



James Gannon, OFM
Provincial Minister

GOOD NEWS



GOOD NEWS! GREAT NEWS!

Brothers,

There is real wisdom in the saying, 'It is always Springtime in the heart that loves God.'

Springtime is a season of optimism and hope, and as Christians, as Franciscans our lives must be centred on hope. We live a resurrection life reflected in the new life springing up around us. Let us give thanks to God for the gift of hope that brings newness into our lives.

Let us rejoice in the promise of Spring which brings the cycle of life, death and rebirth; for the lengthening days and sunlight's warmth upon the soil; for our Mothers and Fathers who have given us life by living lives of Light and Life; for all who share GOOD NEWS and GREAT NEWS.

• **The newly established Fraternity for the Order of Franciscan Secular, St. Francis of Assisi.**

• **A.J (the Farmer) Weis, and Clare Gardens, Burlington, WI**

• **Maxwell Klug, ofm**

Renewal of Vows

His reflection from Morocco

Preparations for STIP Year (Supervised Time in the Province)

Proposed part-time position of "Faith Formation Assistant" for the 2016-2017 school year at St. Thomas More High School, St. Francis, WI.

• **Jason Welle, ofm sets date for the presentation and defense of his Doctorate Work, August 22, 2016:** The title of his work: Clarifying Companionship: al-Sulamī's (d. 412/1021) Kitāb ādāb al-suhba.

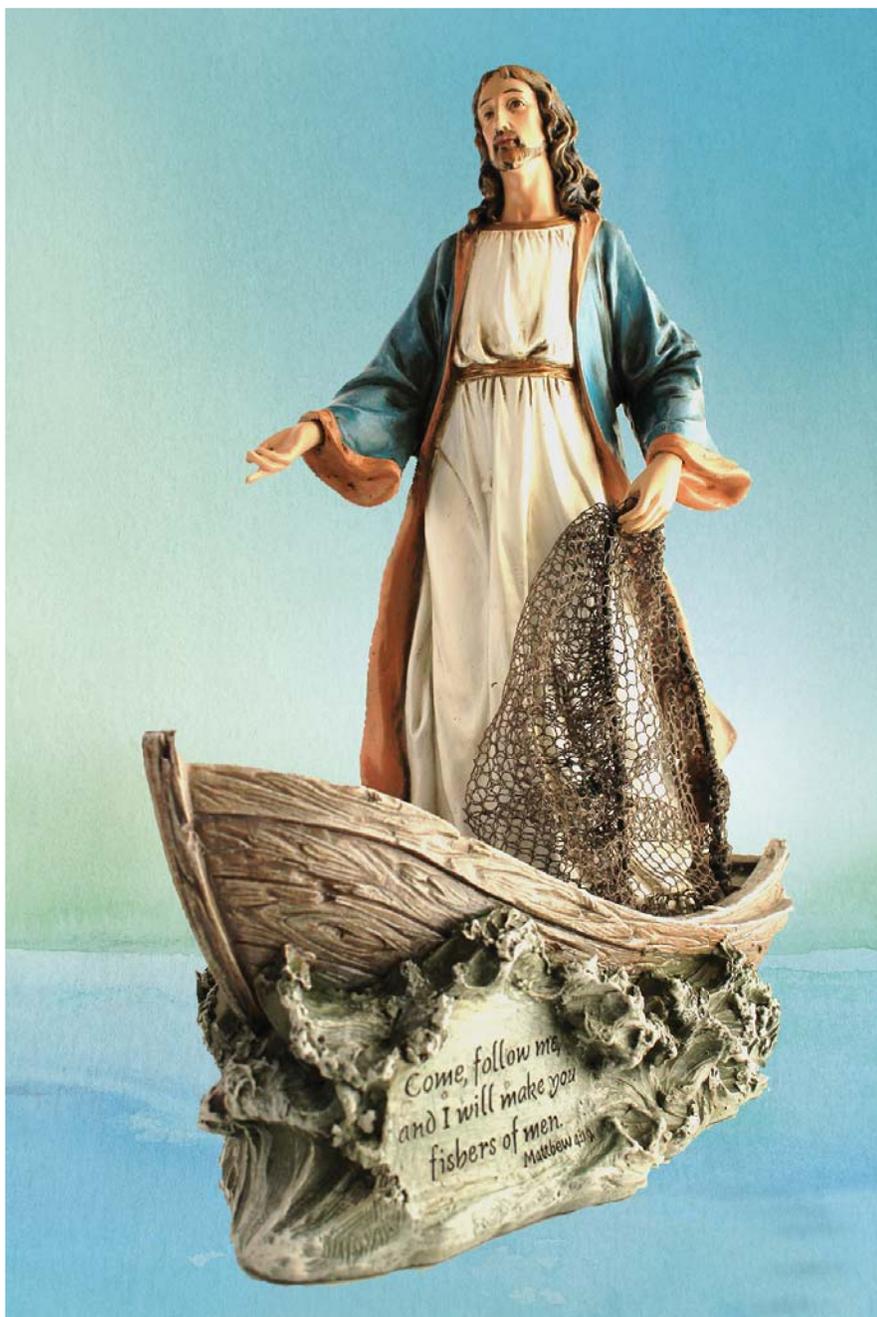
In Jason's own words; "This is not a comparative project, setting one Muslim thinker alongside one Christian thinker, but it is an analysis animated by the questions which animate our life as Franciscans. What does it mean that we, as friars, call each other brothers? Or friends? How does this brotherhood change our relationship with God, and what is the relationship between our brotherhood and the larger community of believers?"

Peace and all good!

--Jim, Provincial Minister

St. Bonaventure, Sturtevant, Wisconsin Reunion

The class of 1976 is welcoming all alumni, former faculty and staff of St. Bonaventure Prep to our 40 year reunion. The reunion will be held on Saturday, July 30 at Johnson Park, Racine, Wisconsin, starting at 12:00. Please contact Bob Berger by July 16th if you plan to attend the reunion. (E-mail: bobberger580@gmail.com; cell phone: 303-709-4825; mail: 3055 S. Buttercup Cir., Frederick, CO 80516).



Fr. Brendan Wroblewski, OFM

Photo from Brendan Wroblewski's collection.
This picture reflects the Gospel for the 4th
Sunday of Easter.

GOOD NEWS



May 2016

Issue #7

New Fraternity Established at Cardinal Stritch University

April 23, 2016 • Milwaukee • Cardinal Stritch University

St. Francis of Assisi Chapel, Cardinal Stritch University, was the Sacred Space for the Eucharist and the Ceremony of Canonical Establishment for the St. Francis of Assisi Fraternity of Franciscan Seculars and Profession of Debra Martin, OFS.



Fr. James Gannon, OFM (center) presides at the canonical establishment of the St. Francis of Assisi, Secular Franciscan Fraternity at Cardinal Stritch University, Milwaukee April 23, 2016

Reading and the Signing of the Document of Establishment

Letter to the Faithful. Francis of Assisi

“We are spouses of Our Lord Jesus Christ when the faithful soul is joined to Him by the Holy Spirit. We are brothers and sisters to Him when we do the will of the Father who is in heaven. We are mothers, when we carry Him in our heart and body through Divine Love and a pure and sincere conscience, and when we give birth to Him through His holy manner of working, which should shine before others as an example.”

A little more than eight years ago, **Roch Niemier, ofm (+2010)**, said to me, “Jim, you should establish a fraternity of the Order of Franciscan Seculars at Cardinal Stritch University.” Finally, after eight years of learning, discernment, meetings, forming, more meetings and growing, we “gave birth” to this new Fraternity of Franciscan Seculars.

Approximately seventy-five individuals, including the Novitiate Team and Novices from our Interprovincial Novitiate, St. Francis Friary, Burlington, WI, participated in the Sunday Eucharist, and witnessed the formal signing of the Canonical Establishment of the Fraternity, and the Profession of Debra Martin, offs. The document was signed by Archbishop Jerome Listeki, Archbishop for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, WI; **Jerome Wolbert, ofm**, Spiritual Assistant for the Order of Franciscan Seculars; James Carrlson, OFS, Regional Minister for the OFS’s; Art Montgomery, OFS, Minister for the St. Francis of Assisi Fraternity; and **Jim Gannon, ofm**, Provincial Minister.

Presently there are fourteen professed members of the fraternity and four members in the formation program. The Fraternity meets on the campus of Cardinal Stritch University. --James Gannon, OFM



+Fr. Roch Niemier, OFM

Participants in the fraternity establishing ceremony at Cardinal Stritch University.



INSIDE

New Fraternity Established • A garden of Good • Maxwell Klug renews vows • Article about Pope’s visit to America.

Milwaukee Catholic Home (MCH) Farms Burlington, WI



After a successful pilot year, Milwaukee Catholic Home (MCH) is now offering shares in its community farm, Clare Gardens, to its organizational partners.

Clare Gardens began in spring of 2015, in partnership with the Franciscan Friars of the Assumption BVM Province. Under the supervision of A.J. Weis, a total of 2.5 acres of fruits, vegetables and flowers were farmed using organic practices on the Franciscans' property in Burlington, WI.

The mission of Clare Gardens is to bring fresh, local produce to the older adult residents of Milwaukee Catholic Home and to create a place of experiential engagement both for residents and the broader community.

Clare Gardens' first growing season exceeded expectations, with around 19,000 pounds of food produced. In 2016, the farm will be extended over 4 acres, with the intention of increasing yield to between 30,000 and 35,000 pounds.

A. J. Weis (above) was born and raised on a family farm just outside Burlington, WI. He attended the University of Wisconsin-Madison and earned a bachelor of science degree in agriculture majoring in animal science. After graduation, he obtained a position with the University of the Virgin Islands Agricultural Experiment Station. His duties included managing research farms focused on germ plasm study of live-stock breeds originating on the island of St. Croix.

Partners who purchase shares will receive a weekly delivery of farm-fresh produce, delivered over the course of 20-24 weeks in late spring, summer and early fall. Organizations who have committed to the purchase of a share include Clement Manor, St. John's on the Lake, and the Jewish Home and Care Center.

"At Milwaukee Catholic Home, we emphasize whole-person wellness, and healthy eating is a significant part of that," said MCH CEO Dave Fulcher. "We are excited to be able to offer other organizations who serve older adults the chance to reap the benefits of the Clare Gardens project."

"Food is about more than just filling our stomachs," Noth said. "Food can facilitate health, well-being, skills, and community. Food can change your life."

Queen of Peace Friary and Francis Meadows, both in Burlington, Wisconsin, were beneficiaries of A.J.'s agriculture talent as they enjoyed some of the fresh, organic vegetables from last year's crop.

What drew you to MCH and the Clare Gardens project?

I have a deep personal history with the St. Francis Monastery, the site of MCH's Clare Gardens project. My earliest memory is my family taking me to Sunday mass at the Franciscans' outdoor pavilion. My high school graduation took place in that same pavilion, and Grandma & Grandpa Bell spent their twilight years living in the Francis Meadows apartments. So when I met Dave & Chris and they shared with me their vision of building a vegetable & decorative garden on site, I was completely magnetized. I share the vision of being involved in local agriculture and how it relates to community involvement.

Maxwell Klug renews vows in Morocco

I find it hard to believe that five out of my six months here have already passed. We have another week of classes then two weeks of exams. Once the program is over and almost all the students have returned to the States, I will be traveling around to the different friaries that I was unable to visit earlier.

Two weeks ago, the friars of the Custody held their chapter. Almost every friar from the custody was able to make it. Only two were absent – one because of age and the other was in Rome studying. I was invited to stay for the meetings and gatherings during the chapter. Unfortunately I had classes during the day, but I was able to make it to prayer and meal(s). Just in the small gathering of the custody one could truly sense the universality of the Order. Throughout the chapter Spanish, French, English, and Arabic were all spoken- and many more languages were represented. I tried to bring some Assumption spirit to the chapter by speaking a bit [please read basic phrases] of Polish to a Friar from Poland, I am proud to say that he understood what I was trying to say.



← Our itinerary consisted of visiting a nomad family, eating couscous (and riding a donkey →), hike, milk cows, stay with a Berber family.





Br. Maxwell Klug, OFM renewing vows.

During the Chapter Fr. Manuel Corullon was re-elected as Custos for another term along with a new Vicar and council. There were many things to celebrate at the closing Eucharist of the Chapter; of course one being the closing of the Chapter, a farewell to a brother after years of service here in Morocco as he heads back to Mexico, and the renewal of my vows. The celebration of that Eucharist with [almost] all the brothers of the Custody was an extremely powerful experience of fraternity. Again, I would like to thank you, Fr. Jim, and the Province for allowing me have this experience and accepting my request for the renewal of my vows.

This past weekend, after packing much hand-sanitizer and toilet-paper, I spent a few days in the Moroccan wilderness and a Berber village. The other students and I found ourselves near Azrou, Morocco. It is a gorgeous part of the country, mostly because it has not

really been disturbed by the people who live there. I, for the most part, was dreading this trip. Our itinerary consisted of visiting a local school to play with the children, sleeping at a camp in the forest, visiting a nomad family (eating couscous and riding a donkey), hiking, milking cows, staying with a Berber family, going to Haamam (essentially the village shower because the houses do not have their own), and then visit different springs and lakes on the way back. I fully admit it, I am a city boy at heart, so all of this close up with nature was not really up my alley.

After the first stop, my heart was changed. The trip was/is the best thing I have experienced since arriving here in Morocco. As I have said before, the country in itself is breathtaking; but the hospitality of the people I had met was perhaps the most moving. Since we were in a very rural area, especially with the nomad family, nobody I had encountered spoke French or [standard] Arabic, but despite the absence of conversation I felt incredibly welcomed and at home. As with many cultures, food plays a big role in the Moroccan hospitality and identity, so we were filled with plenty of wonderful dishes. I have been trying to write something about the food I had during this trip, but there is nothing to compare it with. It was delicious! Thankfully we walked a lot!

Once I returned to Rabat, the adventures continued. We had a few people over to celebrate the 1st of May. I was in-charge of the BBQ. I found out that the tortoises in our garden are attracted to fire. When I lit the fire pit, I found myself surrounded by 10 of them. Between the 11 of us we managed to prepare a wonderful meal for the guests. Later in the afternoon, a Moroccan family came to visit and taught me how to make Moroccan tea (a staple in the Moroccan society) and other Moroccan sweets. It was a great way to end my weekend.

Please be assured of my prayers. As I renewed my vows, all of the brothers in the Assumption province were

Jason Welle has article published in La Fiaccola, Milan

LA FIACCOLA – A monthly magazine, published in Milan, Italy
 Jason Welle. OFM was asked to write an article for the November 2015 issue of LA FIACCOLA.
 Below, is the English translation.

The visit of Pope Francis to Washington, DC, brought a hurricane of excitement and gratitude to our city. Everyone knows that Francis has become a “rock star” in the eyes of the media, but I had not realized how much his ministry means until he arrived on American soil. At the Franciscan Monastery, we hosted a “papal watch party” so that people could gather and watch TV coverage of the papal plane arriving at the airport. Despite the other “live” events in the two days to come—the Mass, parade, and address to Congress—our conference

Milwaukee Catholic Home’s Mission:

Rooted in our Catholic tradition and commitment to Christian love and community, Milwaukee Catholic Home provides continuing care services for older adults.

ONGOING FORMATION

Here is a list of On Going Formation or Continuing Education programs which may be of interest to you. The programs are being offered by Franciscan School of Theology in Oceanside.

JULY SUMMER SESSIONS:

July 5-8, 2016 Creation, Justice, and the Human Role: Biblical Foundations of the Franciscan Vision- Dr. Michael Guinan, OFM (1 CEU \$250.00)

July 11-15, 2016 St. Francis and his love for Creatures- Dr. William Short, OFM (1 CEU \$250.00)

July 18-22, 2016 Theology of Creation in Bonaventure. -Dr. Thomas Herbst, OFM (1CEU \$250.00)

July 25-29, 2016 Enduring Presence: The Integral Ecology of Franciscan Life.-Dr. Darleen Pryds and Donna Foley, OFS (1 CEU \$250.00)

—Contributed by Anthony Janik, OFM

ADDRESS CHANGE

Lourdes Friary
 12921 Parrish St.
 Box 627
 Cedar Lake, In 46303

Please note the change of the P.O. Box number

FRIAR RESIDENTS AT THE MILWAUKEE CATHOLIC HOME

The Assumption Province has seven friars in residence at Milwaukee Catholic Home in Milwaukee. These are the beneficiaries of the outstanding care of the staff at MCH:

1. Bp. Henry Howaniec, OFM
2. Blase Karas, OFM
3. Nathan Jaskulski, OFM
4. David Typek, OFM
5. Joseph Krymkowski, OFM
6. Bede Hepnar, OFM
7. Thomas Kamesnki, OFM



Pope Francis

center was packed, standing room only! When the plane touched down, the faithful roared with applause—people were laughing, crying, clapping. He has stirred up something beautiful in people’s hearts, and they are eager for it to pour out.

Pope Francis celebrated Mass outside the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception on the campus of the Catholic University of America. This neighborhood has been called “Little Rome” because many religious orders have convents here so that their members can study at the university. This area is thickly Catholic, and the pope’s decision to celebrate Mass here will be a source of pride for the residents of the area for many years. His decision also created a logistical nightmare...the area is not accustomed to high-profile guests, so the security protocols to enter campus for Mass were frustrating. The beauty of the Mass made everything worth it, of course.



Jason Welle, OFM will begin his work at the Pontifical Institute for the Study of Arabic and Islam in Rome, Italy in June.

I brimmed with joy at the pope’s address to Congress. Americans know that the pope does not speak English well, but he delivered an elegant and polished speech—his diction was clear, his gestures effective, and his rhetoric well-crafted. Little more than fifty years ago, John F. Kennedy ran for president, and some critics attacked him, saying that if he were to win, the president would be taking advice from the pope. Times have changed, because today our Congress has become polarized and paralyzed. The only thing Republicans and Democrats can agree about is that they need advice from the pope! People watched closely to see whether Francis would enter into particular debates about American policy: the culture wars about marriage and the family, immigration reform and care for the poor, environmental justice and care for creation... He prudently chose to focus his address on four outstanding Americans whom we generally recognize as examples of virtue. While he offered some remarks with concrete political “teeth”—especially regarding capital punishment and environmental policy—his decision to invite politicians to a dialogue about the ideals of these four great citizens was wise and well-received.

As Franciscan friars, the visit brought the special joy of the canonization of our brother, Junipero Serra. Our monastery hosted friars from California who were active in promoting his cause for canonization, as well as our Minister General and other friars from Rome who came for the event. While others focused primarily on the fact that the pope visited, we friars saw the pope’s journey as the end of a journey of research, dialogue, and controversy which resulted in the founder of the California missions finally being counted among the saints. From the time Pope Francis chose Francis as his name, we have claimed him as a Franciscan at heart. He has certainly shown this with his focus for the poor and the marginalized, and we rejoice that he showed it again when he held up Serra as a model for missionary zeal and the joy of the Gospel.



St. Junipero Serra, OFM

Pope Francis’ entire pontificate has been a time of positive energy for the Church in the U.S., but this trip gave the Church a better face in the media than is common here. Coverage of him has been overwhelmingly positive—he has an ability to connect not only with fellow Catholics, but with other Christians, with non-Christians, with persons of all walks of life. Two weeks before the visit, Pope Francis held a videoconference with the faithful at three different sites in cities he was unable to visit, in each case focusing his attention on the poor, the homeless, and immigrants. The videoconference—a total surprise to the participants—was broadcast on national news, and coverage of the papal visit continued in this direction, highlighting the pope’s broad outreach to those who most need hope and consolation. Journalists often highlighted the non-Catholics who took time off from their jobs or brought their children to the parade route to see the pope. President Obama showed his respect for the pope by meeting him at the airport—a rare gesture by an American president—and Francis’ address to a joint session of Congress was the first for a pope. All in all, it was pure joy for clergy and religious here to see persons from all walks of life so eager to welcome the Holy Father, to listen to his words, and to experience his unique ability to touch their hearts.

Milwaukee Catholic Home, exterior.

