



Society of the Divine Word

Southern Province of St. Augustine

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February 2021

Council Corner # 09

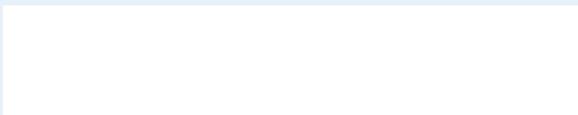
Dear Confreres,

We are very pleased that over the past two weeks our seniors here at the Bay residence received their first shot of the vaccine against the coronavirus. This is encouraging because, here in Mississippi, we are currently experiencing the post-Christmas surge in cases as I am sure in many other parts.



Currently we have Br. Richard in rehab recovering after COVID-19 as is Fr. Darrel. Also Fr. Joseph Jessing continues to be hospitalized with COVID-19 in Tallahassee.

So we are very hopeful that the arrival of the vaccines will be able to slow and eventually end the pandemic. Some confreres around the province have already received the vaccine, and we are encouraging all of you to be inoculated as soon as you can.



Inauguration of New President:

Today we offer our prayers and best wishes for President Joseph Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris as they undertake the important work of governing our nation. We ask God's blessings on them for good health, wisdom in all their decisions and their work of building bridges of reconciliation.



We pray that President and Vice President enact policies that provide care for the forgotten and vulnerable, heal our nation from this deadly pandemic, welcome the immigrant, provide economic justice and opportunity for all, work to end systemic racism and promote peace across our country and throughout the world.

Our nation is experiencing serious and troubling division. The Holy Father called us to "*resolve to support one another, with respect for our differences and our convictions of conscience*". With the help of God and one another may we strive for that unity of purpose.

Mike S.

Collated District Reports:

In the meeting of the Provincial Council held in Bay St. Louis on the 19th of January we went over the collated reports from the different districts and local community. We found a lot in common and extracted the common themes and suggestions for follow-up. These will be distributed to the District / Local Superiors in due time. Thank you for your participation and collaboration.

Preparatory Committee:

The Council named the preparatory committee for the up-coming 100 anniversary 2023 at the Bay, they are been consulted before committee is confirmed.



Institute for Black Catholic Studies, Summer 2021:

The Provincial Council would like to continue the tradition that all newly assigned to the province who have not yet partaken in the above-named program should plan for it this summer COVID-19 permitting. It would be from June 27th to July 16th. Please plan accordingly to separate these dates.

Workshop of On-Going Formation:

The Council would also like to offer a workshop this fall of all confreres particularly those under 50 years of age and/or with 10 years or less in the province. More details will emerge in the next month.

CTP Candidates:

We have had queries from other provinces regarding receiving CTP Candidates, the provincial council agreed to accept two candidates at any one time in the province.

Feast of St. Arnold:

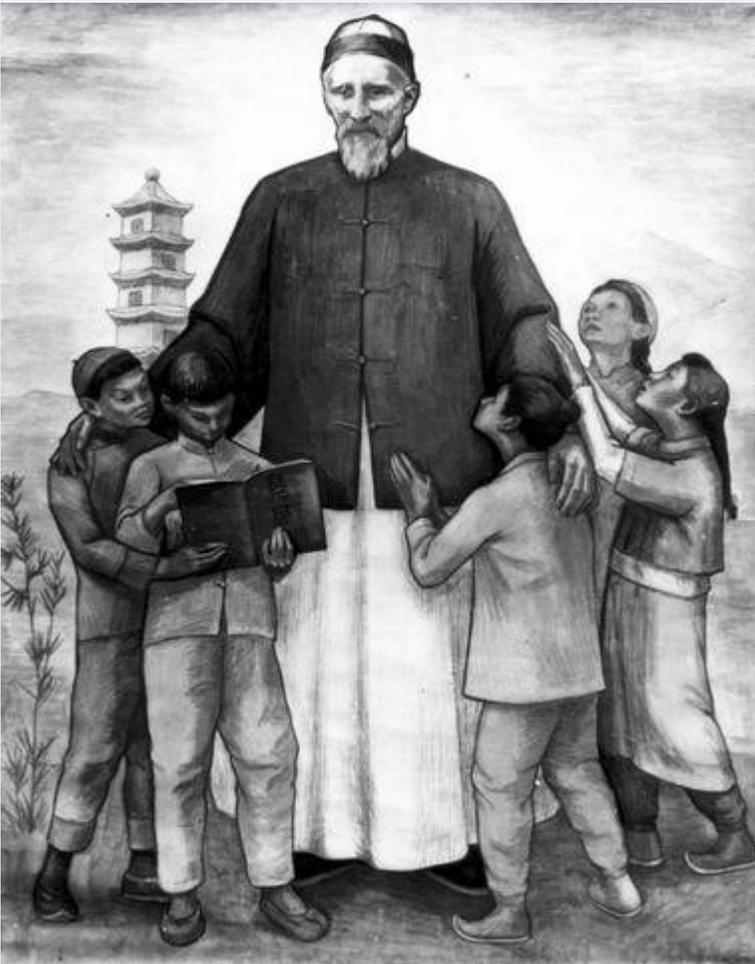
Mass celebrated with the faithful on the Feast of St. Arnold in Holy Ghost Catholic Church, Opelousas. Featuring Fr. Tom James & Fr. Lambert SVD



First Assignment:

Fr. Arockia Sebastian Mariasusai has been assigned to our province. He is one of 37 confreres who have already professed their perpetual vows this year and have received their first appointments. Fr. Arockia Sebasitan is from India (INM), we thank the Lord for His gift of so many vocations to the religious and missionary life in our Society and pray that this young confrere may find happiness and fulfilment in his mission here in the USS as a Divine Word Missionary. We welcome him with an open heart and thank God for his vocation.

Upcoming Feast of Joseph Freidemetz:



Young Joseph arrived in China full of fervor from Europe. In time he realized that the wearing of Chinese clothes had not made him into a new man, that there had to be inner change and he compared this to painful surgery.

His early prejudices blinded him: He commented in his letters back home, *“The air one breathes here is thoroughly pagan, the Chinese character has for Europeans little attraction. The creator has not equipped the Chinese with the same abilities as the Europeans ... the Chinese are unable to deawith higher thought”*.

As he learned the language, their customs and habits, their way of seeing the world the more he grew in appreciation of them.

Later he wrote home:

“Now that the language is no more so difficult for me and I know the people and their ways of living, China has become my home. I want to live and die with my Chinese”.

In his own words he reminds us that: *“The language that all people understand is that of love”*:

Let us follow the example of this great Saint, our very own St. Joseph.



Happy Feast Day

Birthdays

Fr. Michael Sucharski, 05 Feb.

Fr. Anderson De'Souza, 26 Feb