



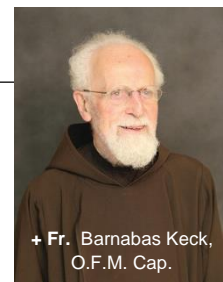
making a **difference**

in the lives of those we serve...

...with a spring in his step and a song in his heart

Father Barnabas Keck with a spring in his step, a song in his heart and the healing of souls will be forever etched in my heart and mind. I was blessed to work side by side with this gentle soul for his years here at Saint Joseph's in New Paltz. Whistling as he made his way down the stairs to his office, a smile would come to me knowing that he would be in to greet me as soon as he took his cap off! Next it was coffee time ~ and he would always bring me a cup knowing I didn't take the time to grab one for myself. His laugh was infectious, his love for everyone was real and his prayers were constant, especially if he knew what was troubling you. Often I would see my name in the Mass enrollment book, not questioning why, though He must have had a reason. He would see and feel other's pain, and put us at ease with his soft spoken words. Many times we would be discussing who was sick in the hospital or seriously ill at home ~ He would silently go back to his office, grab his cap, take his case with his anointing oils and a book of prayers and off he would go. His wisdom and his many gifts were a blessing to me and I am truly grateful to not only call him Father "B" but my friend.

Fr. Barnabas Keck was Capuchin Franciscan friar who served the Province of St. Mary for 70 years. Fr. Barnabas was called to his heavenly reward on August 13, 2013.



+ Fr. Barnabas Keck,
O.F.M. Cap.