

## Fr. James Edward McCurry, O.F.M. Conv. – Biographical Blurb (2026)



Fr. James McCurry, OFM Conv., is the Minister Provincial *Emeritus* of the Franciscan Friars Conventual of Our Lady of the Angels Province, which encompasses the east coast of the United States; Ontario, Canada; Rio De Janeiro, Brazil; Ireland and Great Britain. Born in Ludlow, Massachusetts, of Irish descent, and educated by the Jesuits at Boston College, he entered the Franciscan Order in 1970. He was ordained to the Holy Priesthood at Immaculate Conception Cathedral, Albany, New York, in 1977.

Fr. James holds BA and MA degrees in English from Boston College, and an M.Div degree in Theology from St. Anthony-on-Hudson Theological Seminary, Rensselaer, New York. He pursued advanced studies at Harvard University Summer School, and at the University of Chicago. He is a past President of the Mariological Society of America, and a correspondent appointee to the Pontifical International Marian Academy in Rome.

After Ordination, he began his pastoral ministry in Chelsea, Massachusetts, and continued in Chicago, Illinois. He later taught for over two decades on the tertiary level at St. Hyacinth College and Seminary in Granby, Massachusetts. Afterwards, for 17 years, he held leadership positions as the Order's Major Religious Superior in Ireland, Great Britain, the eastern United States.

Throughout the entire 49 years of his Franciscan and priestly ministry, Fr. James has lectured, conducted retreats and spiritual days, led 72 pilgrimages worldwide, and preached in all 50 states of the United States of America, as well as in over 65 countries on all seven continents. He served as a delegate to 5 General Chapters of the Franciscan Friars Conventual. For 4 years, he worked as a member of the International Commission for the Revision of the Constitutions of the Order of Friars Minor Conventual. He currently holds positions on the Boards of Directors of the Institute on Religious Life in Illinois, and on the Cardinal Kung Foundation in Connecticut, which works to support the underground Catholic Church in China. In 1991, he assisted the founders of Ville de Marie Academy in Scottsdale, Arizona, and he remains on the school's Advisory Board.

Fr. James authored *Maximilian Kolbe: Martyr of Charity* (London, CTS Publications). He is currently working on three more books (a meditative text, *Lamb Spirituality*; a memoir, *Friar Gobsmecked's Rambles and Ramblings*; and a novel, tentatively entitled *Indian Orchard*). He has published numerous articles, and appeared on several radio, television, and video programs. His "Mariology" series on the Eternal Word Television Network was syndicated for several years, and he has been a frequent guest of +Mother Angelica and her successors on EWTN.

Throughout his life as a Franciscan Friar and Priest, Fr. James has met and collaborated with numerous holy men and women of God, including Pope Saint John Paul II, Saint Mother Teresa of Kolkata, Venerable Fr. Patrick Peyton, and officially declared “Servants of God” Cardinal Terence Cooke, Bishop Francesco Mazzieri, Dorothy Day, and Fr. John Hardon, as well as thousands of anonymous, inspiring believers worthy of sainthood.

After miraculously surviving three muggings at gunpoint, a near-fatal car accident, and the experience of being in a coma on life-support for two weeks, Fr. James shrugs, “*Evidently, God still has work for me to do.*” He remains engaged in evangelization and other works of the Church and his religious Order. In April 2026, the nationwide Institute on Religious Life will present Fr. James its annual “*Pro Fidelitate et Virtute*” award in Mundelein, Illinois. Presently he resides at Pope St. John Paul II Friary in Holyoke, Massachusetts.

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