

Servites Today



“The Order of Friar Servants of Mary is a community of men gathered together in the name of Jesus the Lord. Moved by the Spirit, we commit ourselves, as did our First Fathers, to witness the gospel in fraternal communion and to be at the service of God and all people, drawing abiding inspiration from Mary, Mother and Servant of the Lord. “

Servite Constitutions, #1

When you write or review your will, please consider making a charitable bequest. Your bequest to the Servants of Mary will help us spread devotion to the Blessed Virgin; serve the Church in parishes, schools, hospitals, and foreign missions; train future priests and brothers; and provide for the elderly religious. Your charity will be a lasting memorial that will grow and prosper in the minds and hearts of all who are touched by the work of the Servants of Mary.

For more information, please contact Fr. Lawrence at the Servite Development Office: 1439 South Harlem Avenue, Berwyn, IL 60402, 708-795-8885 or visit www.servite.org (the Gifts/Giftshop link).

From the Editor

In January of 2004, fra Angel M Ruiz Garnica, the Servite prior general, wrote a letter to the Servite Family on the occasion of the 700th anniversary of the definitive approval of the Order. After the expected reflections on the charism, signs of new life, and quality of community life, he surprisingly addresses the risk of adventure. He writes:

“We are well aware that the Gospel itself is an adventure, and that we, as heralds, proclaimers of the Good News, must be ready to set off on an adventure. Servants of Mary, by their very nature, insofar as they say they have Mary as their inspiration and guiding light, are adventurous men and women, front-line people. Mary ventured to pronounce a yes that led her into the “adventure of God” for ever, a yes full of risks and the unknown, a yes that was transformed into a pilgrimage of faith, that led her to unconditional service. It seems to me that being a Servant of Mary and not running the risk of faith and adventure is a contradiction.”

Christians should be well acquainted with the life of risk and the unknown, probably even more so today than twelve years ago when this letter was written. The world is ever changing and as Gospel people, we must be ready, willing, able, and flexible enough to adapt our lives and our ministries in response to the rapidly evolving needs of our brothers and sisters.

Many thanks to our faithful readers, friends, and benefactors. Your generosity and commitment to our communities and ministries are blessings that allow us to continue our mission of compassionate service to a world in need. You are remembered in our daily prayers and good works.

The Servites Today newsletter is published four times a year by the Order of Friar Servants of Mary, USA Province.
James Foerster, Editor

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CONSTRUCTION BEGINS ON THE KEVIN FITZPATRICK OSM AQUATIC CENTER

Servite High School held a groundbreaking ceremony recently to celebrate the start of construction of their new Aquatics Center. The \$5.3 million project will be built on the west side of the Servite campus and be named in honor of the beloved late Fr. Kevin Fitzpatrick, OSM, who had a special affinity for water and community.

Fr. Fitzpatrick, a native South African, was a long time math teacher and swimming coach, first at St. Philip High School in Chicago, and after it closed in 1970, for twenty-two years at Servite High School in Anaheim. Fr. Fitzpatrick died in 1997.

Pete Bowen, president of Servite High School, said, "This is the first major capital project in 20 years at Servite and among our largest projects ever. The Aquatics Center will help our admissions efforts by demonstrating the vitality of our community. The new Aquatics Center also helps make room on our campus for future classrooms, a chapel and athletic facilities."

The new aquatics facility will include a 51 meter pool, twice the size of the existing pool which will allow for simultaneous multiple team practices. The larger pool deck will accommodate more teams during tournaments. Servite will also be able to host California Interscholastic Federation Championship meets, regional and national tournaments, as well as community swim lessons. In addition to the pool, the aquatic center plan also includes:

- New men's and women's restrooms
- A concession area
- Staff office and team room
- New locker room and improved visitor team lockers and showers
- 350 seat bleacher area which will be three times the size of the existing bleachers and includes a permanent shade cover

"One of the biggest things that this Aquatics Center does is help Servite show that we are an active and vital community and that we are moving forward with the facilities our students need in order to succeed," said Bowen.

The new Aquatics Center is scheduled to be completed in late fall of 2016

“BIG” CHANGES FOR ASSUMPTION PARISH AND PRIORY

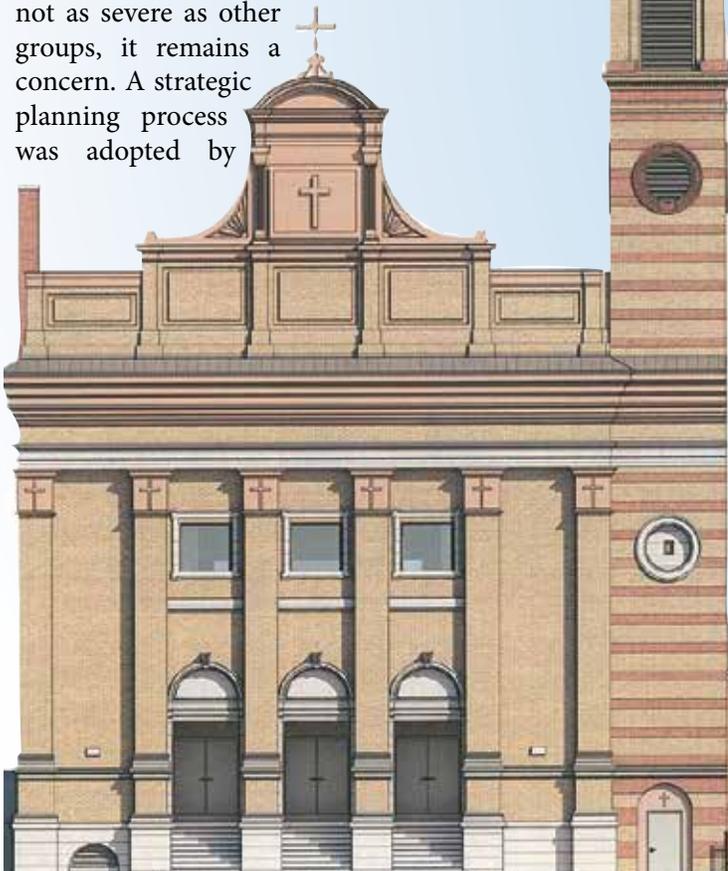
After several years of planning and negotiations, the Servite-owned parking lot adjacent to Assumption Church in the River North area of Chicago, has been sold to the John Buck Company who will develop the lot into a 24-story residential tower. As a happy outcome of this new development, the parish will receive additional and improved meeting rooms and offices, the Servite USA Province receives a renovated and expanded priory/rectory building, and the city receives a beautifully landscaped semi-public green-space: a win-win situation for everyone.

Discussions regarding the potential sale of the parking lot date back over twenty years. Like many religious orders of men and women, the Servite friars are faced with an aging membership and few vocations. While the retirement fund liability is not as severe as other groups, it remains a concern. A strategic planning process was adopted by



Above left: proposed Parish conference room; Above right: proposed Priory dining area; Above: construction debris from renovation piled outside Priory building

the Province in 2012 and one of the stated goals was to devise a plan to convert real estate assets to cash in order to improve long-term financial viability. In light of this goal, the sale of the parking lot conversation was started anew. From the very beginning, it was clear that any development of the property must absolutely guarantee the safety of the existing historic church building. It also made sense to consider improvements to the aging and impractical priory building, as well as expanding and upgrading of the parish facilities. Commissioned engineering and architectural studies assured that the structural integrity of the church would not be compromised by any construction. With this assurance, Province officials, along with a third-party broker, began meeting with the representatives from six pre-selected, well-known Chicago development firms. In the end, it was the John Buck Company who presented the plan that best suited the needs of everyone involved. After





Top: protecting the church windows from impending construction; Above left: demolition of Priory garage; Above right: corroded and rusted plumbing in Priory building.

many meetings with the appropriate city officials, and a very lengthy permit process, the John Buck Company's residential high rise was approved in May 2016. With the parking lot formally sold, construction began immediately.

Construction also commenced on the Assumption Priory building. The existing 1960s structure will be renovated and improved with the addition of an elevator and upgraded plumbing and electrical. The plan also calls for a separation of parish space from priory space. The basement and first floors will be converted to parish use and include upgraded and additional offices and conference rooms – a necessity for improved ministry and the continued future growth of the parish. An accessible ramp and lift into the church is also part of the plan.

For the priory space, a third floor will be added. This will increase the number of bedrooms from five to eight. The kitchen and dining room will be moved from the first floor to the third and a small chapel for the friars will be added on the second floor. The addition includes many windows to increase the levels of natural light and additional bedrooms will be accessible, providing more living options

and an improved quality of life for older friars. For the new construction, “green” and sustainable products are a priority.

Finally, the lawn and garden in front of the priory building will be re-landscaped. Green space in the city of Chicago is rare and the city takes a keen interest in its preservation. Landscape architects will redesign the existing lawn into a more park-like setting which includes an accessible entry into the church, making it suitable for processional and liturgical functions as well.

The construction process will require some patience and flexibility on the part of the friars and parishioners in the short term, but in the end, the high-rise with potential new parishioners, the expanded parish facilities, and an improved dwelling for friars is the reward which will serve to strengthen Assumption's parish ministry and the Servite presence in the heart of the city.

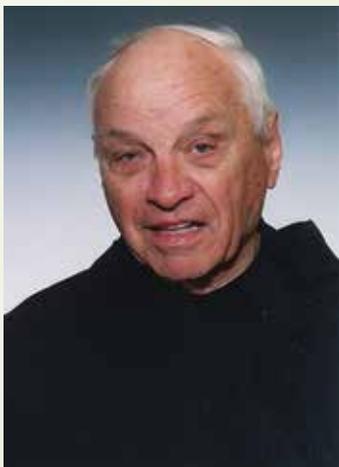
To see the John Buck Company architectural renderings of the high-rise, priory, and park, visit <http://chicago.curbed.com/2016/5/16/11683298/river-north-residentail-development-illinois-franklin>



Photos courtesy of Fr. Michael Doyle, OSM; architectural renderings courtesy of McBride, Kelley, Baurer

IN MEMORIAM

Fr. Gabriel M. Weber, O.S.M., a solemn professed friar and priest, died Wednesday, April 6, 2016 at Sandalwood Manor Nursing Home in Wheat Ridge, Colorado. He was 92 years of age and a priest for 66 years.

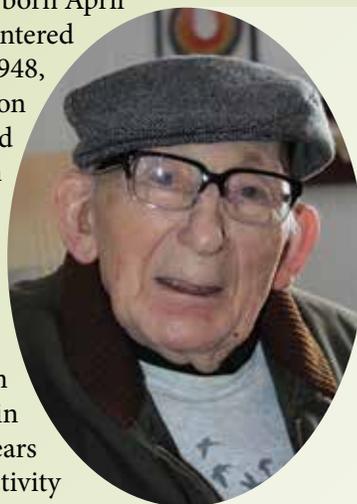


Fr. Weber was born August 13, 1923 in Buffalo, New York. He entered the Order of Friar Servants of Mary (Servites) on September 6, 1942 and was ordained a priest on May 15, 1949. As the Assistant Provincial, Fr. Gerald Horan, O.S.M., noted in his homily, when Fr. Gabriel died, "the Order lost a great friar, the Church lost a wonderful priest,

the airlines lost a loyal customer, and we lost a good and dedicated friend." Born in Buffalo, NY, in 1923, Fr. Gabriel grew up in Portland, OR, and it was the Marian Congress of 1934, held at the Grotto, that drew Fr. Gabriel to the Servite Order. Ordained in 1949 at Stonebridge Priory in Lake Bluff, IL, Fr. Gabriel went on to serve at Servite parishes and schools in Canada, California, Illinois, Wisconsin, Colorado, and New Mexico. He also ministered for some years at the Grotto in Portland, as a USAF chaplain, and as administrator of a parish in Arizona. None of these assignments and duties, as Fr. Horan stated, got in the way of the many pilgrimages to Marian shrines throughout the world. Fr. Gabriel made countless trips to Fatima, Lourdes, Medjugorje and other shrines with parishioners, Servite Secular Order members, as well as the Legion and Ambassadors of Mary: "He was a spiritual guide to many, a traveling companion to others, who was focused, resolute, and intent on his commitment of gospel living." The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated April 11, 2016, at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in Denver, CO. Interment was in the Servite cemetery at the Grotto in Portland, OR.



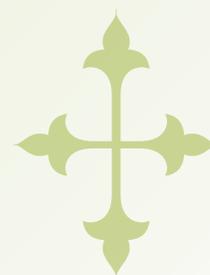
Fr. Philip Scherer, O.S.M., a solemn professed friar and priest, died Tuesday, April 12, 2016 at St. Joseph's Village, Chicago, IL. He was 95 years of age and a priest for 60 years. Fr. Scherer, was born April



3, 1921 in Chicago, IL, entered the Order on August 22, 1948, professed solemn vows on September 21, 1952, and was ordained a priest on May 15, 1955. "We called him Pops," noted Fr. Frank Falco in the funeral homily, because he looked much older than his age for most his life. "Philip was a calm man. He was hardly ever in a rush, and in these last years accepted his diminished activity with patience and gratitude. He was rarely excitable." Fr. Philip served at many of the Servite parishes in the Chicago area, as the long-time chaplain to the Servite Mantellate sisters in Blue Island, IL, and as a teacher at St. Philip High School in Chicago and Principal of Catholic Boys High School in Quincy, IL. But most of all, Fr. Falco concluded, "Phil was a Servite friar, a priest, a friend to many, especially the senior citizens he lived with in his senior living community before coming to Our Lady of Sorrows. Even in the midst of the twists and turns of



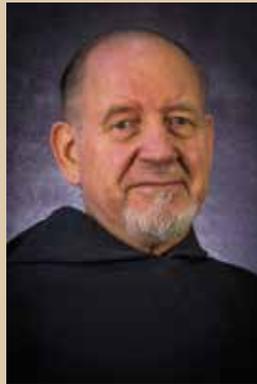
his long life, he stayed the course, ran the race, and now, marked with the sign of faith, rests in peace." Mass of Christian Burial for Fr. Scherer was held Friday, April 15, 2016, at Our Lady of Sorrows Basilica, Chicago, IL, with interment in the Servite plot at Queen of Heaven Cemetery, Hillside, IL.



PROVINCE JUBILARIANS



Joseph Cheah, OSM
25 Years Solemn Profession
June 10, 2016



Timothy Kremen, OSM
55 Years Ordination
June 29, 2016



Charles Toland, OSM
60 Years Ordination
July 8, 2016



Welcome Bishop Jwara



Bishop Jwara and Fr. John Fontana, OSM

The USA Province of Servite Friars was grateful to receive news that on April 30, 2016, Pope Francis had appointed Fr. Mandla Siegfried Jwara, C.M.M., as Vicar Apostolic of Ingwavuma in the Republic of South Africa. The Servites offer Bishop Jwara their sincere and heartfelt congratulations and pray that his leadership will deepen the discipleship and Catholic faith of this vibrant church.

Bishop Jwara was born in St. Nivard, South Africa in 1957. He professed his solemn vows as a Marianhill Missionary in 1986 and was ordained a priest in 1987. Since then he has served his order in various capacities, including pastor, vice-pastor, novice master, provincial of the order, and as a member of the order's general council in Rome.

The Order of Friar Servants of Mary takes genuine pride in the sixty-eight year legacy of service they have offered to this growing Church in the name of Jesus Christ. The work and ministry of the Servite friars who preceded the new bishop in the leadership of the church of KwaZulu-Natal, is a great investment in this community of faith. The Servites are thankful for the fraternal and collaborative relationship they have enjoyed with Bishop José Luís Gerardo Ponce de Leon, I.M.C., since his appointment in 2008. Fr. John Fontana, O.S.M., prior provincial of the USA Province, was present for the Bishop's ordination in Ingwavuma on June 25, 2016. The Servites look forward to a fruitful and loyal partnership in ministry with Bishop Jwara.



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Notes

from the National Shrine of St. Peregrine



At the National Shrine of St Peregrine (Our Lady of Sorrows Basilica in Chicago), a healing Mass and blessing with relic of St. Peregrine is celebrated at 11:00am on the third Saturday of the month. There is a healing Mass and blessing in Spanish on the second Saturday of each month, also at 11:00am.



The Feast Day of St. Peregrine was celebrated with a healing Mass on Saturday, May 21, 2016, at the National Shrine. A highlight of the celebration was the lighting of the St. Peregrine prayer candle. This large candle, nearly three feet tall, was composed of the many small candles that were sent back to the Shrine with people's prayer petitions. It will burn during our monthly St. Peregrine healing Masses.

If you would like a Servite to come to your parish to speak about St. Peregrine, to plan Holy Hour or other celebration, please call Fr. Chris Krymski, OSM, at 1(773) 638-0159, ext. 104 for more information. We give talks on St. Peregrine and Parish Missions, concerning the topics of suffering, healing and compassion.

