



the Seraph

Special Australia Issue
NEWS and NOTABLES of
SAINT BONAVENTURE
PROVINCE *June 2012*



At right: The friars of Australia gathered for an Assembly with Fr. Patrick Greenough, OFMConv., Minister Provincial of St. Bonaventure Province.

Below: Our Lady Help of Christians, patroness of Australia and of our Provincial Delegation.



A NEW PROVINCIAL DELEGATION

With the official welcoming of the friars and friaries of the Conventual Franciscan jurisdiction of Australia into the Province of St. Bonaventure during our Extraordinary Chapter, and with the official suppression of Australia as a General Custody on May 30th, our Definitory was able to meet on June 12th to formally create the Australian jurisdiction as a "Provincial Delegation."

The Definitory also approved Fr. Christopher Shorrock as the new Provincial Delegate. And Fr. Adrian Robson was appointed as the new

Secretary of the Delegation. Guardians will be nominated and approved at the next Provincial Definitory on October 29th (after the Minister Provincial returns from another visitation to Australia in August).

Now that Australia is officially a Delegation of St. Bonaventure Province, it would be fitting for us to offer our new brothers our prayers in a special way every May 24th, the Feast of Our Lady Help of Christians, the patroness of both the Delegation and the nation of Australia.



Right: Construction continues on the Chapel of the Holy Innocents in Kellyville.

CHAPEL OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS

Construction is currently underway in Kellyville, Sydney. A Chapel of the Holy Innocents is being erected in the Garden of the Immaculate on the grounds of the Friary. There have been many frustrating moments due to bureaucracy and the experience of the wettest Sydney Summer on record. The builders, who are working with great fervor for the project because they share in the friars' love and dedication to the Mother of God, are working on weekends to try and catch up.

The building material is proving to be very expensive. The mosaics and the artwork are of the finest quality, created by a renowned artist in residence, and as such do not come cheap. Friar Dominic Levak is busy raising funds on behalf of the friars to assist with this most worthwhile venture.



The Chapel of the Holy Innocents will stand as proof of God's unconditional love for all his children. It will be a place where we remember all those who are unloved and rejected by the human family for whom there is "no room in the inn!"

The Garden of the Immaculate is a place where those who come, have an

Above: Proposed design for the Chapel of the Holy Innocents (Shrine of the Unborn).

Left: Mosaics being created for the Chapel of the Holy Innocents in Kellyville, New South Wales, Australia.

opportunity to respond to Jesus' invitation to come to Him, for He is the peace our hearts long for and which the world cannot give. It is not a place where good people pray for bad people, but hopefully it will be a personal encounter with the living Christ and His and our Blessed Mother.

Please pray for the success of this Marian center. In the "culture of death," prevalent in Australia and most of the Western World, all sensitive, caring souls ought to pray for the defenseless unborn child who is not valued by so many.



CREATION OF THE PROVINCIAL DELEGATION

February 14 The General Custody of Australia gathered in Extraordinary Chapter and approved a motion to express their desire to become a Delegation of St. Bonaventure Province.

May 15 The Province, gathered in Extraordinary Provincial Chapter, voted to accept and incorporate the friars and friaries of the General Custody into the Province.

May The Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life gave approval for the Minister General to proceed with the suppression of the General Custody of Australia.

May 30 The General Definitory gave its consent to the Minister General to proceed with the suppression of the General Custody.

June 1 The Minister General, Marco Tasca, decreed “the suppression of the General Custody of Australia and the consequent immediate passage of the four canonically erected friaries and of the friars inscribed in the General Custody to the Province of St. Bonaventure, USA, as of June 10, 2012.”

June 12 The Minister Provincial and his Definitory established the friars and friaries of Australia as a Delegation of St. Bonaventure Province under the patronage of Our Lady Help of Christians. Fr. Christopher Shorrock was named the Delegate of the new delegation.



FRIARS OF AUSTRALIA GATHER FOR ASSEMBLY

The friars of Australia gathered in Assembly, June 4-5 at St. Joseph Cupertino Friary in Dingley, Victoria, Australia. This meeting was held in anticipation of the establishment of the Provincial Delegation. It was an opportunity for Fr. Patrick Greenough to offer some feedback after personally meeting with each friar and helping to set a course of action.

Fr. Patrick acknowledged that the Custody has many times had outside forces brought in to solve problems and that perhaps friars were of a mind that the current proceedings were “more of the same.” He stated that he is confident that this time things will be different – that we are not here by chance, it is all part of God’s plan. He asked the friars to reflect on those things that hold them back from true fraternal, spiritual, and ministerial renewal.

Friar Patrick outlined the top four priorities as he saw them:

1. Vocation program—Website, Files, Promotional Materials
2. Formation program—Directories
3. Administration—Updated Files/ Archives, Communication, Accountant, Secretary
4. Shrine—Director, Commission; Plan of Action

Various issues affecting the friars were discussed. Fr. Patrick thanked Fr. Joseph Nguyen Xuan Truong, the outgoing Custos for his services and for his working to make the transition so effective.

After taking into consideration the input of the friars, Fr. Patrick informed the Assembly that he would be proposing Fr. Chris Shorrock (pictured) as his Delegate for the jurisdiction. The role of the Delegate is to communicate with the Provincial and to assist the Provincial in whatever way is needed. The Delegate does not have any jurisdiction over any friar or friary and does not speak for the Australian Delegation unless instructed to do so by the Minister Provincial as his representative.



The friars decided that the best way to celebrate the establishment of the new Delegation was to divide the celebration between Sydney and Melbourne, with the Minister Provincial visiting both cities. The Sydney celebration and Mass will be August 10 with Fr. Joseph Nguyen Ngoc Son coordinating the festivities. Melbourne will celebrate on August 13 with Fr. Adrian-John Robson coordinating.

ORDINARY PROVINCIAL CHAPTER

Please note the date change for
session one of the 2014 Chapter:
First session: April 28-May 2, 2014
Second Session: July 7-11, 2014

DATES

- July 19 Investiture, Mishawaka, 5 p.m.
- July 20 First Profession, Mishawaka, 11 a.m.
- Sept. 4-5 Definitory, Chicago, 11 a.m.
(to conclude at noon on Sept. 5)
- Sept. 7 Holy Hour in preparation for
the Solemn Profession of
Friar Pio Alves, Marytown, 6 p.m.
- Sept. 8 Solemn Profession, Friar Pio Alves,
Marytown, noon
- Sept. 16-21 General Definitory, Chicago
- Sept. 21-28 General Definitory and CFC,
Marytown
- Oct. 8-12 Province Retreat (Mon-Fri at
Marytown). Former Archabbot
Lambert Reilly, speaker.
- Oct. 13 Loaves and Fishes Gala,
Basilica of St. Josaphat,
beginning with Mass, 4:00 p.m.
- Oct. 29-30 Definitory, Chicago, 11 a.m.
(to conclude at noon on Oct. 30)

2012 ANNIVERSARIES

- 800th Anniversary of the foundation
of the Poor Clares
- 160th Anniversary of the Conventual's
presence in North America
- 140th Anniversary of the establishment
of the First North America Province
(Immaculate Conception)
- 100th Conventual presence at
Our Lady of Consolation,
Carey, OH
- 100th St. Stanislaus Parish, Rockford, IL



FRIARIES OF THE PROVINCIAL DELEGATION

St. Francis of Assisi Friary

15 Oxlade Road
Warrawong, New South Wales 2502
Australia

Mount St. Francis Friary

8 Greyfriars Place
P.O. Box 21
Kellyville, New South Wales 2155
Australia

St. Joseph of Cupertino Friary

10 Dimar Court
Dingley, Victoria 3172
Australia

St. Joseph Friary

35 St. John's Avenue
P.O. Box 270
Springvale, Victoria 3171
Australia

