

**STATEMENT UPON THE DEATH OF FR. ANDREW APOSTOLI, CFR
FOUNDER OF THE FRANCISCAN SISTERS OF THE RENEWAL**

December 13, 2017

It is with a profound sense of loss and deep sadness that the Franciscan Sisters of the Renewal announce the loss of their founder, Fr. Andrew Apostoli, CFR. The Franciscan Sisters of the Renewal began in 1988, one year after the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal. The eight original friars all had a hand in the beginnings of the fledgling sisters' community but Fr. Andrew Apostoli was clearly given a founding grace to recognize from the beginning that "God wanted a women's branch like the friars" as he told Fr. Benedict Groeschel, CFR (†*October 3, 2014*) as the friars were just beginning their own new community in the South Bronx. From the first inspiration for a CFR sisters' community, to the 30 years of providing Masses and confessions, countless hours of spiritual direction, teaching, and formation, our debt of gratitude to Fr. Andrew is deep and wide. "He was a loving Father to us in every way and without him, our community would not be." said Mother Lucille Cutrone, Community Servant (General Superior) of the CFR Sisters.

It was evident to all who knew him that Fr. Andrew loved his Franciscan vocation and priesthood deeply. One only needed to be present with him at the Mass to experience his humble love of the Eucharist and love of the Church. He was an example to us all of faithfulness, reverence and steady constancy, even in his final illness he was an example of virtue and prayer. He was known worldwide for his rock solid teaching on the truths of our Faith through his extensive preaching apostolate, many books and his television program on EWTN. He was especially devoted to Our Lady and made it a personal mission to proclaim the message of Our Lady of Fatima, of prayer and penance for peace. Father Andrew certainly advanced devotion to Our Lady and Jesus Christ her Son in the hearts of many throughout the world. No doubt Fr. Andrew, faithful son of the Church and son of Our Lady, is in the arms of his beloved Mother in his Fathers House. Even as we pray for his dear soul, we rejoice that his journey has come to a victorious end.