



FRANCISCAN FRIARS

9230 West Highland Park Avenue - Franklin, WI 53132 - 414-525-9253 x238 – www.franciscan-friars.org

<<Primary Addressee>>
<<Preferred Address Line 1>>
<<Preferred City_State>> <<Preferred ZIP>>

Dear, <<Primary Salutation>>

May the Lord give you peace!

Ad Jesum per Mariam, “To Jesus through Mary”.

I can still picture the large inscription, directly over the canopy of the main altar of St. Bernard’s church in my hometown of Philadelphia - Ad Jesum per Mariam. As a child, I could not fully understand the meaning of the words; **“to Jesus through Mary.”** However, as an older adult, I have come to know and understand the many images of Mary, beckoning me to come to her maternal embrace.

During the month of May, we honor our Blessed Lady, as we recite the rosary and crown her statue with ringlets of flowers. **In all of this, our Blessed Mother bids us to lay our burdens before her, knowing that she will present our needs to her beloved Son, Jesus.** *Ad Jesum per Mariam.*

Pope Francis has brought to our Marian devotion yet another image of our Lady: Mary, Untier of Knots. You may ask, “what knots?” They include the knots of discord and



Children explore a Mary Untier of Knots shrine



Br. Mario Nagy prepares the ribbons to be mailed

separation within the family; lack of understanding between parents and children; a lack of respect for one another; violence across our nation; the absence of peace in our world and homes; the knots of addiction; the knot of chronic illness, the isolation of depression or a lonely heart that cannot feel the presence of God. **These knots can crush our spirit and the joy that unites us to God.**

We all wrestle with various problems that create knots in our stomach. **A gentle, understanding image of Mary, Untier of Knots, is an image of a mother to whom we can look for prayerful assistance in untying the knots of our problems.**

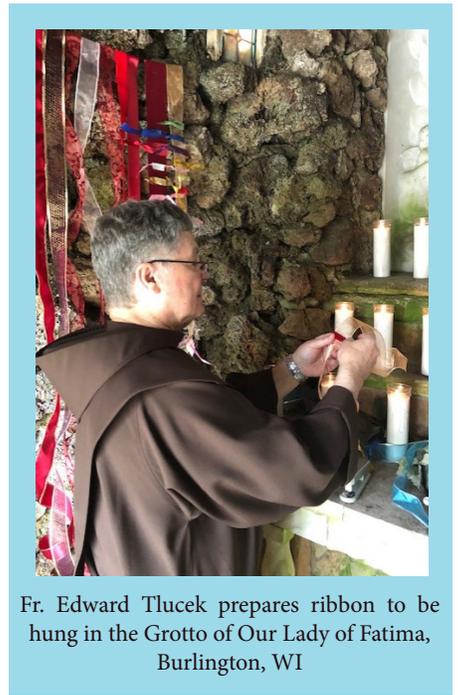
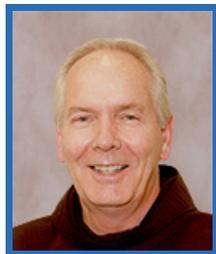
We once again invite you to inscribe your concerns, your knots, on the enclosed ribbon and return it to Francis and Clare Friary. We, in turn, will attach your intention in the Grotto of Our Lady of Fatima, Burlington, Wisconsin.

The images of Our Blessed Mother are many. Yet, her face is that of motherly love each of us. **She is always pointing us to Jesus – Ad Jesum per Mariam. Mary, Untier of Knots, pray for us.**

Peace and good!



Fr. James Gannon, OFM
Provincial Minister



Fr. Edward Tlucek prepares ribbon to be hung in the Grotto of Our Lady of Fatima, Burlington, WI

P.S. Please return the ribbon and list of your special intentions. We will pray with you to undo the knots of those intentions during our daily Masses and personal prayers.