

GOOD NEWS

from Provincial Minister, Fr. James Gannon, OFM



March-April 2016

ISSUE #5

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.

April 3, 2016
Divine Mercy Sunday

Celebrate the Jubilee of Mercy with the Franciscan Friars and Bishop Donald Hying of Gary, Indiana during the 800th Anniversary of the Portiuncola Pardon, an indulgence.

2-3:15 p.m. Confessions
3 p.m. Divine Mercy Chaplet
3:30 p.m. Eucharist

Most Reverend Donald Hying, Bishop of Gary, Indiana, presider and homilist.

Chapel of St. Francis Friary
2457 Browns Lake Drive
Burlington, Wisconsin 53015

• County Trunk W. across from Menard's and Lynch Motors
• Chapel is not handicapped accessible
• Information: 2316.4036.0209
• All are welcome

The Resurrection of the Lord — Easter Sunday, March 27, 2016

Dear Brothers,

The Good News — The really Good News — Christ is Risen! He is Risen indeed!

In a world with lots of terror, death and suffering, we are called to share with the world the Resurrection of Christ — today!

In a world that seeks peace and justice, we are invited to be people of the Resurrection — today!

An option is offered for the second reading for Easter Sunday; In his Second Letter to the Corinthians, St. Paul writes:

Brothers and sisters:

Do you not know that a little yeast leavens all the dough?

Clear out the old yeast,

so that you may become a fresh batch of dough,
inasmuch as you are unleavened.

For our paschal lamb, Christ, has been sacrificed.

Therefore, let us celebrate the feast,

not with the old yeast, the yeast of malice and wickedness,

but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth reminds us that something new is possible: "Let us celebrate the feast, not with the old yeast, the yeast of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth." 2 Corinthians 5:6-8

This Holy Week our senses were once again assaulted with pictures of terror and innocent suffering. We stand in the midst awesome human problems, great social sins, all kinds of violence, extreme economic inequalities, neglect to our Mother Earth. As Franciscans, we stand in the midst of "Renewal and Restructuring" of Franciscan Fraternity and Ministry in the United States. We ask a very hard question; "What is the future of Franciscan Religious life in the United States? Will we survive? "

In the midst of all these human concerns and questions we believe something more is possible. We affirm life. We believe that resurrection is possible.

Change is possible. Growth is possible. Peace and reconciliation are possible. Something new is possible. Healing of relationships is possible. Franciscan Religious life in the United States is possible. Liberation for the poor and oppressed is possible. Social change is possible. Nations can work together for justice and peace and not to destroy the planet. We can work to end war, terror and violence.

So, as St. Paul says, "Let us celebrate the feast, not with the old yeast, the yeast of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth."

Christ is Risen! He is Risen indeed! Have a Blessed Easter Season!
—Jim

EASTER

INSIDE

Provincial's Easter Letter • Information from the last Provincial Council meeting • Mishawaka ministerial needs • Needs of senior friars • Sybertsville



Linus Kopczewski, OFM

About Friars

Linus Kopczewski: After seventeen days in the Sisters of Charity Hospital – St. Joseph Campus, Buffalo, NY, Linus was discharged to Garden Gate Rehab Center, Buffalo, NY, Tuesday, March 22nd. Linus will remain at Garden Gate for a few weeks for much needed physical therapy. His address is: Garden Gate, 2365 Union Road, Buffalo, NY, Phone: 716-668-8100.

Mishawaka, Indiana

After a lengthy discussion regarding our ministry to the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration, Mishawaka, IN it was decided that we would do the “band-aid approach”. We are asking for individual Friars to volunteer time covering the ministerial responsibilities. The Council realized that a permanent Friar placement would not be possible until after the June 2017 Chapter. Friar Georges Massinelli, OFM will cover the responsibilities from now until the end of May, when he returns to his home province in Italy. We will need Friar volunteers from June through September, when Friar Georges returns to continue his studies at Notre Dame University. If any Friar is available to give some time, please contact **Edward Tlucek (219.689.5742)** or **Jim Gannon (414.791.7433)**.



Francis Affelt, OFM, Chaplain to the Sisters of Perpetual Adoration, Mishawaka

The Future - Levels of Care for Senior Friars

In **Good News #4**, I made mention of the development of a “Model for On-Going Care” for our Senior Friars. Our desire is to keep our Friars at home, in community for as long as we can. This “model” also recognizes the fact that we cannot do this on our own, we need help. With this in mind, the Provincial Council met with Jim Esser, Guardian of Assumption Friary, to discuss future needs in the area of health care, housekeeping, food services, and building maintenance.

During the Assumption Friary Chapter, Jim Esser reported to the Friar Community the following proposed changes:

- **Part-time Registered Nurse:**

Charlene Duley will organize and post a job description for a Part-time (2 days) Registered Nurse. Jim Esser, Charlene Duley and Jim Gannon will interview candidates in the very near future.

- **Part-time cook:**

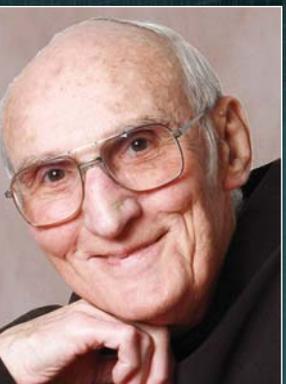
This position was filled before the end of our council meeting. Jim Esser reported that a part-time cook was interviewed and hired. He will begin Easter Monday.

- **House-keeping:**

Presently, there is a woman who takes care of the public areas and the community room of Assumption Friary. Jim Esser will have conversations with this woman to see if she would be interested in expanding her weekly hours to clean the personal rooms of the Friars.



Charlene Duley



Brendan Wroblewski, OFM



Read the Minister General's Easter letter by visiting www.ofm.org/ofm/ in your favorite browser.

Future Provincial Meetings

May 25-27, 2016 Francis and Clare Friary, Franklin, WI

June 6-9, 2016, Interprovincial Restructuring, Regional Meeting, San Damiano Retreat, Danville, CA

June 13-16, 2016, Interprovincial Restructuring, Regional Meeting, Siena College, Loudonville, NY

June 20-23, 2016, Interprovincial Restructuring, Regional Meeting, TBD, Albuquerque, NM

June 26-29, 2016 Provincial Council Retreat time

July 18 – 21, 2016 Interprovincial Restructuring, Regional Meeting, Cenacle, Chicago, Illinois

August 7, 2016 Holy Dormition property transfer ceremony

August 22-26, 2016 USA Provincial Councils, Techny

September 6-9, 2016 Provincial Council, Cedar Lake

September 6, 2016 Possible reception of postulants

September 26-29, 2016, Leadership meeting
• September 29, 2016 Jubilee celebration

November 9-11, 2016 Provincial Council, Francis and Clare

December 5-7, 2016 Provincial Council

January 18-20, 2017 Provincial Council

February 22-24, 2017 Provincial Council

April 5-7, 2017 Provincial Council

May 22-24, 2017 Provincial Council

June 4-9, 2017 Provincial Chapter, Siena Retreat

New Vicar at Assumption Friary

With the transfer of Joseph Molinari the office of Vicar became vacant. The Council elected **Brendan Wroblewski** to serve as Vicar of Assumption BVM Friary.

Archbishop Ryan, HS, Philadelphia

Save The Date! Archbishop Ryan High School is Fifty Years Young! **Rene Barczak**, Alumni Director, has informed us that Sunday, April 30, 2017 is the date set for Ryan's 50th Anniversary Celebration. Rene will keep us updated on the detailed plans for the celebration.

Year of Mercy - Burlington

The members of the Council thank **Joachim Studwell** and **Paul Reczek** for designing and forwarding the public communications for our Provincial Year of Mercy Celebration. We also thank **Edward Tluczek** and **Joachim Studwell** for planning of the Eucharistic Celebration. Friar/priests are needed for individual confessions. Everyone is welcome. Please plan to join us!

June 2017 Provincial Chapter

Jim Gannon and **Andrew Brophy** forwarded necessary information to Jim Bok; History of the ABVM Province, Directory of Friars, and Proceedings from recent Provincial Chapters. Jim Bok will participate in our September Leadership Workshop. Come November, Jim will participate in the school for the formation of General Visitators, Rome, Italy. The "official" Visitation will commence after the New Year of 2017. Jim is reviewing a rough draft of the Visitation Schedule. Andy and Jim have organized a rough schedule for delegate elections, balloting for the offices of the province. Once all these schedules have been finalized, they will be forwarded to the Province.

Burlington Property

The Council would like to place the Burlington Property on the agenda for the next meeting. There is a need to be proactive regarding the present building which houses the Interprovincial Novitiate. There was also a discussion about putting a property plan together for the Provincial Chapter. The Council will begin to brainstorm about this possibility. It was suggested that our Council meet with the Board of Directors of the Milwaukee Catholic Home. **Jim Gannon** will make the contact in order to set up such a meeting which will focus on our partnering.

Villa Alverna

While there is no solid offer for our property in Wausaukee, WI, **Bob Sembrat** will begin to organize the property and begin to empty the buildings. In the very near future, **Andy Brophy, Brian Bangart** and **Jim Gannon** will travel to the Villa and meet with Bob. If anyone has any personal belongings at the Villa, you are strongly encouraged to make a trip up North and retrieve your items.



Rene Barczak, OFM



Fr. Michael Perry, OFM, Minister General of the Franciscan (OFM) Order

Provincial's Schedule

- March 27- 31: Francis + Clare Friary, Franklin, WI
- April 1; Meeting of Major Superiors for Religious Men + Women, Chicago, IL.
- April 3-10: Meeting of English Speaking Conference of Provincials, Galveston, TX
- April 11-15: Retreat, St. Clare Monastery, Cleveland, OH.
- April 18-19: Meeting with Bishop Kurt Burnette, Orange, NJ
- April 19-24: Francis + Clare Friary, Franklin, MI
- April 23: Canonical establishment of the St. Francis of Assisi Fraternity for the Order of Franciscan Seculars.
- April 24 – My 1: Francis + Clare Friary, Franklin, WI.
- May 5-7: Philadelphia for Niece's Graduation
- May 9-22: Franciscan Pilgrimage for Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity Sponsored Ministries.



James Bok, OFM, Visitor General



On March 17, 2016, Andrew Brophy learned he was asked to be Visitor General for the friars in Australia. Andy joyfully accepted this invitation having served in that capacity for the Order in Australia in 2013.

Holy Dormition Property, Sybertsville, PA

Andy Brophy, Edward Tluczek and Jim Gannon were to meet with Bishop Kurt Burnette March 2nd, in his New Jersey office. The meeting was canceled because of a mini snow storm, which had an impact on our travel. The meeting with Bishop Kurt Burnette, Eparchy of Passaic, NJ is now scheduled for Tuesday, April 19th in his New Jersey office. The purpose of this meeting is to review our legal documents in the transfer of our Sybertsville property and buildings to the Eparchy of Passaic.



Some of the 70 acres of Holy Dormition Friary in Sybertsville, PA

Director of Property/Facility Manager

During our discussions concerning our properties, the Council revisited a concern surfaced by past administrations, namely the position of Director of Property/Facility Manager. After some discussion it was recommended that this be put on the agenda for the next meeting. In the meantime **John Cella** will contact various institutions in order to collect job descriptions for this position.

Conference of Major Superiors of Men (CMSM) and Presidium

Jim Gannon reported on the recent National and Regional CMSM meetings. Recommendations for changes to the policy handbook on the **PROTECTION OF GOD'S CHILDREN**, and the recommendations on the monitoring of friar safety plans. Once these changes are agreed to and implemented, it will be the responsibility of the provincial administration to orientate the Provincial Membership to the changes. This could begin at our September 2016 Leadership Workshop.

Friary Chapters

The members of the Provincial Council reviewed the minutes from the following Friary Chapters: Juniper Serra Friary, Edinburg, TX, Holy Dormition Friary, Sybertsville, PA, and Lourdes Friary, Cedar Lake, IN

The Provincial Council takes seriously the importance of the Friary Chapter in the life of the Fraternity. We encourage each Guardian to call the community together, no matter how big or how small the community. Please take good minutes and forward the minutes to **Andy Brophy**. Please know that at each Provincial Council meeting we take the time to review the minutes. We appreciate all you do, and we thank you.

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.



GOOD NEWS

Feature



Maxwell Klug, OFM in Morocco



Maxwell Klug is a simple professed friar of the Assumption Province. Majoring in French, Loyola University arranged for him to have an immersion experience of the language by spending ten weeks in Morocco. The following is a letter he sent to the Provincial Minister, James Gannon, OFM

It has been just a little over 2 months since I have arrived in Rabat, Morocco. The time has flown by very quickly.

Here in Rabat there are 3 of us in the friary: Fr. Manuel (Spanish & the Custos), Fr. Kevin (Congolese), and yours-truly. Connected to the friary is the parish of St. Francis of Assisi, one of the many ministries of the friars here in Rabat. The parish serves the English, Spanish, and Portuguese speaking communities.



The Sahara Desert

The friary it is almost exclusively French speaking. My French has greatly improved since arriving. I am able to understand about 95% percent of the conversation. For the words or conjugations that I don't know, the brothers have been phenomenal with helping me. Besides French, I am also learning classical Arabic and a bit of the local Arabic dialect (Dar-ija). In addition to

working on my foreign language(s) I am also studying Margrebian (N.African) French literature and a course on Islam (both French taught) and a course of North African History. Overall, classes are going very well.

I have had the opportunity to travel around a large portion of Morocco due to the size of the country and the affordability of getting around the country by bus or train. The most breath-taking place thus far has been the Sahara desert. Within our 12hour bus ride to the Sahara we passed through 3 different climates: spring like weather in Rabat, snow (a lot more than I anticipated) in Ifrane, and of course the heat of the dessert. I find it difficult to describe

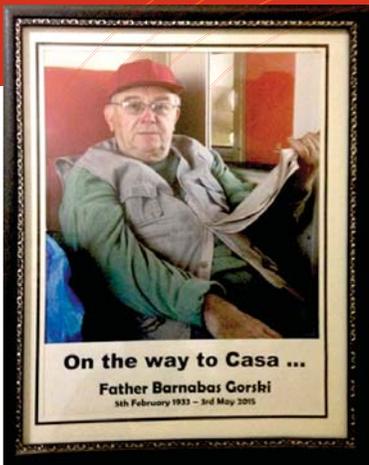


Photo of the late Barnabas Gorski, OFM

the immense beauty, humbleness, and adventure I felt while walking in the Sahara both during the day & night. I eventually stopped taking pictures while sitting atop a dune watching the sunset because no camera could adequately capture the beauty of that moment or place. It was truly breathtaking!

Although I have experienced incredible beauty, I have also experienced incredible darkness while here. In the United States, in a certain sense, we are very secluded from refugee/immigrant crisis that is happening here in Africa, the Middle-East, and Europe. The reports from the news are a constant living reality here in Morocco. Each friary I have visited

has had a constant flow of people, mostly sub-Saharan Africans, searching for help as they make their way to Europe. On the streets there is the constant presence of the broken families that have fled the middle-East. Sadly, the other day I came home to a house surrounded by the police. My first thought was about Fr. Kevin, who was home alone, but the police assured me that he was okay. They then told me to go into the friary. Once the sea of police opened for me I noticed, laying on our steps, a dead refugee. The officer, who was incredibly kind, kept telling me that this kind of thing happens often. I am sure that he was saying that so I wouldn't be so taken aback, but it was all the more unsettling knowing that it is a daily occurrence and the government does nothing. The government has nothing set up for immigrants/refugees. Therefore, many NGO's have tried to help those coming to Morocco, but there is still so much to be done.

On a much lighter note. I had the grace filled opportunity to meet with Br. Jean Pierre Schomacher. He is one of the Tibihrine Trappist monks. He is now 94 and lives in Morocco. He was staying at the friary here in Rabat while he visited his doctor(s). I was greatly surprised as he introduced himself. Not only have I seen the movie *Of Gods and Men* several times, I have also read one of his books. Once he settled in, I had the opportunity to have a very lengthy conversation with him. It is one thing to see the movie and read his book, but to sit one-on-one and hear what happened that night and his faith journey was a beautiful and sacred moment. It was a great honor to have met him.

I have attached a picture of Fr. Barnabas I thought you all might enjoy that the Friars have hanging in the corridor leading to their bedrooms. The brothers have fond (and of course comical) stories of our late brother. Since they introduce me as "Br. Maxwell from the province of Barnabas," many people have shared great memories of him. It always warms my heart to hear how the Friars have touched the lives of others.

I would again like to thank the province for allowing me to have this incredible experience. I keep you all in my daily prayers.

--Max



Max as Lawrence of Arabia

