



NEWSLETTER

October 2014 • Cochrane, Alberta, Canada

PROVINCIAL MINISTERS MEET IN COCHRANE, ALBERTA

COCHRANE, ALBERTA, CANADA – The Provincial Ministers of the English Speaking Conference held their annual Fall meeting at Mount Saint Francis Retreat Centre in Cochrane. The meeting was held from October 6-10 and was hosted by the Western Canadian Province of Christ the King.

Among the items taken up by the Provincial Ministers were the following:

- ✓ The Provincial Ministers **nominated candidates** for the offices of General Minister, Vicar General, General Definitor, Lay Delegate to the General Chapter, and Moderator for the General Chapter.
- ✓ Appointed Tom Washburn, OFM, new chair for the U.S. **Digital Media Committee**.
- ✓ **Approved the translations of the new *Franciscan Missal: A Supplement to the Roman Missal Third Edition***. This approval allows the American Franciscan Liturgical Commission to seek formal approval of the text from Rome and then eventual publication of the new liturgical book. The AFLC is also seeking feedback from the Capuchin, Conventual and TOR conferences, but the ESC alone remains the body which officially promulgates the text.



Provincial Ministers outside of Mount St. Francis Retreat Center



Provincial Ministers on the shore of Lake Louise

- ✓ Asked Tom Washburn, OFM, and Alvin Te, OFM, to attend the **General Chapter to provide English-language communications** to keep friars of the ESC informed throughout the Chapter.
- ✓ Approved the **gathering of friars in Simple Vows each July** beginning in 2015 for a course in the Franciscan tradition; with opportunity for ministry in a Franciscan mission church.
- ✓ Approved a proposal for a Conference-wide **Chapter of Mats for friars solemnly professed less than 10 years** to take place in 2016.
- ✓ Extended the term of the Executive Secretary.

During their Wednesday time of recreation, the Provincial Ministers had the chance to visit the beautiful Banff National Park and Lake Louise.

ENGLISH PROVINCE TO DISCUSS BECOMING DEPENDENT CUSTODY

COCHRANE, ALBERTA – **Provincial Minister Michael Copps, OFM**, of the Immaculate Conception Province, Great Britain, informed the other Provincial Ministers at their recent meeting in Cochrane that his Province is in the midst of discussions with the Province of Ireland to become a Dependent Custody.

The conversation about this reconfiguration came about following their visitation leading to their Provincial Chapter, originally scheduled for this past July. The Chapter was postponed until November and instead, the friars of England had a frank discussion with **General Minister Michael Perry, OFM**, and a few members of his administration.



Image of Bl. Agnellus of Pisa, appointed by St. Francis to be first Provincial Minsiter of England

“We simply couldn’t go on as we did before,” Michael told the Conference members in Cochrane. “However, I do want to share that once we accepted this reality, there was energy in the room to move forward and the option of becoming a dependent custody of Ireland seemed to be the right place to look.”

The English friars have established a working commission to deal with issues related to this juridical change. Fr. Copps will be present at an Extraordinary Chapter being held by the Irish Province on Monday, November 3. He will present a formal letter to the Irish friars them to accept the English Province as a Dependent Custody.

First founded in 1224, the Immaculate Conception Province of England currently has 36 solemnly professed members and this number makes it increasingly difficult to surface friars for all of the positions of leadership required of a Province. Becoming a Dependent Custody of Ireland provides the English friars an opportunity to strengthen a collaborative relationship that has already begun with Ireland and strengthen their ability to move forward in the future. The two Provinces have engaged in joint formation efforts already for a number of years.

US PROVINCES HOLD DISCERNMENT MEETING; SELECT LEADERSHIP TEAM

CHICAGO, IL – Each of the seven U.S. Provinces sent a candidate each to a discernment meeting for the team that will manage the process of revitalizing the Franciscan presence in the United States.

The meeting was held October 27-29 at St. Peter’s-in-the-Loop, a friary of the Sacred Heart Province, in Chicago. The meeting was chaired by **Provincial Minister Jack Clark Robinson, OFM** (Our Lady of Guadalupe Province), who was selected by the U.S. Provincial Ministers to serve as liaison to the team. The meeting was facilitated by Dominic Perri, who has served as facilitator of the process thus far.

The friars representing each Province were: **William Beaudin, OFM** (Holy Name Province), **Leslie Hoppe, OFM** (Assumption BVM Province), **Richard McManus, OFM** (St. Barbara Province), **Al**

Merz, OFM (Sacred Heart Province), **Page Polk, OFM** (St. John the Baptist Province), **Erasmus Romero, OFM** (Our Lady of Guadalupe Province), and **Tom Washburn, OFM** (Immaculate Conception Province).

Selected to be the full-time Renewal Team were: **William Beaudin, OFM; Richard McManus, OFM;** and **Page Polk, OFM.** **Tom Washburn, OFM,** was also selected as an associate to the team focusing on areas of communication.

According to a press released sent following the meeting, "To carry out the monumental task which they are undertaking, the Renewal Team of Bill Beaudin, Page Polk and Richard McManus will seek to 'enlarge the circle' of those involved in the process of revitalization by:

- 1) working with friars already in communication with one another in working groups across the US sub-conference and ESC;
- 2) creating and/or engaging others to create means for friars to 'gather around the interprovincial table' with promotion of already existing retreats and activities, as the well as creating new activities possibly around age groups, ministries, etc., and
- 3) establishing helpful working groups across the provinces to carry out specific tasks.

They will report regularly to the Ministers Provincial of the US and communicate frequently with all of the friars of the US."

The Team will live together in the midst of an already existing community of friars. The preliminary indications are that the residence will be in Chicago, and that they will join that community by February 1, though the Team will begin to meet together and do its work this month.

CANADIAN PROVINCES BEGIN CONVERSATION ABOUT RECONFIGURATION

COCHRANE, ALBERTA, CANADA – From October 30-31, the members of the Provincial administrations of both Canadian Provinces - Christ the King Province, Western Canada and St. Joseph Province, Eastern Canada – met together with **General Minister Michael Perry, OFM,** to discuss the possible reconfiguration of their provinces and to address the issues of declining personnel and the best ways to revitalize Franciscan life there.

The two-day meeting was held at Mount Saint Francis Retreat Centre in Cochrane. Also part of the conversation were representatives from the Ontario Foundation of the Immaculate Conception Province (USA) who minister in the Greater Toronto area.

Provincial Minister Primo P. Piscitello, OFM,
Vicar Provincial Robert Campagna, OFM, and Foundation President **Fr. Jimmy Zammit, OFM,** pastor of St. Francis Church in Toronto, came to represent the IC Province.



Provincial leadership of Canada
meeting with the General Minister

Offering the homily on Friday at the gathering, the General Minister encouraged the friars:

"We are here to spend our lives for one another in the pursuit of the Gospel; to follow Jesus in his humility so that we might also experience the freedom, joy, hope, love and reconciliation that He alone offers us. This is the way of the Gospel life proposed by Francis, our 'forma vitae', so that we might be filled with righteousness - shalom - and that our actions here might give life for the sake of the Gospel, for the sake of our brothers in the entities in Canada and for the world."

The two-day meeting was a fruitful conversation about the future of Franciscan life in Canada. The results of the meeting will be published during the week ahead.



**General Minister
Michael Perry, OFM**