



Franciscan Friars of the Atonement

REVISED

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FRANCISCAN FRIARS OF THE ATONEMENT Mourn Pope John Paul II

Garrison, New York, April 2, 2005 ---- The Franciscan Friars of the Atonement are saddened at the death of Pope John Paul II, whose service to the world reinforced their own said the **Reverend James F. Puglisi, SA**, Minister General of the friars and director of the Centro Pro Unione, an ecumenical research and documentation center in Rome. However, Fr. Puglisi stressed that we must not forget the Pope's message of hope which is echoed in the friars' mission of *atonement*: the reconciliation of all peoples with God, creation, and each other.

“Under His Holiness’ stewardship, the Church has become irreversibly committed to Christian Unity and has reaffirmed its commitment to the dignity and worth of all human beings,” Fr. Puglisi said. “One of John Paul’s major encyclicals, **On Commitment to Ecumenism, *Ut Unum Sint*** (translated, “That all may be one”), outlined the need for the Church to work for unity among all Christians.

Fr. Puglisi, who resides in Rome, is an internationally recognized ecumenist. He will be on CBS News as one of the co-anchors for the coverage of the Pope’s funeral and the conclave that will elect his successor.

Founded by Father Paul Wattson over a century ago, the Franciscan Friars of the Atonement are a Catholic religious order whose mission of Christian unity and mission of atonement - the reconciliation of men and women with God, with each other, and with creation - includes fostering Christian unity and greater interreligious understanding, serving the homeless, those suffering from alcoholism, drug addictions, and HIV/AIDS, preaching the gospel in parishes around the world, and offering respite for those in need of spiritual renewal.

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