

GOOD NEWS

from Provincial Minister, Fr. James Gannon, OFM



February 2016

Issue #4

Provincial Chapter - June 2017

From the February 2016 Provincial Council Meeting

New Wine in Old Wine Skins

Pulaski, Wisconsin



Craig Wilking, OFM

With Jason Welle accepting the "Visiting Professorship" at the Pontifical Institute for the Study of Arabic and Islam, Rome, Italy, and stepping out of the Chair for the Provincial Chapter Planning Committee, Craig Wilking agreed to accept the appointment to serve as Chair for the Provincial Chapter Planning Committee ~ June 2017. Craig proposed the following Friars to serve on the Planning Committee: Justin Kwietniewski, Anthony Janik, Michael Surufka. Edward Tlucek will serve as the liaison from the Provincial Council. The Council approved the committee as presented.



Former Franciscan Publishers building, 15 year vacancy.

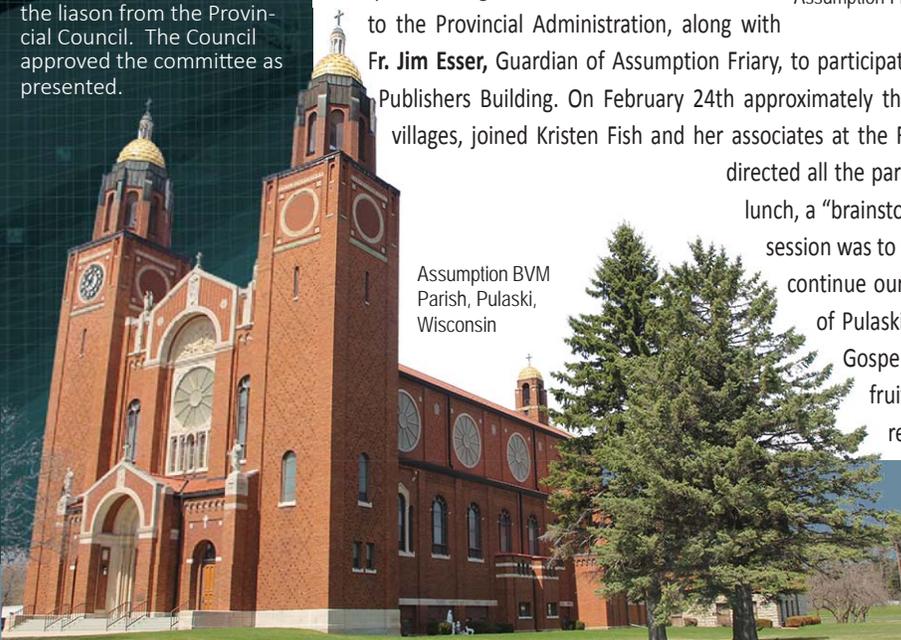
As I mentioned in my letter for the 3rd Week of Lent, the members of the Provincial Council traveled to Pulaski, Wisconsin to begin our February Provincial Council Meeting. Over fifteen years, the physical structure of our Franciscan Publishers Building has continued to stand as a majestic symbol of our ministry to the Word of God. Over the years, there have been conversations and patient waiting for positive, fruitful results as to "what do we do with our building?" February 24th the Provincial Council began our February council meeting in Pulaski, WI. This past year the Provincial Administrations have had conversations with Kristen Fish, CEO of Redevelopment Resources. After patient, quiet waiting, Kristen extended an invitation to the Provincial Administration, along with



Assumption Friary, Pulaski, Wisconsin

Fr. Jim Esser, Guardian of Assumption Friary, to participate in an Open House/Visioning Session for our Franciscan Publishers Building. On February 24th approximately thirty people, from the Village of Pulaski and surrounding villages, joined Kristen Fish and her associates at the First Merit Bank of Pulaski. After introductions, Jim Esser directed all the participants in a tour of our printery. Following the tour and lunch, a "brainstorming" session followed. The main goal of our three hour session was to surface viable use of the building, and most importantly to continue our Franciscan Mission, Presence and Ministry in the Village of Pulaski, and serve the people of God. Like the Gardener in our Gospel, like our patient and merciful God, we patiently wait the fruitful results of our discussions. Please pray for "fruitful" results.

Assumption BVM Parish, Pulaski, Wisconsin



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Friar Transitions



Austin Mysliwicz, OFM

Friar Austin Mysliwicz, OFM The Provincial Council appointed Austin as Vicar of St. Mary of the Angels Friary, Green Bay, WI.

Friar Jude Lustyk, OFM The Provincial Council reviewed and approved Jude's request to participate in the Franciscan Pilgrimage Program ~ California Pilgrimage.

Friar Mario Nagy, OFM Jim presented Mario's request to move on to the next level of his Spanish Class. Mario is working with Tony Janik, Director of On-Going Formation, to submit his request through the Continuing Education Fund.

Friar Jason Welle, OFM Jason has requested and received permission to travel to Morocco, during the last two weeks of May, with Paul Heck, who is Jason's dissertation advisor at Georgetown University. Paul Heck and Jason will travel to Morocco with funding from the State Department for an Intercultural Exchange Program. Jason will also visit Maxwell Klug, who is presently in Morocco, studying French.

Friar Michael Blastic, OFM (Holy Name) Joachim Studwell, guardian of St. Francis Friary, Burlington, WI and member of the Interprovincial Novitiate Team, presented Michael Blastic to be approved as a new member of the Interprovincial Novitiate Team. The ABVM Provincial Council approved the appointment.



Jude Lustyk, OFM

Making Plans

St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Greenwood, MS

For approximately fifteen years there have been conversations, meetings, more conversations and more meetings concerning building a "Family Life Center" which would benefit St. Francis of Assisi Grade School and our Franciscan Mission, Ministry and Fraternity. A "conference call meeting" was held among the Provincial Council and **Greg Plata** (pastor), Craig Wilking (guardian), Glenn Miller, (potential contractor and builder), and Robert Tanner, a member of the St. Francis of Assisi Parish Council. A tremendous amount of fund raising, planning and meetings have been dedicated to this project. There is great support for this much needed building.

With a change in the administration (principal) of St. Francis Grade School, and a few other unanswered questions, the Provincial Council has temporarily held off on giving a "green light" to this project. We do look forward to seeing this Family Life Center become a reality.

Invitation from the Holy Name Province

In light of "Renewal and Restructuring in the United States," Kevin Mullen, OFM, Provincial Minister for the Holy Name Province, has invited all Friars into a conversation to determine "the desirability and feasibility of engaging in one or more new fraternities-in-mission in the Dioceses of Charleston, South Carolina, and Orlando, Florida." The Friars of the Holy Name Province has recently established a "new fraternal presence" in Macon, Georgia.

Kevin Mullen writes; "Opening a new fraternity-in-mission will only be considered if we have a minimum of three friars interested in, and approved for, a given site that provides the possibility of work for both non-ordained and ordained friars. Should one or more friars of other provinces be interested and

approved by their provincial administrations and ours (Holy Name Province), then we would require a minimum of two Holy Name Friars interested and approved in order to proceed.

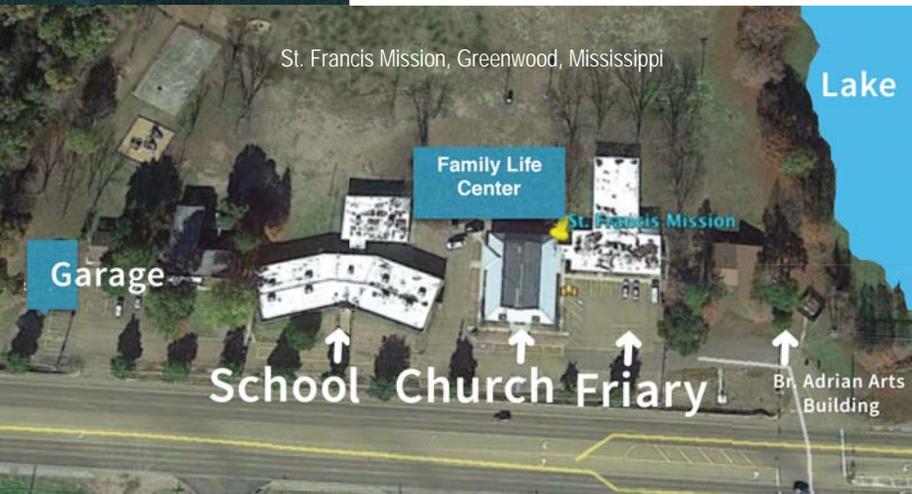
If any Friar is interested please contact Jim Gannon or Edward Tlucek.



Fr. Kevin Mullen, OFM



Mario Nagy, OFM



St. Francis Mission, Greenwood, Mississippi

Lake

Family Life Center

St. Francis Mission

Garage

School Church Friary

Br. Adrian Arts Building

Whoops!

A "59" versus a "56" was entered into our data base; therefore, Richard Tulko (below) was mistakenly not included in the list of 2016 Jubilarians. Richard will celebrate 60 years of religious profession this year. The Provincial Jubilee celebration will be held on September 29 at Techny Towers. Mea Culpa, Richard!



Friar Jim Bok, OFM Visitor General



Andrew Brophy, Secretary, put together a gift box for Jim: The Pulaski Franciscans ~ A History of the Assumption BVM Province, by Jerry Tokarz, OFM, a 2016 Provincial Directory, a pictorial directory from a few years past and other information to help in familiarizing Jim with our fraternity. Jim has made it known that he plans on participating in our September 2016 Leadership Workshop. Andy, Edward and Jim are working on a "tentative" draft of a Visitation Calendar for Jim to review. Jim will participate in the November "Visitor's School", held in Rome. Most likely, the visitation will begin after the New Year 2017.

Restructuring+Revitalization of Franciscans in the United

The members of FIT (Franciscan Interprovincial Team) have sent a report of the friars' responses on the four models for revitalization and restructuring. By the time you receive this edition of Good News #4, you will have received a separate letter, followed by the report, and a prayer service, "The Name of God is Mercy."

Since November, the Provincial Council or members of the Provincial Council, have been joining Friary Chapters and directing the portion of the chapter on "Restructuring and Revitalization in the United States" Since November, we have participated in the following Friary Chapters: Lourdes Friary, Cedar Lake, IN; St. Francis of Assisi Friary, Greenwood, MS; Junipero Serra Friary, McAllan, TX; San Damiano Friary, La Crosse, WI. March 17th, we will gather with the Friars of Assumption BVM Friary, Pulaski, WI. Because we, as the Assumption Province, have been involved in meetings, conversations, regional meetings and interprovincial meetings on "restructuring" for many, many years, the administration decided not to gather in regional meetings, but to gather and discuss the documents from F.I.T. in the context of Friary Chapters. At the conclusion of the Friary Chapter on "Restructuring + Revitalization," there is no voting on one of the four models. There will be the opportunity for each Friar to voice his preference for a model of restructuring for the Franciscan Provinces in the United States. In the end, when all Friaries have reported on a "preferred model", the Provincial Administration will present the "preferred" model for the Assumption BVM Province at the August 22-26, 2016 gathering of the Seven Provincial Franciscan Administrations in the United States, Techny, IL. During this most important meeting, with the input of all the year-long discussions on a "preferred model", one model will be decided.

Holy Dormition Friary

For the past several months, beginning with John Puodziunas and his administration, we have been in consultation with Bishop Kurt Burnette, Byzantine Bishop for the Eparchy of Passaic, New Jersey, in the transfer of the buildings and property of Sybertsville to the Eparchy of Passaic, NJ. A meeting with the lawyers and legal documents in hand was scheduled for Tuesday, March 1, 2016, in the office of Bishop Kurt Burnette. **Andrew Brophy, Edward Tlucek** and **Jim Gannon** boarded the plane for Newark, NJ, at snowy Chicago O'Hare Airport. After the winter ritual of "de-icing" the plane, taxied to the snow covered runway. A "bump" was felt. A pilot, who was sitting next to me said, "That's not good." Here the plane hit a patch of ice and slid off the runway. More than two hours later, and a host of Federal and State Departments, we were towed back to the terminal. Almost four hours later, it was decided to cancel the flight. We informed the Bishop that we would not make the meeting and the need to reschedule. Tired and frustrated, we returned home.



O'Hare Airport, Chicago. Plane on which were James Gannon, Andrew Brophy and Edward Tlucek on their way to Newark, New Jersey. Emergency vehicles surround plane after having slid off the runway.

The Friar app allows you to post your prayer intention so that Franciscan friars across the country and others pray for your intention. You can also indicate that you are praying for the intentions of other people. The app also allows you to have a candle lit for your intention, or someone else's intention, in an actual Franciscan church.

You can add your own prayer request, or review requests made by others. If you see a prayer request that you find moving, you can join in that prayer and even to pay a small fee to have a real candle lit in a Franciscan church for that intention. The app is available in both the Apple App Store for iPhone and the Google Play Store for Android smart phones.



Provincial's Schedule

March 9: Friary Chapter on "Renewal + Restructuring", with the Friars at Milwaukee Catholic Home.

March 10-12: Franciscan Values Orientation, Our Lady of the Angels Hospital, Bogalusa, LA

March 13-14: CMSM Region V Meeting, Bellville, IN

March 15-17: Provincial Council Meeting, Assumption Friary, Pulaski, WI

Wednesday, March 16th, members of the Provincial Council will preside over the Stations of the Cross for the Assumption-St. Casimir-St. Stanislaus Parishes

March 19-April 2: Francis + Clare Friary, Franklin, WI

April 1: Archbishop Cupich's meeting with the Leadership of Religious Communities of Women + Men, Chicago, IL.

April 3 – 10: ESC Meeting, Galveston, TX

April 11-15: Retreat, Poor Clare Monastery, Cincinnati, OH.

April 17-May 5: Francis + Clare Friary, Franklin, WI

May 9-22: Direct Franciscan Pilgrimage Program for Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity Sponsored Ministries (Healthcare).

May 25-27: Provincial Council Meeting, Francis + Clare Friary, Franklin, WI

April 3, 2016 Year of Mercy - Second Provincial Celebration

April 3rd – Year of Mercy ~
Second Provincial Celebration
St. Francis Friary Chapel and
the Porziuncola Chapel, Burl-
ington, WI.

• 2:00 p.m.- 3:00 (or 3:30)

Confessions – Friar Priests
are needed for individual
confession

• 3:00 Recitation (or chant?)

the Chaplet of Divine Mercy

• 3:30 Sunday Mass; Bishop
Donald Hying, Diocese of
Gary, Indiana will preside and
preach.

Franciscan Young Adult Group

Anthony Cirignani, pastor of St. Mary of the Angels Parish and Ss. Peter + Paul Parish, Green Bay, WI besides working hard administrating the two communities, has been working with Bishop David Ricken, Diocese of Green Bay, and Carlos Hernandez about "several initiatives in the Hispanic Ministry area in the diocese (Green Bay).

In a communication to the Diocese of Green Bay, Bishop Ricken writes:

"I am specifically communicating about the group JUFRA which is being proposed by Carlos and Fr. Tony for the young adults of the area, most especially those belonging to the parishes of St. Mary of the Angels and Ss. Peter and Paul.

This is an approach to discipleship for young adults that has a distinctive focus of forming disciples in the person and mission of St. Francis of Assisi who always leads us to Jesus. This is a very important and viable approach especially given the fact that this will fit beautifully into the "Franciscan Community in Mission" which is being fleshed out at St. Mary of the Angels Parish and will serve the area well. This will assist in securing the identity, if well done, of the new Mission thrust of the Franciscans. The Franciscan Provincial, Fr. Jim Gannon, is very committed to this Fraternity in Mission approach of his province."

In the name of the ABVM Province, I thank Tony, Austin and Rafael Garcia Preciado for their untiring devotion to St. Mary of the Angels Parish. Know of our Provincial Community support for your ministry and Franciscan presence in our parish of St. Mary of the Angels.

Levels of Care For Senior Friars Now and in the Future

Thomas Wojciechowski, OFM, Guardian, Queen of Peace, **Charlene Duley**, Provincial Nurse, and Chris Rienhart, Milwaukee Catholic Home, joined the Provincial Council for a portion of the meeting. Jim Gannon stressed that the level of care we need to provide for our senior friars is increasing beyond the levels that we are able to provide at Queen of Peace Friary and Assumption BVM Friary. Jim also stressed that we need to do all that we can do to keep our Friars at home, in community.

Charlene Duley and Chris Rienhart presented a "Model for On-Going Care" to begin the conversation. This "model" notes our desire to keep our Friars at home, in community for as long as we can, with a sustainable level of care. This "model" also recognizes the fact that we cannot do this alone as we do not have trained personnel. This "model" also recognizes the need for a different way of thinking – along with our brothers in community who will provide for our spiritual and fraternal needs, ~ other men and women will be involved in our lives; taking care of our medical care, housekeeping care, dietary care, social and recreational needs. The goal is that this communal care will take place in our homes, until a friar transitions from this life to eternal life.

Ministerial Opportunities

Mishawaka, Indiana Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration.

Provincial Minister, Sr. M. Angela Mellady, ODF writes:

"Up until recently we have been blessed to have our chaplains... If you are able to send a Friar who could serve us, we would be most grateful."

If any Friar(s) is interested in joining Fr. Francis Affelt in this ministry, please call me A.S.A.P.

La Crosse, WI. Sacramental Minister, Mayo Clinic, La Cross, WI

Friar would join the San Damiano Community: Conrad Targonski, (Viterbo University) and Richard Tulko (Chaplain to the School Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi).

If any Friar is interested, please call me A.S.A.P.

Milwaukee, Wisconsin -- Clement Manor Clement Manor is a Catholic/Franciscan faith-based, continuing care, retirement community, located in Greenfield, a suburb of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. It is a sponsored ministry of the School Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi, Milwaukee, WI. Needed: priest to serve on the Chaplaincy Staff, approximately 25 hours per week. If any Friar is interested, please call me A.S.A.P.

This newsletter was written by James Gannon, OFM, (right) Provincial Minister of the Assumption Province. It was designed, printed and distributed by the Communications Office of the Assumption Province.

