

## CAPUCHINS OPEN NEW FRIARY IN WYNNUM QLD

1 August 2004

Capuchin Bishop, Most Rev Joseph Oudemans (Aux. Brisbane), blessed the new friary at Wynnum.



Workmen install the statue of our lady in the front of the property in Walnut Street Wynnum

Dedicated to the Blessed Mother under the historical title "Our Lady of the Angels" the new friary will be the new home for the Capuchins ministering in Queensland. The statue of the Immaculate Conception, installed in the garden the day before the opening, was a gift of Angelo Merlino, the father of Br Francis Merlino. It was given to the friars and installed above the front door of the friary at St Laurence's Theological College Wynnum North for many years; now it graces the front yard of Our Lady of the Angels Friary in Walnut Street.



Br Francis Merlino looks on as the statue graces its new home

A number of Secular Franciscans, Members of the Student Guild and the Sisters of Mercy living at Wynnum were present for the ceremony. Bishop Joseph began the service in the small chapel of the friary. The reading was taken from an early Life of St Francis that told of the love the early friars had for each other. The bishop then went outside on to the front porch to bless the threshold and the front door.



He used the following words:

*Lord God, almighty Father,  
through the prayers and intercession of, Our Lady of the Angels,  
and our holy Father Francis,  
bless our new home.  
Make holy this entrance,  
and always direct the steps of our feet.  
Grant this through Christ our Lord.*

This was followed by blessing the house, especially the Community room where the Minister Provincial placed a cross on the wall and said the following words:

We display this sign of love and salvation in our friary  
that it may be the source of our hope and inspiration.



After the ceremony there were refreshments as the people took the traditional blessing day opportunity to inspect every room in the friary that was not locked and even went upstairs to admire the view of the Bay from the front verandah.





Our Lady of the Angels pray for us!