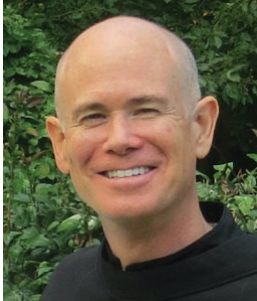




NATIONAL SHRINE OF  
**ST. MAXIMILIAN KOLBE**  
AT MARYTOWN

*From the Desk of*  
**Fr. John Clote, OFM Conv., Shrine Administrator**

July, 2018



Dear Friends,

A primary charism of the Conventual Franciscan friars is to be an itinerant preacher serving the Church and the Gospel where it is in need. As a Franciscan priest, I made a vow to live this life and serve the people of God as directed by my superiors. At a recent meeting of all the friars in our Province my superior asked me to take a new assignment at The Basilica of St. Josaphat in Milwaukee. And although my preference is to stay here at Marytown, I can be a more authentic witness of the gospel by honoring my vow of obedience and follow where the Lord leads me. So in mid-July, I will leave Marytown to start my new assignment in Milwaukee.

It has been my privilege to serve you as a priest, friar, and Shrine Administrator. I say farewell with a heavy heart, but carry with me the cherished memories you have provided. Your faith, generosity, and deep commitment to prayer have inspired me greatly in my own walk with the Lord. In particular, your fidelity and devotion to the Eucharist and the Blessed Mother have been a gift to my priesthood.

Together, during my tenure, the friars and our hard-working shrine staff have made many needed improvements to our historic chapel and the Marytown campus. These enhancements will surely enrich the prayer experience of our visitors and retreatants for years to come. I assure you that Marytown's dedicated shrine staff will continue to carry on this vital work under a new administrator to be named soon.

Lastly, never doubt that with Marytown you enjoy a true gem within the Franciscan Order and the Church. I humbly encourage you to continue to care for this jewel through your prayers, charity, and service to one another. The Church needs you and the Church needs Marytown. Please be assured of my continued prayers for all of you.

Peace and all good,

*Fr. John Clote, OFM Conv.*

Fr. John Mary Clote, OFM Conv.  
*Shrine Administrator*

My new address is:

Fr. John Clote, OFM Conv. The  
Basilica of St. Josaphat 2333 S.  
6th Street  
Milwaukee, WI 5321

---