

GOOD NEWS

from Provincial Minister, Fr. James Gannon, OFM



January 2016

ISSUE #3

From the January 2016 Provincial Council Meeting

McAllen/Edinburg, Texas

The Provincial Council traveled to McAllen/Edinburg, Texas for our Provincial Meeting, but most importantly to visit with our Friars; **Mario Nagy, Tom Luczak, Andre Lemay, Terence Gorski**, who faithfully serve the church communities of Sacred Heart Parish, McAllen, and Holy Family Parish, Edinburg.

During our visit the members of the Provincial Administration met with the Bishop of the Diocese of Brownsville, Texas, Bishop Daniel Flores. Bishop Flores was very



Sacred Heart Parish, McAllen, Texas

relieved to learn that our visit was a fraternal visit of introductions and not a visit to notify him of the departure of our Franciscan presence. He spoke of the faith of the 1.1 million Catholics in his Diocese, with an average age of twenty-six. He expressed his admiration of the Franciscans who continue to assist the men and women who staff the Immigration Welcome Center at Sacred Heart Parish, McAllen. At this center, the people, many who are young children, who have walked thousands of miles, to seek a secure and peaceful place to live, are greeted with love, a smile, medical attention, a

shower, food, drink and prayer.

Bishop Flores also spoke of the immediate need to build more churches, and the frustration of having so few priests. Bishop Flores and our Franciscan Brothers petitioned our Provincial Fraternity to consider ministry in the Diocese of Brownsville, Texas. Any Friar interested, please contact the Provincial Office.

Mrs. Gorski, who keeps her maternal and loving eye upon our Friars in Texas, will celebrate her birthday, January 27th. I believe ninety-three years young. Blessings and Sto Lat, Mrs. Gorski!



Fr. Thomas Luczak, OFM, Pastor, Sacred Heart, McAllen, TX



Holy Family Parish, Edinburg, Texas



Fr. Terrence Gorski, OFM, Pastor, Holy Family, Edinburg, TX



Br. Mario Nagy, OFM, Guardian, Junipero Serra Friary, Edinburg, TX

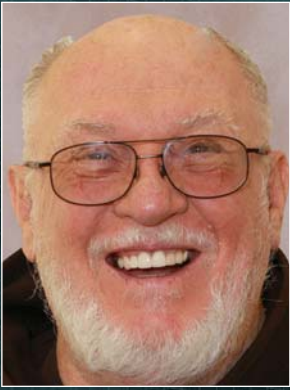


Left: Fr. Joachim Studwell, OFM; Fr. Edward Tlucek, OFM Provincial Vicar; Bishop Daniel Flores, Diocese of Brownsville, Texas; Fr. John Cella, OFM; Fr. James Gannon, OFM Provincial Minister; Br. Andrew Brophy, OFM

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Friar Transitions



James Kendzierski, OFM

Fr. James Kendzierski, OFM

Having served as chaplain to the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration, Mishawaka, Indiana, since July 2007, James Kendzierski has transferred to Queen of Peace Friary. In the past several months, James has experienced some medical problems that created challenges to his continuing ministry with the Sisters. Jim is now undergoing an evaluation of his medical conditions.

Fr. Bede Hepnar, OFM

Following gall bladder surgery at Aurora Hospital, Green Bay, WI, Bede was moved to the Milwaukee Catholic Home where he will begin rehabilitation. His new address is: Milwaukee Catholic Home, 2330 N. Prospect Avenue, Room 3006, Milwaukee, WI 53211. Phone number: 414-852-0343.

Fr. David Kelly, OFM

For the last five years, David has served as the Catholic Priest Chaplain to the Mayo Clinic – Franciscan Health Center, LaCrosse, WI. David has lived in fraternity and served as Bursar at San Damiano Friary, Onalaska, WI with Richard Tulko (Guardian) and Conrad Targonski (Vicar). As the Catholic Priest Chaplain, David presided at the daily Eucharist, responded to the spiritual needs of all the patients at Mayo Clinic and was “on call” morning, noon and night for emergency requests. David will conclude his ministry at Mayo Clinic, February 15, 2016. Between the 16th and 29th of February, Dave will join the Lourdes Friar Community, Cedar Lake, IN and will join the Pastoral Care Department of Franciscan St. Anthony Health Center, Crown Point, IN where Tony Janik serves as Director. David will also be available to assist Edward Tlucek at Holy Name Parish, where Ed serves as pastor.

Br. Joseph Molinari, OFM

For the last five years Joe has been part of the Friar Community at Assumption Friary, Pulaski, Wisconsin. Joe has worn many “Friar Hats”: he served as Vicar to Guardian, Jim Esser, he assisted in the coordination of the kitchen and food shopping for the kitchen, he was the sacristan, he made the Friary pleasing to the eye with his seasonal and liturgical decorations, he was always available to drive the Friars to their doctors appointments, he even squeezed in time to minister to the needs of “God’s Little Creatures” abandoned dogs and cats. Looking into the future needs of Queen of Peace Friary, Joe will transfer from Assumption Friary, Pulaski, WI to Queen of Peace Friary Burlington, WI, March 1st, 2016. Here he will assist Tom Wojciechowski (Guardian) and the needs of the friar community.

Fr. Jason Welle, OFM

Jason is in the final stages of Graduate Studies at Georgetown University, Washington, DC. On January 8, 2016, Jason wrote: *I write to formally request permission to accept a one-year visiting professorship at the Pontifical Institute for the Study of Arabic and Islam in Rome.*

With the blessings and approval of the Provincial Council, Jason has accepted the “Visiting Professorship” at the Pontifical Institute for the Study of Arabic + Islam. Jason is presently making arrangements to live with the Friar Community of the Madrid Province of Forty Martyrs. The Friary is located in Rome, in the neighborhood of Trastevere. Jason looks to August when he will transition into his new teaching ministry and Franciscan Fraternity. Blessings and congratulations, Jason!

Emmanuel Bialoncyk

During a recent visit, shared that he continues to discern his relationship with the Province and Order. He has renewed his contact with the friars in Brownsville and continues to strengthen this relationship. Emmanuel sends greetings to the fraternity and asks for our prayers.

For more information about the Pontifical Institute for the Study of Arabic and Islam, visit <http://en.pisai.it/>



David Kelly, OFM



Joseph Molinari, OFM

Pontificio Istituto di Studi Arabi e d' Islamistica, Rome, Italy



Vocation Office



Fr. Michael Surufka, OFM

Vocations – Formation – Communications are important and regular agenda items of the Provincial Council Meetings. Looking into the future of “renewal and restructuring” of Franciscans in the United States, the Provincial Council decided to “renew and restructure” our Vocation Office. Thursday, January 21st, **Michael Surufka**, Director of Vocations, joined Joachim Studwell, Secretary of Formation and Jim Gannon in the conversation of “restructuring”. During the scheduled Formation Council Meeting, (Members; Anthony Janik, Edward Tluczek, Michael Surufka, Joachim Studwell, Jim Gannon), Friday, January 22nd, we reported the following changes: The Provincial Vocation Team will be: Michael Surufka, Didacus Weber, Jim Gannon. Michael, who is a member of the Friar Community at St. Bonaventure House, Chicago, IL, will move his Vocation Office to

Francis and Clare Friary, Franklin, WI. Michael will also join the Friar Community of Francis and Clare. Michael will continue to represent the Provincial Administration on the Board of Port Ministries, Chicago, IL.

Didacus Weber, will continue to reside at Queen of Peace Friary, while working in the Vocation Office at Francis and Clare Friary. These moves will take place during the month of February.

In between the moves, Didacus will join Mike and Jim in the reorganization of our job descriptions, responsibilities and organization of the Vocation Office. Mike is working with John Cella (Guardian) for available office space.

Other News

Brother André LeMay -- Over the years we have treated our taste buds to the delicious sweetness of “Brother Andy’s Candies.” Since he joined the Friar Community in McAllen, Texas, Andy and his faithful volunteers have made “Andy’s Candies” in the Friary kitchen at Sacred Heart. The demand for “Andy’s Candies” has grown. Way back in October 2015, André LeMay introduced me to Mr. Trey Glasscock. Trey Glasscock, of **A Taste of Heaven, LLC**, and a number of Catholics in the Valley wish to work with Andre LeMay to produce “Br. Andy’s Candies” on a larger scale. More importantly, Trey Glasscock desires to promote our Franciscan presence in The Valley, to assist in the ministry of evangelization, and to lift high the vocation, The Call to Franciscan Religious Life.



Br. André LeMay, OFM

One exciting possibility is to rent a former bakery located blocks from Sacred Heart Parish, McAllen to establish a coffee shop and drop in center. The Council asked that Mr. Glasscock prepare a business plan to start and carry out this venture.



Vacant printery building, Pulaski, Wisconsin

Printery Building, Pulaski, Wisconsin --

Last April 2015 the Provincial Council, along with Jim Esser, Guardian of Assumption Friary, joined Kristen Fish of Redevelopment Resources, and members of the Pulaski Village Board to study possible uses for the former Franciscan Publishers building in Pulaski. Since our April 2015

Jubilarians

Provincial Celebration of Jubilees – Save the date, September 29, 2016, for the Provincial celebration of Jubilees at the conclusion of the Leadership Meeting which will be held at Techny Towers, Techny, Illinois.

Solemn Profession

Sixty-Five (65)

Brendan Wroblewski

Sixty (60)

Nathan Jaskulski

Fifty (50)

Carl Graczyk

Leslie Hoppe

Jerry Tokarz

Simple Profession

Seventy-Five (75)

Sergius Wroblewski

Seventy (70)

David Typek

Melvin Wierzbicki

Sixty-Five (65)

Blasé Karas

Sixty (60)

Rene Barczak

Laurian Janicki

Henry Kolbok

Placid Stroik

Adam Szufel

Theodore Tokarz

Jerome Zawada

Fifty (50)

Stephen Dupuis

Regis Howitz

Priesthood

Seventy (70)

Bronislaus Jaskulski

Sergius Wroblewski

Fifty (50)

Stanley Janowski

Twenty-Five (25)

Michael Surufka

Provincial's Schedule

- January 25 – February 13: Francis + Clare Friary, Franklin, WI.
- February 14-February 22: CMSM Advisory Board Meeting, Tucson, AZ.
- February 24-26: Provincial Council Meeting, Francis + Clare Friary, Franklin, WI.
- February 27-March 12: Francis + Clare Friary, Franklin, WI.
- March 13-14: CMSM Region 5 Meeting, Bellville, IN.
- March 16,17,18: Provincial Council Meeting, Assumption Friary, Pulaski, WI.

Next Provincial Council Meetings

- Francis and Clare Friary, February 24-25, 2016
- Assumption BVM Friary, March 15-17, 2016
- Francis and Clare Friary, May 25-27, 2016



Neo-professed Br. Luke Lee, OFM, (Province of the Holy Martyrs, South Korea) lived at Lourdes Friary, Cedar Lake, IN

Seoul, South Korea



meeting, Redevelopment Resources has been hired by the Village of Pulaski to reinvigorate the Pulaski Street business corridor. Several members of the Provincial Council will travel to Pulaski, February 24th and participate in these new discussions. Fr. Jim Esser, will host the meeting in Assumption Friary and will be our Tour Director. The building will be open to the public for tours on February 24.

The Port, Chicago, Illinois -- During some of the coldest days of the Chicago winter, the main boiler at The Port in Chicago stopped working. The board of directors of The Port worked frantically to find the funds needed to replace the boiler. In response to a request from Mr. David Gonzalez, Executive Director of The Port, the Council approved a donation of \$5,000.00 to assist them with this project.

Holy Dormition Friary, Sybertsville, PA – Our discussions with Bishop Kurt Burnette of the Eparchy of Passaic concerning the transfer of the property and grounds in Sybertsville continue. Plans call for the renovation of the Francis House by the Eparchy to be used as the residence for the friars. The tentative date for the official transfer is August 7, 2016.

Interprovincial Regional Meetings

The Council reviewed the list of friars who replied to the invitation to attend one of the Interprovincial Regional Meetings to be held this summer. In most cases, the Council was able to accommodate everyone's first choice. Since the limit was seven friars from each province per meeting, the Council had to submit the second choice for a few friars. These names have been submitted to the Franciscan Interprovincial Team who will decide the final assignment of attendees and places. Further information about the meetings will come from the FIT team.

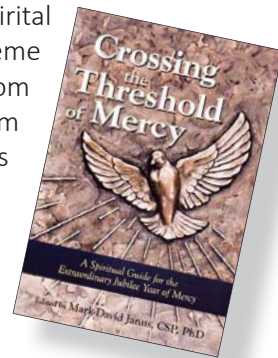
Bon Voyage

Edward Tluczek and **Andrew Brophy** will travel to Seoul, South Korea this week. They have been invited to attend the solemn profession of four friars from the Province of the Holy Martyrs. Two of their temporary professed friars spent time in our province as part of their formation program. Br. Luke Lee lived with the friars of Lourdes Friary and Br. Patric Kang spent a month with the friars of Juniper Serra Friary. Ed and Andy will attend the solemn profession to be held at the Provincial House in Jeong Dong-Gil, Seoul, on February 1st.

With Lent a few weeks away, you may be looking for something to help with your penitential journey. In the book ***Crossing the Threshold of Mercy***, Fr. Mark-David Janus presents the official calendar of events that make up the **Year of Mercy** and has gathered quotations for spiritual reflection each day. All center on the theme of mercy. Many of these words come from Pope Francis while others come from people who have inspired him on his own journey.

Crossing the Threshold of Mercy

Edited by Mark-David Janus, CSP, PhD
ISBN: 978-0-8091-4981-0
Paulist Press, 2015
Paperback, \$14.95, E-book available



Fr. James Gannon, OFM, Provincial Minister

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