

February 2, 2012

Good day good people!

As most of you are aware, we Franciscan Friars had our Chapter in Oceanside, CA. the second week of January. The Provincial leadership met this past week in Danville to chart the course of the Province for the next four years. The Provincial minister has asked me to be the Director of Novices.

I was first approached about this idea as a possibility in October while on sabbatical. At first I was shocked, since this is an important position in the Province, and I don't believe that any Novice Director feels worthy or qualified. After consulting my spiritual director, other friars and close friends, who encouraged me, I accepted this new ministry when asked.

The first important question is, "When will this take place?" THIS MOVE WILL NOT HAPPEN IMMEDIATELY. This transition needs to be smooth for both the Parish and the Novitiate. The Novitiate Program customarily begins during the Provincial Retreat in late June. I will need to be there and ready to start by then. A definite specific schedule will have to be worked out when we know for sure who the next pastor will be. In the meantime, I WILL BE HERE TO SERVE YOU, and I promise to keep you up to date as the information is available.

The second obvious question will be, "Who will be the new pastor?"

We will not know for certain who the next pastor will be until the end of March, since one change involves many other moves and those will not be firmed up until the end of March. The Provincial Minister, Fr. John Hardin is aware of the uniqueness of the parish since he has celebrated Eucharist with us many times. Fr. John asks us to be patient until the process is completed.

I have been associated with St. Francis Parish since 1962 and I love it. I want to say that I will miss St. Francis a lot, the parishioners and the school. I could not have asked for better parishioners than you. This parish is alive, and has been loving, supportive, generous and nurturing to and for me. This parish has helped me to grow as a minister and a person. Who knows I may come back to retire here when I am older, grayer and probably balder.

My new ministry will hopefully allow me to form new friars in the Franciscan vision of Gospel living and ministry who will minister to you in the future. Hopefully, I will be able to transmit to them the spirit of the gospel: respecting the dignity of all people regardless of who they are, care for those marginated by society, and a deep, vibrant sense of worship.

We all have much to be grateful for and we all need to pray for our common growth in holiness.

May the Lord give each of you peace.

Fr. Anthony