

Letter from the Provincial

Brothers,

Peace and all good!

The Summer of 2016 has been filled with lots of activity: July 10-13, our Assumption BVM Province hosted the **Directors of Development** for several English Speaking Provinces. Patti Bergerson (**ABVM Director**) and Tyler Curtis (**Operations Manager for the General Secretariat of Franciscans Missions**) organized and hosted this informative conference. **Francis + Clare Friary** hosted the participants for a meeting with Development Directors for Chicago, and a “*taste of Wisconsin*” barbecue.

The following week, July 17-20, the staff of the **General Secretariat for Franciscan Missions**, Friar Teofil Czarniak, OFM (**Executive Director**), Tyler Curtis (**Operations Manager**), Sante DeAngelis, OFM (**Guardian**) and Ponciano Macabalo, OFM, hosted a Board Development Meeting at the General Secretariat Offices, Waterford, WI. The Friars of Francis + Clare Friary once again hosted the members of the Board of Directors to a “*taste of Wisconsin*” cookout. A BIG “thank you” is extended to Patti and Tyler for all their hard work in hosting the Development Directors meeting; to Friar Teofil Czarniak and Tyler Curtis for hosting the first face to face meeting of the new Board of Directors for the **General Secretariat for Franciscan Missions**; and to John Cella, Guardian and the Friars of Francis + Clare Friary, and the fantastic cooks for extending their arms of Franciscan hospitality to all the participants of these important meetings.

The week following the Board of Directors meeting in Waterford, WI we all were made aware of the fire which heavily damaged several of the newly renovated offices for the **General Secretariat for Franciscan Missions**, and extended smoke and water damage to the Friary. As of August 9, the staff will begin working out of rental offices in the city of Burlington. The Friar community will temporarily reside at St. Francis Friary and Novitiate. Late October is the estimated time given for a return to the Waterford site.

John Cella traveled to Ireland to represent the Assumption Province at the **English Speaking Directors of Communication**, July 31-August 4.

Craig Wilking, Edward Tluczek and I attended the **CMSM (Conference of Major Superiors of Men) National Conference, August 2-5, Columbus, Ohio**. The theme of the conference was: **RICH IN MERCY**. The key note speakers: Ronald Rolheiser, OMI ~ Religious Vows: Exquisitely Calibrated to Incarnate God’s Mercy; and Sr, Donna Markham, OP ~ Religious as Witnesses to and Ministers of God’s Mercy.

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Letter from the Provincial (Continued)

Bishop John Stowe, OFM Conv, Lexington, KY, delivered inspiring reflections during our Morning Prayer times and before each major address. The two major presentations and Bishop Stowe's reflections will be posted on the CMSM web site. I will forward them to you once they are posted. They are inspiring, prayerful, holy reflections.

Craig, Edward and I participated in the important pre-assembly workshop: **REVISED STANDARDS OF ACCREDITATION AND PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS**. There are several key revisions that MUST be brought to our attention. In the coming weeks you will receive a hard copy of the Revised Standards. The Provincial Administration will be meeting later this month. We will discuss the process by which we will orient the provincial community on the Revised Standards.

Jason Welle served as **Chair of the SPUTY Committee (Solemn Professed Friars Under Ten Years)**. We are grateful for his service, especially as he prepares to defend his doctoral dissertation. The meeting in Colorado Springs, CO, included Friars from six of the seven US Provinces, as well as Ireland, England, Western Canada and Korea. Before they concluded the week long meeting, the Friars issued a statement on Revitalization and Restructuring in the United States. A summary of the meeting from Jason is below, and the statement crafted by the Friars is on the following page. It is an inspiring and timely statement, as the ABVM Provincial Administration will join the with the Provincial Administrations of the other six Provinces, August 22-26, Techny Towers Retreat/Conference Center, Techny, IL. These will be important and intense days of discussions. Please remember all of us in prayer.

To everyone - enjoy the remains of the Summer!
Peace and all good!
Jim

From Jason Welle:

Our group of SPUTY friars had a very beneficial week in Colorado Springs this week. There were 34 friars total (31 of whom were SPUTY, 24 of those from US provinces), plus our presenter, Sean Sammon, at the Franciscan Retreat Center. We began with night prayer on Monday, had three full days together, and then departed after morning prayer and mass today. There was a wonderful energy in the group—friends who don't see each other frequently coming back together, as well as an opportunity to form some new relationships. I'm very grateful the week went so well, because I personally put a lot of work into it as chair of the committee...and all of the friars were very grateful for this.

The committee aimed for a week which would blend some input to spur discussion of our vocation and lifestyle, plus some good liturgy and ongoing formation in this area, and finally, some recreation time. Sean Sammon gave us outstanding presentations on Tuesday morning and afternoon on keeping the charism alive and the transition from young(er) adulthood into midlife. Bill Beaudin (from FIT) offered some reflections on Wednesday morning about his experience of working on this process of revitalization and restructuring, and Sean facilitated a discussion of what Bill presented.

When the committee planned this week, our assumption/fear was that many of the SPUTY friars might consider this process already talked-to-death, and that they'd be suffering from restructuring fatigue due to regional meetings and (more recently) FIT interprovincial meetings. In our original schedule, we deliberately limited discussion of restructuring to one morning, so that it wouldn't dominate the week and so that the friars from Korea, Ireland, England, and Western Canada who attended wouldn't feel sidelined by topics for discussion that were uniquely American. It turns out that there was a ton of energy around this topic and that the international friars were keen to offer their insights on our situation, having either gone through such a process recently (England/Ireland) or being in the midst of one (Canada). The SPUTY friars really wanted to issue a statement expressing their commitment to this process, so we reworked the schedule for Wednesday afternoon to facilitate this discussion. Rufino Zaragoza shortened his workshop on the liturgy of the hours (ongoing formation) and we workshopped the statement which follows. Personally, I neither expected nor intended such a statement to be a component of our week together, but I'm very pleased by what transpired.

Solemnly Professed Under Ten Years Meeting Statement on Revitalization and Restructuring in the United States Colorado Springs, CO | 29 July 2016

We the assembled brothers of the Order of Friars Minor, solemnly professed under ten years, express our gratitude and appreciation for the opportunity to gather together for a week of fraternal sharing, prayerful renewal, and discussion about the ongoing revitalization and restructuring process. In light of the constructive conversation that unfolded, a proposal was introduced and strongly supported that we SPUTY brothers offer a statement expressing our “joys and hopes, fears and anxieties” (*Gaudium et Spes*, no. 1) to our ministers provincial, the Franciscan Interprovincial Team, and our brother friars.

First, though we recognize the understandable fears and uncertainties about the unknown future expressed by some brothers, we as a group feel that we are called by the Spirit to move forward with strength and resolve in the restructuring of the OFM provincial presence in the United States. We are hopeful, enthusiastic, and enlivened by our individual and collective vocations, and wish to carry this forward into the future. While we do not advocate for one model of restructuring over another at this point, *we strongly desire to see this process move forward to result in a new reconfiguration of the Order in the US.*

Second, we are making this fraternal statement because, among those most affected by the forthcoming decisions, we—the solemnly professed under ten years—will live out and implement much of what is decided in this process of revitalization and reconfiguration in the decades to come. This is a *kairos* moment, seen in the age of Pope Francis and the renewal of the life of the church. We are encouraged to move forward with this process in a concrete way now because it allows us to make changes from a collective “position of strength” rather than being forced to act out of an eventual necessity, a “position of weakness,” or a moment of crisis.

Third, as significant stakeholders in this endeavor, we believe that renewal and revitalization will occur simultaneously with our process of restructuring—as opposed to waiting for more individual provincial reform. We are wholly committed to this process and wish to reaffirm our desire for transparency among the provinces in terms of communication (e.g., regarding finances, liabilities, personnel, commitment to the process, etc.). Supportive of our future together, we SPUTY friars have been frustrated and disappointed by the number of rumors circulating concerning this process and, therefore, we are very eager to learn the details of the discussions and decisions forthcoming at the Techny, IL meeting.

Finally, we see this process as the advancing and continuation of our respective provincial identities, legacies, and traditions into the future and not as an erasure or neglecting of all the good that has come before. We celebrate and remain grateful for our histories and particular articulations of our shared Franciscan charism, and yet we hold a strong conviction that what we share in common is greater than what has been distinctive. We look to the future with optimism and excitement, ready to work through the challenges that lie ahead. We do not want to hold onto the past or even current ministerial commitments to the exclusion of moving forward. May this statement be an affirmation for all our brother friars that we, your SPUTY brothers, are resolved to be involved in the process of revitalization and restructuring as we journey forward together.



Pilgrimage for Peace 2016

Edward Tlucek and Jim Gannon traveled to Sybertsville, PA to join Carmen Scuderi (Guardian), James Carroll (Vicar), Anthony Skurla, Augustine Paulik, and Jerome Wolbert as they welcomed Bishop Kurt Burnette, Eparchy of Passaic, and hundreds of faithful pilgrims to the 70th Pilgrimage for Peace, Sunday August 7, 2016. Held at Holy Dormition Friary, Sybertsville, PA, this year's pilgrimage had the theme "Mercy that Fosters Peace." This year's pilgrimage also commemorated the 800th anniversary of the Portiuncula Pardon during this Holy Year of Mercy.

At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, Bishop Kurt Burnette announced his plans to the assembly for a new evangelization center to be located on the Holy Dormition property, Sybertsville, PA. The center will be named The Bishop Michael Dudeck Center for Evangelization. Bishop Kurt Burnette also introduced the new director of the Evangelization Center, Rev. Michael Popson. Bishop Burnette stressed that the Bishop Michael Dudeck Center for Evangelization will embrace all churches, and that all faiths would be welcomed to the center.

The busy schedule included Matins, Holy Anointing, Divine Liturgy, a Children's Program, and a Spiritual Talk entitled "Letting Go" given by Fr Edward Tlucek, OFM, Vicar Provincial of Assumption BVM Province. The food tent was also kept busy serving a menu of Eastern European dishes as well as classic picnic fare.



Our New Novices

On the Feast of the Assumption of Mary at St. Francis Friary – Interprovincial English-Speaking Novitiate, thirteen men were received into the novitiate. One of the thirteen new novices is our own brother, Tommy Marchetti (shown right). During the Rite of Reception the members of the Novitiate Team were commissioned and prayerfully supported in their ministry of formation: Jeffrey Macnab, OFM, (SB), Canonical Novice Master and Bursar of the Friary, Michael Blastis, OFM (HN), Vicar of the Friary Joachim Studwell, OFM, Guardian of the Friary, Franciscan Sister Susan Rosenbach, SSST. Please pray for vocations, for our new novices, for all men in formation, and all formation directors.



In Memoriam: Hugh Zurat, OFM

A Classmate Writes:

Way back in the early 1950's I transferred from my parish high school in Chicago in my junior year and at the invitation of the rector, Father Norman Maras, I came to St. Bonaventure Minor Seminary and High School in Sturtevant, Wisconsin, as it was known then to complete my senior year. Making new friends and living 90 miles away from my home for the first time in my life was not easy. It was there that I met Hugh who was the Prefect of Students and who befriended me and took me under his wing, and as they say, the rest is history, a friendship that has lasted through the years.

We both had the desire to serve God in the religious life, and so we petitioned to join the Franciscan Order and began our Franciscan novitiate in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin as a class of 15 candidates with Father Juniper Lewandowski as our novice director. Upon completion we went on to our college in Burlington, Wis., for future studies and it was there that Hugh took an intense interest in Liturgy, Ecclesiology, and the missionary work of the church.

When the Assumption Province was invited to work and establish a mission on the Island of Samar in the Philippines, friars generously volunteered to begin that work and we at home did our best to keep them supplied with the necessities they needed. Hugh was among those that volunteered and received his missionary cross. I always teased him good-naturedly that I too live in a foreign country and never received a mission cross but rather carry mine.

Hugh departed for the Islands and I wrote often and even made tapes on recording machines to send to him. One day, in a fit of fervor, I wrote him and said, "Hugh, I'm coming." I wrote the letter asking to go to the Islands but made the mistake of calling Mom in Chicago and got a very negative response. "Too far," she said, "we'll never see you again." Hugh did not appreciate that turn of events. But I did manage to get to our mission in Mississippi and later to Mexico so we continued to share our common interest in mission work.

Of the 15 in our novitiate class, 12 of us persevered to reach religious life and ordination. Hugh and I were in the top 6 of the class as the other 6 were ordained a year earlier. What a time to begin ministry. We were the children of Vatican II. With one foot on the pre-Vatican side and the other hesitatingly feeling for solid ground on the other. We were the first to make that transition from Latin to the vernacular and the many changes that were to come.

I can honestly say that our college and seminary days adequately prepared us for this as we had excellent professors to face the challenges. Hugh, now in the Islands, went from teaching to being superior to rector to pastor of the largest parish in Manila, etc., and did well in every category. Yet, living among the poor began to inspire in him the desire to live the simple Gospel life and I can say that he was sincere in not being attached to the things of this world as a means to better serve the Lord in whatever ministry he was called to and he began to, without fanfare, strip himself of all comforts and unnecessary things as an example of how a friar should live and even more so, he was loyal to his vows and the demands of community life. He often would say "I made vows and this is where I intend to stay and this is my family."

I say this tongue in cheek, but Hugh never hesitated to tell me what was best for me and for my life and as you know, he did not succeed very well in his efforts. What can I say after all these years to sum up may be what Father Placid said when his passing from this life was announced last Sunday: "Since the 1950's he was the best thing that happened to us."

I definitely am an orphan now, the last of my group and although sad for Hugh's physical parting I know that I now will have his intercession. Thank you all for coming and honoring his life. Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual life shine upon him. Amen.

FATHER LYLE CHROBAK, OFM



With busy schedules, it's easy to forget how simple it is to take control of your health. The following healthy eating tips outline some of the simplest ways to enhance your everyday health, boost your metabolism, maintain a healthy weight, increase brain function and start feeling powerful from the INSIDE OUT.



1. Start Your Day Off Right, EAT BREAKFAST

Eating breakfast is important for sustaining energy levels and aiding in blood sugar management. Choose a breakfast with carbohydrates, proteins and good fats.

2. Don't Rely On Coffee! Excess coffee overloads your liver, dehydrates you (coffee is a diuretic) and increases the risk of blood sugar irregularities.

3. Stay Hydrated At least eight glasses of water a day will keep your energy levels high, your hunger down, your digestion smooth and your concentration sharp.

4. Decrease Packaged and Refined Foods Most packaged goods are loaded with sugar, excess sodium, stabilizers, preservatives like artificial colors and flavors.

5. Eat Local, Whole Foods Whole foods are the key to good health.

6. Dine out the Smart Way When ordering meat at a restaurant, look for words like steamed, baked, poached, roasted, broiled or grilled. Avoid foods with the words, fried, au gratin, crispy, escalloped, pan-fried, sautéed or stuffed.

7. Limit Alcohol Intake Alcohol dehydrates, increases your appetite, and is high in calories.

8. Avoid White Processed Foods Choose whole grain breads, pastas, brown rice and whole grains like quinoa and wild rice instead.

9. Carry Snacks With You Always have a piece of fruit or a healthy protein or nut bar with you.

10. Don't Overeat Eat until you are 80% full and no more. If you are still hungry after 10 minutes, then have a little bit more.

11. Increase Fruits and Vegetables Eat 2 to 3 servings of fruit and 5 to 7 servings of vegetables each day.

12. Avoid Eating Late Eating before 8 PM will allow your body to detoxify before you rest and helps get rid of unnecessary weight.

13. Supplement With environmental toxins and poor soil quality so prevalent, as well work and life stresses, we may not be getting appropriate nutrients in our diet. A good quality multivitamin/mineral is a good idea, along with a good quality essential fatty acid/omega 3 supplement.

All of the tips outlined above are relatively easy to implement in your life, regardless of how busy it might be. Just remember the key to a healthy and balanced life starts with dedication, and if you're just as dedicated to your health as you are to your busy work schedule, then you're bound to succeed!

Upcoming Meetings

- August 21st + 22th: Provincial Council Meeting, Techny Towers Retreat/Conference Center, Techny, IL.
- August 22nd-26th: Interprovincial Administrations Meeting on "Renewal + Restructuring", Techny Towers Retreat/Conference Center, Techny, IL.
- September 25th + 26th: Members of the June 2017 Chapter Planning Committee and Members of the Provincial Council meet with General Visitation, Jim Bok, OFM, Techny Towers Retreat + Conference Center, Techny, IL.
- September 26th - 29th Leadership Workshop and Jubilee Celebration, Techny Towers Retreat/Conference Center, Techny, IL.

Provincial Schedule

- August 19th - 21st: St. Mary of the Angels Parish, Green Bay, WI.
- August 21st-22nd: Provincial Council Meeting, Techny Towers and Retreat Center, Techny, IL
- August 22nd - 26th: Interprovincial Administrations Meeting on "Renewal and Restructuring", Techny Towers Retreat Conference Center, Techny, IL.



Fr. Jim Gannon OFM
Provincial Minister

Mea Culpa!

When the names of our 2016 Jubilarians was first published, it was brought to my attention that Richard Tulko's name was missing. When we published the adjusted list and sent out invitations to the September 29th Jubilee Celebration at Techny Retreat Center, it was brought to my attention that the name of Jerry Tokarz was omitted. I am sorry for these omissions. Please accept my sincere apology. --**James Gannon, OFM, Provincial Minister of the Assumption Province**

Celebration of the Porziuncola at St. Mary of the Angels, Green Bay

The solemn celebration of the patronal feast day of St. Mary of the Angel's of the Portincula was truly a festive event in the life of our parish. Bishop Ricken gave a inspiring homily and praised God for our Mother mary and St. Francis' love for God's mercy and His people. The parish choir sany like a choir of Angels and helped all of us praise God with voice and heart. and the presence of over 175 people , Franciscan friars from Pulaski, Frs. Finian and Gerry and numerous Silver lake Franciscan Sisters, of course bay settlement and Stevens point Franciscan Sisters were also in attendance and our local Secular Franciscan Fraternity of St. Anns had a good showing as well as visitors and parishioners. After Mass we all went out the Cass street exit to watch Bishop Ricken Bless the gate of the Franciscan Peace Gardens now open for quiet personal prayer and reflection, Bishop, Fr. Tony and friars and sisters and lay folk took part in blessing the main shrine of St. Francis and the Holy Cross after we all had fellowship, summer weather and a lot of ice cream and refreshments. What a wonderful way to bless the garden and God's vineyard vegetable garden to help feed the area poor and find a place of quiet in the midst of the city. God bless our parishioners and all who made this event a real Franciscan celebration of God's Mercy. -- Contributed by Anthony Cirignani, OFM

Dear Brothers,

In the midst of our time of crisis in Waterford, I wanted to take a moment to pause...and say 'thank you.' Our friars and staff of the Franciscan Missions have been truly blessed by your help and support since the fire occurred in our office and friary on July 26. Please know your kind words and prayers have made a difference during this difficult time. Since the fire, we've reestablished operations as best we can, but we're not up to 100% just yet. The week of August 15, we will move to our "new" temporary office in downtown Burlington. We will likely remain there for the next six months until the restoration and construction phase concludes and we can safely return to the Missions office and friary.

Also, thank you for opening your doors to our friars who were displaced by the fire. Initially this included members of our community, as well as visiting friars. We are grateful there is enough space, so that our community of friars may remain together during our stay at the monastery.

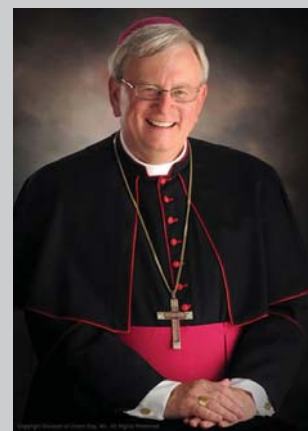
Yours,
Fr. Teofil Czarniak, OFM
Executive Director
Franciscan Missions – Waterford, Wisconsin



Jerry Tokarz, OFM



St. Mary of the Angels



Bishop Ricken



Teofil Czarniak, OFM



Fire damage, General Secretariat of the Franciscan Missions, Waterford, Wisconsin

The fire at the Mission Office occurred early morning on July 21, 2016. It is speculated the cause was an over-heated ceiling fan.

Congratulations to Leslie Hoppe, OFM

Leslie J. Hoppe gave the Presidential Address at the 79th International Meeting of the Catholic Biblical Association held at Santa Clara University in Santa Clara, California from August 6-9, 2016. The title of his address was "The Strategy of the Deuteronomistic History: A Proposal." It will appear in print form in the January 2017 issue of the *Catholic Biblical Quarterly*.

As president of the CBA, Leslie also presided at the summer meeting of the association's Executive Board and the annual general meeting of the association's membership. Leslie is the seventh member of Catholic Theological Union's Biblical Literature and Languages Department to have served as CBA President. Professor Harry Nasuti of Fordham University was elected to succeed Leslie as the CBA president.

Leslie continues as the General Editor of the *Catholic Biblical Quarterly*, having been elected to a second term as editor by the members of the CBQ Editorial Board during their annual meeting on August 6.

On September 8, Leslie will begin his thirtieth year of teaching at CTU where he serves at the Carroll Stuhlmueller Distinguished Professor of Old Testament Studies.

Franciscans Downtown, A Summer Home for Reflection, Conversation, and Refreshment - by Bob Crane

When my friend Debbie Laity suggested the Show Us Your Home for the Summer...The 2016 Mid Year Challenge, I thought that this may be a good opportunity to share a bit about a Stevens Point Treasure.

Franciscans Downtown, is not only a place that I like to volunteer at several times each week, but also a place that I like to share with all of my guests, including a few out of town visitors that stopped by today.

A few years ago my friend, Fr. Placid Stroik, retired from 30 years of service at Covenant House in New York City. He moved back to his home state of Wisconsin, where he took a position as a Chaplain at large convent near Manitowoc. He still found himself with spare time and energy and a desire to take on another outreach mission.



Sr. Barbara Reid, OP (Leslie's predecessor as CBA president) and Leslie Hoppe, OFM.



Sergius Wroblewski, OFM, pictured with Jennifer Harrington, OFS. Jennifer is from South Africa and mentioned Sergius and his many years of ministry there during her presentation at the Q. Photo credits: Deacon Phil Simeone, OFS, and Bob Stronach, OFS. -- Contributed by Fr. Jerome Wolbert, OFM

While visiting family in his hometown of Stevens Point, he noticed a vacant storefront, from an old tuxedo shop called Andrews Downtown. This is when Fr. Placid's plans started to gel. Placid then activated a network of volunteers and secured financing from his order, The Franciscan Friars of the Assumption BVM Province, to open this mission and run it for the first year.

Franciscan's Downtown was to be a "a place for Gospel refreshment ... an oasis to read, listen, reflect, write, talk; sharing with one another stories of our lives."

Though this mission was started by a Priest, who already has a full time job on the eastern side of the state, it did not take long to gather a full crew of steady volunteers to keep the mission alive. Currently, we have two Franciscan Priests, a couple of Franciscan Nuns, several members of the Secular Franciscan Order, along with numerous other Catholic lay people from the community.

We seem to have a multi-functional mission in the community we serve. A certain percentage of our guests include people from the general community and the local parishes, who are seeking a little bit of gospel refreshment and conversation in their week. Another welcome part of the community that has joined us are the homeless, who enjoy refuge from an often hostile world for a few hours each day.

I am always impressed with the activities that are presented in our little Downtown home. Some days are very busy with concerts, movie days, discussion groups, bingo, and other special events.

Many days it is much quieter at Franciscans Downtown and you will find people from the community enjoying our library, coffee, refreshments, and conversation.

Sometimes we will do things in conjunction with the many Catholic parishes in town, like the recent Mercy Marathon, offering reconciliation during lent and other special occasions, and having a Priest available to fill in at the many parishes around town.

Regardless of the activities of the day or the hour, one thing that is always on our mind while working at Franciscans Downtown is the importance of the Ministry of Presence.

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Placid Stroik, OFM, Franciscans Downtown



Finian Zaucha, OFM, Franciscans Downtown



Franciscans Downtown

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Villa Revisited

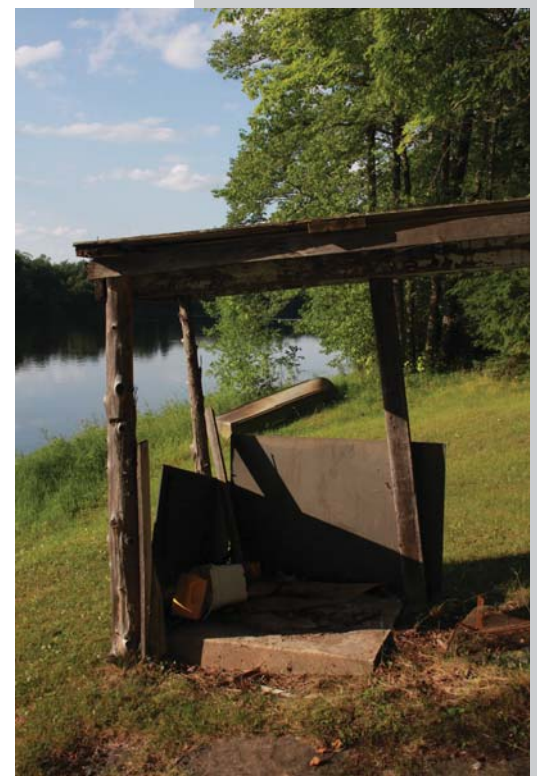
Although in the mind of many friars the Villa is a thing of the past, for Brendan Wroblewski it continues to provide a place to sleep overnight to get some pictures both in the evening and early morning. Bob Sembrat, caretaker, even provides a good breakfast.

Villa has been notably changing. Bob has been cleaning the place of all the stuff which had been determined as "Well, we can use it some day" . Beyond that the familiar sites in and around the house are missing. Brendan chose to send two of them: the pier has not been put up this year; there is no boat on the water and the little lean to in which the gas would be available is quiet empty.

While Brendan may be one of the very few using the facilities which at one time was the weekend recreation place of our printery friars and the yearly escape for the Province's teachers and staff , there must be a friar or two or even more who have a soft spot for the escapades on the river.



Brendan Wroblewski's, Villa pictures. Left, The Villa main house; bottom left, Menomonee River without the pier; bottom right, the lean-to.



English Speaking Conference (ESC) Annual Meeting of Development Directors

Contributed by Patti Bergerson, Assumption Province

The Annual Meeting of the ESC OFM Development Directors was held at the Hampton Downtown, Milwaukee, July 10-13, 2016 and hosted by the Assumption BVM Province, Patti Bergerson, Director of Development for the Assumption Province and Tyler Curtis, of the General Secretariat of the Franciscan Missions, Waterford, Wisconsin.

There were 17 attendees. At least one representative from each Province was present except Immaculate Conception Province (NY), and Christ the King Province (Canada). We were also happy to have Brother Bruce Michalek's guest, Phaolo Anh Tuan, OFM from the Province of Vietnam, join us.

The three topics of discussion were to select a new chairperson, talk about the realignment of OFM Provinces in the United States, and consider the suggestion of a group project.

The meeting began with each representative giving a short overview of his/her respective offices.

We listened to 6 speakers who demonstrated their knowledge and expertise on Major Gift Program, Donor Acquisition, and What's New in Digital Marketing.

The new chairperson is David Convertino from Holy Name Province, and the new secretary is Colleen Cushard from Saint John the Baptist Province.

We did discuss the realignment of OFM Provinces in the United States and how it would affect the development departments.

David Convertino will be purchasing booklets for distribution such as Advent and Lent In My Pocket and is asking other provinces to join him in this group project.

We toured Franciscan Missions in Waterford, ABVM Province headquarters in Franklin, as well as Miller Brewery. Fr. Teo from General Secretariat of Franciscan Missions presided at the afternoon Mass in Franklin and Mark Teresi added his beautiful musical talents to the liturgy. We enjoyed a delicious cookout hosted by ABVM Province. A huge thank you to Fr. John Cella and his staff who organized, set up, served, and cleaned up after us. I was told by many that the Mass and cook-out at our Province was the highlight of the event.

It was a pleasure working with Tyler Curtis planning and executing this successful event.

Next year's meeting is scheduled for May 7-10, 2017. It will be hosted by Saint John the Baptist Province in Cincinnati, Ohio.



Patti Bergerson, Director of Development, Assumption Province



Tyler Curtis, Operations Director, Franciscan Missions, Waterford, Wisconsin



Table discussion



Conference participants

JUBILARIANS • 2016

Simple Profession

Sergius Wroblewski	75	65
David Typek Melvin Wierzbicki	70	60
Blase Karas Rene Barczak Laurian Janicki Henry Kolbok Placid Straik Adam Szufel Theodore Tokarz Jerome Zawada	65	50
Stephen Dupuis Regis Howitz	50	25

Solemn Profession

Brendan Wroblewski
Nathan Jaskulski Richard Tulko
Carl Graczyk Leslie Hoppe Jerry Tokarz
Priesthood
Bronislaus Jaskulski Sergius Wroblewski
Stanley Janowski
Michael Surufka

Please join us as we give thanks and praise to God for our Jubilarians and their years of ministry to the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Province, and the people of God.

Thursday, September 29, 2016

Techny Towers Conference and Retreat Center
2001 Waukegan Road
Northbrook, Illinois 60062

10:30 am • Jubilee Mass
11:30 am • Social
12:00 Noon • Banquet

2017 Inter-Provincial Retreat

Change for the Sake of God's Reign:

Sources of Resistance, Resources for Renewal
Franciscan Renewal Center, Scottsdale, Arizona
January 09-13, 2017
OR

San Pedro Center e Winter Park, Florida
February 06-10, 2017

These retreat opportunities are being jointly sponsored by the OFM

Franciscan Provinces of the United States. Friars from any OFM Province are welcome to attend.

The retreat will focus on the fundamental Gospel summons to change, "to reform your lives and believe in the Good News." It will examine the dynamics of change through three lenses: the Word of God; the Writings of St Francis; the Deep Structure of the Human Psyche. It will follow a rhythm of presentations, faith sharing, and liturgical prayer as well as provide ample time for quiet, contemplation, and personal reflection.

The retreats will begin Monday evening at 6:00 P.M. with a light meal. The Introductory Talk will be at 7:00 P.M.

They end on Friday morning with Breakfast at 8:00 A.M. and a Closing Mass at 9:30 A.M.

Retreat Directors

William Beaudin, OFM is the third member of the FIT Team and he is a member of the Holy Name Province. He is currently serving his province as one of its Provincial Councilors. Prior to joining the FIT Team, Bill had served at Siena College as Campus Chaplain. He was also a writer and editor in the College Communications Department as well as the Guardian of the College Friary. During his forty years of Franciscan life, he has ministered in parishes, downtown service churches, and retreat center. His interests include biblical studies, the writings of Francis, English and American Literature, music, the visual arts, and Zen meditation.

Richard McManus, OFM is a member of the FIT Team. He joined the Franciscans of the St Barbara Province in 1977, following a brief career in social work. After ordination, his assignments included: High School Teacher; Post Novitiate Director; Director of St Francis Retreat Center; Guardian of Old Mission Santa Barbara. His first love was and is retreat ministry. A life long learner, Richard earned a Doctor of Ministry degree in Narrative Theology in 2009, and has a passion for the stories of the early Franciscan tradition.

Page Polk, OFM is a member the FIT Team and the Province of St John the Baptist. He worked in education before entering the Franciscans in 1980. He has been involved in Parochial Ministry (Galveston, TX) as well as the Hospital Chaplaincy ministry in the Archdiocese of Galveston/Houston. He enjoys guiding pilgrimages to the Holy Land, and is currently a member of his province's definitorium.

Locations

The Franciscan Renewal Center—January 09-13, 2017— "Casa de Paz y Bien"— has existed since 1951 as a place for spiritual retreats, wellness, healing and more. It predates the affluent Town of Paradise Valley— with resorts, mansions, pools, paved roads, and all. That a dusty, former dude ranch would become a God-filled spiritual retreat center and that the Franciscan friars—grounded in vows of poverty— would become surrounded by some of the area's wealthiest residents speaks to nothing less than the astounding "coincidence of opposites;" that which unifies rather than divides. — Fly to Phoenix, AZ and take Super Shuttle (602.244.9000) to the Casa. Use CODE YAKAX for special discount.

The San Pedro Spiritual Development Center— February 05-10, 2017— (San Pedro Center) is located on 470 acres which includes beautiful properties nestled among protected Florida wetlands. Located on Lake Howell in Winter Park, FL. The majority of the land was purchased in 1955 by Archbishop Joseph P. Hurley, Bishop of the Diocese of St. Augustine. Archbishop Hurley had an uncanny ability to predict the growth patterns of the State of Florida. Nicknamed "ten-acre Joe," Archbishop Hurley bought up key parcels of real estate all over the state with sites for future parishes in mind. — Fly to Orlando, FL and take Premiere Royal Shuttle (407-208-1101, ask for Paul).

Good News!

In an effort to encourage greater participation, the cost for the Retreat Registration is FREE! That's right . . . NO REGISTRATION FEE. Your only cost will be transportation to one of the Retreat sites. Deadline for Registration: December 19, 2016

Consider registering via Internet. Send info to bruceofm@aol.com. Include: Scottsdale or Winter Park Retreat Site; Name; Address; City, State, Zip; Phone; Email. Contact Information: Friar Retreats, PO Box 12395, Albuquerque, NM 87195 505.877.8006 office; 505.980.9409 cell

