Dear jubilarians, friars, and our guests,

We thank God for our brothers who have reached 25, 40, 50, 60, and 65 years of consecrated life or priesthood, all the while preaching, living, and offering God’s generous mercy. We are blessed to celebrate the 2016 jubilarians in the Year of Mercy.

It is God’s mercy, His kindness, that has enabled us to live for so many years as Capuchins. I am one of the 2016 jubilarians and I can attest that it has been for me 25 years of adventure, some work, lots of consolation, a few trials and many many unimaginable and undeserved mercies.

In 1951 Father Gary Stakem was ordained a priest and Father Bonaventure Stefan was professed. These brothers could never have imagined the world of 2016 with its internet and computers, its very different lifestyles, with Mass in English and every other language and so many other technological and social changes. But 65 years ago Jesus Christ was their love and their Lord and He still is. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever!

In 2081, 65 years from now what will the friars who were professed and ordained in 2016 find? I don’t know, but I do know this: Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever!

The Capuchins who celebrate their jubilees this year served and some still serve in Papua New Guinea, Puerto Rico, the United States, Rome and the Middle East. These brothers have carried the good news of Jesus Christ who is the source of all life and peace to the ends of the earth. These brothers and Jesus is never ending mercy.

These friars have been and are pastors, teachers and formators. They have served as reserve chaplains for the armed forces and have worked with and for, these men daily sit in silence before God begging mercy for the prayer if he is true to his vocation. For some of these men, their work years are past, but not their prayer. That is as vibrant as ever.

Tonight we honor and celebrate the mountains of God’s mercy that years. And every one present here pledges anew his commitment to be a man in love. Thanks be to God.
Jubilarians 2016

65 Years
Ordained
August 28, 1951
Gary Stakem
Professed
July 14, 1991
Bonaventure Stefun

60 Years
Ordained
June 9, 1956
Angelus Shaughnessy
Professed
July 14, 1956
Roman Kozacheson

50 Years
Ordained
October 23, 1966
John Getsy
Professed
July 14, 1966
Joseph Mindling
Ward Stakem
Dismas Young

40 Years
Ordained
January 24, 1976
Bill Gillum
Professed
July 21, 1976
January 23, 1976
Ramon Lopez
John Petrikovic

25 Years
Ordained
June 1, 1991
Tom Betz
Professed
July 20, 1991
Roberto Martinez
October 17, 1991
Zakarias Yepa
Anibal Rosario Mercedo

Dear [Name],

65 years ago, the Oblates of St. Joseph welcomed you into the Lord’s Family.

Many years have passed. You have faced many challenges and joys since then. The Lord has provided for you in all sorts of ways. But, as we reflect on your ministry, we realize that despite all the changes in the world, your mission is still the same:

To be married to the poor, to patiently tell the poor the Good News, to share in the pain of the poor.

To be married to the poor is a privilege and a mission. It is the heart of our Compromis.

May God continue to bless you and your ministry. May the Lord continue to use your gifts and abilities to bring about the Kingdom of God. May the Lord continue to be the light of your life.

Sincerely,
[Your Name]
50 Years Ordained
Joseph Mindling,
O.F.M. Cap.
Hometown: Columbus, Ohio
Ordained: October 22, 1966

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* [133] “forcefully and specifically urges all the Christian faithful…to learn ‘the surpassing knowledge of Jesus Christ, by frequent reading of the divine Scriptures.” Following his ordination in October, 1966, Joe immediately began preparing for a career dedicated to doing exactly that. His determined pursuit of this knowledge came despite many interruptions and setbacks, and it has blessed many friars and students from all parts of the world with a lively and passionate teacher, director and formator as a result. Even tonight, Joe’s commitment to this aspect of his priestly ministry has him in Jerusalem, finishing up his tenure as director of the Order’s Light of the World Center, leading one more group of pilgrims into an encounter with the Word of God. May the good work God has begun in our brother Joseph bring it happily to completion upon his return to us in the weeks ahead.

50 Years Ordained
Dismas Young,
O.F.M. Cap.
Hometown: Butler, Pennsylvania
Ordained: October 22, 1966

Behind a deadpan sense of humor, our brother Dismas has sought to show the compassion, charity and gentleness of Christ in his 50 years of ordination service to the Church and the Province, most especially among the poor and struggling. He holds a special fondness for his years of ministry in Puerto Rico, and most recently returned to Export, PA, to celebrate his golden jubilee with us. Dismas was a pastor of many friends and well-wishers who got to know him as a pastor there among many friends and well-wishers who got to know him as a pastor there among many friends and well-wishers who got to know him as a pastor there among many friends and well-wishers who got to know him as a pastor there among many friends and well-wishers who got to know him as a pastor.

50 Years Professed
Ward Stakem,
O.F.M. Cap.
Hometown: Cumberland, Maryland
Professed: July 14, 1966

Ward cites the example and inspiration of friars whom he met and saw living our Capuchin life with integrity and fidelity as the fuel that has fed his vocation for 50 years. He has sought to mirror those examples in his own life. His sense of service seems to have allowed him to faithfully execute duties involving multiple major commitments almost as a matter of course. As a military chaplain, certified pastoral counselor, and pastor of dual and unflagging loyalty to those entrusted to his care. Ward sees patience as a leads to growth of peace,” from which real patience is born. Congratulations, Ward, on your 50 years of faithful, patient witness to our Capuchin life.

40 Years Ordained
Bill Gillum, O.F.M. Cap.
Hometown: Cumberland, Maryland
Ordained: January 24, 1976

Bill’s Franciscan heart is aptly reflected in his ability to see the beauty in created things, and perhaps most especially in the lives of God’s poor and 22 years of loving service to the mentally and physically handicapped, 18 of them at McGuire Memorial in New Brighton, PA. Even during his full-time pastoral assignments in Rochester, Baltimore and Philadelphia, Bill took time to engage God’s “little ones.” Now serving on the Formation team at Capuchin College, Bill’s creative touch can be seen in the transformation of the landscape there from a rather sparse, patchy appearance to a beautiful array of floral color and healthy foliage. May Christ, who “makes all things new.”
EXHORTATION TO THE BROTHERS

Let us all love the Lord God with our whole heart, our whole soul, our whole mind, with our whole strength and fortitude with our whole understanding with all our powers every affection, every feeling, every desire and wish.

God has given and gives to each one of us our whole body, our whole soul and our whole life, and has created, redeemed and saves us by His mercy alone, and did and does everything good for us, unworthy though we may be.

Therefore let us desire nothing else, let us want nothing else, let nothing else please us and cause us delight except our Creator, Redeemer and Savior, the only true God, Who is the fullness of good, all good, every good, the true and supreme good, Who alone is good, merciful, gentle, delightful, and sweet.

Therefore, let nothing hinder us, nothing separate us, nothing come between us.

Wherever we are, in every place, at every hour, at every time of the day, every day and continually, let all of us truly and humbly believe, hold in our heart and love, honor, adore, serve, praise and bless, glorify and exalt, magnify and give thanks to the Most High and Supreme Eternal God Trinity and Unity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Let us love Him who is sublime, most high, gentle, lovable, delightful, and totally desirable above all else for ever. Amen.

-- Edited from Francis of Assisi's exhortation to the friars in his Earlier Rule (1221), XXIII.
Joe,
How I missed having you there to celebrate in person – you and your dear classmate Bill were in my mind and heart all night.