

Four stories of how Capuchin's touched our lives:



Our daughter Wendy was three or four. We had just moved into our new home on Dogwood Hollow in New Paltz. We had been away from the church for about two years- Wendy was not "good" in church. Some excuse, huh? One afternoon this tall handsome man in monk's garb came knocking on our door, welcomed us back to church, and pretended that he was a "bird" by flapping his robe and delighting our daughter!

Soon afterwards he got "sick"....**Father Peter Damien**. Such a great loss.



Fr. Peter Damian Preziosi
1932-1977

First Capuchin Pastor
at St. Joseph, New Paltz-1975-1977

We were "encouraged" to go on a Marriage Encounter Weekend. We went. It was "OK." Then dear friends of ours went on one with **Father Joe Testagrossa**, and they just LOVED it!!! We felt that we had missed the boat, so the next time Fr. Joe was leading one, we went! What a difference! He was so funny! And he always called all of us his "honeys". He was the dearest person! We became Engaged Encounter "leaders" and did many weekends with Fr. Joe. He is the reason that we are part of the church family.



Fr. Joseph Testagrossa
1930-2004

Pastor 1978-1983

My brother Stuart was an alcoholic, and for two years he lived in the basement of the house he shared with his wife Marie and son Clinton. Marie and Clinton were Catholics, but my brother never converted. When he died of acute alcoholism, Marie asked me if we could have a memorial Mass for my brother here at St. Joseph's in New Paltz, because she didn't know a lot of people at her church in New Jersey. I spoke to the priest and he agreed. After the beautiful memorial service, Marie guiltily approached the priest and tearfully said, "*Father, I have a confession to make. I didn't love Stuart.*" The priest said, "*When he was hungry, did you feed him? Did you provide clothing and shelter for him?*" Marie said, "Yes." And **Father Barnabas Keck** said, "*My dear child, if that isn't love, I don't know what is.*"



Fr. Barnabas Keck
1924-2013

Parochial Vicar
1997-2013

One summer afternoon I went to church and saw a man in his white undershirt on a riding mower mowing the lawn. He waved. I waved. It wasn't until the following Sunday that I realized that the new custodian was indeed our new pastor, **Father Raphael Iannone!** We have a little Marriage Encounter prayer circle - we're just four couples now, but ALWAYS Fr. Raphael! He has been an integral part of our little prayer circle since he came to St. Joseph's. What a wonderful, wonderful priest!!!



Fr. Raphael Iannone

Parochial Vicar
2008-Present

We at St. Joseph's have been BLESSED by the Capuchin brothers and priests!

Pam and Richard Geuss

