

June 2017

Issue #17



Andy Tretow, Director of Communications

*Let All
That You
Do Be
Done in
Love.
~Corinthians
16:14*



Fr. Greg Plata, OFM

Province Names New Director of Communications

Hello! My name is Andy Tretow. I am the new Director of Communications for the ABVM Province. I happily accepted the position after working in radio for the last 5 years.

I attended the University of Wisconsin Whitewater and received a degree in Broadcast Journalism and a minor in Communications in 2012. After graduation, I briefly worked for the Winona Radio Group in Winona, Minnesota before accepting an On Air/ Producer position at 104.5 WSLD in Whitewater, WI. While there, I took on an additional role as Social Media Manager and discovered a passion for Multimedia Marketing. That role allowed me to expand the online presence of the station and gave them a new avenue to interact with their audience.

One of my goals as the Director of Communications would be to do the same with the Province. I would like to spread the good news about what the Friars are doing around the world through Facebook and eventually through Videos and Podcasts.

It has been an exciting year so far as I have moved to Madison and got engaged to my fiance, Meg. We will be getting married next June. We enjoy spending outdoors and time with our families.

I may live in Madison now but am very familiar with the area as I grew up in Milwaukee, was a member of St. Matthias Parish and graduated from Milwaukee Pius XI High School.

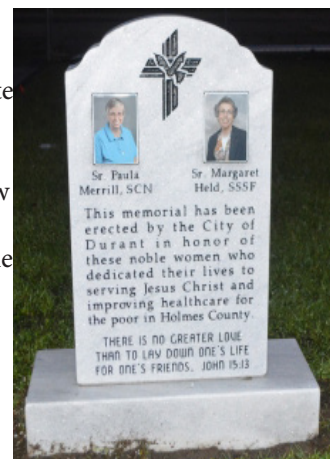
I am looking forward to working with you and continuing the journey that God has put me on.

Durant Community Honors Sisters

It has been less than a year since tragedy struck the Mississippi community of Durant when two Sisters were killed inside their home, but their memory and goodwill will now be forever remembered in the small town's Liberty Park.

Despite the rainy day, a crowd of about 125 people gathered to dedicate a memorial stone to honor the memory of Margaret Held, SSSF, and Paula Merrill, SCN. Speakers at the event included Durant Mayor Tasha Davis and Jackson Bishop Joseph R. Kopacz. Both mentioned how both women had such an impact on everyone they came in contact with. Their memorial stands as a reminder for all to follow the example to dedicate one's life to serving others.

"We needed to do this to keep alive their memory, especially for all they did in serving the poor in this area," said Fr. Greg Plata, OFM. Fr. Greg pastors St. Thomas the Apostle parish in Lexington, about 10 miles from Durant where the sisters were found slain in their home.



Franciscan Media

During their lives Sisters Margaret and Paula touched countless lives through their work as nurse practitioners at a local Medical Clinic and at St. Thomas Parish where they were both active members.

The idea of the monument came from Carolyn Riley, a local resident who said that, while not knowing the sisters personally, knew the impact they had on the town and surrounding Holmes County.

Current ABVM
Province
Administration:



Fr. James Gannon
Provincial Minister



Fr. Edward Tlucek
Vicar Provincial



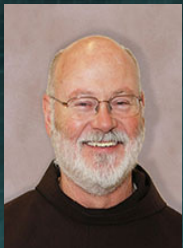
Fr. Paul Reczek
Councilor



Fr. John Cella
Councilor



Fr. Andrew Brophy
Councilor



Fr. Joachim Studwell
Councilor

St. John the Baptist Province Elects New Administration

Andre Lemay, Mario Nagy and Richard Tulko participated as "Friar Guests" in the Provincial Chapter for St. John the Baptist Province. The chapter convened Sunday, May 21st, at St Meinrad Abbey. The Chapter concluded, Friday, May 26th. During the chapter a new administration was elected to serve:

Provincial Minister: Mark Soehner
Provincial Vicar: William Farris
Members of the Provincial Council:
Robert Bruno, Page Polk, Vincent Delorenzo, John Barker



Blessings to Mark, Bill and the members of the SJB Provincial Administration.

A note of thanks to Jeff Scheeler and Frank Jasper as they completed nine years of ministry to the St. John the Baptist Province as Provincial Minister and Provincial Vicar. Blessings to Jeff and Frank as they begin well deserved sabbaticals.

Assumption BVM Province Chapter 2017:

Sunday June 4th- Thursday June 8th 2017



Content of this newsletter was penned by Fr. James Gannon, OFM Provincial Minister of the Assumption BVM Province and The Communications Office.

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