

Making a difference in the lives of those we serve...



Capuchin Franciscan Friars of the Province of St. Mary -Chapter 2011

For the record, I have had no “negative experiences” at any time with clergy. Were they sometimes tough? Yes, they had to be, and our parents in lock step with them. My memories of them, frankly are all good, and I owe them a lifetime of appreciation. I went through my college years, right here in New Paltz, for a part of them, in the 1970’s. Yes...I “strayed”, but not in “faith”, only in “action”. I never stopped believing, I just put it on a shelf for a while, out of youthful selfishness.

When I met my lovely wife Laura in New Paltz, and we started dating, we felt something missing, and even prior to getting married, we returned in an active way to our Catholic Faith and subsequently remained immersed in our parish lives. Fast forward to 1988 when we moved to the New Paltz area (Gardiner), a homecoming really, and we spent our first year at St. Charles in Gardiner. Absolutely lovely little parish, but decided to get a feel for St. Joseph’s in New Paltz, where our heart really was anyway.

It was instantly home, and we never turned back. Why? The Capuchins! No question about it. There was a “pastoral” feel about them. No finger pointing, not judgmental, no bells & whistles & Hallelujah Choruses etc.... Just bringing it back to Christ. There was not one Capuchin Friar (Priest or Brother) at St. Joseph’s that we did not love. Frankly, if we ever lost you guys (God Forbid), Laura and I (and many others) would be so sad.

You have it right. As important as doctrine, liturgy and Tradition are, what’s more important is how we actively bring our Faith to others. The Capuchins are a prime example of this. Your homilies, actions, and commitment to community are a daily inspiration to myself and our family. By the way, our children absolutely love you, and you have inspired them in maintaining an active Catholic Faith. How easy is that in this world?

I can go on for pages, easily, but I’ll leave it here. My goal, along with my wife Laura, is to do our best with our time, God given skills & talents in helping all of our Capuchin brethren and Parish family, service our community and beyond, in an active way for many years to come.

Thank you Capuchin Franciscans for your love, inspiration and dedication. You have us hooked.

Phil Subey

The Capuchin Franciscan Friars of the Province of St. Mary have ministered at St. Joseph Parish, New Paltz, NY since 1975 [40 years].

