

GOOD NEWS



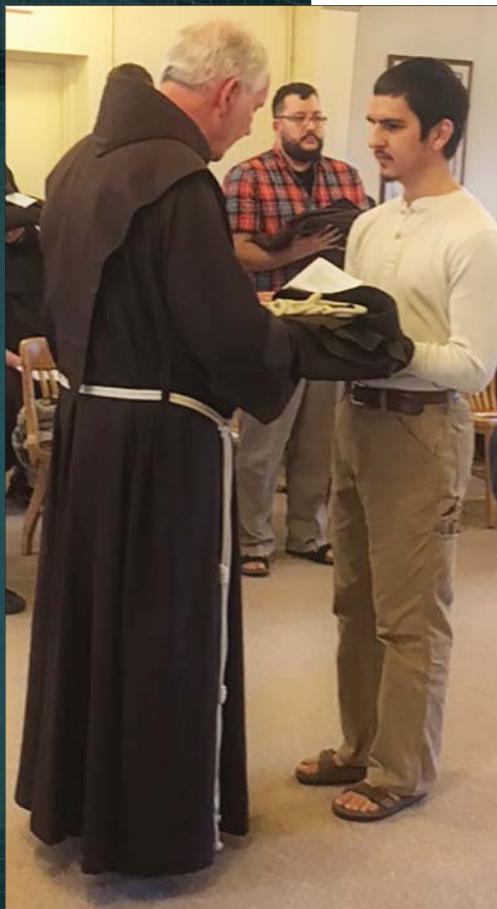
November 2016

ISSUE #14

Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

Rite of Investiture -- Burlington, Wisconsin

"Mary wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn." Luke 2:5



Friars came from far and near to St. Francis Friary, Burlington, WI, on November 20, 2016, to pray, support, "swaddle" and celebrate the investiture of our novices with the Habit of Probation. Friar Michael Blastic (HN), novitiate team member, used the image of Mary, the mother of Jesus Christ, wrapping her new born, "swaddling" her new born son with warmth, support and love. Michael asked the novices to ask God to "swaddle" them each time they cloth themselves with the Habit of Probation. He challenged the Professed Friars to "swaddle" our novices and all our men in formation with our warmth, support, prayers and love.

When the newly invested novices returned to the chapel, the professed friars offered a moving gesture of "swaddling" the novices by singing the hymn, THESE ALONE ARE ENOUGH, as the novices stood in the center of the chapel, facing their brothers.

Take my heart, O Lord, take my hopes and dreams.

Take my mind with all its plans and schemes.

Give me nothing more than your love and grace. These alone, O God, are enough for me.

Take my thoughts, O Lord, and my memory. Take my tears, my joys, my liberty. Give me nothing more than your love and grace. These alone, O God, are enough for me.

I surrender Lord, all I have and hold. I return to you your gifts untold. Give me nothing more than your love and grace. These alone, O God, are enough for me.

When the darkness falls on my final days, take the very breath that sang your praise.

Give me nothing more than your love and grace. These alone, O God, are enough for me.

Based on the "Suscipe" prayer of St. Ignatius of Loyola.

Many thanks to the Novitiate Team: Sister Susan Rosenbach, osf, Joachim Studwell, ofm (ABVM), Michael Blastic, ofm (HN) and Jeffrey Macnab, ofm (SB) for leading us in prayer, serving us a delicious dinner and for "swaddling" our novices.

--James Gannon, OFM



Provincial Minister, Fr. James Gannon, OFM presenting the Franciscan habit to Assumption Province novice, Thomas Marchetti.

"An appeal for Mission Appeal Appearers."

Please contact Mario Nagy by phone or e-mail if you are willing to help with the Mission Appeals for the Spring and Summer of 2017. Mario has some idea of the Friars who helped this year from the list left by his predecessor, Hugh Zurat. Please contact Mario so that he can be sure who is willing and able to assist with the 2017 Appeals.

E-mail: marionagyofm@gmail.com
Cell phone: 440-452-6120

Right: Novitiate class of 2016

Provincial Council Meeting and Provincial News

As we celebrate the "holy day" of Thanksgiving, a note of thanks to the Friars of St. Francis Friary, Greenwood, MS for inviting us and hosting us for our Provincial Council Meeting. For you ministry and fraternity we are very thankful!

Provincial Definitory

St. Francis Friary, Greenwood, Mississippi
November 9-11, 2016

At the request of the Friar Community: Craig Wilking, OFM, Greg Plata, OFM, Patrick McCormack, OFM, Mark Gehret, OFM (SJB), the Provincial Council: James Gannon, OFM, Edward Tlucek, OFM, Andrew Brophy, OFM, John Cella, OFM, Joachim Studwell, OFM; gathered at St. Francis Friary, Greenwood, Mississippi.

The members of the Provincial Council met with the Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity, who minister to the students of St. Francis Grade School, Mrs. Jackie Lewis, principal, representatives from the St. Francis School Advisory Board and the Parish Council and the Friar Community. Our purpose as a Provincial Council was to sit and be good listeners; to listen to their vision, their plans, their needs for the present and the future for the Mission of St. Francis.

Patrick McCormack facilitated the meeting by presenting questions:

- Is St. Francis Parish/Mission/School an integral part of Greenwood?
- Does St. Francis Parish support the needs of the school?
- Is St. Francis School sustainable?
- What more can we (Franciscan Sisters + Friars), and you (members of the Mission Community) do? What more can we "do out there" in the city of Greenwood? What more can be done in evangelizing?

Our conversations noted:

- That the greatest need that we are serving is that of education to children of the area. The resources of education in this area are minimal at best. A good chunk of the children in the school are poor. But we do not see sad children. There is a hunger to learn. The initial friars who came here realized the need to respond to was education. The school is the central focus of who we are here. At the same time, we are responding to the sacramental needs of the people in the area.
- That an answer by the Provincial Administration be made on the construction of a Family Life Center (FLC). That the issues of sustainability of another building be answered.
- That a new system of communication be established between the Principal of St. Francis, the Franciscan Sisters and the Friars.
- That everyone: parishioners, Teachers, Staff, Friars, Sisters could be doing more evangelizing in the local community to bring more to the faith. That our Catholic/Christian identity is to be "out there."
- Like the mustard seed, there was great growth from the pioneers (Friars, Sisters and Parishioners) here who took a risk. We (parish members) would like to see a greater evangelization outreach to bring more God's people to the Church.

Friary Personnel and Friaries

Rene Barczak – will end his ministry at Archbishop Ryan High School, Philadelphia, after graduation in June 2017. Rene plans to move to St. Anthony Friary, St. Petersburg, Florida in September. Rene will be honored at the 50th anniversary gala for Archbishop Ryan High School.

Friar Evaldas Darullis, OFM – Edward Tlucek reported that Elvadas Darullis from the Province of St. Casimir, Lithuania plans to reside at Lourdes Friary for six weeks beginning on January 15, 2017. Elvadas will study English in the Cedar Lake area.

St. Mary of the Angels – James Gannon asked for thoughts concerning the future use of St. Mary of the Angels Parish and Friary. Jim will organize a meeting with Bishop Ricken, Green Bay Diocese and Anthony Cirignani, pastor to explore the future of St. Mary's.

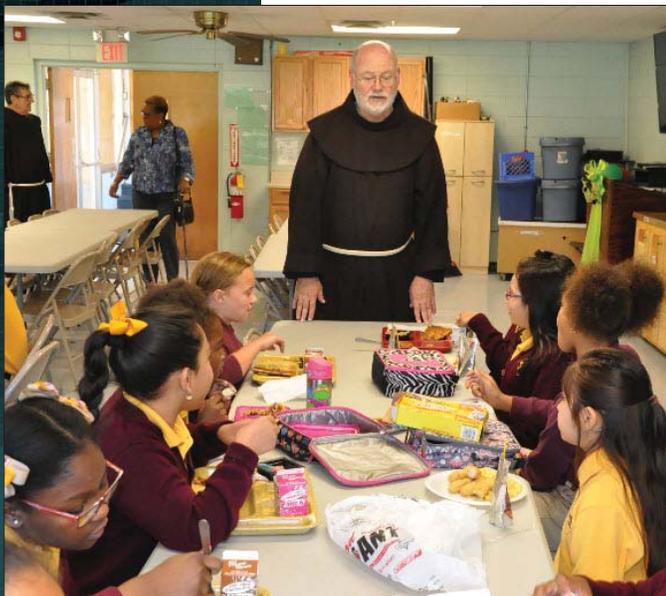


James Gannon, OFM and students from St. Francis School, Greenwood, MS



Patrick McCormack, OFM and students from St. Francis School, Greenwood, MS

Below: Joachim Studwell, OFM and students from St. Francis School, Greenwood, MS



St. Francis Friary, Burlington – Joachim Studwell provided an update on the status of moving the novitiate from St. Francis Friary, Burlington, Wisconsin, to California. With the possibility of another empty building, Jim asked the Provincials for the freedom to investigate future plans for the building during this novitiate year. The Provincials agreed.

ACTION TO BE TAKEN: John Cella will contact RCRI to investigate any companies that assist religious groups with the planning and disposition of property.

Health Update from Nurse Charlene Duley – The Council reviewed the report from provincial nurse, Charlene Duley, on the health conditions of the friars.

Adam Szufel – James Gannon reported on his visit with Adam Szufel at St. Anthony Friary, St. Petersburg, Florida. After falling ill, Adam was admitted to a nursing home for rehabilitation. He returned to St. Anthony Friary and his condition will be monitored by Community Nurse, Lynne Vandenburg, RN and Guardian, Joe Hertel, OFM. Jim will visit Adam before Christmas. Charlene Duley will keep in weekly contact with Lynn Vandenburg.

The Villa Update – Andrew Brophy reported that the Villa has not been sold nor have any offers been received. Mr. Jim Lemke, realtor, would like to divide the property for sale. Andrew recommended against dividing the property. The Council was in agreement with that recommendation. Mr. Lemke also suggested that we commission a survey of the property to determine the property lines. The survey bid was \$1,300.00. The Council approved the survey. The Listing agreement expired on October 31, 2016. The Council approved the extension of the Listing agreement for another five months.

Extra-provincial

ESC Summary and Update – Jim Gannon provided an update on the discussions held at the English Speaking Conference of Provincials. From the USA Provincials, there is a request to hold extra-ordinary chapters in all of the provinces in order to take a vote on restructuring on May 30, 2018. The Council agreed to conduct some sort of “event” on that date.

Archbishop Ryan High School 50th Anniversary – Jim presented a request to support the 50th Anniversary of Archbishop Ryan High School. The proposal was made to make a donation of \$3,500 (Ryan Sponsor) which includes a half page add in the Gala program booklet and five seats at the Gala dinner. In addition, the Province will make a scholarship donation of \$1,500.00 to St. Francis Grade School, Greenwood, in honor of Rene Barczak. A note to this effect will be included in the anniversary booklet.

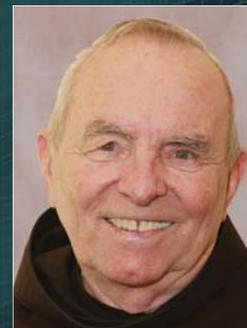
2017 Provincial Chapter

Chapter Planning Committee – Craig Wilking, chair of the Chapter Planning Committee, met with the Council to provide an update on the work of the committee. A question arose over the decision of the Provincials to invite friars from all of the provinces to attend a portion of the Chapter to focus on the topic of restructuring. Edward Tlucek suggested that the input on the “white paper” be held as a part of reflection and prayer. Members of the Council do not heartily embrace the idea of spending two days on a discussion of restructuring. Craig reviewed the latest draft of the schedule. The committee will next meet on November 18.

Friar Guests – The Provincials of the provinces of the United States requested the nomination of friars from other provinces to attend our Chapter. Suggested names include: Frank Walter, Page Polk, Doug Collins, Bruce Michalek, Michael Weldon, Dan Lacke, Michael McGinnis, Dwayne Tworski and John Barker.

Self-Nominated Delegates for the Chapter

A reminder that all Intent and Self-Nomination forms to attend the Provincial Chapter as delegates are due at the Provincial Office on November 28, 2016. If you plan to attend the Chapter as a delegate, please sign and return the form to the Secretary of the Province by Monday, November 28th. -- James Gannon



Adam Szufel, OFM



Rene Barczak, OFM

FUTURE MEETINGS

December 5-7, 2016 Provincial Council: Christmas dinner at Milwaukee Catholic Home on Monday the 5th, beginning with Evening Prayer at 4:30; Franciscan Pilgrimage Program Board Meeting and Christmas Party.

January 9-11, 2017 Provincial Council, Francis and Clare Friary

February 15-17, 2017 Provincial Council, St. Francis Friary – Novitiate with some time with the Queen of Peace community

April 19-20, 2017 Provincial Council, The Felicians on Peterson Avenue, Chicago

April 21, 2017 Chapter Delegates meeting, The Felicians on Peterson Avenue, Chicago

May 22-24, 2017 Provincial Council, Francis and Clare Friary

June 4-8, 2017 Provincial Chapter, Siena Retreat

June 12-16, 2017 Post-Capitular Congressus (tentative)

September 25-28, 2017 Leadership Workshop (tentative), Siena Center, Racine, WI.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING



Preparations for Provincial Chapter 2017



Craig Wilking, OFM

The Chapter Planning Committee has been hard at work over the past several months, having met four times since late May. Craig Wilking OFM, Committee Chairman, is also in touch with the planning committees for other provinces conducting their chapters next summer. While there are always some elements common to chapters in every province, next summer there will be some special features linking all the chapters planned in the US. So, in addition to the usual things like accommodations, schedule, liturgies, pre-chapter preparations, communications, etc., this time our Chapter Planning Committee will also be integrating ways to connect with friars in other provinces as all of us move closer to a decision about restructuring.



Queen of Peace Friary, Burlington, Wisconsin feted its jubilarians on Monday November 14, 2016. Celebrated were Stanley Janowski, OFM 50 years yriesthood, Ted Tokarz, OFM 65 years solemn profession, Bronislaus Jaskulski, OFM 70 years priesthood; Sergius Wroblewski, OFM 75 years priesthood. James Gannon, OFM, provincial minister.



Francis Affelt, OFM

Mishawaka: Ministry Opportunity

At age 87, Father Francis Affelt continues to serve the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration, Mishawaka, IN, as chaplain to the Sisters of Our Lady of the Angels Convent. Father Georges Massinelli, ofm (Assisi Province) has graciously stepped in to serve as Chaplain to the Sister Community of Mount Alverno, Mother House of the Sisters. This past Summer, while Fr. Georges returned to Assisi for holiday, Bill Stout stepped in to serve as chaplain until August when Fr. Georges returned to his studies at Notre Dame University. Come February 8, 2017, he will go back again to Assisi and not return to the States until July 2017, to complete his Graduate studies.

Below: Sisters Of Perpetual Adoration Compound, Mishawaka, Indiana.



We have a long, beautiful relationship with the Sisters. They have served us well, as we have served them these past thirty plus years. I am asking for a Friar or Friars who would step in as temporary chaplain to the Sisters of Mount Alverno Convent, from February until June 2017 Provincial Chapter. This would be a temporary assignment. If you can help, please contact Jim Gannon at the Provincial Offices.