



The Mission of Our Lady of the Angels

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In 2005, FATHER ROBERT LOMBARDO, C.F.R., was called by His Eminence Francis Cardinal George to Chicago from the Bronx where he was working with the poorest of the poor. The objective: To build a Catholic outreach on the west side of Chicago in one of our poorest neighborhoods, Humboldt Park, on the site of the school tragic fire that took the lives of 92 children and three religious 50 years ago. He was charged with accomplishing the impossible with virtually no funding, and the impossible he has accomplished along with the help of thousands of volunteers and donors, and, of course, God!

Fr. Bob uses all of his talents, not just as a priest, but as a construction manager, fund raiser, counselor, accountant, and friend to those in the neighborhood around the Mission and all of the volunteers who come week after week to help. Fr. Bob graduated from Notre Dame in 1979 with an accounting degree and went straight to work for Price Waterhouse. Soon, however, the call to become a priest could not be denied. As a young priest, he did missionary work in Bolivia and Honduras with orphaned street kids, organized youth programs on Manhattan's lower east side, and then directed the Padre Pio Shelter for the Homeless.

He was a founding member of the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal and a member of the Franciscan Friars Preaching Team for decades. Fr. Bob is a beloved and highly sought-after speaker and retreat leader, locally, nationally and internationally. Over the last 20 years, he has held the following positions: Director, Saint Anthony Residence; Director, Lay Associate Program of the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal; Local Servant (Guardian), Saint Crispin's Friary; Director, Saint Anthony's Free Medical/Dental Clinic; and Vicar General, Franciscan Friars of the Renewal. He also received a M. Div in Theology from Maryknoll School of Theology and a M.S. in Pastoral Counseling from Iona College. In 1991, he was named the Notre Dame Club of New York's Man of the Year.

