

# GOOD NEWS

from Provincial Minister, Fr. James Gannon, OFM



June 2016

#9



William Stout, OFM



Emmanuel Bialonick, OFM



Much of the material in this newsletter was provided by James Gannon, OFM (above), Provincial Minister, Assumption Province.

Brothers Peace and all good!

The Solemnity of Corpus Christi fell within the Memorial Holiday weekend, when the Church “unofficially” brings the Easter Season to a close, and America celebrates the “unofficial” start of Summer. Deacon Dave assisted and preached at Mass for the Feast of Corpus Christit. He started his homily by singing the words to the 1965 song, by the Rolling Stones, “I Can’t Get No Satisfaction.” I asked myself, “Dave, where are going with this song and Corpus Christi?” My mind was flooded with wonderful memories of lazy, hazy, crazy days of Summer and Wildwood, New Jersey. Long summer days and nights, trekking down the Wildwood Boardwalk with my friends to the Stardust Ballroom where we danced the night away. The number one song that Summer of 65 was “I Can’t Get No Satisfaction.”

Deacon Dave quickly brought me back to Mass and the Feast of Corpus Christit when he mentioned the fact that this Classic Song was written by Mick Jagger when the group was soaring into global popularity, when they had “everything” and yet they were not satisfied. Something was missing; peace and happiness.

As members of the Body of Christ, we gather each day in our Friaries, in our church communities, in our places of ministry and we celebrate the liturgy of the Word and Eucharist. Perhaps we can ask ourselves the question; Am I satisfied? Am I being fed and Am I feeding others? As Franciscans, are we the presence of Christ to our brothers in community? Do we bring the presence of Christ to those we meet, especially the stranger? As the great Eucharistic Hymn goes; “You satisfy the hungry heart...” Are you satisfied?

We are gifted once again with the Season of Summer, when we have more “light to read by.” Perhaps satisfy yourself and read recent book on the Eucharist and sit back and reflect. Enjoy Summer!

Peace and all good!

jim

## From The May 2016 Provincial Council Meeting

May 25-26, 2016

### Friar News

#### William Stout

Come the end of June, Bill will join Fr. Francis Affelt in Mishawaka, Indiana and minister to the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi of Perpetual Adoration. September, Bill will move to McAllen, Texas and join our Friars at St. Junipero Serra Friary and serve the people of Sacred Heart Parish, McAllen, Texas and Holy Family Parish, Edinburg, Texas. Thank you, Bill!

#### Emmanuel Bialonick

I am very happy to report that Emmanuel has decided to end his “leave of absence” and step back into community. Emmanuel has profited from this time of prayer, ministry and discernment. He has been faithful in staying in contact with me and with the Friars of St. Junipero Serra Friary, Edinburg, TX. I thank Friars Mario Nagy, Thomas Luczak, Andre LeMay and Terrence Gorski for reaching out to Emmanuel and including him in their friary chapters, meetings and holiday celebrations. Emmanuel plans on returning to the Province sometime after July 1, 2016.

#### Augustine Frasczak

Before the end of June, Brother Gus will be returning to the United States for a three-month vacation. Queen of Peace will be Gus’ home base as he visits friars, family and friends. Welcome Home Gus!

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### INSIDE

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Thomas Marchetti

### Postulant, Thomas “Tommy” Marchetti

With the recommendations of the Postulant Directors, Edward Tlucek and Anthony Janik and the entire Lourdes Community, I, and the provincial Council, approved Tommy for entrance into the novitiate. After summer studies at St. Bonaventure University, vacation with family, Tommy will enter the novitiate, August 14, 2016.

### Zachery Zeman

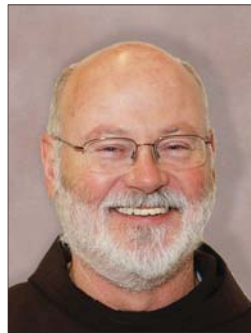
Tuesday evening, May 24th, Edward Tlucek, Guardian of Lourdes Friary and Postulant Director, called to inform me that Postulant, Zach, had informed Ed and Tony Janik of his decision to step out of our formation program. Zach informed the Lourdes Community that same evening, after dinner. Let us remember Zach in prayer and thank Zach for his time with us. He fully participated in our formation program. He truly and prayerfully discerned God’s Will for him. He was a positive presence within the Lourdes Community.

### Maxwell Klug

Upon his return from Morocco and his continued studies of the French Language, Maxwell will spend a week of retreat at Assumption Friary, Pulaski, WI. After retreat, Maxwell will move into Francis + Clare Friary, Franklin, WI, where he will reside during his year of ministry at St. Thomas More High School, Milwaukee, WI.



Zachery Zeman



Joachim Studwell, OFM

## Formation

Joachim Studwell formally presented the Novitiate Recommendations and Approvals.

The Provincial Council approved the following appointments:

- Jeffrey Macnab, OFM (SB), Canonical Novice Master.
- Michael Blastic, OFM (HN), Vicar of St. Francis Friary
- Joachim Studwell, OFM (ABVM), Guardian of St. Francis Friary.

## Planning

Jim Bok, OFM General Visitor

Jim has received and reviewed and made adjustments to a Schedule of Visitation to the Assumption BVM Province. Plans are being made for Jim to meet with the Provincial Council and the Chapter Planning Committee, Sunday, September 25, 2016 and Monday, September 26, 2016, prior to our Leadership Conference at Techny Towers, Techny, IL. Jim will be present for the entire Leadership Conference.



James Bok, OFM

## Tony Janik, OFM, Chair for the Leadership Conference

Tony met with Jim Gannon and presented a draft of the schedule for the September Leadership Conference. The Council endorsed the schedule and thanked Tony for his detailed work. It was noted that the scheduled time and date for Bishop Kurt Burnette, Eparch of the Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Passaic, NJ, needs to be changed because of the Bishop’s schedule. Jim will work with Tony.

**Leadership Conference • September 25 – 29, 2016 • Techny Towers, Techny, IL.**

## On-going Partnership Conversations with the Milwaukee Catholic Home

After a conversation with Dave Fulcher (CEO of the Milwaukee Catholic Home), the members of the Provincial Council decided to form an Ad Hoc Committee to address the immediate and future needs of Senior Friar Health Care. This committee will be instructed to break open the conversation concerning Senior Friar Health Care, and present a plan which will address the immediate needs, and a future plan for the next Provincial Administration.

## A Fin[ian]-Bit

Here are the statistics for Religious in the U.S. over the past 50 years: 1965- 2015 source: *Official Catholic Directory*.

Membership in Religious communities reached its peak in 1965/66. Ever year since then the number of religious has diminished. The statistics for male religious include only those non-ordained. I was not able to determine the number of male religious that are priests.

	BROTHERS	SISTERS
1965	12,270	180,015
1970	1,623	160,931
1985	7,544	115,380
2000	5,736	81,160
2015	4,225	49,480

The scary thing about these statistics is that 77% of the 4,225 brothers are over the age of 65 and 81% of the 49,480 women religious are over the age of 70. --Contributed by Finian Zaucha, OFM



Members of the Ad Hoc Committee: Felician Sister, Ramona Dombrowski, John Grishom (Felician Health Inc.), Provincial Nurse, Charlene Duley, Tom Wojciechowski (Guardian, Queen of Peace Friary), Michael May (Senior Friar Care), Jim Esser (Guardian, Assumption Friary), Craig Wilking (Guardian of St. Francis Friary, Greenwood, MS), Memebtrs of the Provincial Council; Edward Tlucek, Andrew Brophy, Paul Reczek, John Cella, Joachim Studwell, Jim Gannon.

## Jerome Wolbert, OFM

On Sunday May 1, St Francis of Assisi Secular Franciscan Fraternity in Greenwood, MS, celebrated



the profession of nine new members, rejuvenating the Secular Franciscan Fraternity that meets at the St Francis Mission. I was happy to be able to join them for the weekend and celebrate the profession Mass.

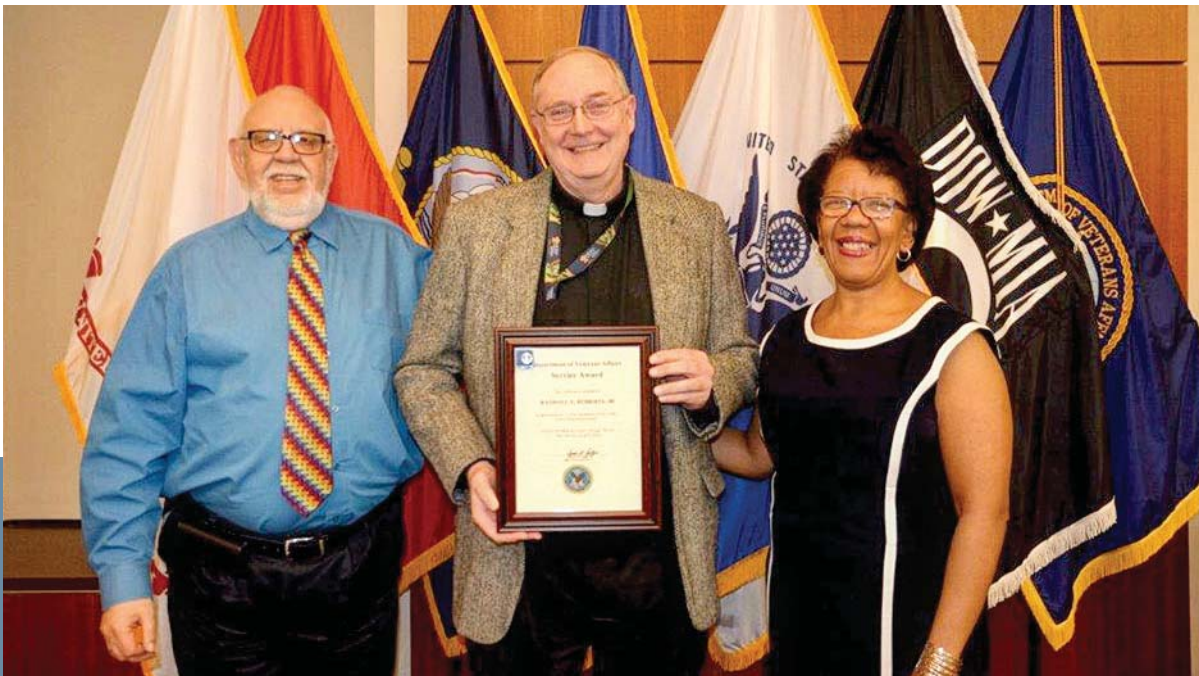
The fraternity had fallen asleep for many years, but one of the remaining members, Ms Dora Mae Hollie, OFS, called on some of her friends from the fraternity to see if there would be interest in restarting. With great enthusiasm many new people joined them, both from St Francis Mission and from surrounding parishes. These Secular Franciscans have a great love

St Francis Fraternity members with Jerome and with Pat Houghton, OFS, former regional minister, St Joan of Arc region, and former minister of the fraternity sponsoring St Francis Fraternity. Pat was very helpful in guiding our fraternity from afar, encouraging and guiding Sr Annette and the fraternity members.

and appreciation for us friars and for the sisters who minister at the Mission and in the surrounding area.

## Randall Roberts, OFM

Congratulations to Randall Roberts on the occasion of honoring him and his ministry, as he receives his Twenty-five Year Service Pin. Randy serves as Chief of Chaplains for the Jesse Brown V.A. Medical center (photo right), Chicago, Illinois. (Below) Standing to the right of Randy is Annette Walker, Acting Director, and to his left is Randy's "Boss" Ronald Fought.



## Provincial's Schedule

- June 8-14: Rescheduled Retreat from April
- June 16-17: Accompany Linus from Buffalo, NY to Milwaukee Catholic Home
- June 18: Funeral, participate in the Franciscan Federation Meeting, Milwaukee, WI
- June 19-21: Lourdes Friary/Holy Name Parish, Cedar Lake, IN; Renewal of Vows for Jose Miguel Avalos Roldan, OFM Visit Fr. Francis Affelt and Fr. Georges, Mishawaka, IN.
- June 21-25: Francis + Clare Friary, Franklin, WI.
- June 26-29: Provincial Council Working Retreat, Door County, WI
- June 30-July 10: Francis + Clare Friary, Franklin, WI

## FUTURE MEETINGS

- August 22-26, 2016 USA Provincial Councils, Techny
- September 6-9, 2016 Provincial Council, Cedar Lake
- September 25-26, 2016 Provincial Council with James Bok, Techny
- 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





## Terrence Gorski

During Jim Gannon's recent visit to the Friars serving in "The Valley", **Terrence Gorski** celebrated his 41st Anniversary of Ordained Ministry as a Franciscan Priest, May 31st. As part of his Mass of Thanksgiving, Terrence presided over the presentation of several women from Sacred Heart Parish, McAllen, Texas, to the Congregation of Consecrated Women, to Jesus, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Terrence Gorski, OFM, commissioning.

## Bernard Kennedy, OFM

Archbishop Blase J. Cupich ordained thirteen men as permanent deacons at a 10:30 a.m. Mass, on Sunday, June 4, at Holy Name Cathedral, State and Superior Streets in Chicago. Our **Bernard Kennedy** is Director of Spiritual Formation in the Chicago Archdiocese Institute for Diaconal Studies.

The newly ordained deacons completed a comprehensive four-year program through the Institute for Diaconal Studies at the University of Saint Mary of the Lake / Mundelein Seminary that included the human, spiritual, intellectual and pastoral dimensions of formation, field education experiences in service to charity and evangelization, and a year-long parish pastoral



Bernard Kennedy (center, red) surrounded by the new deacons and their families.

ministry internship.

More than 98 percent of deacons are married with families and most are also employed in outside occupations. They are clergy, along with priests and bishops. The ministries that Deacons perform include the teaching mission of the Church, caring for the poor, performing baptisms and marriages, conducting funeral liturgies, presiding at wake services and assisting the priest at Mass by proclaiming the Gospel, preaching, leading intercessions, preparing the altar and intoning the dismissal. The Archdiocese of Chicago has the largest diaconate in the entire Catholic Church with more than 500 active deacons.

## New Staff at Assumption Friary

Because of the changing needs for the resident friars of Assumption BVM Friary, Pulaski, Wisconsin, there is a need to upgrade the staff to help meet the needs of the friars. To that end, three new people have been hired to feed, nurse and house-keep the fraternity.



Dr. Greg Masiello, PhD, is a director of the Franciscan Military Personnel Pilgrimage.

Photo: Brendan Wroblewski, OFM



Mary Freeman, Nursing

Photo: Brendan Wroblewski, OFM



Marilyn VanDreel, House-keeping

Photo: Brendan Wroblewski, OFM



Mark Chambers, Culinary



### The Holy Year Walk Of Mercy

When Pope Francis opened the Holy Doors, commencing the Year of Mercy, he also established a Walk of Mercy in the city of Rome. The Walk of Mercy is a Pilgrims Way from the Holy Doors to the Basilica of St. John Lateran, to the Holy Doors of St. Peter's Basilica. Thursday, May 19th, while directing a Franciscan Pilgrimage for the Sponsored Ministries for the Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity, I noticed two familiar faces, among five hundred pilgrims, passing through the Holy Doors of St. Peter's - Conrad Targonski and Greg Masiello. Conrad and Greg were completing the "Walk of Mercy" and were discerning whether to include this Pilgrimage of Mercy as part of their Franciscan Pilgrimages for Veterans of the Military which began May 28th and ends, June 5th.