

Friends of the Friars

Franciscan Friars of the Renewal

Dec 2010



Let me introduce you to the "Friends of the Friars", a non-profit corporation, formed specifically for the purpose of supporting the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal and to oversee the financial resources given by benefactors to establish a friary in Albuquerque, NM. Also, the "Friends of the Friars" is you...because of your support to us, as friars, to establish our religious community. We Friars are so very grateful to have "Friends" supporting our way of life. We are blessed to live a life as a public witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and you as "Friends" make it possible. We ask you to pray for the Friars and the work we do with you. We remember you, our benefactors, daily, in prayer. God bless you!

Fr. Leo Fisher, CFR

Dear Friends of the Friars:

As the end of the year approaches, it's time to bring you up to speed on the status of the construction project for the San Juan Diego Friary in Albuquerque, NM. First some background information.

After a lengthy process of fund-raising and searching for property in Albuquerque, a suitable building was located at 404 San Mateo

Blvd NE, just two blocks north of Central Avenue. Your generous contributions to the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal (CFRs), made it possible to purchase the 8,000 sq ft building in February of this year for approximately \$400,000. The building was purchased by the "Friends of the Friars" since, according to the constitutions of the friars' community, they are not allowed to own property. The Friends of the Friars is a non-profit corporation that was formed specifically for the purpose of supporting the life of the CFRs by offering them the physical facilities and resources to live in the Albuquerque area and to serve the spiritual and material needs of the poor. This, by itself, was a major accomplishment and reflects the extraordinary faith of the entire Catholic community in New Mexico and their devotion to the work of the CFRs for the less fortunate among us. Thank you for making this possible!



Br. Gerard working on interior demolition



Br. Giles & Br. Gerard looking over new friary plans

However, our work is not yet complete. The building must be renovated from an office building into an operating Friary. Over the past several months, detailed architectural plans for the renovation were completed, cost estimates for construction tasks were collected, building permit applications were submitted, and contracts for construction activities requiring certified professionals were negotiated.

Nearly all of this work was donated by the persons and companies involved. The renovation plans will be completed in three phases:

- **Phase 1:** demolition of interior walls and floors and installation of underground utilities with rough-ins to new kitchen and bathroom facilities
- **Phase 2:** completion of an operating kitchen, service area, and chapel in the west-half of the building
- **Phase 3:** completion of the residential area for the Friars in the east half-of the building.

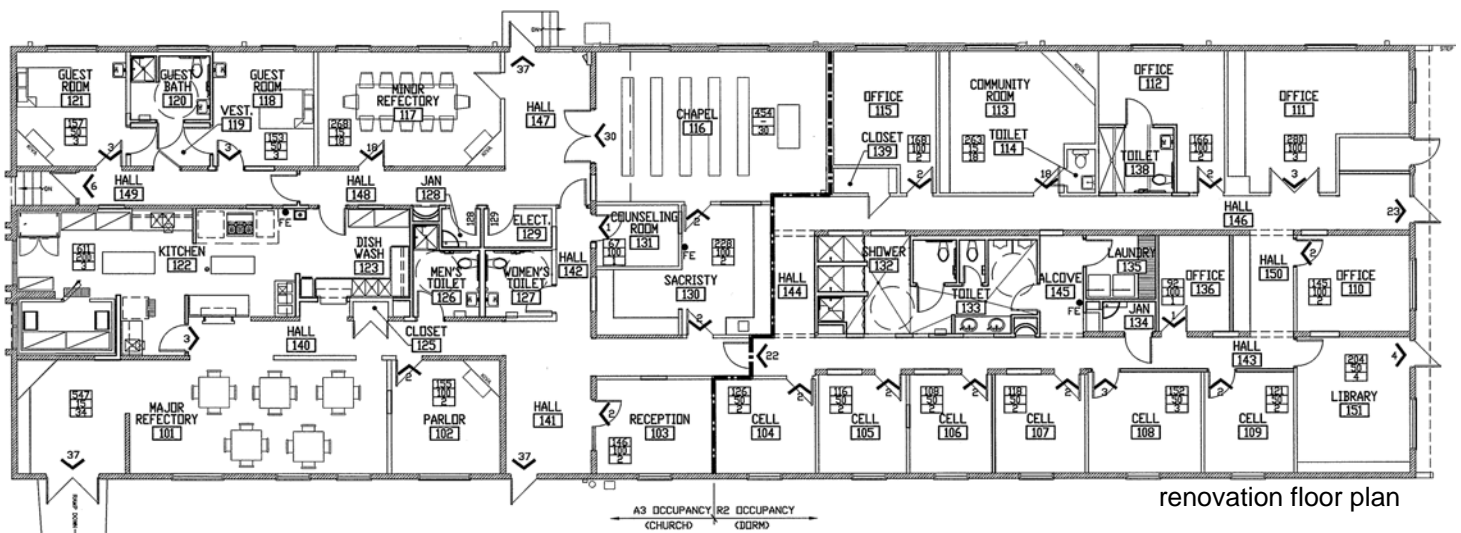
We expect construction work on the Friary (Phase 1) to begin in December 2010.

The CFRs and the Friends of the Friars have sufficient funds and donated construction materials to cover the costs of the first two phases of this project. However, we need an additional \$90,000 to cover the necessary costs of Phase 3.

Which brings us to the purpose of this letter ... **We urgently need your help to complete the building renovation for the San Juan Diego Friary and allow the CFRs to occupy the building in early 2011.** Before the end of this year, we are asking you to participate in this project by offering a financial contribution toward this remaining \$90,000 effort. Your generosity has allowed this project to move very close to our goal. But an additional “last push” is needed to get us across the finish line.

Please use the enclosed envelope to send in your contribution to this final step for giving the Friars a home and the facilities they need to serve the poor and needy along Central Avenue and surrounding neighborhoods in Albuquerque. Checks should be made out to: **Friends of the Friars** and mailed to 267 Los Lentos Road NE, Los Lunas, NM 87031.

Do not hesitate to contact a member of the Board of Directors of the *Friends of the Friars* Corporation at (505) 866-4800 should you have any questions. Thank you for your prayers and contributions to this work.



Board of Directors: Jennifer Cantrell * Fr. Dennis Garcia * Mark Leonard * Fr. Rick Zerwas
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