



# Provincial Newsletter

Assumption Province, OFM

No. 138, October 21, 2010

## New Vocation Initiative in Greenwood

### The Shoulder Tap Event

John Puodziunas and the fraternity at Greenwood hosted four young men at St. Francis Mission in Greenwood on October 16 at a new vocation initiative that John has called the “shoulder tap.” Below is his description of the first of what I hope will be more such events:

*The work of vocations is every friars’ business.* We’ve heard that said but may wonder what we can or should be doing about it. First we encourage young men to consider God’s invitation to religious life as an option for themselves. Then we name certain qualities in their life that suggests they may have a vocation to religious life. Then we provide them with tools and support to discern their vocation. This is the Shoulder-Tap event.

Once your local fraternity has identified a few young men that may have a vocation, we can schedule a *Shoulder-Tap* event in your friary which includes time for sharing about religious life, Franciscans, and the Province, and more effectively time to share about our own vocational journey, and an introduction to the concept of discernment. Of course, there is food and time for prayer, as well as questions, answers, and much laughter. The local friars then maintain some formal and/or informal contact to encourage and support the discernment process.

Shoulder-Tap Greenwood was held on October 16<sup>th</sup> at St. Francis Mission. Greg Plata,

Bill Stout, and Andy Brophy did the local tapping and the organizing, and John Puodziunas participated as Coordinator for Vocations in the Province. Four young men from the Delta participated in the event. They included Matt Malouf a 23 year old senior studying liberal arts/business at Ole Miss University, Ino Zuniga a 26 year old music minister and project manager working with wood, Henry Amati a 22 year old graphic arts student at Mississippi Valley State University, and Taylor Ramagos an 18 year old engineering student at Mississippi State University. The participants enjoyed being with the friars, appreciated learning more about “becoming a friar”, and look forward to contact with the friars as they discern God’s invitation in their life. For the local friars its an encouragement that young men are interested in what we do and who we are.



Participants in the “Shoulder Tap” at St. Francis Mission, Greenwood, Mississippi.

## ESC Meets in Montreal



The Provincials of the English Speaking Conference met at the *Fraternité de la Résurrection* in Montreal from October 11 to 15. Our hosts were the Franciscans of Québec, Marc LeGoanvec, Provincial Minister. Also attending was Frank Walter, General Definitor.

Among the principal items of business was Dominic Monti's report from the Novitiate Task Force. Dominic presented the report, wearing the hat of the Chair of the ESC Formation and Studies Committee. The task force explored the possibility of an interprovincial novitiate for the Provinces of North America. The Provinces that expressed a desire to participate in the new interprovincial novitiate included Holy Name, St. John the Baptist, Assumption, Our Lady of Guadalupe, and Sacred Heart from the United States and Christ the King from Canada.

St. Barbara Province will continue to have its own novitiate for at least two more years. When the new provincial administration for the Immaculate Conception Province is in place, the IC Province will be invited to join.

There was a brief discussion of the Draft of the *Ratio* for the novitiate. It was prepared by a committee of directors of current novitiate programs: Ralph Parthie from the Interprovincial Novitiate in Cedar Lake, Ron Pecci from Holy Name and Regan Chapman from St. Barbara. While no formal vote was taken on the draft, no objections to the *ratio* were raised.

There was some discussion of the location for the North American Franciscan Novitiate. Dominic reported on the visit to Burlington and Ralph Parthie's written report on the visit was received. No decision was made and the members of the Task Force were asked to visit two additional sites that have been proposed.

Staffing was also considered. One possibility is that the current staff of the interprovincial novitiate be encouraged to stay on for at least one more year to provide continuity. Again, no decision was made since the Cedar Lake team will need to be consulted about their willingness to continue.

The ESC sponsors several committees and secretariats so the semi-annual meetings are opportunities for the Provincials to hear from these committees. Among the groups that we heard this meeting were missionary evangelization, formation and studies, vocation directors, ongoing formation, JPIC, Franciscan Mission Service, Development Directors, the Secretariat for the Franciscan Intellectual Tradition, the American Franciscan Liturgical Commission, Provincial Treasurers, and the Academy of American Franciscan History.

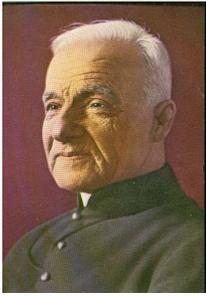
Jeff and I gave an update on the discernment process, noting that the retreats have been very positive experiences.

We spent one afternoon visiting "old" Montreal. The highlight was a guide tour of the Basilica of Notre Dame—a very beautiful church in the heart of the city.



The sanctuary of the Basilica of Notre Dame, Montreal.

We also visited the Oratory of St. Joseph, a shrine to the patron of Canada. The oratory was the inspiration of St. André Bessette, CSC, who was canonized on October 17—a few days after our visit. "Brother André" was revered as



a saintly person whose prayers and blessings effected many healings during his life and after his death. Brother André is buried in the Oratory, The shrine attracts many pilgrims from all over Canada and the world.



The Oratory of St. Joseph is located at the summit of the mount overlooking the city of Montreal.

## The Gift of Religious Priesthood

Denver was the setting for a first of its kind meeting of forty-three Presidents and Academic Deans of U.S. Schools of Theology sponsored by Religious, Provincials, and members of the CMSM Formation Committee. The meeting took place on October 17 and 18 and had as its focus the preparation of religious men for the ordained ministry.

Two years ago during a meeting of Provincials from mendicant communities at the CMSM annual assembly, I proposed that the CMSM Formation Committee explore the possibility of developing a Program of Priestly Formation for religious. At present, the formation of candidates

for the ordained ministry is shaped by the USCCB's

*Program of Priestly Formation* (5<sup>th</sup> ed.) I made this proposal after experiencing two Apostolic Visitations of Seminaries and Schools of Theology—one as a member of a theological faculty and one as a Provincial. These experiences led me to conclude that religious need their own program of priestly formation—one that reflects a preparation for ordained ministry that is an expression of the life and charisms of religious communities.

The CMSM Formation Committee, which I chair, took up this proposal. We formed an *ad hoc* Advisory Group of experts in theological education to prepare a document that could be the nucleus of a program of priestly formation for religious. When the CMSM Executive Board visited the Congregation for Catholic Education and the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life in 2009, the project met with the approval of the Prefects of these dicasteries. With that encouragement we moved forward.

With input from the entire Advisory Group, Paul Philibert, OP and Kataria Schuth, OSF prepared a statement on religious priesthood and issues related to preparation for this ministry. It was this statement that the participants in the Denver meeting considered.

Another issue that we discussed was the sustainability of the nineteen schools of theology run by religious communities. This is a significant problem due to the decline of vocations to the religious life and the rising cost of providing a quality education for ministry.

The meeting was marked by high degree of energy, trust, and investment by all participants. There was unanimous agreement that the group meet again to continue our discussion. The Advisory Group and the Formation Committee will continue their work on a document that we hope to be able to present to the appropriate Vatican dicasteries during the annual visit of the CMSM Executive Board to Rome in April.

The Denver meeting was made possible by a very generous grant from our brothers of the Holy Name Province. Also contributing support were the Priests of the Sacred Heart (Hales Corners, WI) and by the Benedictines of St. Mary's Abbey (Morristown, NJ)



## Kudos



The General Definitorium of the Order has appointed Steve Malkiewicz to the Order's Liturgical Commission. Congratulations!

## The 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition of the Roman Missal

Cardinal Francis George, the Archbishop of Chicago, required all religious who have faculties in the Archdiocese to join the local clergy for a one-day workshop on the recently approved English translation of the Roman Missal (3<sup>rd</sup> edition).

The workshop took place in Oakbrook, Illinois on October 19.



The presenter was Fr. Michael Joncas, a professor of liturgy at St. Thomas University in St. Paul, MN and well known composer of liturgical music. I joined the priests of our fraternity who live and minister in Chicago for the workshop. All were

present except Jason Welle, who is in Turkey, participating in Christian-Islamic dialogue.

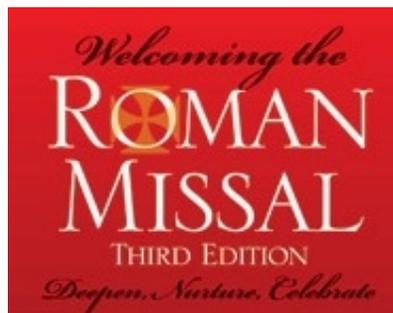
In three presentations, Fr. Joncas described the historical background to the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the Roman Missal and explored the new English versions of Eucharistic Prayers II and III. He is a fine presenter, who had the task of persuading a somewhat skeptical audience that the new translation of the Missal is "a gift to the Church."

Cardinal George, who was a leading force behind the new translation of the Roman Missal, asserted that the it was "far superior" to the

current translation. He regards the current translation as theologically deficient and aesthetically wanting.

*Vox clara*, an commission appointed by the Holy See to advise the Congregation of Divine Worship on English translations, followed the norms for translation promulgated by *Liturgiam Authenticam* approved by John Paul II, which emphasized "fidelity and exactness" in rendering the Latin of the *editio typica* of the Roman Missal. This has led to much more elevated style in the English liturgical texts, making them more challenging for priests to proclaim and congregations to understand.

I strongly urge all priests of our



fraternity to attend workshops on the new English translations of the liturgy, provided by the dioceses in which they live and

minister. Your participation is an expression of your pastoral commitment to the People of God and to your responsibility and privilege to lead the Christian community in worship. The use of new translation becomes obligatory beginning with the First Sunday of Advent in 2011.

## Pulaski's Centenary

The people of the Village of Pulaski, Wisconsin concluded their year-long celebration of the village's centenary on October 10, 2010, the anniversary of the death of John J. Hoff, an agent of the General Land Company of Milwaukee, Wisconsin was responsible for settling the area that is now Pulaski.

Assumption Church was the setting for an ecumenical prayer service, marking the end of the centenary celebration. Patrick Gawrylewski, the pastor of Assumption Parish

and a Pulaski native, presided at the service. I preached, urging the people of Pulaski to think of themselves not merely as citizens of a village in northeast Wisconsin but as citizens of a village that encompasses the entire world. Following the prayer service, there was a banquet at Zielinski's Ballroom in Pulaski.

We Franciscans join our neighbors in Pulaski in thanking God for the blessing we have received over these last 100 years. We pray for the blessings of peace and prosperity for the next 100 years.



## Franciscans in Tucson: A New Interprovincial Endeavor

David Buer of the St. Barbara Province is inviting interested friars to visit and perhaps join a new interprovincial community that has been established in Tucson with the permission of the Definitorium of the St. Barbara Province.

David describes the focus of the new community as “collaborating with groups assisting the migrants and working with the poor and homeless.” Currently David is accompanied by Matt Tumulty, OFM but they are inviting other friars to join them.

If you are interested in the ministry of this new fraternity, please contact David Buer for

more information (349 W. 31<sup>st</sup> St., Tucson, AZ 85713; 520-622-6393).

## Protecting God's Children: Conduct with Youth



When working with young people, always maintain an open and trusting relationship. Here are some specific guidelines for any interaction with young people:

1. Be aware of your vulnerability when working alone with young people. Use a team approach to managing activities involving youth.
2. Physical contact with a young person can be misconstrued and is to be avoided unless completely nonsexual and otherwise appropriate.
3. If inappropriate personal or physical attraction develops between an adult and a young person, **the adult** is responsible for maintaining clear professional boundaries.
4. Avoid being alone with a young person in a residence, sleeping facility, locker room, dressing facility or other closed room or isolated area.
5. Minors unaccompanied by parents or legal guardians must **never** be allowed to stay overnight in a friary or rectory.
6. Never use alcohol while working with young people.
7. Young people must **never** be provided with alcohol, illegal drugs, sexually provocative materials or any illegal materials.
8. Taking photos of young people while they are unclothed or undressing is prohibited by law.

9. Do not use social communications networks (Facebook, Twitter, MySpace) to communicate with young people.

10. Do not use your personal email account to communicate with young people.

## Wellness Corner: Flu–Prevention and Treatment

**G**et Vaccinated. Vaccination is the best protection against contracting the flu. Medicare covers the entire cost of flu shots.



You can get vaccinated at your local drug store, airports, senior citizen centers and many other places.

If you not been vaccinated, do so today.

If you do contract the flu, talk to your doctor about antivirals. Antiviral drugs are prescription medicines (pills, liquid or an inhaler) that can be used for prevention or treatment of flu viruses. If you get sick, antiviral drugs can make your illness milder and make you feel better faster.

Follow these common sense tips to protect yourself from the flu:

- \* Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
- \* Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. You can also use an alcohol-based hand cleaner.
- \* Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread this way.
- \* Try to avoid close contact with sick people.
- \* Stay home if you are sick until at least 24 hours after you no longer have a fever (100°F or 37.8°C) or signs of a fever (without the use of a fever-reducing medicine, such as Tylenol).

\* While sick, limit contact with others as much as possible to keep from infecting them.

## Bishop Henry Howaniec

**O**ur brother Bishop Henry is the subject of a biography written by Izabela Karasińska. The title of the book is *Podaruj mi kowbojski strój: Opowieść o życiu ks. Bpa Henryka Howańca z Kazachstanu* (“Give me a cowboy outfit: the story of Bishop Henry Howaniec of Kazakhstan”).

Published by The Franciscan Center for Eastern Europe and Northern Asia, the book is available from the center ( u. Modzelewskiego 98A, 02-679 Warsaw, Poland. T: 22 844 02 43; fax: 22 844 02 45).



Bishop Henry in his episcopal regalia—not in his cowboy outfit.

## Bishop Sklba Retires

**A**rchbishop ListECKI of Milwaukee announced that Pope Benedict has accepted the resignation of Bishop Richard Sklba, Auxiliary Bishop of Milwaukee. As required, Bp. Sklba submitted his resignation upon reaching the age of 75 last month.



Bishop Sklba has been a good friend of mine and of the Province. He is a fellow student of the Hebrew Bible and has been a kind and thoughtful bishop for many years. We wish him peace and all good.