

# GOOD NEWS

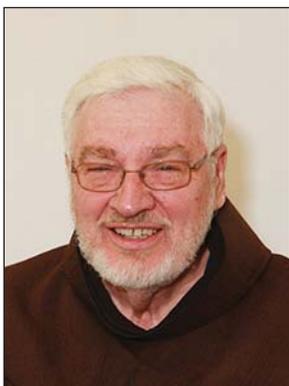
from Provincial Minister, Fr. James Gannon, OFM



December 2015

Issue #2

## From the December 2015 Provincial Council Meeting Friar News



Leslie Hoppe, OFM

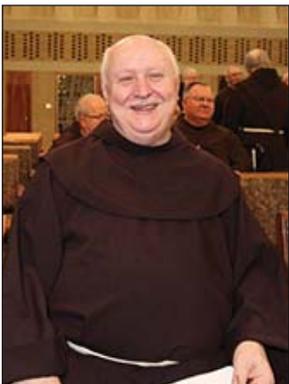
**Leslie Hoppe** — Leslie was appointed Carroll Stuhlmuller, CP Distinguished Professor of Old Testament Studies at Catholic Theological Union, Chicago. Leslie was honored by his colleagues, friends and friars, at the Catholic Theological Union, on November 8th. Congratulations and blessings to you, Leslie.



Jason Shell

**Jason Shell** — post-novitiate Friar student, St. Joseph Friary, Chicago, IL, has decided to leave the community. We wish him well in his new ventures in life.

**Anthony Cirignani** — The Council elected Anthony Cirignani to serve as Guardian of St. Mary of the Angels Friary, Green Bay. Anthony was installed as pastor of St. Mary of the Angels Parish by Bishop David Ricken on December 5th. With Bishop Ricken, Jim Gannon installed Tony as Guardian of the Friar Community.



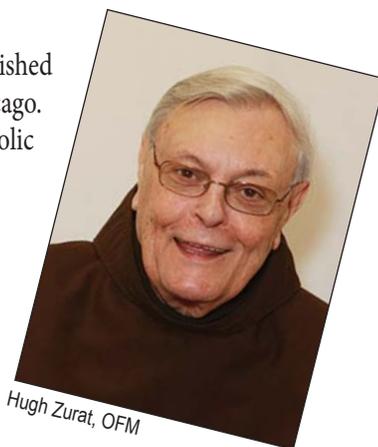
Anthony Cirignani, OFM

**Emmanuel Bialoncik** — has requested an extension to his time out of the Province in order to live on his own as he discerns his vocation. Jim has granted his request until August 1, 2016. Emmanuel keeps in communication with Jim and will meet with him in January 2016.

**Hugh Zurat** — Struggling with health issues for the past several months, Hugh has been transferred to Queen of Peace Friary. Hugh will continue to serve as the director of the Franciscan Missionary Union. He is already looking for friars to give mission appeals next summer.

**Blase Karas** — Blase has moved to Milwaukee Catholic Home following a number of difficulties with his health. Blase is settled into his new room #2033. Playing his harmonica, he led the friars in a series of Christmas songs at the Milwaukee Catholic Home.

**Maxwell Klug** — Maxwell requested permission to participate in the International Study Program for Loyola University and travel to Morocco in January where he will study French at the IES Abroad Center and the Universite Mohammed V in the city of Rabat. We wish Maxwell peace and all good as he travels to Morocco.



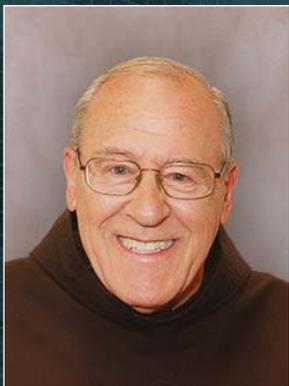
Hugh Zurat, OFM



Blase Karas, OFM

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Leonard Stunek, OFM

**Leonard Stunek** — After six months of rehabilitation for a broken leg, Leonard continues to make progress with his walking and movement. Leonard will transfer to Francis and Clare Friary in January 2016 where he will assist with sacramental ministry in the area.

## Provincial News

**Leadership Meeting 2016** — **Anthony Janik** has been appointed to chair the Leadership Committee and to organize the 2016 meeting. Anthony will present names of friars to the Council to expand the committee. The dates for the Leadership Meeting are September 26-29, 2016 with the place to be determined. Thank you Tony for saying “YES”, especially with your busy schedule at St. Anthony’s Medical Center.

**Jubilees** — The Provincial Jubilee celebration will be held in conjunction with the Leadership Meeting on September 29, 2016. Details and further information will follow.

**Provincial Chapter 2017** — **Jason Welle** has been appointed to serve as the Chair of the Provincial Chapter Planning Committee. Thank you Jason for saying “Yes” to serving as chair, especially during this exciting time for you as you complete your work with your Doctoral Studies at Georgetown. Additional members of the committee will be appointed at the next meeting of the Provincial Council. The tentative dates for the Chapter, subject to the approval of General Visitor, are June 4-9, 2017. The chapter will be held at Siena Retreat Center, Racine, Wisconsin. (As a side note, with the closure of many retreat and conference centers, it has become difficult to obtain places for this type of meetings even two years in advance.)

**Holy Dormition Friary** – The process to donate the property and buildings of Holy Dormition to the Eparchy of Passaic, New Jersey continues. Bishop Kurt Burnett met with **Edward Tluczek, Andrew Brophy, Joachim Swarick, Carmen Scuderi, Jerome Wolbert and James Carroll** at the friary on November 17. Also present for the meeting were Fr. Michael Popson of the Eparchy of Passaic and Deacon Robert Shaloub, CFO for the Eparchy. Jerome has been involved in a series of meetings with Bishop Burnett, Fr. Popson and Deacon Robert to prepare the necessary steps for this meeting. Bishop Burnett and the other representatives of the Eparchy shared a great interest in receiving the property for use by the Eparchy as an evangelization institute. The Bishop has requested that the friars continue to remain on the property. The plan calls for the renovation of Francis House with the friars moving to that building following the remodeling. The tentative date for the official transfer of the property is August 2016.

Another meeting will be scheduled between Bishop Kurt Burnett, Fr. Popson, Deacon Robert, Andrew Brophy, Edward Tluczek, Joachim Studwell, Jim Gannon and the Friar Community of Holy Dormition.

**Christmas Celebrations** — On Wednesday, December 9th the members of the Provincial Council, Friar Community of Queen of Peace, Provincial Nurse, **Charlene Duley** and the Directors of the Milwaukee Catholic Home, gathered with; Bishop Henry Howaniec, Nathan Jaskulski, Blase Karas, Joseph Krymkowski and David Typek for a Merry Christmas Luncheon. All enjoyed a wonderful meal prepared by the staff of Milwaukee Catholic Home who extended a gracious hand of hospitality to us. Blase brought his harmonica and led us in singing Polish and English Christmas Carols.



Maxwell Klug, OFM



Anthony Janik, OFM



Jason Welle, OFM



“God’s greatest gift to us -- God bent down, caressed creation and reminded us that we are loved! Have a Merry and Blessed Christmas!”  
Love, Jim, Provincial Minister



Christmas Celebration, December 9, with resident friars at the Catholic Home, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Thursday, December 10th the Provincial Council and the Friar Community of Queen of Peace moved the Christmas celebration to St. Anne's Salvatorian Campus to wish Melvin Wierzbicki and Raymond Zsolczai a Merry Christmas.



**Year of Mercy and Pardon** — The opening of the Year of Mercy and Pardon on the provincial level took place at St. Francis Friary, Burlington, on December 13. Both the friary chapel and the Portiuncla were open to the public to participate in this holy occasion. The day started with the opportunity to participate in the sacrament of reconciliation followed by the celebration of the Eucharist. Planning and preparation were carried out by **Edward Tlucek** and **Joachim Studwell**. Despite the rain and fog, we were delighted by the turn out of familiar friends of the Friars and new friends. Thanks to the Friars who served as confessors: **Hugh Zurat, Michael Surufka, Steve Malkiewicz, Edward Tlucek, Ralph Parthie, John Cella, Jim Gannon**; to the Novitiate Community who served in the ministry of hospitality. By now you should have received copies of the booklets prepared by Joachim Studwell. The next opportunity to participate in this celebration

is April 3, 2016, Second Sunday of Easter, Mercy Sunday: Bishop Donald Hying, Bishop of the Diocese of Gary, IN will preside and preach. Mark your calendars and please join us.

**Policy for the Ethical Behavior in Ministry** – At the Leadership Meeting in September the Guardians and Local Ministers were given copies of the updates to the Provincial Policy for the Ethical Behavior in Ministry. All friars are expected to review the document, sign the confirmation sheet and return the form to the Provincial Office.

It is very important that we review this



Christmas Celebration at St. Anne Home, Salvatorian Campus, Milwaukee. with friar residents in wheel chairs, left, Ray Zsolczai, OFM and Melvin Wierzbicki,

material and make sure you forward the signed documents to the Provincial Office, ASAP.



Joseph Krymkowski, OFM

## There's an app for that!

The Franciscan Friars of the United States are excited to announce the release of the first-of-its-kind app for smart phones that creates a unique communal space for prayer by using the most modern technology for communication.

The FRIAR APP allows people to post their prayers, as well as, join in the prayers of others and have friars across the country and others pray for them. The app also allows you to have a candle lit for your prayer, or someone else's prayer, in an actual Franciscan church.

Users can add their own prayer request, or review prayers made by others. If someone sees a prayer request they find moving, they 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 new app is available in both the Apple App Store for iPhone and the Google Play Store for Android smart phones, and can be found by searching for "friars". There is no cost to install the app or to submit or join in prayer requests. There is a small fee to light a candle.

## Novitiate Web Site and Blog

It was announced November 15, 2015 that Franciscan Novitiate, St. Francis Friary, Burlington, Wisconsin has a blog site. You may visit their web site at <http://www.franciscannovitiate.net/>

## Provincial's Schedule

- Visit Friars in Greenwood, MS: December 16 – 18, 2015
- December 26 – January 1, 2016: Home visit
- January 10 – 15, 2016: Provincial Council Meeting, McAllen, TX.
- Attend installation of Patrick Gawrylewski as pastor of Assumption BVM Parish, Pulaski, WI; January 17th
- Friary Chapter and visit Friars, Onalaska WI; January 18 + 19

## Next Provincial Council Meetings

- Junipero Serra Friary, Edinburg, Texas, January 11-14
- Francis and Clare Friary, February 24-25, 2016
- Assumption BVM Friary, March 15-17, 2016
- Francis and Clare Friary, May 25-27, 2016

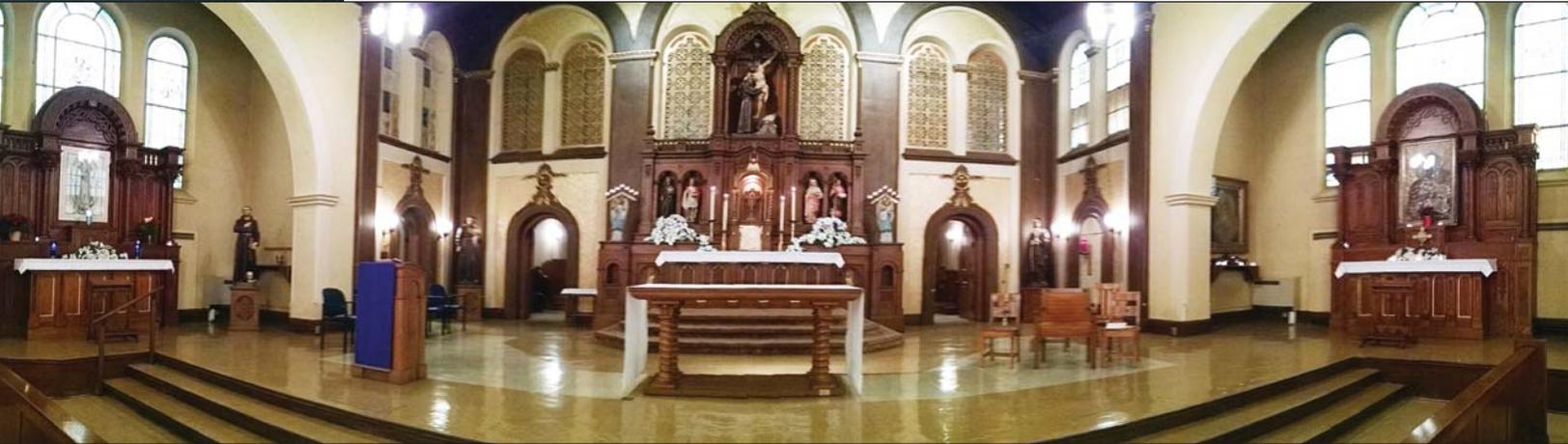
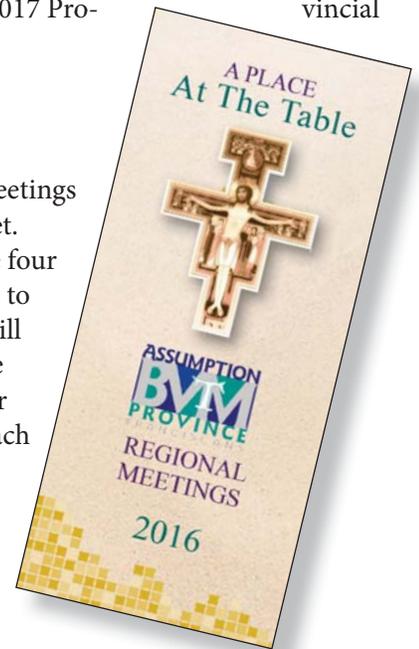
**Friary Chapters** — The Council reads and reviews the minutes of all friary chapters that are sent to us. We wish to commend and thank those Guardians who hold the friary chapters regularly and submit minutes to the Council. There are a few homes that are remiss in this area and are encouraged to schedule friary chapters – in particular, with the materials that will be forwarded over the next year on the topics of restructuring and the Year of Mercy and Pardon.

**Speaking of restructuring** — a member or members of the Provincial Council will direct a Friary Chapter between now and June. Guardians have been contacted and dates are being set: Greenwood, MS, December 17th, McAllen, TX, January 12, 2016, Queen of Peace, February 25, 2016, Assumption Friary, March 17, 2016. The result of this Friary Chapter should surface the one model, from the four models, the Assumption Province would prefer as we move along in restructuring. August 2016 the seven Provincial Administrations will gather to pick the one model which will be presented to the seven provinces for a vote of approval during 2017 Provincial Chapters.

## Interprovincial

**Interprovincial Restructuring** — The dates for the four regional meetings sponsored by the seven provinces of the United States have been set. You will be sent a letter with dates, information and location of the four meetings. You will be asked to select your choice of which meeting to attend and return the form to the Provincial Office. The Council will review the responses and notify the friars which meeting they have been selected to attend. All of the provinces will engage in a similar process in order to provide a mix of friars from each province at each meeting. All meetings will take place in 2016:

- June 6-9, San Damiano Retreat, Danville, California
- June 13-16, Siena College, Loudonville, New York
- June 20-23, Albuquerque, New Mexico, Place to be determined
- July 18-21, The Cenacle, Chicago



Above photo: Main Chapel, St. Francis Friary and Novitiate, Burlington, Wisconsin. Photo courtesy of Michael Surufka, OFM



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

Fr. James Gannon, OFM,  
Provincial Minister