

GOOD NEWS

from Provincial Minister, Fr. James Gannon, OFM



Fr. James Gannon, Provincial Minister, Assumption BVM Province. Elected September 8, 2015.

From the September 2015 Provincial Council Meeting

These past two months have been “historic” and most unusual. Never before has the Province experienced a transition in Provincial Leadership while beginning the fourth year of a six year term.

The shift began during the General Chapter of 2015. On Monday, August 17, 2015, our Minister General, Michael Perry, addressed the Provincial Councils of the United States gathered at Techny Towers and Conference Center, and officially named John Puodziunas the Economo General for the Order of Friars Minor. John received his official obedience from the Minister General on September 1, and departed for Rome four days later.

As a result of John’s departure, the Province found itself in a historic situation: the Provincial Council needed to discern a Friar to fulfill the remaining twenty months of John’s term. Knowing that a Council Meeting was scheduled for September 8, 9, and 10, I asked the members of the Council to gather and “labor” on Labor Day: to pray, discuss, discern and elect a provincial. Andrew Brophy, Paul Reczek, Edward Tlucek, Joachim Studwell and I gathered at 1:00 pm with the Friars of Lourdes Friary in Cedar Lake, Indiana for a Eucharistic Holy Hour.

Immediately after the Holy Hour, following the guidelines set forth by the General Statutes, we began our discussions and discernment. As a result of this process, the members of the Provincial Council called forth James Gannon to serve as Provincial Minister, Edward Tlucek to serve as Provincial Vicar, and John Cella to serve on the Definitory in the seat vacated by Edward Tlucek.

During our June meeting, the Council tabled the vote on John Cella assuming the ministry of Secretary of Formation. This discussion resumed during our September meeting. With John Cella now a member of the Provincial Council, it was agreed with Joachim Studwell that he would continue as Secretary of Formation until June 2017.

Also at the September meeting, the Provincial Council gathered with CEO David Fulcher and Mission Advancement Officer Michael Brauer of Milwaukee Catholic Home to review our year old partnership and to discuss future endeavors. One of the agreements which emerged from the meeting was to accept the offer of Milwaukee Catholic Home to take over the area of housekeeping at Queen of Peace. Jim Gannon will work with Tom Wojciechowski and Milwaukee Catholic Home in interviewing candidates. We look forward to further development of our partnership with Milwaukee Catholic Home.



(Left): Fr. Edward Tlucek, OFM, Provincial Vicar, Assumption Province; Fr. John Cella, OFM, Council Member, Assumption Province.

Provincial Chapter 2017

It is hard to believe that we are beginning the initial preparations for our June 2017 Provincial Chapter. During the September Council Meeting, names were surfaced for General Visitor, and Friar names were presented to serve as members of the Chapter Planning Committee. Jim will present the names to the General Curia, and the Chapter Planning Committee will be formed at the November Council Meeting.

Projects

The Provincial Council agreed to move on a second project to assure the future of the Portiuncula Chapel on the grounds of our Burlington property. The Council voted to approve the funds to install an HVAC System..

Restructuring and Franciscan Inter-provincial Team Report (FIT)

One of the agreed outcomes of the August 2015 meeting of the Seven Provincial Councils of the United States, is to gather Friars from the seven provinces in regional meetings. Each of the seven provinces is to “sponsor” a gathering. During the October meeting of the English Speaking Conference of Provincials, Jim will present our proposed dates: April 5-7, May 10-12, and June 7-9, 2016.



Fr. John Puodziunas, OFN, former Provincial Minister of the Assumption BVM Province is the new Economist (Treasurer) of the OFM Franciscan Order, Rome, Italy.

Friar News

Our community welcomes **Friar Rafael Preciado**, who comes to us from the Province of Saints Francis and James in Jalisco, Mexico. Rafael joins **Anthony Cirignani** in serving the parish communities of St. Mary of the Angels and Saints Peter and Paul, Green Bay, Wisconsin. **Austin Mysliwiec**, Rafael and Tony will share fraternal life at the rectory of Saints Peter and Paul.

Joel Szydowski has arrived in Milwaukee, WI after a long road trip from Lodi, NJ, and has moved into St. Eugene's Friary in fraternity with **Justin Kwietniewski** and **Bill Stout**. Joel has begun his ministry at Milwaukee Catholic Home, ministering to **Bishop Henry, Nathan Jaskulski, David Typek, Joseph Krymkowski** and the many residents of Milwaukee Catholic Home.

Justin Kwietniewski joins Joel in ministry to our Brothers and the residents at Milwaukee Catholic Home.

Since Easter week, **Leonard Stunek** has been involved in intensive physical rehabilitation after a severe break of his right leg. Len will not be discharged from therapy until the end of October.

Pope Francis' Year of Mercy and Pardon 800th Anniversary of Il Perdono of Assisi

At our July Council Meeting, we asked the question: How do we, as the Assumption BVM Province, celebrate the Year of Mercy and Pardon, called forth by Pope Francis, and the 800th Anniversary of Il Perdono of Assisi, called forth by our Minister General, Michael Perry?

The Porziuncola, Burlington, WI



To commemorate these two occasions, the Provincial Council decided to present a series of liturgical celebrations of Eucharist and Reconciliation. The celebrations will take place in the chapel of St. Francis of Assisi and the Portiuncula Chapel in Burlington, WI. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be an integral part of these events, along with Mass and Eucharistic Adoration. Friars will be needed to assist in hospitality, liturgical ministries and serving as Confessors. Please contact Jim Gannon if you are able to assist with one or all of the scheduled events:

1. December 13, 2015: The schedule includes the Eucharist at 3:00 with Confessions before and after, and will be held in the main chapel at St. Francis Friary, Burlington.
2. January 31, 2016
3. April 3, 2016
4. August 7, 2016
5. October 2, 2016



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