

GOOD NEWS

from Provincial Minister, Fr. James Gannon, OFM



February 2017

Issue #15



James Gannon, OFM, Provincial Minister

Brothers ~

Greetings from the "School for new provincials" in Rome, Italy.

Peace and all good!

As I finish this **Good News** edition, the "School for New Provincials" is coming to an end. These past two weeks have been busy, packed with information from sun rise to sun set. Just being part of a group of forty-four Friars from around the world was in itself, an overwhelming experience.

In his address to us, General Minister, Michael Perry called us forth to be "foolish but wise" like Francis of Assisi. Like the world of Francis, the condition of the world in which we live is dangerous and therefore calls us to be "foolish and wise" leaders.

Michael Perry and the Friars of the General Curia constantly reminded us that we are to be "Animators for life and not death, be animators of hope." The future of the Order of Friars Minor will require leadership that is filled with "courageous goodness, courageous quality time and presence to the brothers." This "courageous goodness and quality presence" to the brothers will be in union with many challenges:

- The challenges of the individual provinces.
- The challenges of the Order of Friars Minor.
- The challenges of increase human realities: departures from the Order, personal sins of the Friars, finances, the sin of pessimism.
- The challenges of leading and animating the Provincial Community and the Order to the dimensions of God's love.

We, especially Friars Minor, cannot run and hide from proclaiming and living the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Despite the overwhelming challenges there is still Good News which is that God loves us! Continued on page 2



Participants in "Provincials' School", Class of 2017, OFM Curia, Rome, Italy, January 15-29, 2017

INSIDE

Summary of the January Provincial Council Meeting • Formation Report • Property Updates • Interprovincial news • Call to Cuba • La Marcha

Provincial's Meetings

- February 8-14: Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration, Mishawaka, IN
- February 15-17: Provincial Council Meeting, Francis + Clare Friary, Franklin, WI
- February 19-24: National Board Meeting for CMSM, Jacksonville, FL
- February 25-March 29: Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration, Mishawaka, IN
- March 31-April 9: English Speaking Conference (ESC) Provincials Meeting, Ireland
- April 11-18: Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration, Mishawaka, IN
- April 19-21: Provincial Council Meeting and Chapter Delegates Meeting, Felician Sisters, Chicago, IL
- April 22-27: Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration, Mishawaka, IN
- April 28-30: Attend 50th Anniversary of Archbishop Ryan High School, Phila., PA
- May 2 – 21: Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration, Mishawaka, IN
- May 22-24: Final Meeting of the Provincial Council, Francis + Clare Friary, Franklin, WI
- May 25- June 3: Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration, Mishawaka, IN
- June 4-8: ABVM Provincial Chapter 2017.



Fr. Laurian Janicki, OFM

The week following the Epiphany of the Lord, the week of January 8th, was a very busy week:

- The friars of Francis and Clare Friary welcomed Jim Bok (SJB) our General Visitor, as he commenced his visitation for our Province.
- January 9th also was the first provincial council meeting for 2017, and the fourth conference call meeting of the U.S. Provincials.
- January 5-8, the meeting of US Franciscan men in initial formation. This edition of Good News will give summaries of the various meetings.

--Jim, Provincial Minister

This Is What Happened at the January 9-10, 2017 Provincial Council Meeting

Present: Jim Gannon, OFM, Edward Tlucek, OFM, Paul Reczek, OFM, John Cella, OFM, Joachim Studwell, OFM, Jim Bok, OFM, General Visitor.

Jim Bok, joined the meeting of the Provincial Council, Tuesday, January 10th. Jim shared his history as a Franciscan of St. John the Baptist Province. He commenced his ministry as General Visitor by setting a schedule for individual appointments with the Friars of Francis and Clare Friary and a full day visit with the Friars of the Milwaukee Catholic Home.

Friar Personnel Laurian Janicki

After several failed deliveries to the e-mail box of Jim Gannon, Laurian delivered Jim's mail to Andrew Brophy. We think the problem has been corrected as Jim is now receiving Laurian's communications. In one communication, Laurian notified Jim that he will end his ministry in the Philippines and return to the USA after Easter. Jim will work with Laurian as to where he would like to "pitch his tent" and transition back into the United States and the Assumption Province

Friar Health Care Update

Charlene Duley, Provincial Nurse, and Rob Frediani, Vice President of Mission for the Milwaukee Catholic Home attended the meeting for the second half of Tuesday morning. Charlene gave an update on the health status of the friars. Charlene also presented a report from the January 2017 gathering of Senior Friar Care Providers from six of the seven Franciscan Provinces of the United States. **Craig Wilking** also participated in this important inter-provincial gathering in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration, Mishawaka, IN

Jim announced that he, **Larry Janowski** and **Michael Surufka** will be assisting Fr. Francis Affelt in the Chaplains ministry to the Franciscan Sisters. Fr. Francis will con

tinue his ministry to the infirmed Sisters. Larry, Michael and Jim will minister to the Sister Community at the Motherhouse. Once again, I want to thank Fr. Georges Massinelli, OFM, Assisi Province, fulltime graduate student at Notre Dame University. Fr. Georges has filled the ministry of chaplain to the Community of the Motherhouse. Fr. Georges was a great support and presence to Fr. Francis Affelt, who continues his ministry to the infirmed Sisters. On behalf of the Assumption Province I want to thank Fr. Georges for taking on this ABVM Ministry while involved in full time graduate studies at Notre Dame University. We are most grateful. Fr. Georges returns to Assisi, February 8, 2017.

If a Friar is available to cover any of the dates in RED, please contact Jim Gannon.

Coverage Date	Friar
February 8-14	Fr. James Gannon
February 15-24	Fr. Lawrence Janowski
February 25-March 29	Fr. James Gannon
March 30-31	Available
April 1-10	Fr. Michael Surufka
April 11-18	Fr. James Gannon
April 19-21	Available
April 22-27	Fr. James Gannon
April 28-May 1	Fr. Michael Surufka
May 2-21	Fr. James Gannon
May 22-24	Fr. Michael Surufka
May 25-June 3	Fr. James Gannon

Formation Report

Joachim Studwell reviewed the salient points of the Formation report. **Jerome Wolbert** will participate in the two discernment processes for the Postulancy and Novitiate programs.

Meeting of Friars in Initial Formation in the United States

Forty men, in various stages of Franciscan Initial Formation (postulancy, novitiate, post-novitiate), gathered with their directors at the Retreat House on Mundelein Seminary Campus, Mundelein, IL for an "InterSession."

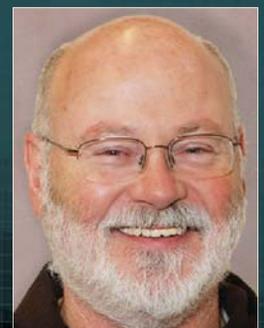
So, what is "InterSession?" According to Mark Soehner, OFM, Director of Postulants for St. John the Baptist Province, "InterSession" is:



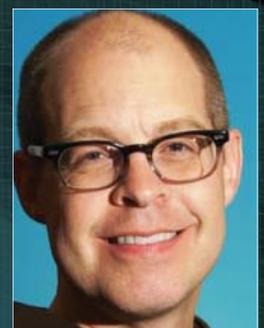
Fr. Francis Affelt, OFM



Fr. Jerome Wolbert, OFM



Fr. Joachim Studwell, OFM



Br. John Barker, OFM, St. John the Baptist Province



Cardinal Stritch Retreat Center, Mundelein, IL

For many years the friars from Holy Name Province have had a gathering of all stages of formation during the Winter Break. This year the Post Novitiate Directors decided to extend this break to all levels of formation and to all the provinces.

Jan. 5-8, we met at the Retreat House on Mundelein Seminary's property in the northernmost part of Chicago's Archdiocese. There were approximately 40 men in attendance.

Most of the sessions were held during the day, when the temperatures were an icy 5 degrees! The evenings had plenty of time for recreation after dinner. Cards, basketball, some light teasing was going on. But the days were full of good input.

Joachim Studwell, Guardian and Novitiate Team Member notes: The **Intersession** is an extended weekend, beginning on Thursday afternoon and ending after lunch on Sunday. John Barker, OFM (SJB), professor of Old Testament at Catholic Theological Union, gave an interactive presentation on the Psalms in the Liturgy of the Hours on Friday. On Saturday, Larry Hayes, OFM (HN), Moderator of Renewal and Restructuring for the friars of the United States, gave a presentation and facilitated energetic conversation regarding the future of the Order of Friars Minor in the United States. Besides the input sessions, there was time for prayer and fellowship. It provided an excellent opportunity for the younger friars and Postulants to become acquainted with one another and share their experiences and visions of hope for Franciscan life.



Fr. Lawrence Hayes, OFM, Holy Name Province



All students in formation in all the OFM Provinces in the United States, meeting in Mundelein, IL January 5-8, 2017

Finance/Planning

West Chicago Update

Andrew Brophy gave an update on the property at West Chicago. Upon the advice of Timothy Reardon, Reinhart Law, we will not sign the amendment to the agreement for the listing of the property with CBRE. Brian Bangart notified Tony Gange of CBRE that we will not sign and return the listing agreement. The plan will be to put the property on the open market after the agreement with Kipling Brothers expires in October 2017.

Values Guiding Use of ABVM Province Real Estate

At the December 2016 Provincial Council Meeting, **Joachim Studwell** presented the first draft of the "Values Guide." **Andrew Brophy** recommended that further work on the document produced by Joachim Studwell be accomplished by a smaller committee versus the entire Provincial Council.

Holy Dormition Friary Update

Andrew Brophy gave an update on the gifting Holy Dormition Friary and property to the Eparchy of Passaic. With no word from Bishop Kurt Burnette, Jim Gannon asked Jerome Wolbert to contact Bishop Kurt Burnette to request action on his part. Jerome had a phone conversation with the Bishop who stated that he had been ill during the Christmas holidays and would get back to reviewing our agreement with him. Bishop Burnette told Jerome that he desires to bring this to a conclusion and sign the document. If there is no action from the Office of the Bishop, Jim Gannon will write a letter to Bishop Kurt Burnette notifying him that we will pull the offer off the table by the February 15, 2017.

Treasurer's Office Personnel Update

Andrew Brophy gave an update on the personnel situation in the office since the departure of Lorraine Grady. Lorraine served 14 years in the office. Brian Bangart and Ramona Brown are getting a sense of Lorraine's work. They will develop an updated job description for interviews for a new hire.

Chapter Planning Committee

Edward Tluczek gave a report from the Chapter Planning Committee. The topic of friar guests from other provinces has been a part of the discussion. John Barker (SJB) will deliver reflections during morning and evening prayers on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Michael Weldon (SB) will preach at the Eucharist on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Thomas Washburn (IC) will serve as the secretary of the province. In addition, Bruce Michalek (OLG) and Doug Collins (SH) were invited.



Brian Bangart



Bishop Kurt Burnette



Lorraine Grady



Fr. Thomas Washburn, OFM,
Immaculate Conception
Province



Fr. Michael Weldon, OFM, St. Barbara Province



Cardinal Sean O'Malley, Archdiocese of Boston



Fr. Bruce Michalek, OFM, Our Lady of Guadalupe Province



Charlene Duley, Provincial Nurse

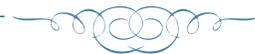
Interprovincial News

Highlights of Revitalization and Restructuring

Conference Call of Provincial Ministers

January 13, 2017

- The Ministers were glad to hear that the first inter-provincial retreat of 2017 was very well received by the 60 friars present from all seven US Provinces in Scottsdale, AZ. The second 2017 retreat will be in Winter Park, FL from February 6th to 10th.
- Groups of friars working at the same ministries across the country continue to meet. Six Provinces were represented at the first-ever broadly-based meeting in January of those working with senior friar care. On-Going Formation Directors will meet in February and other groups have meetings in the works to look toward greater cooperation and collaboration.
- Plans are almost finalized for "guest" friars from other provinces to attend each of the five Provincial Chapters (St. John the Baptist, Our Lady of Guadalupe, Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Sacred Heart and Holy Name) that will be held this May and June.
- The Ministers were brought up to date on the financial status of our national inter-provincial effort to work at revitalization and restructuring.
- The Ministers discussed and plan to continue to discuss the Minister General's call for friars from North American to work with the Caribbean Custody to seek a renewed evangelization in Cuba.
- Planning is underway but not yet complete for three (East, Central and West) "Franciscan Fest" gatherings of friars around the dates of October 17-19, 2017.



Invitation from Cardinal Sean O'Malley, OFM.

...to the Franciscan Family in the United States

Cardinal Sean O'Malley, OFM. Cap, Cardinal Archbishop of Boston, has invited the three General Ministers of the Franciscan Family: OFM, OFM Capuchins, OFM Conventual, to begin discussions on the establishment of an "inter-obediential community" in the Archdiocese of Boston, MA. A team will be formed, representative of the three OFM families, to discuss the possibility of establishing this community with Cardinal O'Malley, OFM. Cap.

This proposal has also sparked lots of enthusiastic conversations throughout the Franciscan Family. If any Friar wishes more information on this project, please contact Jim Gannon.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- February 15-17, 2017: Provincial Council Meeting, St. Francis Friary – Novitiate with some time with the Queen of Peace community.
- April 19-20, 2017: Provincial Council, The Felicians, W. Peterson Avenue, Chicago
- April 21, 2017: Chapter Delegates Meeting, The Felicians, W. Peterson Avenue, Chicago
- May 22-24, 2017: Last meeting of the Provincial Council, Francis and Clare Friary
- June 4-8, 2017: Provincial Chapter, Siena Retreat
- June 12-16, 2017: Post-Capitular Congressus (tentative)
- September 13-14, 2017: Thomas Luczak requests that the newly elected Minister Provincial and Definitory attend the 50th Anniversary of Holy Family Parish, Edinburg, Texas
- September 25-28, 2017 Leadership Committee meeting, Siena Center (tentative)

The Minister General Invites You New Project Renewal of the OFM Presence in Cuba

Considering the needs to strengthen the OFM presence in Cuba and the commitment of UCFAL to support it, the Definitory General (DG) proposes the creation of a new international Fraternity of at least three friars who would nourish the ranks; these friars will be able to live in the parish house in Santa Cruz (not the one presently occupied by the Focolari, but the one near the parish offices).

This preparatory course for mission in Cuba could be the start of the missionary formation program for Latin America, in accord with Mandate 13 of the 2015 General Chapter.

The friars should also participate in the course that the Archdiocese of Havana organizes for newly arrived pastoral ministers, as well as carry out other activities in order to understand the present conditions of the people of Cuba.

During the first six months of their presence in Cuba, the new friars will prepare a Project of Life and Mission that they will present to the Custos for his approval. This Project is to be developed according to the guidelines of the Nuntiate.

Bearing in mind the commitment of the Province of Aránzazu to continue supporting the Custody financially for another eight or ten years, the Custos will present an economic plan for the two fraternities which will observe the principle of transparency in all matters. The General Government of the Order, through the SGME, will provide financial support for some of the social project proposed by the friars.

This revitalization project of the Order's presence in Cuba will be presented to the Entities of UCLAF and to the Ministers Provincial in the US, in order to solicit potential missionaries from among their friars.

The friars will create a permanent structure for annually evaluating the project. This evaluation process will address three areas: (a) the Fraternity, (b) service to the Church, and (c) service to Cuban society, in dialogue with the laity and other people, in order to promote the evangelizing mission of the Church in Cuba and our mission as friars and minors in the world today.

If any Friar wishes more information on this project, please contact Jim Gannon. -- Fr. Michael Perry, OFM, Minister General



“La Marcha” hosted by Voces de la Frontera, Milwaukee

The morning of Saturday, January 14, four novices from the Franciscan Interprovincial Novitiate, Burlington, WI, participated in a march from the near-south side of Milwaukee to the front steps of the Milwaukee County Courthouse (about one-and-one-half miles). They marched for the protection of immigrants, refugees, and minority workers and students. The novices included Matthew Tenney (SB), Dan Gordon and Gerardo Camacho (SH), and Tommy Marchetti (ABVM). In Milwaukee, they met Franciscan brothers from St. Joseph’s student house in Chicago, Capuchin postulants from Milwaukee, and a Capuchin brother from Milwaukee. They walked in solidarity with several hundred others who represented various minority groups. When they reached the courthouse, they were welcomed warmly by a courthouse official. The marchers held a small rally decrying anti-immigrant, refugee, and minority sentiments of the recent presidential campaign and some speakers testified to the needs of immigrants, refugees, and minorities. A feeling of hope, firmness, and positive energy pervaded as the marchers dispersed into the crisp winter afternoon. --Submitted by Assumption Province Novice, Tommy Marchetti



Fr. Lawrence Janowski, OFM

Larry received word his poem “Benevolence” will be published in the first issue of a new journal featuring poetry from a Catholic sensibility. It’s called Presence, and will be coming out in March.

“It’s really exciting that a journal like this might even exist! I certainly wish them well. Such ambitious new journals often have a rough time. Maybe they’ve got good financial backing--or as is usually the case -- wonderful people who share time and energy to accomplish a good thing,” said Larry.

Visit the new publications website at www.catholicpoetry-journal.com



Br. Doug Collins, OFM, Sacred Heart Province, OFM

Most of the content of this newsletter was penned by Fr. James Gannon, OFM Provincial Minister of the Assumption BVM Province.

It was designed and distributed by Fr. Paul Reczek, OFM



Novices and student friars at the beginning of the march (left to right: Roberto Serrano, Abel Garcia, Gerardo Camacho, Eric Seguin, Tommy Marchetti, Dan Gordon, Matthew Tenney, Jay Woods, and Aaron Richardson)



Novice brothers at the rally at the end of “La Marcha” (left to right: Tommy Marchetti, Dan Gordon, Matthew Tenney, and Gerardo Camacho).



Novice brothers at the rally at the end of “La Marcha” (left to right: Dan Gordon, Matthew Tenney Gerardo Camacho, and Tommy Marchetti,).