He continues to beam with the fire of the Holy Spirit even in this challenging part of his spiritual journey. He continues to be an inspiration for many faithful people. A number of times Father Jude would join our Pittsburgh/Greensburg Fraternity of Priests for prayer, Mass for healing and dinner fellowship. His presence seemed to lift all us to a greater sense of Christ's presence. I think that Rome should permit causes of canonization to sainthood to be initiated even while a holy person is still living. With or without the process Father Jude Mili is a saint in my eyes , as well in the eyes of many other people. May the lord continue to bless and to use Father Jude as an instrument of his graces to many men, women and children. Ad multos annos (many years).

Sincerely yours,

**Father Kenneth E. Oldenski,
Pastor of St Richard parish
Gibsonia PA.**

I lived in the Imperial View Development off of Tyrone Road for approximately 10 years. During this time I attended mass on Sunday's in the Chapel and during the week in the lounge area of the Good Counsel Friary. Father Jude was always very personable and got me involved in many activities at the Friary. Some of these activities include the following:

- Reading at mass on Sundays
- Helping to decorate the Chapel at Christmas
- Helping with the annual spaghetti dinner fund raising event
- Driving visiting priests to Masontown and Kingwood to say mass
- Driving him to St. Mary's church to participate in a church activity involving several other priests

I have the utmost respect for Father Jude. This Godly person is extremely intelligent but very humble. He knows how to get people involved so that they become closer to God. He is also very appreciative. I will always remember how he would call to thank me for the donation that I made on behalf of the spaghetti dinner when the dinner no longer took place. He never missed making that phone call. It did not matter if Father Jude was delivering his homily at Mass on Sunday or we were involved in conversation at Jambie's Restaurant, I always enjoyed his Boston accent.

Although I did not partake in the marriage encounter weekends at the Friary, I did enjoy the Bible Walk and the dessert and coffee that we had downstairs in the Friary after decorating the Chapel for Christmas.

I can remember Father Jude always saying the prayer before we enjoyed the food and fellowship.

I would do anything for Father Jude and I thank God that I was able to experience Father Jude's encouragement to "Seek the Lord" above all. May God bless him.

Kenny Claudio
Morgantown, WV

Dear Father Jude,

You have been a blessing to all. You have really showed the face of Jesus to the multitudes! John and I will never forget the weekends spent at the Friary, and the welcoming Holy Spirit that resides there. We also will never forget the joy and fun we had working in the kitchen, and how many times God "multiplied the loaves", when we ran short. You are an amazing man, and I know Jesus is so proud of you. May the Lord Bless and keep you... Good and faithful servant!!!

With love,

John and Tina Bulka
Bridgeport, WV

I first met Father Jude in 1970 when I was in graduate school at WVU. Someone suggested we go to the Monastery for Sunday Mass. Not having a car meant that I needed to find another Catholic to take us there. Thereafter I made a couple retreats and attended other religious activities there. I also met other Franciscan priests, Brothers and Sisters from other communities there. As I remember Fr Jude also came to some of our graduate student parties down in the Medical Center Apartments or graduate students' homes. The monastery provided us with opportunities for spiritual renewal. For all your years of dedication to your own religious life and to the nourishment of many others, I say thank you sincerely. May God grant you many graces in your new "vocation".

I celebrated my 60th Jubilee last summer!

Peace,

Sister Marie Vittetoe CHM
Congregation of Humility of Mary
Davenport IA

Praise the Lord!

I'm writing to testify to Fr. Jude Mili's wisdom, though, I will always love him for his wit as well.

The first time I attended a Marriage Encounter Weekend at GCF, I said to him, "The Lord is good!" and he responded, "Better than you know!" I've always pondered that and hope he knows the Lord's goodness, even in his illness and despite the loss of his "right arm," Virginia Yeckley.

One member of our prayer group sent him a donation through me and said, "He can use it for whatever he wants -- he can even take Virginia out for fried clams at Ruby's."

I have many memories of Fr, Jude, at charismatic masses, retreats at Cardinal Wright Center; the music workshop and God's Weekend at GCF, with the late Fr. Al Lauer. For years, I kept a poorly-lit photo of folks singing with Father Jude, "Father Abraham" or "Bind Us Together" and clapping at the Marriage Encounter.

Among the things I remember fondly about GCF was the banner that hung in the stairwell of Jesus on the cross, as viewed from above. It read, as I recall: "It is achieved!"

Fr. Jude's words echo back to me from his masses: "Happy are they...happy are WE...who are called to this supper," and his inimitable, "Praise The Lawd." Often he joked about teaching one West Virginian to say that. The man responded, "Praise the Lard!" and Father corrected, "Not Lard-- Lawd!". His other joke, that I recall, was, "Once a man from West Virginia went to heaven and was asked what he thought of it. The man answered, "Almost West Virginia."

I told him that I believed, "the joy of the Lord is his strength." I pray that strength will continue to buoy him up if he ever feels down in the dumps. In Jesus' Name we ask it. Amen. Sincerely in Our Risen Lord + Savior, Jesus Christ,

John Defeo
Natrona Heights, PA

Jude I hope you can get to read this message. Thank God for your Love and counsel. You have been in my prayers for the past 5 years. When we talked you told me that you were sick and had Parkinsons. Because of Cursillo and my visits at Easter Time and the Love you showed me. God used that to guide me to become a Deacon believe it or not 27 years now. May God bless you. Be sure of my prayers and love.

Deacon Richard Dingee
Florida

Father Jude:

Thank you so much for your celebration of Mass for our football team last fall. Your time, effort, and enthusiasm were very much appreciated by our players and coaches. Our numbers attending Mass this season continued to increase, and I expect even greater participation next year. That is a special tribute to you!

Again, thanks so much for all you do for the "Mountaineers." Best wishes in 2007. Best wishes for continued good health! We need you back. May God bless!

Sincerely,

Bill Stewart
Assistant Football Coach
WVU Mountaineers

We met Father Jude when he was at Mt. Alvernia Seminary.

"What a wonderful ministry Father Jude had here in Wappingers Falls as he encouraged so many parishioners of St. Mary's Church to "seek the Lord." Our personal spiritual connection with Father Jude goes back to the 60's. He organized a Christian Family Movement with families meeting in each other's homes. This group spearheaded to a desire to experience Cursillo which Father Jude was promoting. He encouraged us to attend the Cursillo movement at St. Joseph's Center in Spanish Harlem. Hugo made the 10th men's Cursillo, and was so touched by the Lord that he encouraged Jean to go also. That was the turning point to changing our spiritual life, and Ultreya motivated us to action. Father Jude was instrumental in showing us that including Christ in our marriage was of the utmost importance. For over 20 years we have worked with the homeless and have encouraged fellow parishioners to discover what a rewarding experience it is to feed the homeless and stay at a local shelter. God has certainly blessed us that Father Jude was at Mt. Alvernia, and we were able to know him. God Bless you Father Jude. We have never forgotten.

Love,

Jean and Hugo Musto
Wappingers Falls, NY

Some of us are fortunate enough to have someone come into our life, who has a lasting impact on our pilgrimage.

Father Jude was/is such a person for my wife, Katherine and me. During the turbulent sixties, Jude became a beacon of hope for a large number of people in the Wappingers Falls, Poughkeepsie area of New York. Through his involvement in the Christian Family Movement, and the Cursillo, a community of people was drawn together, on fire with the Holy Spirit. Many wonderful things happened, conversions took place, and relationships with the Hispanic Community of East Harlem were strengthened through Jude and Msgr. Robert Fox (may he rest in peace). This was at a time when New York City was about to erupt into violence.

There were also difficult situations to be dealt with, but throughout all Jude remained steadfast. His faith grew stronger. He was like a member of the family for so many of us. He cared. I have seen him cry for some who were in various kinds of pain. He was an Alter Christus not only at the altar, but in his relationships.

During this period, he was also a professor of Theology at Mt. Alvernia seminary, where he had a great influence on many of the seminarians. I still chuckle at his choice for a thesis for his STD (from Rome) "The Morality of Traffic". We teased him often, but he was able to laugh with us.

New York's loss was certainly West Virginia's gain. We are sorry to hear of Father's illness, but we have no doubt he will handle this as he did so many situations, with a joyful heart. St. Francis told his brothers "to preach the Gospel to the world and sometimes use words". Jude took those words to heart.

Thank you, Jude for being such an important part of our lives and for bringing light into the darkness. You truly believed that Jesus could be most clearly seen, when it is darkest He is the light of the world.

With love and appreciation we remain your friends,

Deacon Thomas O'Connell
Wappingers Falls, NY

Do you recall February 14, 1966 (Valentine's Day)? That was the closing day of the first women's Cursillo for women who lived in Wappingers Falls and you were the Spiritual Director. I was part of that Cursillo and it was a turning point in my life. To this day I keep the Crucifix we each received under my pillow. Thank you, Jude.

I recall the many times you visited us in Wappingers Falls and how you loved peanut butter sandwiches. You however, would only allow me to put a VERY thin spread of peanut butter on your sandwich..

I remember the parades with the balloons and the Piñata with our families at Mt. Alvernia.

I remember our daughter, Kristen's special First Communion with you celebrating Mass.

I remember visiting you at the Monastery along with the Zitos and Segallas. I remember the huge kitchen,

Most of all I remember how if you knew someone was in need you would quietly tell one of us and we would try to help that person. It's a technique I try to pass on.

I am sorry you are not well, Jude. I pray God, the Blessed Mother and St. Therese keep their arms around you. Know that you are in our thoughts and prayers.

We love you,

Katherine O'Connell
Wappingers Falls, NY

We have known Fr. Jude Mili since he came to the Morgantown area in 1968. My Mother, Julia Dinardi Chico, was fond of Fr. Jude. We all attended Mass at the Friary often.

When Fr. Jude came to the Morgantown area he was young, dark haired, handsome and very hard working. He is appreciative of all that was and is done for him.

Fr. Jude was present at all the happy times as well as the sad times in our family. He was invited to dinner at my Mothers house often. He presided at my Mothers funeral. He presided at our daughters wedding. When we had hard times, we called Fr. Jude for prayers, and he never was too busy to talk with us nor to pray with us.

When I had a snow plow, Fr. Jude would call me to help him get rid of the snow. He was appreciative of anything we could do to help him. You could NEVER say no to Fr. Jude. He was too kind and gracious to everybody.

I have grandchildren that Fr. Jude enjoyed also. I made "tee" shirts for Fr. Jude.

I put photos of my grandchildren on the front. Fr. Jude always told me when we went to Mass at the Friary he was wearing the tee shirts. Once I brought him some shirts with the grandchildren photos on them. Once when I handed him a bag, he told some of the people at the Friary he had something to share with them. Fr. Jude opened the bag, thinking it was cookies, and was surprised to find the tee shirts.

He laughed and said it reminded him of the time his Mother sent him a box of food. Fr. Jude put the box in the freezer until he was ready to share with his friends. When he was ready, he took the box out of the freezer. When he opened the box he found his mother had sent him a pair of SHOES.

With the good sense of humor Fr. Jude has, he was able to laugh even though the joke is on him, and he shared the joke with others.

Fr. Jude Mili is a special person. He is tireless, God fearing, young at heart, a truly holy man living the life God wants us all to live and he is still handsome. He will always be close to my heart and my wife's heart. He has always been special to us.

No matter how things looked to us, Fr. Jude always said "PRAISE THE LORD." We LOVE you Fr. Jude and will never forget or forsake you.

Sylvia and Charlie Chico
Morgantown, WV

What parent knows which events in their children's lives motivate those children to choose a vocation? Both my wife and I believe our living with Father Jude and his staff for a few weeks in the mid 1970's motivated our children to choose social services as their careers. Those summer days painting, visiting the elderly and sharing time and space with other volunteers allowed our children to experience God's love. This love left a life-altering impression on them. Our oldest daughter became a registered nurse and now a mother of five children. Our son is an inner-city teacher at a Catholic high school in Harlem, NY (father of two children). And the youngest daughter is a certified-social worker (mother of two children).

My wife and I are very grateful for Father Jude and his staff for providing us with the opportunity to grow in love as mother and father in the Lord.

And to experience how the Lord is able to plant that seed of love in our children.

Kathleen & Vincent Shea
Haworth, NJ

My relationship with Father Jude Mili began in March of 1975. I was 21 years old and searching for the void I felt. I tried doing all those things that anyone who does not know Jesus does and none of them would work.

A friend of mine kept trying to talk me into driving some high school kids to the Good Counsel Friary for a high school retreat. After he convinced me to do it, he said that I might as well stay and drive them home on Sunday. Little did I know that this weekend would change my life and would be the beginning of a whole new life!

There was a priest (or so they told me he was a priest) who greeted everyone with a jubilant "Praise the Lord" in a Boston accent. He did not have on a collar and his hair was grown over his ears. I thought how could he be a priest - in my whole life I never saw one like this. While I observed him throughout the weekend I saw that he was so happy and he sang and danced. He had something that seemed to be contagious.

During the retreat, there were others that seemed like this crazy priest. I heard that I needed to ask Jesus to be my Lord of my life. Going to a Catholic school for 12 years, I never heard this. That week-end I was convinced that I needed Jesus and I asked Him into my heart and He has been so faithful to me!

The next month I returned to the Friary for an Antioch week-end, this time with kids my own age. Father Jude was there and through his teachings helped me to understand so much about the Lord. My heart truly was so full of love for Jesus and I could not get enough.

I began to come to the Prayer Meetings at the Friary. Then I made the Life in the Spirit seminar and was baptized in the Holy Spirit. Later, I was blessed to be on the teams of the Antioch's. I was able to spend about six weeks living at the Friary and working the summer program in Osage. Larry and I met at the Friary. We were married by Father Jude in the Chapel on June 11, 1977.

Father Jude has been so instrumental in my Christian life. I learned so much from his teachings but the sermon that spoke to me, and so many others the most, was the one he lived and continues to live. He has a story - one of an unselfish, caring and loving man never too busy, never too tired. A life sold out and dedicated to Jesus. He truly has been His Hands and Feet. Without a doubt, I know when that day comes for Jude to pass over to his Heavenly Home he will hear "Well done My Good and Faithful Servant."

Lovingly Submitted by:

Rita Marino Skiviat
Clarksburg, WV



Father Jude at the January
 2007 God's Weekend Mass

When I was a little girl growing up in Morgantown, West Virginia, my family attended St. Mary's Catholic Church. I was always so excited when Father Jude was the priest at mass on those Sunday mornings. His happiness was infectious, and you couldn't help but feel the spirit. My father affectionately referred to Father Jude as "the happy priest", and he certainly was!

Well I grew into a young woman, and had to call upon Father Jude during a sad time. My dad had passed away very unexpectedly, and our family was devastated. But Father Jude was there to help us through. I will always be grateful for his support and kind words about my father at the funeral.

Life moved on, and I became engaged. There was no doubt in my mind that I wanted Father Jude to perform the ceremony. He guided my then fiancé Wes and me as we prepared for this sacrament. A few years later, we were blessed with twin daughters. I brought my babies home to be baptized by Father Jude in the same church I was married.

And a few years after that, we were blessed again with a son. How lucky we were that Father Jude was able to perform the baptismal ceremony for Ben as well.

I live across the country now and haven't seen Father Jude in quite a while. I have him in my prayers and am so pleased to help honor him as we celebrate a lifetime of ministry.

All of our love and all of our best Father Jude!

**Natalie and Wes Bush
Abbey, Haley and Ben
Manhattan Beach, CA**

My wife and I moved to Terra Alta in 1977 with our six children. Soon after unpacking we discovered the Good Counsel Friary. I can't recall the event but a Charismatic Mass was celebrated. After Mass, books, along with refreshments, were offered in the cafeteria.

In my eyes, the place had a celestial glow. So I took a serious look at the wild-haired little Franciscan Friar who seemed to be running things. He had a cross hanging around his neck made out of ten-penny nails. And his Boston accent cracked me up. We never did make it to one of Father's corn roasts, that's CAAN ROASTS to the uninitiated.

Well, I checked out Fr. Jude's Tuesday Night Bible Study and Praise Sessions. To my surprise I kept coming back for almost thirty years.

Thank you Tom Issack and Jim Mc Bride for narrating these study sessions. We had an interdenominational group. And any time our discussions derailed, Fr. Jude was there to get us back on the right theological track.

When it came to the praise part, Father Jude taught us how to worship our Loving God from the heart or HAAT depending where you come from. How fortunate for all who learned from him.

Thanks to Ron Bishop and Carol Fiorina for years of wonderful music. And thank you Fr. John Agapito for being you and sharing your faith with us for ten years.

I'll never forget Father Jude's perpetual greeting, "PRAISE THE LORD".

And we will Father, we will.

Job well done!

Love and prayers,

**John J. Hart
Terra Alta, WV**

We were of the Cursillo Movement when Father Jude first came into our lives. Al was on the National Board and I was the Publications Editor. William Luff was the Executive Director. He became the WV Deputy Superintendent of Schools.(And much later, our son-in-law). We saw Jude at Ultreyas and the Cursillo closing and Holy Mass anywhere in West Virginia. We were and are friends.

Today is Al and my 45th wedding anniversary so it is significant that I am writing this remembrance letter on this day.

Months after we included Jude as a friend, we heard about the Marriage Encounter and decided that we would participate. Mid way in the weekend, my husband suddenly looked up at me as we sat on a hillside in Morgantown and posed the question, “What are we doing here?”

I was perplexed because, as a widow with three children and him a bachelor when we married, I honestly believed there were areas where we knew little about each other. I said that to him, and later to Jude when we talked to him. Despite Al’s questions, we decided to stay the weekend and it became a warm and poignant experience. We still have our booklets. Jude will never know what influence he had on both of us.

We celebrate today for ourselves, yes, but also for all the people such as Jude who came into our lives bringing insights into what can be and is.

With love and grateful prayer,

Dr. Albert M. Blatnik, Professor Emeritus, West Liberty State College

Thais Blatnik, former WV Senator

Wheeling, WV

Thanks to Father Jude, I attended the prayer meeting at the Friary, every Tuesday, for about 14 years, starting in 1967. I received the Baptism in the Holy Spirit there and invited my neighbor and she also received the Baptism.

Father Jude has brought an untold number of people to Christ. I know of one priest and one minister, as a result of Father Jude’s ministry. I am sure there are more who found their ministry / calling at the Friary.

Father has been a true blessing to Morgantown and surrounding areas.

Very Sincerely,

Elsie M. O’Connell

Morgantown, WV

“We love you Father Jude”

Father Jude was instrumental in re-uniting us in our marriage to each other. We were on the road of permanent separation until we started a Marriage Encounter Weekend at the Friary. We worked at the Friary for others attending the weekends. Father Jude has touched so many lives and he made the Friary “Holy ground”. We will never forget our “pizza parties”

Martha and Bob Kraus

Monroeville, PA

As we were leaving a Serra Club luncheon at the Pines Country Club, Father Jude with his walker stopped in the middle of the exit doorway while a golfer held the door open for him. As he always did when meeting someone new, he asked the golfer if he might be interested in attending the next retreat at the Friary. He then asked him for his name, address and phone number so he could be certain to receive a detailed announcement of the retreat.

It didn't matter what the event, whether a weekend retreat or a delivery person delivering a package, Father Jude insisted that your name and address be included in the Friary Diary for that day. There are over 3,200 current addresses in the latest Friary Diary contact list including addresses in 45 states and 9 countries. I'm sure there are people in the other five states that have had the influence of Father Jude but for some reason didn't get logged into the Friary Diary.

bob carubia
Core, WV

Father Jude. Fourteen years ago in July, my husband passed away. Our Pastor was out of town and you came to our rescue. You came and had a beautiful service and I have never forgotten you. You celebrated the mass and Father John assisted you. It was a lovely service and the family has always remembered you. Take care of yourself and God willing, I will see you at the banquet.

Sincerely
Betty Mangold
Fairchance, PA

Always a conserver of paper, Father Jude would print the day's service on the back side of another service, one maybe from months or even years past. I recall one service, I knew I was supposed to play the piano, but I had lost the list he had called me with weeks earlier. When I got there, a bit late, he handed me a service paper, and I hastily began to look up the hymn numbers he had selected. I remember thinking there must be a Catholic feast or celebration I had forgotten about, because the selection did not make sense. I believe it was mid July and I began with a hearty version of "Christ the Lord is Risen Today". Then Father Jude, always the calm diplomat, sang along as if it were the plan, then quietly suggested I turn the paper over!

Marcia O'Connor
Morgantown, WV

He has been a wonderful instrument of God's peace. He has given us the example to follow to become the Lord's disciples.

Paul Kritschgau
Morgantown, WV

God has done so much good through Fr. Jude, and it was a great joy to participate in the Life in the Spirit Seminars in the Friary. We have happy memories.

God Bless
Joe & Anastasia Rayen
Columbus, OH

When I was a small child, age five, my mother and I would take a bus to the Good Counsel Friary to attend the Tuesday night St. Anthony's Prayer Meetings. Our neighbor would take us on Sunday mornings to mass there at the Friary and then to Mont Chateau for breakfast. For over fifty years there was always a special connection that my family held in our hearts for those consecrated grounds. Father Jude touched the lives of other family members through health, during sickness and their passing away always lending spiritual support and leading us on the path of righteousness.

Fr. Jude's constant persistence in prayer and faith rubbed off on me as an example of truly what the Lord can do during adverse times. No matter what problem I had or situation I was facing Jude was there to spiritually help me through. Whether it was going to the Chapel day or night to light a candle, pray and reflect or walk the Stations of the Cross or Bible Walk, I found a safe haven here on earth to pray and to seek the Lord. When I needed a quiet time to reflect, sitting in front of the Blessed Mother's statue contemplating a situation would allow a breath of fresh air. A serene peace and tranquility surrounding the area would fill one's innermost being.

I have attended many Life in the Spirit Seminars in the surrounding area. Fr. Jude's extraordinary example and guidance allowed me to seek the Lord in spiritual areas through praise and worshipping with other denominations as well as sharing with other brothers and sisters in Christ all praying to the same God. Jude taught me that Jesus is first and foremost in life and nothing else matters. He promoted spiritual growth which allowed an individual to see through a different perspective.

Through the years I volunteered at the Friary assisting Jude during his daily tasks. His determination was an inspiration as he never gave in to sickness. He never wearied and the words, "Jesus, Praise the Lord, Thank You Jesus, Alleluia," were always on his lips. He never hesitated to say, "I love you too," when someone would say those words to him. I witnessed a lady visiting him while in the Rehab Center who said, "I haven't had a hug in so long..." Jude said, "Come here and he hugged her." Jude's way was leading people to salvation and to come to know the Lord in a personal way. Fr. Jude made such a profound impact on my life not only through our relationship, but also by observing his sincerity and his genuine interest in each individual with whom he came in contact.

Tina Cavalier
Morgantown, WV

Jude and I often helped out at St. Mary's in Star City...many happy memories. I did not know that there was a cemetery at Wappingers Falls where Jude and I spent many years studying...and "causing trouble"! I shall not forget our superior at the time asking me to "take care of Jude" in Morgantown when we were both assigned there after ordination. Needless to say we also spent many months in Rome studying.

Can you imagine: they actually thought someone could "take care of" Jude!!! :)

Thanks so much for your concern over a very dear friend.

God bless, love,

Aidan Licari
Semmes, AL

I first met Fr. Jude J. Mili in 1978. My husband and I, along with our 4-year-old son attended St. Ursula's Church in Pursglove, WV. Fr. Jude was celebrating the Sunday Mass. I was convinced that he was either drunk or high on something. After listening to his sermon it occurred to me that this priest was refreshing. He was closer to the Jesus I'd always felt in my heart and I wanted more! Yes, he was high on something. He was high on Jesus Christ!! We attended mass every Sunday at St. Ursula's. Fr. Jude rotated every other week celebrating Sunday Mass with Fr. Goshorn, the pastor of St. Mary's in Star City and the mission church at St. Ursula's. Although we liked Fr. Goshorn, Fr. Jude made us laugh. He had so much enthusiasm and his love for Jesus was so obvious. He was happy to be a servant of God and there was no where else he would rather be standing than on God's altar serving God's people. "Come to the Light of Life prayer meetings and bible study every Tuesday evening at the Good Counsel Friary. It is a charismatic experience." Jude would tell us. I kept feeling the urge to go but I was afraid. I'd never heard of Charismatic Catholics. Finally, after weeks of indecision I decided to check it out. My husband had no intention of going. I had the perfect solution. I had a friend who was a Pentecostal and she was easily convinced to accompany me. That way in case things got wild (snakes or such), my friend might be able to help me through it. Of course, there was no need to worry because there were no crazy people or weird rituals. Instead, Fr. Jude greeted us, told us what to expect and I was hooked. My friend came with me to several prayer meetings and before long my husband also participated. We met so many wonderful and spirit filled friends through Fr. Jude and the Friary. There were many occasions when Fr. Jude and friends of the Friary came to our farm for a picnic. Fr. Jude baptized our second son, David. When Fr. Jude wasn't celebrating mass at St. Ursula, he asked us to pick up Mrs. Palmeri an elderly woman from Chaplin Hill, and take her to mass. Fr. Jude celebrated Christmas midnight mass at St. Ursula's to a packed church for 25 years. Everyone loved him.

In 1992 Fr. Jude called me and asked me to please help him out for a couple of weeks and do some clerical work for him until he could get someone permanently. The couple of weeks turned into volunteering for Fr. Jude for 14 years!! Many times while typing in the Friary office and I'd hear "ALLELUIA" coming from down the hallway (Fr. Jude's way of saying "Hello - anybody home?"). I would answer "ALLELUIA" ("I'm here Fr. Jude").

When Fr. Jude was in the last stages of Parkinson's Disease, he would often sing praises to God while walking down the hallway of the Friary, with the help of his walker. It was like he always did for over 30 years before. He never lost faith and he never questioned God's will. He praised the Lord in all things. Even when he was hospitalized and had to leave his beloved Friary—he was a witness. In Ruby Memorial Hospital, he was a witness. In Health South Hospital—he was a witness. In Mon General Hospital—he was a witness. In Golden Living (Morgan Manor) Nursing Home—he was a witness. Always asking the doctors, nurses, aids, support staff, visitors (whether the visitors were for him or his roommates, made little difference to Fr. Jude), social workers, other patients, therapists, all who were around him, to pray with him and no one ever refused. Everyone loved him. Everyone respected him. Fr. Jude was a shining example of what we should all be. We should be faith-filled followers of Jesus Christ, steadily shouting praises to God, never growing weary. Father Jude has been a friend and I am privileged to have known him. I miss you Father Jude, and I pray that when it is time for me to leave this earth, I can once again hear you say "ALLELUIA" and join you in praising the Lord forever.

Your sister in Christ Jesus,

Irene Carubia

Core, WV



I'll always remember the celebrations of Christmas Mass at St Ursula's Church. Our dedicated congregation of 80 parishioners always had their extended families at the midnight mass and that small mission church in the country was filled. Everyone in the choir always received a special gift [a pin or card] from Father Jude who wore his best suit for the celebration of the birth of Christ.

During Lent, Father Jude would distribute a reminder of the penitential season to all at mass. One year there were stones to be washed, another year it was crosses made of nails to be carried until Easter Sunday.

One of the more talented choir members gave a special gift to Father Jude at one of our Easter Mass celebrations. As Father Jude began the service, processing down the aisle, shouting "Alleluia !! He is risen !!", she played a special trumpet accompaniment. The sound of a trumpet was extra special on Easter morning. And Father Jude's face just gleamed with extra excitement.

bob carubia
Core, WV

We thank God for the blessing Father Jude was to us and the thousands of men, women, and children he shepherded and counseled through his many years of service to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. His beautiful walk of obedience, devotion, and love for our Savior was a powerful witness to everyone he met.

When a group of us became concerned about the destructive effect pornography had on the citizens of our city, Father Jude took the lead in fighting this battle. He organized Citizens Concerned for Community Values and led us in our mission to rid our community of pornography's corrosive influence. Father Jude had seen first hand how men, women, children, and families had been destroyed by pornography. He felt God's calling and took on this challenge when others were fearful to get involved.

We thank you, Father Jude, for your obedience to your calling by providing much needed moral leadership. We cannot say enough about your unselfish example for the community and all the people whose lives you have guided.

We praise Jesus for your faithfulness. We Love You,
Anise and Gale Catlett
Morgantown, WV

I send my sincerest condolences to you'all as I am sure you are already feeling the absence of our dear brother Jude's warm smile, sometimes disheveled hair (actually in recent years his hair wasn't that wild compared to the way it was back in the seventies) and that distinctive laughter of his.

I also rejoice with you as you celebrate Father Jude's much deserved graduation into the ranks of the heavenly hosts where I am sure that he was welcomed by Our Lord Jesus with the words, "Well done, good and faithful servant!"

There is so much gratitude in my heart for the way the Lord used this Franciscan missionary to encourage, renew, and bring so many such as myself to a "New Life in Christ" through the "Power of the Holy Spirit." Jude was true to his Franciscan calling as one who preached the Word both in season and out-of-season.

I know that my "calling" to the priesthood was a work of "Divine Mercy" and the work of the Holy Spirit but the revelation of that calling came largely through Father Jude J. Mili, O.F.M. and his ministry at Good Counsel Friary. To say "I owe Jude so much" would not even begin to cover the subject!

I saw Jude a little over two weeks ago as Joe Deegan and I felt "called" to drive up on a Sunday and visit with Jude at Morgan Manor. I was struck by both his obvious deteriorating condition and his humble spiritual demeanor. Joe and I were able to speak with Jude about the many ways he made a difference in so many people's lives. He smiled as we thanked him for "being there" for us at a crucial time in our lives. He also wanted us to know that he always had nothing but respect for everyone and that he hoped people would forgive him if he had ever offended them in anyway.

I know that Jude is "rejoicing in the 'Laud Gaud!'"(his Bostonian accent) I also know that he now knows how fruitful his ministry really was. As one who is a direct result of the fruit of that ministry I know that I will be eternally grateful for Jude's faithfulness in carrying out his calling both as priest and brother in the Lord.

With Our Lord Jesus I send you my prayers and Christ's joy and peace.

Your Brother in Christ's Love and Service,

Father Jim O'Connor

S Charleston & Madison, WV

Fr. Jude's bubbly personality, his faith, and his holiness, was a gift. I came to know the Lord directly through him. In 1971, he picked me up while hitch hiking in Morgantown. He invited me to attend an Antioch weekend, and there, he led me to the Lord. That weekend turned me around from a life of depravity and sin and started me on a journey that has lasted these 35 years. Father Jude was never short of saying: "Praise the Lord!" or "God bless you." I worked on many retreats and God's Weekends with him. My favorite speech that he gave was his "Garbage" speech, where his Boston accent mingled with the West Virginia twang and usually brought the house down. He would give it when we would have the first lunch at a retreat. I lived at the Friary one summer while at school. Fr. Jude was gracious enough to allow me to stay there, although he did have me cut the grass that summer to help defray the expenses. He was a very gifted man, full of the Spirit, and I'm sure many other people were healed through his loving touch.

God must have a special place in his heart for Father Jude Mili.

David Bartsch

St. Clairsville, OH

I first met Father Jude at Immaculate Conception in Fairmont, WV where I was a parishioner. I was a lector and Eucharistic minister there. Father Jude would have mass at IC when Father Casey was out of town. I had the pleasure of serving with Father Jude on quite a few occasions.

I remember the first time I served with Father Jude on the altar. When I went up to read the prayer intentions, I suddenly realized that Father Jude had somehow picked up my copy along with his. I didn't know what to do so I looked at him and shrugged my shoulders. He graciously stood up and read the prayer intentions. After mass was over as Father Jude was coming back down the aisle, I stopped him and told him that he had picked up my prayer intention paper along with his and I didn't have a copy to read. He said he didn't think he had my copy and I in response to his statement said, "Yes, you did Father." My husband said he couldn't believe I was arguing with a priest. ☺ I told my husband that I wasn't arguing, I was stating a fact. We still chuckle over it today.

I remember how Father Jude always started out with a joke before his homily. I loved his Boston accent. So here is a joke for you Father Jude.

A priest asked a little boy if he said his prayers every night. "Yes Father," the boy replied. "And, do you always say them in the morning, too?" the priest asked. "No Father," the boy replied. "I ain't scared in the daytime."

"Nemo dat quod non habet." It is a Latin Maxim that Father Casey spoke about several times in his homilies and one that I will never forget. He said these words were often tossed around in seminary throughout his years of priesthood.

"Nemo dat quod non habet." "One cannot give what he does not have." It originally meant that you couldn't give or sell something which didn't belong to you but actually the maxim applies to much more in matters of life and love.

When I think of Father Jude, I think of this maxim and how much love he has in his life for others. His life is rich in love and he graciously and generously gives love away. His love springs eternal from the heart of God and flows through all of our lives that he has touched during his ministry.

St. Paul knew what it was to suffer and yet he could write with conviction: "I am convinced that neither death nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor present things, nor future things, nor powers, nor height, nor depths, nor any other creature will ever be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Father Jude was not afraid of the cross that came his way. He picked it up and carried it. He sang and praised the Lord through it all. He united his cross with the Cross of the Lord which gave him hope and strength and meaning.

Nothing can separate us from the stream of God's love and as long as we allow that stream to flow through us—nothing can separate us from one another who are baptized in the waters of God's love.

Jesus said, "Righteous Father, I made known to them your name and I will make it known that the love with which you loved me may be in them and I in them."

The love of God has come to us through Christ and that same love came to us through Father Jude Mili, his disciple. All of life is a coming home. I believe that God is saying to Father Jude right now, "Well done, my good and faithful servant. Come, share your master's joy."

Welcome home, my faithful servant. Alleluia!

Karen Corbin
Fairmont, WV

My husband, Bob, and I first met Fr. Jude Mili at a Business Men's dinner in Blacksburg, Virginia. He was the guest speaker and he gave a riveting talk about his personal relationship to the Lord. One thing he said rang true with me so I decided to wait for him after the dinner. After introductions, I told him I really was happy to hear that he did not experience a sudden conversion, or hear whistles or bells, but that the Lord began changing his heart and life slowly. I explained to him that that was exactly how I came to the Lord after our prayer group laid hands on me for the Holy Spirit to fill me. I had believed that I should have had some lightning bolt experience and when I didn't I began to question the reality of the conversion. After talking more to him, Fr. Jude assured me that it was a real conversion. I realized then that the changes in my life were not going to go away and that indeed the Holy Spirit was alive in me and that Jesus Christ was my savior.

Bob and I were so excited to hear such a beautiful testimony and meet and talk with such a spiritual man that we invited Fr. Jude to meet with our prayer group at a later time and perhaps say a Charismatic Mass for us. You see, the priest in our parish did not approve of our prayer meetings and was very cold to us. In fact, when Fr. Jude came to our church to say the Mass, the priest locked the rectory and left a note on the door saying that he was away. This was after I had made arrangements with our pastor for Fr. Jude to stay overnight in the rectory. We took him home with us and from then on we became good friends and he stayed with our family on subsequent visits.

Everyone in our prayer group loved Fr. Jude and we looked forward to the times when he could arrange to come to Blacksburg and minister to us. We had the most uplifting, spiritual, and joyous times with him. Whenever he was with us we all felt the true presence of God. When Father told us about his ministry at the friary in West Virginia, many from the prayer group attended different events for quite a few years. We all loved "God's Weekend" and even braved a bad snowstorm one January to get there. The friary was such a special place to Bob and I and we have missed it terribly since we moved so far away from Virginia.

In 1988, Bob and I went into full-time ministry with Habitat for Humanity in Georgia but when we came back to Virginia one summer a friend invited me to go to the friary with her and her two little children. Fr. Jude was as happy to see us and as we were him. The four of us slept in one room and before bed the two little children said the most beautiful prayers that I've ever heard from youngsters. Then Fr. Jude came in to bless us and wish us a good night's sleep. Little William sat up after he left and said to me that he wanted to be a priest just like Fr. Mili when he grew up and live in a big monastery like him. Well, that was a long time ago and now William lives in Ohio, but he entered the seminary right out of college to become a priest!

When his superiors were telling Fr. Jude that they might close the friary, we were all shocked. But father never complained and just asked everyone to pray. His faith and trust was so great that he "knew" it would not close. And he went on with his scheduled retreats year after year with this threat hanging over him for over ten years. Praise God, it never happened!

At one of the weekend retreats my husband, a non-Catholic, wanted to receive the Eucharist with all his heart. Before Mass, Bob went to Fr. Jude and told him about his great desire for the Eucharist and asked him if he could receive that day. Father asked him if he really believed that the bread and wine becomes the body and blood of Christ during the Mass. Bob said yes when he did so Fr. Jude gave him permission to receive. Not long after that as Bob and I we

were praying, he turned to me and said that he had decided to become a Catholic! Now I had never asked him to change in twenty-five years of marriage. We never even discussed it because I knew it had to come from the Holy Spirit and not pressure from me.

Another trip to the Friary we took along two young women who were good Catholics but did not know Jesus as their Savior. The whole trip to Morgantown they sat in the back of our car and talked of their family, problems they were having, and many other things. The retreat was as special as all of Fr. Jude's retreats are, but the most exciting event was that our two friends accepted Jesus as their Savior and received the Holy Spirit in a new way. All the way home they could not talk about anything but the Lord. Praises to God were on their lips the whole way home to Blacksburg, VA. Alleluia!

All experienced Father's exuberant faith and joyful spirit, I'm sure. It certainly was evident to Bob and me. To us he was a spiritual mentor, a friend, and an example of Jesus walking this earth. Even though we did not have the means to get to West Virginia to visit him lately, we have stayed in contact.

It is such a privilege to write just a few of the ways Fr. Jude has affected our lives and we appreciate your invitation to do so.

May God be praised!

Jacqueline (Jackie) Phillips
Greensboro, NC

My deceased husband, Bob Kearns, and Fr. Jude grew up in Sommerville, Mass, just down the street from each other. They spent time together "hanging out", eating at each others home and just hanging out.

When my husband and I got married, Fr. Jude co-celebrated our marriage in Ambridge, PA, a small town near Pittsburgh.

Bob and I continued our friendship with Fr. Jude over the many years. Jude came to our home for a few visits when we lived in Silver Spring, MD. In 2002 when my husband died, Fr. Jude gave us his special blessing and came to his funeral.

Our family visited Good Counsel Friary many times, especially during Holy Week when families came and stayed at the Friary. It was a very spiritual time to be together with Fr. Jude and his friends from all over the states.

There was prayer time, food preparation time, clean up time and laundry time. Everyone pitched in with the chores and it was a time of healing and friendships.

Father Jude shared his life with so many of us who will always remember him in our prayers.

Toni Kearns
Union, KY

All Glory to God! Father Jude would be smiling as I said this. February 1973, I don't remember the exact date of the high school retreat I attended at the Friary, but that was the weekend that I gave my heart to Jesus and I have never, ever been more grateful to God for any date in my life. I was an 18 year old High School senior that arrived at the Friary against my will, forced to go by my parents. I was pretty much constantly smoking pot, living on the fast track, and the farthest person that you could ever expect would become one of those "born again Christians" Yes, I can hear Fr. Jude saying now "Praise the Lawd." with that fine Boston accent. The team of college folks that put on the weekend and the prayers and love of Jesus at that Friary overwhelmed me. I fell in love with Jesus in a little room off the main sanctuary. We were invited to go off and spend some time alone with God. That is the room I was in. God gave me such a vision of his love for me, personally, and Jesus dying for me, personally, that I was overcome and undone. Hopelessly in love I fell, and faithful is He who promised to carry me through. I remember being afraid after that experience that I might wander away from God. So many years later, 34 years, I have done my share of wandering away. But always, God has been faithful and forgiving me for my sins, and always redeeming my life. I was a life dramatically changed for Jesus. I have two grown children that I was able to raise myself, and they both love the Lord. Thank you, dear Fr. Jude, for loving Jesus, for serving Him, and for loving me. I will always remember you with a deep tenderness of heart. I love you and look forward to the best party ever in Heaven. I will join you in the dancing there!

Love In Christ,
Betsy Ryan
Sewickley, PA

I have known Father Jude for many, many years. I used to come to his prayer services when he first started his work at the Friary. I met my husband in 1975 and he also knew Father Jude. He belonged to St Theresa Church and I belonged to St Mary's so when we decided to get married there was only one place and one person we wanted to marry us, Father Jude. He married us on July 2, 1977. He made all the arrangements, even got our best man for us. My husband was 65 and retirement age when we were married so we didn't want to much of a big thing. So we had a nice quiet wedding. Father Jude blessed our marriage and we were happy and thankful. We had a wonderful marriage until Ralph passed away in September of 1997. I have kept in contact with Father Jude all these years. I have asked him to pray for me and he has asked me to pray for him. He has been a blessing in my life giving me strength and support, he has been a true friend and I love him dearly.

A friend of Father Jude's,
Bonnie Patt
Orlando, FL



Father Jude with the Segalla and Zito families. Father Jude introduced Charlie and Lorraine to Roger and Rosemary in 1964. They are still close friends as are their 10 children (5 each) and 16 grandchildren (8 each). The picture above is both families and Father Jude at a reunion on April 5, 2005 which followed a mass that Father Jude concelebrated with our Jesuit priests at Holy Trinity Church in Washington, DC. Father Jude was our Chaplin for the Christian Family Movement in Dutchess County NY and a continual inspiration and dear friend. He also lead Charlie, Roger, Lorraine and Rosemary to the Cursillo. An experience none will forget.

Charlie Zito
Washington, DC

I became a Christian during my freshman year at West Virginia University in 1970. For some time I had been seriously searching but I wasn't finding answers to my questions and I felt like reading the Bible was like reading a foreign language.

David Foster brought me to an Antioch Weekend and I heard and received the Good News. Father Jude was a huge part of this. His joy, love, and peace touched me to the core.

David and I came to weekly Bible studies and prayer times after that. Father Jude nurtured us all like his babies.

I thank God for Father Jude. He changed my life now and forever.

Kathy McLaughlin
Libertyville, IL

Jude's "Jots and Tittles"

Recently...

I was looking over my collection
of a stack of friendly communications,
when I spotted some...from someone
with obvious dedication

they weren't ordinary stationery
in fact they were quite revolutionary
and revealed an enthusiastic missionary

Then...taking a closer look
(the quantity would fill a book)
I couldn't believe my eyes
as I observed each shape and size

Some were full-size sheets
others quite petite
but each came to greet
"in the Name of Jesus" so sweet

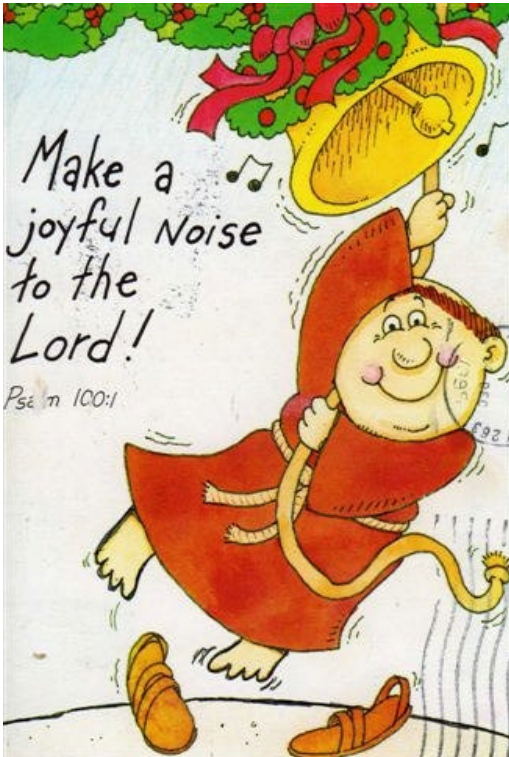
Some were handwritten
others were typewritten
'cause there's no time for quittin'

Some were inviting
"You're welcome to the Friary"
Some were ordering Bibles
(Jesus' very own diary)

Some were asking for fund\$
"No Spaghetti Dinner...
you'll be the thinner...
it'll help pay the bills ...
and you'll be the winner"

Most are greeting cards
(made into postcards)
Is it just to be unique and witty
(or that Franciscan vow of poverty?)

Whether it's a bunch of daisies
in the middle of winter...or
"to mother"...'aunt' or 'brother'
doesn't seem to hinder



I felt kinda sad when I came to the last one
 then I saw a unique one I had missed
 where in the world did he get that one

but whatever the season
 there's a good reason
 whatever the mood
 you'll know it's from Jude

So if you have some old cards
 and don't know what to do with 'em
 Just send them to Jude
 You can be sure he will use them.

Ellen McCloskey
Jerusalem, Israel

Thank you Father Jude for blessing our marriage 30 years ago [May 21, 1977]. This blessing has brought us three beautiful children and a truly blessed life. Your ministry has touched so many lives including ours.

With love

Cathy & Michael Yura
Morgantown, WV

Dear Jude

Carol and I had only been married about 2 years when we met you at the Marriage Encounter. Carol was pregnant with Rachel, our first child. We were Catholics then. You are a good friend and stayed in touch all these years.

Praise the Lord Jesus for His Word that Carol and I were saved from our sin in 1990. We have eternal life now and are sure we are going to heaven as soon as we die. Thanks for your words pointing us to Jesus alone.

Marc & Carol Oliver
Richmond, VA

Christian Family Movement
Cursillo
Antioch Weekend
Life in the Spirit Seminars
God's Weekend
Marriage Encounter
Home Visits
Charismatic Renewal
Pentecost Celebration
New Years Celebration
Sacrament of Reconciliation
Blessing of Homes
Independence Day Celebration
Prayer meetings
Corn Roast
Funeral & Memorial Masses
Concerned Citizens For Community Values
Nursing Home Ministry
Sacrament of Marriage
Visiting the Sick
Christian Businessman's Fellowship
Celebrating Mass
Bible Walk
Music Workshop
Teens Encounter Christ
Christmas Mass
Prison Ministry
Easter Liturgy
Sacrament of Baptism

I will always remember Father Jude as the *angel* we prayed for while transporting the cash from the book sales at Duquesne Charismatic Conference in Pittsburgh back in the 70's. We were a bit uneasy crossing the campus and prayed for a guardian angel and you came out of nowhere and walked with us. I have never forgotten you in all these years. Your ministry has touched many lives including mine.

Peggy Duckworth
Pinehurst, NC

What a great inspiration he was to everyone!

He took the time to go to the local nursing homes. I was so grateful that he visited my mother in Morgan Manor. He baptized her and gave her communion when she became a catholic! He also spent a lot of time visiting people in the hospitals and prayed with me when my husband was having surgery.

Almost like an angel, he appeared in my life many times when he was most needed! My husband, Bernie and I both loved Father Jude. We were so blessed to have known him.

Father Jude touched the lives of so many people. Surely God must be saying: "Well done my good and faithful servant!"

Sincerely

Dorothy Simons

Morgantown, WV

Our youngest son, Michael, first met Father Mili in West Virginia. He was helping him at Mass and asked what order he was in. Father Mili replied: "Franciscan". Michael responded: "We knew a Franciscan priest named Father Xavier from the Honduras". It turns out the two priests had graduated together from the seminary.

We fondly remember his fund raising spaghetti dinners where we had to bring our own silverware!

We were touched by his constant hospitality in inviting us to the many retreats, events, and meals he hosted. Due to his leadership and organizational talents, he coordinated multiple activities.

His kindness to the transient people who needed food, shelter, and benevolence was very impressive to us. He was always sharing his bountiful garden vegetables / fruits with others. His caring dedication to his parish was so steadfast.

His lifelong holiness will surely provide him with a comfortable chair in Heaven's Home. We are saddened by his illness but the Goodness of God continued to sparkle through him to many others. Sending our prayerful love at this time,

John & Doris Bow

Miami, FL

Our friendship goes back 32 years. In 1975, I was preparing to take my National Dental Boards. A friend of mine rented a large RV vehicle to tour famous historical places along the Eastern coast. This vacation was to be a week long. Both of our families were going to travel together. After much deliberation, I decided to stay home while my family went on the trip. I saw them off on Saturday. On Sunday morning, I had awakened earlier than normal. Some feeling came over me to go to Mass in Star City that morning. Man was I surprised to see a real energized priest conduct a very energized Mass. After Mass I inquired to see who this priest was. I was told he was Father Jude Mili from the Good Counsel Friary located on Tyrone Road. I went back to our mobile home to continue my studying. All afternoon something kept coming to mind about this morning's Mass. Late that same day I looked up the telephone number for the Good Counsel Friary. I called first thing on Monday morning and spoke with Father Jude. He invited me out to visit with him. We had a nice visit; he invited me back to meet my wife, Rose Ann when she returned from her vacation. This was the start of a long friendship. Father Jude met Rose and our friendship grew stronger. We had Jude baptize our second son Bryan, whom we gave the middle name Jude. Of course since

father was from Boston, Mass, he often would speak about the wonderful clams that he loved to eat while in Boston. We surprised Father Jude after the Baptism with a nice meal. We had fresh steamed clams flown in to Pittsburgh for us, and with clam sauce and all his other favorite foods. His eyes lit up when he sat at the table. He often spoke about his clam dinner at the Szarko's.

Over the years of friendship, I felt that Father Jude had the gifts of prophecy, healing, and other spiritual gifts. I was concerned about losing our friendship when I decided to move my practice to Parkersburg, WV 150 miles south. Jude would tell me "distance makes one's heart grow fonder".

Father Jude always seemed to know when things were going wrong with our family or with me. There were times when I was really down emotionally. A few minutes later the phone would ring and Father Jude would say "How are things going Jim?" We would talk for some time and there were times when he would counsel us.

Jude was one who could convince you that whatever job needed to be done, you were the one who he felt could lead the team and complete the task at hand. I would often say to Father Jude that I am 150 miles away, how can I come up and re-do the Bible Walk. What about men to help plus materials and time. Jude would say "I need you here next Saturday and will have 8-10 men to help you". "See you then" and he hung up. When I arrived there were the men and he had the materials we needed. Many strange events would happen when we would work on the Bible Walk. The first event, Father Jude had the original designer and builder present for our work session. His name was Bill Warren. Bill met the workers and told us the story of how the Bible Walk came to be. There were some people from Cuba who could not speak English. As Bill told the story these people sat very quietly. After Bill was finished with his story, we prayed for a good safe work day and went to work. The Cuban people were excited and spoke to each other in Spanish. Later that day, we learned that while Mr. Warren spoke English to us, these strangers heard the most beautiful Spanish coming from Bill.

Strange isn't it.

It would always storm on us towards the late afternoon. Jude would tell us that Satan didn't want us to restore the Bible Walk. On one repair weekend, Father Jude sent me a picture a tree that had been struck by lightning twice in a few minutes. That was one of the trees that I worked under. This picture made the front page of the Dominion Post newspaper.

On another weekend, a friend of mine came along from Parkersburg to help. We were completing construction of a roof when our afternoon storm came. The roof was too heavy for both of us to lift. All of a sudden, a young lady and 2 children came down the trail. She was very muscular. She asked if we needed help. She helped raise the roof onto the upright supports. We all stood under the shelter as the lightning and rain hit. The storm left after a half hour. We then saw the lady and she went down the Bible Walk trail. Later that afternoon Father Jude came down to see if we were ok. We told him about the lady and 2 children. His statement was: "I have watched over the Bible Walk since you were working down there. There were no other people there."

The funniest Bible Walk incident occurred when we were re-building the Last Supper. We had to remove all the mannequins and remove all the clothes to be cleaned. After re-roofing the Last Supper, the sun was beginning to go down. Father Jude came down to tell us to quit for the day. He mentioned that we could not leave the mannequins unclothed. My wife and several other women quickly gathered up the body parts and re-clothed the apostles. We re-seated them for the evening. The workers were amused because no one knew if James arm was attached to John, and where John's body parts were on some other apostle. The women

told Father Jude not to look at the back of the Apostles because they all had bare butts. Father Jude appeared to give out a loud laugh when they described the scene.

I was amazed how Father Jude fought to keep the Good Counsel Friary going from his assignment there. The story goes that most of the friars were re-assigned to other locations and his superior told Jude that the Friary would be up for sale. Father Jude pleaded with him. After a period of time, his superior agreed to let Jude stay at the Friary under several conditions. One condition was that all funding from the Franciscans would be removed. Jude had to survive on donations and fundraising events, if God wanted the Friary to remain a friary for the community.

Father Jude needed to find ways to support the property. He reduced the electric bill by having an electrical engineer look over the property to see how he could save. Things like labeling the refrigerator so people did not have to open the doors to see what was inside. Only use certain ceiling lights during non-event days. After following these suggestions, the power company sent out an inspector because Jude had reduced the electric bill almost in half. The power company thought that he was changing the power company meter. He laughed and said "I just did what your electrical engineer told me to do."

Father Jude's entrance sign "You are but a stranger but once at the Friary" was very true. I cannot recall anyone being turned away during my stays at the Friary.

When Father Jude called he was checking on us as he had a rash request. Many years ago, he called and asked me to design and build a Christmas Nativity Stable. The catch was that he wanted it to be a contemporary design. And so it was done.

Father Jude asked Rose Ann and I to help with the Marriage Encounter Weekends. Being 150 miles away, we would come to help with the honeymoon dinner. Our role was to provide the wedding cake and flowers and candlelight dinner. Rose and I met a lot of friends and we always looked forward to these events each year. Ninety percent of the flowers were grown in our garden. God and the Blessed Mother always made sure that there were enough beautiful flowers for the event no matter what the season was.

I often felt that when Jude lost Virginia, even though he would not show it outwardly, a little part of him died.

Father Jude brought me back to my faith after all these years of friendship. He strengthened our marriage, our relationship to one another and our children.

Jude kept a diary, recording each day at the Friary, what happened, who came to visit, work, etc. I understand that it is many, many volumes. What a documented history of Good Counsel Friary! Rose and I had the privilege of having Father Jude attend our youngest son's wedding, performed by Father John. Father Jude said "This was the first time that he was on the other side of the altar during a wedding ceremony".

Jude lived as he believed. He taught us all to be respectful to one another and teach others by our actions.

Father Jude... we will never forget you.

You are safely home with God, the Blessed Mother, your mother and father, Virginia and all the other souls whom you touched.

I will never forget my first encounter with you.

[read "Safely Home"]

Enjoy your clams.

Respectfully

Dr James & Rose Ann Szarko

Vienna, WV

I am a Franciscan Bishop [once a schoolmate of Fr Jude Mili OFM] and we have been soul brothers in touch, each one evangelizing and praising the Lord [I in Central America, especially Guatemala, Salvador, Honduras and recently Nicaragua]. In our epistolary contact and his visits [Fr Jude gave a retreat for Franciscan missions in Honduras] certainly speak of his missionary spirit and solidarity with us during his ministry of praising the Lord.

Father Jude as a man of God was “all things to all men”. Indeed! I am sure the Lord is pleased by this man of God, Father Jude.

When it was not fashionable, this man of God, was praising the Lord with brothers and sisters of other denominations and beliefs.

As a faithful pen pal, Father Jude was ever encouraging in our labor of evangelization. Praise God for his solidarity and love at all times; a testimony of praising and thanking God always.

Gratefully in Our Father’s Love,

Gerald Scarpone OFM

Emeritus Bishop of Comayagua

Honduras, Central America

As I look back on my spiritual journey, I can recall the many times that my path and Father Jude’s crossed. Father Jude’s zeal and joy for the Lord influenced my life and set me on a course that I would never fall back from. I deaconed many of Father Jude’s masses at St Mary’s church and at the Good Counsel Friary. I attended the “Life in the Holy Spirit” seminars. I assisted in teenage retreats at the Friary. I served many communion services at the Friary which enabled me to grow spiritually and serve the community during Father Jude’s absence.

Father Jude gave me my own copy of the Lectionary as a gift. It is dated June 4, 1985. I will always cherish the Lectionary and the kind words Father Jude expressed to me on the inside cover. I have used the Lectionary every day and the word of God has become my life as I prepare to be ordained to the Holy Priesthood on Monday July 16, 2007 at Corpus Christi, Texas. This is the memorial of Our Lady of Mount Carmel and the anniversary date of the founding date of our religious community, the Society of Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity. Thanks for all that Father Jude has done for me. May Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity be with Father Jude and with Jesus and Mary

Deacon George Nedeff, SOLT

Parkersburg, WV

It is with deep gratitude that I write this to you. I just attended the vigil Service at Mount Alvernia in Wappingers Falls.

It is a great privilege to be here where you spent many years of your priestly life. The Franciscan atmosphere exudes a great sense of hospitality, simplicity and joy just as I always experienced at the Friary in Morgantown.

At the Vigil, your Franciscan brothers and friends spoke of your deep faith, your relentlessness, your sense of humor, your ability to empower, your spontaneity and so much more. All this I experienced in my thirty-one years of knowing you.

Your special gift to me was that of the many ways in which you introduced me to pastoral ministry. Your ability to reach out to people with sensitivity, love and care inspired me to enter pastoral ministry. This I have enjoyed for over twenty-two years now. Thank you, Jude, for this gift.

May you praise the Lord forever and may your Alleluia's ring out for all eternity. This is my prayer for you.

Jude, I love you in the Lord!

Sister Gertrude (Gerard) Erb, RSM
Rochester, NY

Father Jude was to all who knew him as a man who demonstrated great love and devotion to the Lord and the Lord's Church. Cheat Lake Community Church would like to offer a brief thank you and testimony of the way he blessed us and our church.

Father Jude, most Protestants don't say "Father" lightly, was a Father to countless people from every walk of life. When our small group needed a place to worship our Lord, Father Jude opened his heart; when we needed a friend, he opened his heart; when we needed encouragement, he opened his heart. Men of God, like Father Jude, are far and few between. It is our hope that he and others know that he was and is loved.

A favorite memory of Father Jude and the Good Counsel Friary revolves around a youth group from East Texas Baptist Church. The Church sent a number of teenagers on a mission trip to help in the building and remodeling of what was then Cheat Lake Baptist Church sometime in the late 1980's. Father Jude gave freely of the Friary's resources in full hospitality to our friends. They slept and ate and prayed in the Friary. The teens just loved him and referred to him as "The Jude Dude." Father Jude wore that title like a badge of honor and ministered such love back to those kids. What a wonderful memory we and they will carry all our lives!!

It doesn't seem enough to say, "Thank you for a man who walked the talk." Living examples of Christ's love and true Shepherds have such a profound influence. We are grateful to the Lord and to the Light of Life Community for such a blessing. Father Jude is a part of the History of Cheat Lake Community Church and so many, many families like ours that he touched. He was a wonderful man and a good neighbor.

It is our prayer that great rewards and rest are given to Father Jude ----- He deserves it.

John Sommers
Cheat Lake Community Church
Morgantown, WV

Father Jude was an amazing person who touched our lives deeply.

Mark & Meryl Kearns

Mendham, NJ

Mike McDonald, who traveled and preached with me in his youth, and I were at the Friary for ministry several times. We thought a great deal of Fr. Jude. His friendship and joy in the Lord really meant a lot to us. We loved him dearly.

Though I still do a little light ministry, I'm soon to turn 80 and Mike's now the father of five out in Minnesota, the eldest of whom is in graduate school, so as much as we would have loved to come to Morgantown, there was just no way.

Fr. Jude, pray for us!

God bless you all.

Fr. Edward Dillon, OFM

St Petersburg, FL

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to say a few words about what Fr. Jude has meant to me.

I met him in June of 1966 when I was making a Cursillo in NYC and he was part of the team. His topic was "Palanca" and he expressed it in such a positive way yet also shared how important it is in our lives.

Afterwards, because I was in Newburgh, NY that summer, my sisters and I were able to attend Mass at some of his friend's homes. At an outside gathering (Ultreya) he was the first priest that ever said Mass facing the people and I remember being absolutely overcome during the consecration, when he raised the Host and showed the Blessed Sacrament to all of us as if we were con-celebrating with him. He was such a generous man with his wisdom, compassion and above all humility that made you feel like he was on the same level as all of us (and at that time Vatican II was just coming around to the role of the laity in the church).

Throughout all these years, we only communicated by mail (usually just a short note in a Christmas card) but somehow I knew that he was living his ministry and that all was right with the world because Father Jude was in it.

I don't believe he will choose to "rest in peace". Not while there is still so much work to be done to bring peace and justice to all God's children.

His love and the love he held in his heart for all who met him, will continue to grow and now is being combined with the Eternal Love that he served so totally all his life.

He's still alive as far as I'm concerned and I hope he'll continue to inspire me and urge me to the same dedication that he had until, perhaps, I'll get to say De Colores to him in heaven.

Bless you for your kindness,

Teresa Cahill

Napa, CA



Living in Pittsburgh, I heard much about Father Jude.

I first encountered him at a music workshop at the Friary. Not knowing what to expect, upon seeing him, I whispered to my friend, "That's Father Jude?" This jolly little man with the huge smile and "Praise the L-aw-d" on his lips.....what's not to love??

Needless to say, I returned to the Friary for Life in the Spirit Seminars, spaghetti dinners, personal guidance and marriage encounters.

My husband and I married late in life and Father Jude was the priest we wanted to witness our marriage. We married on Nov 11, 1983 in St Valentine's Church, Bethel Park, PA.

Later we moved to Arizona where my husband became a Deacon for the Phoenix Diocese. We were honored to have Father Jude be present for his Ordination.

I am deeply grateful to God for putting Fr Jude into our lives. I can't thank Fr Jude enough for all you have done for both Joe and me, especially for your prayers and support during Joe's long illness. Fr Jude is a true and faithful friend! Know that he is in my daily Mass and prayers. May God give you strength and comfort. Thank you for showing me the way to God's Heart and I will always keep a 'Praise the L-aw-d' on my lips! Love ya!

Fran August

Mesa, AZ

We remember Father Jude with much fondness and especially our trips with him over the past years.

The Wednesday Morning Prayer Group

Carol Nomedes

Pittsburgh, PA



2001 Pentecost Celebration
John Kotlensky
Donora, PA

2005 Pentecost Celebration



We have lived in Tucson, Arizona, for nearly thirteen years since moving from the Morgantown area. We love it here, but our greatest regret in leaving was the fact that we could not take Father Jude and the Friary with us.

When we first moved to Star City in Morgantown in 1979, we attended an Easter morning mass at St. Mary's. Father Jude was celebrating that mass, and he made us feel as if we were really present as Christ rose from the dead. He literally screamed out. HALLELUJA!! HALLELUJA!! HE IS RISEN!! CHRIST IS RISEN FROM THE DEAD! HALLELUJA!!

You could feel the excitement all over the church. We were so impressed, but disappointed to find that he was not the pastor, but was only helping out.

We moved in 1982 to Cleveland, but returned to the area in 1991, and that is when we became regular visitors at Good Counsel Friary and friends with Father Jude. He so enhanced our faith, especially with the Holy Spirit during the Life in the Spirit weekend. We remember fondly the retreats, the spaghetti dinners, the marriage encounters, the New Year's Eve parties, and the study groups with Father at the helm. He is such a sincerely good man, and that goodness spreads to all who are around him.

We truly know that Father Jude's excitement continues to spread the word of God.

God bless Father Jude!

Peggy & Frank Troy
Green Valley, AZ

Our family had been long time contributors to the annual spaghetti dinner fundraiser. Even after the dinner was no longer held, we continued to contribute to “the dinner”. Father Jude always personally called to thank us and to offer a blessing upon us. I am glad that after he offered God’s blessing upon us last fall, I just had to respond, “May God continue to bless you and your ministry, Father Jude”. He was truly a blessing from God to our community. I would like to share a precious memory of Fr. Jude. We had the honor of having him baptize our youngest daughter, Kathryn, at St Mary’s Church in 1988. Her five older siblings were enthralled with the service and found Father Jude’s New England accent especially interesting. At the point of the mass when he told the congregation to “Lift your hearts up to the Lord” the children began to giggle. After the conclusion of the baptism, our daughter Amy, who was eight years old at the time, explained what the kids had found so amusing. She giggled,” You would think that Father Jude would know that we don’t lift our *hats* up to the Lord”!

Debra Cyphert
Morgantown, WV

We have enjoyed knowing Father Jude and I am sure he heard the words "well done my Good and faithful servant, enter the gates of paradise".

Through the years we have received mail from Good Counsel Friary. On Pentecost, the mailing always said to "wear red." Pentecost reminded my late husband Paul and I, of Father Jude and his ministry. It seemed to us in the early 1970's, that when Father Jude walked, he was not touching the ground, and he was so joyful, I am sure this is still true today.

When we served with Father Jude on the program committee for Christian Family Movement (CFM), Father Jude kept the whole committee in correct Theology. I remember one particular evening we were asking the question about Jesus "and who do you say that I am?" we were finally about to reach consensus.

In the late 70's our daughter Laura Thompson expressed a desire to serve in some missionary program and we told her about the mission work of Good Counsel Friary. She spent quite awhile in service during the summer. She came back home and is still serving others. She has said that she received much healing while serving others.

Thank you Father Jude for touching our lives.

God bless you.

Selma Thompson
Lake Charles, LA

Fr. Jude Mili came into my life in dramatic fashion. My son was a new medical student at WVU. My wife and I came to Morgantown to purchase a home for him and his family for the four-year period. I attended Mass at St. Mary's church in Star City one weekend, and Fr. Jude was the celebrant. When it came time for the peace sign, he marched down the center aisle and greeted everyone with his full-face smile. A person will remember that kind of peace sign. As I became familiar with Morgantown, I started attending Mass often at the Good Counsel Friary. The chapel was located up a steep hill, and when you entered the vestibule of the left wing, you went into a large room, where you would hear Fr. Jude conducting a prayer meeting with his two dedicated assistants, Virginia and Carol. At the appointed hour, Mass was begun, and volunteers did scriptural readings. At communion time, the worshipers gathered around the altar table, a very warm and inviting arrangement. It was an experience I appreciated and enjoyed each time I visited my son.

Fr. Jude's budget for operating costs at the Friary was shoe-string tight, but what he was able to accomplish in his tenure left a lasting impression. God bless him for his dedication, his energy, his drive, his enthusiasm, and his tight-fisted efforts to keep the Friary functioning as a spiritual and practical center for human enrichment, understanding, and faith. May he rest in peace -- his work is done at the Friary and he has gone on to a better life, richly deserved.

Donald Berens
Waldorf, MD

For over thirty years I assisted at Fr. Jude's Daily and Sunday Mass at Good Counsel Friary. He was my Priest, my Teacher, my Friend. Father was Family.

We celebrated Christmas, Easter, birthdays and any event in between. Father loved a "Paty". Father Jude was at the Morgantown Airport when I brought my family from Michigan in an air ambulance. Five years later he anointed my Father as the ambulance waited in our driveway to take him to the hospital.

Not long after we moved from Syracuse, N.Y. Father told me he had prayed that The Lord would send someone to attend Daily Mass. In those early years I often felt like Princess Grace of Monaco with my own private chaplain. How well I remember one Candlemas Day when Father and I processed around the Chapel with lit candles.

Father Jude's passing marks an end of an Era in Morgantown.

As my 4-year old Grandson, Daniel said - "Now I have a Friend in Heaven".

Marie MacBride
Morgantown, WV

We moved to Morgantown, WV in July 1976, from Syracuse, NY.

I was a member of a Charismatic and Ecumenical Prayer Group in Syracuse and was delighted to find “The Light of Life Prayer Group” at the Good Counsel Friary. It was initiated by Fr. Jude J. Mili, OFM, Director of the Good Counsel Friary in 1969; Prayer Meetings were held every Tuesday night.

Thanks to Fr. Jude, many programs and ministries emanated from the Friary. They included: God’s Weekends, Life in the Spirit Seminars, Antioch Weekends, Marriage Encounter Weekends, 4th of July Mass and Picnics, Corn Roasts, Summer Programs [which consisted of students helping the poor], Pre-Cana preparation for Marriage, Pentecost Sunday Celebrations [with white paper doves and red balloons], Christmas Eve Mass and Celebrations, as well as New Year’s Eve Mass and parties afterwards.

As one who attended and helped at most of these events I witnessed the “Love of Jesus” being brought to all. Many lives were changed - Spiritually, Emotionally and Physically.

A large number of young people, especially WVU students, attended the Prayer Group and Friary activities. Several are now dedicated Priests. We will never forget Fr. Jim O’Connor and Fr. Casey Mahone - both serve in our Wheeling-Charleston Diocese.

Every week Fr. Jude visited shut-ins, as well as the Hospitals and Nursing Homes. Whenever he was asked to celebrate a Mass or visit the sick he never refused - day or night.

Fr. Jude enthusiastically supported Pro-Life, Citizens Concerned for Community Values, Serra Club and the Christian Men’s Fellowship.

Father remembered everyone’s name. All who knew him loved and respected him. His teachings and life are an inspiration for us all. Father Jude’s “Praise the Lord” and “Alleluia” will always be with me.

In Loving Memory,

James D. (Jim) MacBride

Morgantown, WV

Father Jude, my wife, my mother and I traveled together to Charleston WV, to an awards banquet. The four of us shared a hotel room there. In the morning, Father Jude celebrated morning mass with us in the hotel room. It was very special, very close and personal.

Thank you Father Jude.

Life with Father Jude always included morning prayers and evening prayers and prayer at meals and prayers for safe travel before the beginning of a trip whether a 5 minute or 5 hour trip and spontaneous prayer at any time of the day for whatever occurrence, need, request, praise, blessing, just *whatever* and *whenever* and *wherever* and *always*. In addition, the walls of all the rooms and the corridors of the Friary included prayers of reflection and praise in the graphics and artwork and posters. Father Jude would say: “just listen to the walls.”

bob & Irene Carubia

Core, WV

Mary and I attended morning mass for quite a few years at the Friary, Father Jude almost always presiding. Occasionally, Father would ask me to do something for him. One more memorable occasion was a trip to All Saints Church, Masontown, PA. Mary insists that I tell you about it.

One evening, 'twas the post-elevator period, when Father was something less than a tower of physical strength, he wanted to know if I would chauffeur him to Masontown on the following two Sunday mornings to say Mass in the absence of the Pastor, there. Given Father's physical condition, I could hardly believe my ears. Still, since it was to be the second Mass of the day, I would have sufficient time to satisfy my family's Mass obligations at St. Mary's, and then drive Father to Masontown in time to celebrate Mass there. So I said yes, grave misgivings notwithstanding. The following morning after Mass at the Friary, I apprised Father John of the request and asked for his assurance that Father Jude was up to demands of the Sunday Mass and the trip. If there were reservations on his part, in his own inimitable style he circumlocuted them.

As I recall, the first trip transpired successfully, without incident. All Saints and its McClellandtown mission was formerly our parish. So I had the pleasure of meeting not only some old friends there but, stopping here and there enroute, with some of Father's acquaintances as well.

The second trip was somewhat different, most particularly on our return to the Friary. It was raining cats and dogs. There was no one at the Friary to receive us. So I drove as close as I could to the door of the Sacristy of the Chapel. Father assured me that he could gain entrance to the Friary proper from there. I opened the door of the car and assisted Father's exit. All went well up to that point, but Father had to step back a foot or less to clear the open door of the car, from there clear sailing. But no, the unbelievable happened. Timber! Father started to fall backwards; there was no resisting except to ease his fall, he went down like a log from his heels into the standing water. Father laying there in the water, helpless, looked at me non-committally with an almost infant-like expression in his eyes. I couldn't leave him to seek help. There was no help to be had! In exasperation, I said, "I knew damned well that something like this was going to happen". I meant every word of it. I sensed that if I attempted to assist him from his back, he would have folded up like a piece of spaghetti and most probably would have made it impossible for him to regain his feet. Irrationally or not, I stood astride his rotund body, grasped him under his shoulders and stepping backward raised him, as stiff as a log, and however improbable it may sound, to his feet. From there I was able to get him inside the Friary. Though I wanted to and offered it, I could give him no further assistance.

In retrospect: I never was a "Man-mountain Dean" a tower of strength. Given a repeat of the circumstances, I doubt that I could lift Father or even a much smaller man, cooperating, from that position, as I did that Sunday afternoon. I believe now Father's guardian Angel, perhaps mine as well, made it happen! Deo Gratias!

I do hope you find this story, absent the least exaggeration, worth the telling. In any case, ever yours In Christ,

Mary and J W Boyle
Morgantown, WV

A Servant of God

I was able to get to know Father Jude through the Knights of Columbus sponsored ministry of the Radio Broadcast of the Liturgy. Having never met this man of God; I called to present him our program and asked if he would be interested in helping us with this program. His response, as I have since come to know this man, was “what is it that we can do to help in spreading the word of God”. I explained in detail the program and what our intended goals were to achieve as well as the reason for doing so. Father Jude was very receptive to the idea. Both Father Jude and Father John worked diligently in this program and were very instrumental in its success. We became dear friends throughout the years since this project began.

Some of the most memorable times we had together were discussing our beautiful Faith and Church over lunch. We could discuss any topic. He taught me many things through the years. He was very approachable when you needed help or guidance, always smiling and promising that God loved us and would always watch over us. I will always cherish the times we had together.

I have come to realize that God has blessed all of us with Father Jude’s presence in our lives. He was a very holy man. Father Jude was a true advocate for God and the Church. He was always searching for new ways to get Gods Word out to the public and none of us will realize how effective he was and how many lives he touched throughout his ministry. When I heard of the progression of his Parkinson’s disease my wife and I went to visit him at the Friary. When he appeared in the anteroom of the Friary, both of us were brought to tears. At that moment I came to believe that his suffering was his passion on earth. This disease never caused him to give up on doing his priestly duties to the people entrusted to his care. Our next meeting was when Father Jude came to Saint Patrick’s for a penance service, along with Father John. This was another example of his loving concern for the members of God’s family. This illness would not keep this holy man, in my opinion, from ensuring that the sacraments of the Church would be ministered. That, I believe was foremost in his mind at all times.

The last time I was able to see Father Jude was in the critical care unit at Ruby Memorial Hospital. He had just come out surgery. This moved both my wife and I to tears once again. We did not awaken him but were able to talk with the doctor, who said that he had done well throughout the surgery. It was our last visit.

When I had learned of Father Jude’s death, I was both saddened and relieved for him. However, I hope that all of us remember his duty and service to the Lord and I know that he has reassured my faith in God. These final days of Father Jude bring to mind Saint Paul’s words of: I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have kept the faith. I hope and pray that these words will have the same affect on each of you.

I pray that we will realize that this is our ultimate goal to go home once again to Our Fathers House. We will greatly miss this wonderful man, but now we have an advocate in Heaven, a close personal friend with whom we may talk with and still ask for guidance. I know that Father Jude will continue his duty of interceding on our behalf to the Blessed Trinity. In the future on that one certain day, he will meet each of us at Heavens Gate with open arms saying, welcome home.

I ask you all to continue to pray for his intercession before God on each of our behalves. For this is what I will do.

In Gratitude,

Thomas F Antulov
Fairmont, WV



Dick Moore, Paul Balducci, Father Jude, Joe Gallo and Kathy Gallo near the Usizzi Gallery when we were at the 1975 Charismatic Conference in Rome.

I know Father Jude is now with our Lord and praising Him and interceding for all of us.

Joseph "Joe" Gallo

Baltimore, MD

I first met Fr Jude in December 1994 at Ruby Memorial Hospital in Morgantown, WV. I was a patient there and was going to have a very serious operation involving my spinal cord; the risks were great. My daughter asked Fr. Jude to anoint me and pray with me before my surgery. He very graciously entered my room and prayed with and anointed me, I was now so at ease and knew all would be fine.

In the days after, Fr. Jude would visit me and always lift my spirits with a beautiful prayer. My recovery went well and my friendship with Fr. Jude continued to grow and become stronger. We would correspond by mail through the years - mainly at holidays and he always had kind and encouraging words to say. As his health began to worsen he would call me to respond to my notes. That was a double treat - not only the kind and encouraging words but to hear his voice also.

I will miss our notes and phone calls very much, however I know Fr. Jude is in heaven with the angels looking down on the many people he touched throughout his years as a priest and continuing to pray for us.

Thank you Fr Jude for all your prayers and bright moments in my life since I met you.

Nita Gore

Huntington, WV

In the early summer of 1988, Father Jude celebrated the blessing of Ruby Memorial Hospital. The construction contractors were putting on the final touches for building completion and it was almost ready for patients and staff. Father Jude and about 20 others, many from the Light of Life Community, sprinkled every room with Holy Water. This included patient rooms, operating and procedure rooms, staff areas, waiting rooms, radiology rooms, the elevators, the lobbies, the helipad, the patient beds and other medical equipment, the emergency department, and all other departments and areas. The blessing included prayers for all those would enter the facility then and into the future. The blessing was for God's Will in the healing of all future patients and their families and for God's divine oversight of medical and hospital staff in caring for those patients and families.

In the summer of 1995, Father Jude blessed each and every space in the Family House Addition to Ruby Memorial Hospital.

In the fall of 2005, Father Jude and some of the 1988 group, blessed another major clinical addition to the Hospital that was ready to be opened including the new operating rooms, patient rooms, chapel, boiler room, and all other spaces in the addition.

In 1983, Father Jude asked me to attend the blessing of the apartment of three WVU students. It was on Sixth Street near Grant Avenue in Sunnyside section of Morgantown. In that apartment, that night, not only was the apartment blessed but I was anointed by those students and my heart opened and the Holy Spirit came down upon me.

Thank You Jesus !! and thank you Father Jude for inviting me !!

bob carubia

Core, WV

Jude and I went to West Virginia to "salvage" the Friary in the late 60's/early 70's...it was not being used for anything...we began teaching mini theology courses there and having mini retreats...soon after I left the Friary Jude turned it into a "fireball" ...praise God! Love,

Aidan Licari

Semmes, AL



A Rainbow of Tribute
To Father Jude J. Mili, OFM
For his 30+ years of Ministry
In the Light of Life Community

May he dwell in the house of the
Lord forever. (Ps. 23 v.6)

“My bow I set in the clouds to be a
sign of the covenant between myself
and the earth. When I bring clouds
over the earth, the rainbow will appear
in the clouds...” (Genesis 9:13-14)

With a flow of precious memories of Father Jude,
Love you, bless you,
Sister Francis Clare Schares
Mankato MN

How Father Jude changed my life.

I remember the first time I met Him at our church. I did not go to church at all until I was disabled in 1991. As soon as I could get around I started to go to church with Carol as our four children had all been married and moved away from home.

The first time I met Father Jude was at our church and he started his service with a joke, which was different. Shortly after that we went to the Friary for New Years Eve. And after this I was really confused, as we started out in the cafeteria of the Friary, where we watched the ball in Time Square come down on a television set up there. After the ball came down Father Jude told us all to go to the chapel for a mass and to bring the hats and noise makers with us. This was sure something different to me. I came home on New Years day and for weeks I could not believe this. And one day I thought what better place to celebrate anything then in a church with our Lord.

I know that Father Jude was the best Priest I ever met but more important, he was a great friend that was always there for you. When I first met him I spent a long time trying to figure him out and the rest of the time thanking God for bringing him into my life. I could write a lot about him as every time I think about him I think about something that he did or said to me. He is the main reason I am a Catholic today.

I must have been the most blessed person that ever got taken into the church as Father Jude surprised me and was concelebrant for my mass. Deacon George was also at the mass and Father John, Sister Irena and Sister Sylvester were my sponsors.

I know if we ever get a saint from this area, it will be Father Jude. I now have a hard time going to the Friary or talking about Father Jude or Father John. Even in his last days he was thinking about other people as he was praying with the people at the nursing home. It did not matter to him if you were a Catholic, he was there for you.

When my sister who was not a Catholic was in the hospital, he would come to her room and pray for her each time he was there. He was a man who practiced what he preached. I keep thinking about the sign that is right inside the main door to the Friary. "You are a stranger here only once." After your first time at the Friary, Father Jude would address you by your name.

Father Jude, we all love you and miss you so very much as you have changed each of our lives in some way. I know you are dancing with Virginia and PRASING THE LORD all days when you are not taking our Prayers to the Lord.

Thank You Lord for the short time Father Jude was in my life. As long as we live, Father Jude will never be forgotten.

Gilbert Kingan
Smithfield, PA

I will never forget Father Jude, when I sing or dance, I will think about how Father Jude loved to dance around the Chapel. And also the many picnics that Father Jude, Virginia, George, Noreen, Carol and Sharon Lee attended at our house.

And how Father Jude and Virginia helped buy the car we are driving today.

Father Jude we LOVE YOU, and we know in our heart when the Lord calls us home that you will be waiting at the gate of heaven to welcome us home.

Save me the first dance when I come home.

I love you and miss you very much.

Carol Kingan
Smithfield, PA

Father Jude has been my friend for about 35 years. I would smile at people in my local church and they would give me the up and down look. I knew something was missing at this church. I heard about Father Jude and his "Praise the Lord" and singing "Alleluia" and singing in tongues. When I asked a priest if he knew Father Jude, he said "no" ask Father Goshorn at St Mary's church. Father Goshorn said there is a prayer meeting every Tuesday evening at the Friary and to just call Father Jude about it. So I did. I told Father Jude I knew some ladies who would like to know what they do on Tuesdays at the Friary. He suggested that I get the ladies together and come and visit and he would answer all questions and explain the Tuesday evening prayer meeting. He was so excited about meeting with us. The first thing he said to us was "Praise the Lord!" He answered all our questions and invited us to attend.

When we attended, there were people singing, raising their hands up, clapping, dancing, speaking in tongues, singing in tongues. All were very happy and they were sober. I said to myself "no way can I do this". It's okay for young people. Many college students attended playing guitars and the piano and other instruments. They were so happy praising the Lord. This was very different from my church. But in my heart I knew they had something that I knew nothing about.

Father Jude invited us to a Life in the Spirit seminar which was very peaceful. I knew the presence of the Lord was there. But it took me a year to raise my hands above my head. I grew slowly. It wasn't very long before my friends Mary Louise, Clara and I were in charge of refreshments at the Tuesday evening prayer meetings. I helped with refreshments for over ten years before I moved to Charleston. I did see Father Jude every August in Charleston at the Statewide Charismatic Conference there.

I sure do miss him but he will always have a special place in my heart. He introduced me to Jesus and the Holy Spirit and now I praise the Lord. I know what I know because of Father Jude and the Lord!

Rose Plevich

Morgantown, WV



1993 Father Jude, Natalie with Haley and Wesley with Abbey

My family and I are blessed to have known Father Jude. He was a great person and teacher. Father Jude was there for my family and me. We will all miss him. He was special. I know his family will find comfort in knowing how much he was loved by all of us. Sincerely,

Dorothy Ferrise

Morgantown, WV

Father Jude has been an integral part of our lives ever since my family moved to Morgantown in July 1976. My mother attended daily Mass at the Friary. My parents, husband, children and I attended many Sunday Masses there and assisted during Antioch, God's Weekend, Life in the Spirit and other retreats. We were a part of the Light of Life Prayer community for many years. Father Jude was a member of our family, joining us to celebrate Christmas, Easter and many family events. He married my husband and me and baptized our first child.

During the summer of 1977, I acted as Father Jude's secretary at the Friary. Father Jude lived his faith daily. He believed in miracles and he expected them. One day when I was working as the secretary, I was counting money which had come in. Father Jude noticed the bewildered look on my face as I counted and recounted the money, always coming up with a slightly higher total. When I told him he said, "Praise the Lord" and he explained that was the Lord adding a little here and there and that I should not be surprised. At the end of the summer, I passed the secretarial duties on to the very capable hands of Virginia Yeckley. Virginia remained his secretary and close companion until she died in 1999.

Father Jude was in his glory saying a charismatic Mass or attending a WVU football game. I have many fond memories of attending WVU football games with him after he had said a Mass for the team. Father Jude was a fabulous theologian and when he was at our home, we enjoyed asking him questions. He was easy to talk to and he loved to teach. He had many meals at our home. The meals routinely included some of Father Jude's favorite foods, including coleslaw, and corn. It wasn't a meal to him unless you had dessert. One time when he was at our home for Christmas, we failed to bring out a box of chocolates after dessert was served as we had the previous year. Father Jude kindly inquired whether there were going to be any chocolates later. So, from then on, every year, it didn't matter how large or rich the dessert was, we served chocolates after.

Father Jude was extremely determined and his invincible spirit always prevailed even when his health failed. Father Jude joined us for Christmas 2005 as he had for over 25 years. Santa had delivered an indoor basketball hoop for our son, Daniel who was then 3 years old. We planned to take Daniel to the basement to surprise him. The steps to the basement were very long and steep and Father Jude was not walking well nor was he steady on his feet at that point. So, we suggested that he might want to wait upstairs while we surprised Daniel. Not Father Jude! He simply said, "I want to go" and that was the final word on the subject. It took some time but with Father Jude's determination, we managed to safely get him downstairs and back up again. Father Jude's face lit up as much as Daniel's when Daniel saw the basketball hoop!

Father Jude and his invincible Christ centered spirit will live on in our hearts and our memories!

**Anne MacBride
& the MacBride –Kritschgau Family
Anne & Paul, Daniel, Michael and Marie
Morgantown, WV**



Father Jude preaching at the
2006 Life in the Spirit Seminar

When I first met Father Jude in December of 1974, there was a sign in the foyer of the Friary that read: “You are a stranger in this place but once”. This was so true - Fr Jude knew everyone and loved everyone. He was a vibrant preacher who knew and loved the Scriptures and brought them alive.

In September of 1999, when I introduced my friend (now husband Phil) to him, Fr Jude gave his blessing to our relationship. Fr Jude’s blessing meant so much to me.

He often visited Pittsburgh to preach and Phil & I would go to hear him. We were at the Friary for the Life in the Spirit Seminar in February of 2006. Father Jude was a loving friend and most of all a spiritual guide who we know will always be with us. Fr Jude and I never left each other without saying “we’ll see each other here, there or in the air” referring to heaven. I know he is in heaven petitioning our causes and loving the Lord Jesus Christ. Praise the Lord!

MaryJo Mariani Bondi
Pittsburgh, PA

May the love and peace of the Lord be with you always.

Thanks for the Life in the Spirit program. It changed my life in a new way to know you and Jesus, to serve you and Jesus. I love you and miss you and want you to know how much God has turned my life. Thank you again.

My prayer:

Change my life oh Lord,
Make it ever true.
Change my life oh Lord,
May I be like you.
You are the potter,
I am the clay,
Melt me, mold me, change me.
This is what I pray.
Change my life oh Lord,
May I be like you.
Love and prayers
Your brother in Christ,

Frank Lopez
Morgantown, WV

I remember Father Jude

First time I met him was at St Bonaventure University in 1971. Among all the priests there, he was the one with slightly longer hair and always with a smile from ear to ear! I remember asking, "Is he alright? I mean can we trust him?" I never saw such an outgoing joyful priest – a Franciscan to the core! I had to "check him out"!

I found that he had a summer program in Morgantown WV, and asked if I could help out with it. I first went to it that year, 1972, I believe, and year after year after that. For me that summer program was pure happiness. Father Jude attracted the young and the young at heart from all over and led us all into a community rich in spirituality and joyful service to the poor in Osage and other towns. I got to know and love Father Jude through all those years and I know that once he becomes your friend, he is your friend forever! I have good reasons for saying that and I have witnessed to how beautifully he lived his priesthood.

I remember.....

....the time he prayed over the wall of the Friary so that the electrician could find just the right spot to make a hole to fix a big problem. And they found it right away!

....going with him to pray over Mrs. Staltieri who had been scheduled for an operation-cancer of the stomach. He assured her after the prayer that all would be well. And she was well! The doctors could not believe it but no operation was needed anymore and next summer the woman was giving us vegetables from her garden. She lived many years after.

....witnessing to how Father Jude helped, encouraged and spiritually healed several priests who needed the holy atmosphere of the Friary. His compassion kept them from despair and in two cases that I know, brought them to conversion and reconciliation just before their untimely deaths. I know he also befriended a blind priest and accompanied him to Rome for a priest retreat. The blind priest was very demanding and insisted on having everything done in a precise way. Father Jude did it all with patience and love.

He fasted... the 40 days of lent and from November 1st to December 25th and again after New Years. During other times he fasted on Tuesdays and Fridays. Fast for him were liquids only. When he got older he allowed himself one full meal per week during his fasting. He said the power of his ministry came from that sacrifice and I believe that to be true. Once I accompanied him on part of his Advent fast and I'll never forget how hard that was nor the spiritual strength that came from it.

His daily routine at the Friary was disciplined. He made rules – too many, I once told him! But the rules really kept the Friary in order. There were so many people coming and going and living there on and off. He made sure everyone towed the line, himself first of all- but the Friary only got dearer and dearer to all visitors. The sign at the door "This is Holy ground" rang true. We can all attest to it. He invited in all who needed a place to stay-sometimes they would stay for years! He treated the weak and disabled so gently.

Daily prayers before Mass were a must for everyone who stayed at the Friary. There was a scripture reading and sharing, morning prayers from the Divine office, followed by Mass. And the prayer intentions of the Mass included a long list that was faithful to all whom he knew needed to be remembered [my name was on that daily list for years].

And then there was the secretary of the Friary, Virginia Yeckley, a saint by anyone's estimation. She was a sweet and generous soul called by the Lord from her Presbyterian elders position to stay at the Friary. She prepared to enter the Catholic Church and kept her preparation secret from Father Jude till the time of her entrance. He was the inspiration. She was his confidant and constant co-worker. When her health weakened and she died, Father Jude was heart broken in the loss of her. He loved people dearly and it showed.

Many times I was there when Father Jude received bad news like the time his Superior told him the Franciscans would no longer financially support the Friary. "From now on you are on your own". So I helped form some letters he sent to friends and supporters letting them know he needed help to keep the Friary open. I know that enough donations came in each month – just enough!

I remember how he came home one day after a visit with a bishop of the church. Father Jude looked devastated. When I asked what happened he simply said, "the Bishop thinks I'm a fool. He called me that."

Along the same lines, he suffered from what I think was jealousy among the local parish priests at that time. They made him take down the sign noting the times of Mass at the Friary. Hard to believe, harder to accept and forgive. But Father Jude did. And no one ever heard a word of defense or resentment. He let pain like that come to him and offered it to the Lord. In the end, they all came around and respected him.

Charismatic?? To a great extent! Once after a Women's Aglow conference, I was leaving with Father Jude and several women reached out to shake his hand. They all were "falling in the spirit" and I said, "Father Jude don't touch anyone else, they are going to fall down the stairs!"

I remember somebody who wanted to be baptized by immersion. Father Jude had a friend who offered their backyard pool and so you guessed it! Father Jude neck high in the water, and I in my green bathing suit assisting with the ritual book and the happy neophyte being dunked three times in the blessed water !! I will never forget that nor will anyone else who was there.

He often counseled me in time of difficulty or with hard decisions. I trusted his discernment and I am grateful for his wisdom. Many times he asked me to join him at the Friary as an assistant, but I never felt the call to do that. I came every summer for about ten years and for holidays when I could. But my call was elsewhere and he respected that in me.

Father Jude is an inspiration and I think a model of priestly zeal, love and fidelity. My memories of him are vivid and joyful- too many to write down. He was like St Paul in many ways –dogged in his tireless pursuit of souls to save.

Now he is in heaven. As he said to me many years ago, "I want to burn out, not rust out". He did. He burned out with a heart burning for the Lord. I am a very grateful witness to my friend, Father Jude J. Mili, OFM.

Sister Marguerite Critchley
Flushing, NY

Testimony for Father Jude. Praise the Lord!

The following is from my journal entry dated February 18th, 2002:

“I spent this past weekend at a “Life in the Spirit” seminar in Morgantown with Marge Marino Hartung and Trish Kleckner. The seminar was cleansing and a Blessing. Father Jude is a dear Holy man of God in his 70’s and suffers from Parkinson’s. He was truly a blessing for me. I am a Contemplative and have a Protestant heritage. This weekend broke through all these barriers; we put on ourselves. When I was baptized in the Holy Spirit, I experienced a great release, something I’ve never experienced before. I found myself pinned to the floor crying and gasping for air. I was scared but could not move. When I was released from this hold I returned to my row, wept, and felt the greatest release I have ever experienced. I’m not sure how to make sense of this experience. God help me.”

God led me to some readings in the Bible and ‘Dark Night of the Soul’. I know what I experienced was described in ‘Dark Night of the Soul’. “Wherefore the spirit experiences pain and sighing, so deep that they cause it vehement spiritual groans and cries, to which it gives vocal expression; when it has the necessary strength and power it dissolves into tears, although this relief comes but seldom.”

Thank you, Father Jude, for my ‘Dark Night of the Soul’ on that February 16th, 2002. I have continued to be closer to God since that night.

Margi Gault
Elkins, WV

Testimony of a Grateful Heart

My story is one of thanksgiving for the work and ministry of Father Jude Mili and the Good Counsel Friary (GCF). My gratitude is for how God used the GCF ministry to transform my life over 34 years ago, which literally saved my life.

My introduction to the GCF was through a friend from WVU, Julie Curva. After repeatedly avoiding and making excuses for not going to prayer meetings (she kept inviting me), I finally accepted her invitation to go to the GCF for an Antioch weekend retreat. The appeal of going into the mountains for a retreat sounded good to me, and I thought I could help “enlighten” some narrow minded Christians who had outdated traditional beliefs.

When I went to the GCF for the first time (Friday, April 13, 1973), I had long hair, and was dressed in a very “scruffy” manner (Father Jude’s description). ☺ I also had been smoking pot on a daily basis for nearly the previous year (including that day), and did other drugs as well. I was flunking out of West Virginia University, with no real motivation to study. My worldview was Eastern/pantheistic (“New Age” they would call it now). I believed that if I died, I would be absorbed into the Nirvana of the Universe. I was also fascinated with the occult, in which I had only begun to dabble. My plan was to go to a large (1,000 person) Satanic Mass at midnight at a cemetery the following Friday (4/20/73), which was “Good Friday”. I was really on a collision course with death.

It really was a miracle that I actually made it to the Antioch weekend. I had friends mocking me, saying I would become a “Jesus Freak”. I had just purchased one hundred hits of “purple haze”, LSD, for myself and nine of my friends (who simply wanted to party). I had no interest in Christian things, and thought Christians were just rigid, blind fools. How wrong I was. I was soon to discover that I was the blind fool who needed his eyes opened and needed to yield my worldly foolishness to the Wisdom of God.

I went that Friday night, in spite of clear demonic opposition (too involved to address here), and the love between the different Antioch staff members at the Friary was intriguing to me. The format of the weekend was good for me, hearing talks by deeply sincere speakers (such as Fred Grewe and David Wanstreet) that made an impression on me. The Word of God was clearly proclaimed, and then discussed in our small groups. Steve Pino was a new Antioch weekend helper, and I enjoyed his guitar playing. By Saturday night, I had heard the entire Gospel of God's love for me, the free gift of heaven offered, my own sinfulness, Christ's payment for that sin on the cross, and his resurrection from the dead. I also heard about receiving this gift of God by faith, about the spiritual warfare we face, and the fact that we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but principalities of darkness.

My plan for Saturday night was to sleep outside, under the stars, in my sleeping bag. I was outside with Margie, another participant, questioning her regarding what she thought about the talks, and she kept affirming that she believed it all. The simplicity and certainty of her faith impressed me. Father Jude came out at 2:30am and told us we had to go inside and sleep in our dorm rooms. I went to the chapel instead. I knelt in the front pew, and began to talk to the Lord.

At first, I felt foolish. Then I reasoned, if Jesus was not there, I was only talking to myself and it would not matter, since no one else would know. I began my conversation with Jesus by letting him know I did not have the faith to believe in Him, but needed help. I apologized, saying that, if He was real and really rose from the dead, He was alive, and I had been spitting in His face my whole life. I broke down and wept, and prayed, and wept and prayed. I experienced the presence of God as never before, and experienced Jesus delivering me, and by 3am (which seemed like hours later), I was raising my hands and was praising God with my whole heart, knowing what it meant to be "born again". The personal God being discussed at that Antioch weekend had reached down and touched me, setting me free, opening my eyes to the truth of His Word. My life changed forever between 2:30 – 3:00am that Palm Sunday, April 15, 1973.

I left the chapel, looking for someone with whom to share the news of my new life under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. I looked through the glass door of the library and saw Father Jude and the entire leadership team with their hands raised in prayer and praise to God. They had been praying for me and the other participants of the Antioch weekend. God answered those prayers.

My life was transformed that Palm Sunday morning. Instead of flunking out of school, or killing myself in active or passive ways, the Lord called me and led me to where I am today. Happily married for nearly 27 years, four college degrees (including a PhD) instead of flunking out, 14 mission trips to South America to share the Good News, a busy Christian counseling ministry, etc. ... all to the Glory of God. And it all began at the Good Counsel Friary. To this day, in the waiting room of my Hammonton, NJ office, I have an 8x10 framed picture of the "castle" from the GCF property to remind me to give thanks for God's mercy shown to me through the ministry of Father Jude and the Good Counsel Friary.

Ronald S. Newman, Ph.D.

Millville, NJ

Safely Home

**I Am home in Heaven, dear ones;
Oh, so happy and so bright!
There is perfect joy and beauty
In this everlasting light.**

**All the pain and grief is over,
Every restless tossing passed;
I am now at peace forever,
Safely home in Heaven at last.**

**Did you wonder I so calmly
Trod the valley of the shade?
Oh! But Jesus' love illumined
Every dark and fearful glade.**

**And He came Himself to greet me
In a way so hard to tread;
And with Jesus' arm to lean on,
Could I have one doubt or dread?**

**Then you must not grieve so sorely,
For I love you dearly still:
Try to look beyond earth's shadows,
Pray to trust our Father's Will.**

**There is work still waiting for you,
So you must not idly stand;
Do it now, while life remaineth-
You shall rest in Jesus' land.**

**When that work is all completed,
He will gently call you Home;
Oh, the rapture of that meeting,
Oh, the joy to see you come!**

On March 9th, 2007,
the Almighty has called His servant
Father Jude J. Mili, OFM
to everlasting, eternal happiness.

Our tears need to be tears of joy for Jude, as we can only imagine his reunion
with the other saints and angels. With that choir,
his voice can eternally

Praise the Lord ! ! !

his feet can dance forever with

Joy in the Lord ! ! !

and there will be the constant melody of

Alleluia ! ! ! Alleluia ! ! ! Alleluia ! ! !

Our sorrow needs to turn to all Jude taught us about the promises of God
and to

Seek the Lord

in all we do so that we may join him in praising the Lord.

Our mourning needs to reflect upon the past encounters with Jude
and consider them

Blessings from the Lord

and only a glimpse of what is in our future if we

Trust in the Lord ! ! !

Epilogue

The testimonies in this book were placed in the order of when received with minimal editing.

Father Jude was able to read many of the earlier testimonies before his life ended in this world and we know he truly appreciated them. He always considered his ministry a blessing from “the grace of God” and would state such after reading each of the testimonies.

The last testimony in this book was received during Father Jude’s surgery last November. After reading and discussing it with Father Jude, it was placed on the wall of the Intensive Care Unit with the numerous get well cards that Father Jude received. What an inspiration for the medical staff and a way to minister to them!

This last testimony was the inspiration for this book about the ministries of Father Jude and how his unselfish and faithful service to the Lord deeply affected many to be called to Jesus Christ. This last testimony was misplaced during one of the moves between hospitals and could not be found even with an extensive search. Without prompting, the author “happened” to re-send it and we felt it most fitting that it is included as the last testimony in this book.

We know that others, who encountered Father Jude, and who are not prone to writing, will be inspired by this book. And certainly a second edition will be forthcoming.

This book will also be an inspiration for others who have not known Father Jude and for those who don’t know Jesus Christ. And we pray that by this, they all come to know the Lord.

May all the Lord’s blessing come down upon us all and may we all be further inspired by the ministry of such a servant of God. **Thank You Jesus !!!**