

# Franciscans entertaining friary offers

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## ABSTRACT (ABSTRACT)

The Franciscan Fathers' provincial office in New York confirmed Friday that the friary was for sale. The friary, on 493 Tyrone Road, was built during the Depression by master stonemason and Italian immigrant Thoney Pietro. [Robert Campagna] said he would prefer selling the friary to the Catholic Church. Last week, Wheeling-Charleston Diocese spokesman Bryan Minor said the diocese has no plans to buy the friary. When informed of this, Campagna did not respond.

When asked if he would be in favor of selling the friary to Thoney Pietro's living descendants, Campagna said, "Sure."

## FULL TEXT

Apr. 19--The Franciscan Fathers are taking offers for the Good Counsel Friary in Cheat Lake.

The Franciscan Fathers' provincial office in New York confirmed Friday that the friary was for sale. The friary, on 493 Tyrone Road, was built during the Depression by master stonemason and Italian immigrant Thoney Pietro.

"We are entertaining offers," said Father Robert Campagna, provincial minister of the Franciscan Fathers. "We have not listed with any one, we're just looking at this point."

Campagna would not give a price for the friary. The friars are selling it, he said, because they are shorthanded: There are not enough members of their order to take care of all their properties.

In February, Father Patrick Boyle, the Franciscan Fathers' vicar provincial, said his province's friars wanted to sell the friary because it is on the most southwestern edge of the province's territory, and no one wanted to come and take the place of Father Jude Mili, who died March 9.

Campagna said he would prefer selling the friary to the Catholic Church. Last week, Wheeling-Charleston Diocese spokesman Bryan Minor said the diocese has no plans to buy the friary. When informed of this, Campagna did not respond.

When asked if he would be in favor of selling the friary to Thoney Pietro's living descendants, Campagna said, "Sure."

Elsie Carvell, a member of the Monongalia Historical Society, contacted Campagna earlier this week after learning the friary was for sale.

"[Campagna] was very brusque and cool with me," Carvell said. "I got nothing out of him except, "That's up to our legal department."

She and the historical society president, Chad Proudfoot, have been in contact with Pietro's descendants, who have said they would want to buy the friary if it was ever put up for sale.

"We will support the property going to anyone who is committed to saving the building and the property," Proudfoot said. "If that is the descendants of Thoney Pietro, we would love to see that, and we would love to help with that in any way we can."

Credit: The Dominion Post, Morgantown, W.Va.

## DETAILS

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