



AROUND THE PROVINCE

July 2, 2009 + WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF THE PROVINCE OF THE SACRED HEART + 06.01

William Spencer OFM Is Elected Minister of Sacred Heart Province



Bill Spencer OFM (L), new provincial minister of Sacred Heart Province, received the seal of the Province from Interim Provincial Minister Michael Jennrich OFM (R).

On Tuesday, June 30, 2009, **William Spencer OFM** – provincial councilor and pastor of St. Peter’s Church-in-the-Loop – was elected provincial minister by the provincial council at its meeting in St. Louis.

Because Mike Perry OFM, former provincial minister, was elected the general vicar of the Order of



Bill Spencer OFM being sworn in as the new provincial minister

immediately upon Mike Perry’s election.

Friars Minor on June 5, 2009, a special meeting of the provincial council was convened by Provincial Vicar Michael Jennrich OFM who

Upon Bill’s election, Michael Jennrich OFM remains the provincial vicar.

To fill the vacancy left on the provincial council by Bill’s election as provincial minister, **Joseph Zimmerman OFM**, a semi-retired professor of sociology at Quincy University, was chosen.

All of the positions in the administration are effective until the provincial chapter of 2011.

Joe Zimmerman OFM is 73 while the new provincial minister will be 62 at the end of July.

Bill Spencer’s email address is willyumspencer@aol.com.

Joe Zimmerman’s email address is frizarzimm@aol.com.



Joe Zimmerman OFM

+ PLEASE PRAY FOR ...

+ ...**Sister Patricia Britt OSF**, 78, member of the Joliet Franciscan Sister for over 57 years, who died on June 28, 2009;

+ ...**Mary Meyer**, sister of Linus Scepurek OFM, who is recovering from surgery that replaced her right shoulder joint. (*She had her left shoulder joint replaced in November 2008. At that time, she was very appreciative of our prayers for her, and thankful for how well she recovered. Her address: Mary Meyer, 13591 Lake Road, Pierz MN 56364.*)

Celebrating the 800th

The Franciscans of Southern Louisiana and Mississippi celebrated the 800th anniversary of the beginning of the Franciscan Way in great style on the June 20, 2009.

The St. Teresa of Avila SFO Fraternity that meets at the Poor Clare monastery sponsored "All Franciscans Together" on Saturday, June 20. There was a Mass at St. Clare Monastery in New Orleans, followed by a reception at the monastery.

All three Orders were represented, with well over 100 participants sharing in the festivities.

The celebrant for the Liturgy was Robert Seay OFM of Lafayette, Louisiana. The homilist was Joe Rigali OFM of New Orleans, Louisiana.

Sr. Charlene Toupes OSC, Abbess

Celebrating Jubilees!

Michael Ewert OFM celebrated his golden anniversary of ordination to the priesthood on Sunday, June 28, 2009, at St. Joseph Church in Springfield, Illinois. A native of Dubuque, Iowa, Mike was ordained by the former Chinese Communist prisoner, Bishop Henry A. Pinger OFM. After ordination he served as pastor in Illinois, Louisiana, Ohio, and Indiana. He was a member of the Priest's Council for both the Diocese of Joliet and Springfield. During the Vietnam conflict he served six years as an Air Force. Mike was also the President of the Board of Directors and Executive Director for ten years of St. Francis Village, Crowley, Texas, and built the original friary (St. Maximilian Kolbe) for the friar community on the St. Francis Village campus. He served also on the provincial council and was appointed the visitor general for the Province of the Immaculate Conception and its missions in Central America.



CAPITULUM GENERALE OFM

Portiunculae (S. Mariae Angelorum) 24.V.2009 - 20.VI.2009

GENERAL CHAPTER - CAPITOLO GENERALE - CAPITULO GENERAL

Verbum Domini nuntiantes in universo mundo



"Bearers of the Gift of the Gospel"

A press conference marking the end of the 187th General Chapter of the Friars Minor took place on June 22, 2009, at the General Curia of the Friars Minor in Rome.

Present at this conference were re-elected General Minister José Rodríguez Carballo OFM, newly elected Vicar General Michael Anthony Perry OFM, and Mirko Antonio Sellitto OFM, who was in charge of the press office job of the Chapter.

José underscored the missionary essence of the Order of Friars Minor by stating that mission is born of the experience of faith, is lived out as brothers and "minors," and becomes a gospel message in response to the deepest yearnings for meaning, hope, and peace.

There are two aspects of Franciscan Mission: *inter gentes* ("among the people") and *ad gentes* ("to the people"). The distinguishing mark of mission *inter gentes* is that of being among the people, blending with them, and understanding their needs and complexities.

Mission *ad gentes*, on the other hand, refers to bearing witness to one's own faith and proclaiming it to those who do not know it. The General Chapter has decided to bring about new missionary projects.

Michael spoke of the commitment of the Order to Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation. He spoke about the recent report of the Organization for Food and Agriculture of United Nations, about the message sent by the Chapter to the Treasury Ministers of the G8 on June 12, and about the serious commitment by the Franciscans toward the poor and most vulnerable.

Both José and Michael also underscored the Order's centuries-old dialogue with Islam and the rapport between the Order and Jews.

Mirko Sellitto OFM thanked the press for the publicity given to the General Chapter, thus permitting the gift of the Gospel to spread in many parts of the world.



AROUND THE PROVINCE is the weekly newsletter of the Franciscan Province of the Sacred Heart, edited by Benet A. Fonck OFM from the Office of Communications, 422 North Dixon Avenue, Joliet IL 60435-7050, 314.603.3951, fonckbenet@aol.com.