

A Few News Items

Dom Matthew Stark, former abbot of Portsmouth Abbey in Portsmouth, R.I., has agreed to be our Retreat Master for the three days preceding the Provincial Assembly. He has been a friend of our Seminary for years. We are planning the Provincial Retreat-Assembly for the ten day period from June 28, Sunday (from supper on) through Friday, July 10. We are busy seeking a retreat house within our means.

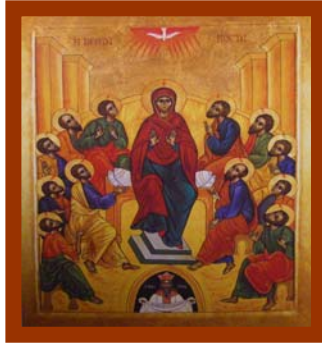
The Provincial rules have been revised and presented to the General Council for their review. As a result, only a few minor changes are still to be made for their approval.

We are actively looking into the possibility of changing our MSA Mass Association name to help people distinguish us from the Seminary better; and we hope to update the holy pictures and variety of Mass cards we offer for prayer requests and donations. Brother Charles Bak is the current "chaplain" of the M.A.

Father Skarbek has been one of the most reliable bursars we've ever had in the Province. At the same time, with the current financial condition of the country and considering the needs of the Province, Richard Coughlin, a long-term friend of the MSA and member of the Holy Apostles Seminary board, has agreed to be one of our counselors in matters of finance.

We need members to tithe the ten percent of their earnings more consistently and concretely. Our only other source of funds for the Province are savings, returns from investments (not much) and occasional donations. Ten percent is very little really but goes a long way toward helping members with certain educational loan paybacks and unexpected health needs, and in funding our utilities, building repairs, and property upkeep.

We hope to participate in the inter-diocesan mission appeals program and ask for volunteers for next year (2009). As you remember, the money gained goes to our Latin American region, especially for the needs of the MSA Venezuelan community, which has been for several years supported financially by our province.



Father Bill Broome has made a fourth Temporary Promise and hopes to finalize his credentials in psychology in Chicago during the next semester. Father Mosey and he spoke about the possibility of his eventual participation in the seminary faculty. There may be other alternatives ahead as well.

Father Michel Legault (characterized by the head of the theology department as one of the very best teachers on campus) has recently been to Canada and had his eye exam and gotten a bill of good health. Though we would prefer otherwise, it seems his term as professor at Holy Apostles will come to an end at the end of the school year due to physical infirmity and visa concerns. Father John Paul Roy, in spite of his need for a walker due to his hip fracture from last semester, is a key spiritual director on campus, but may also be finishing his time at the seminary at the end of the academic year. Father Luis Luna is still teaching and preaching up a storm on campus and is hopefully to be with us for many years ahead. We thank each of these members for their great spirit and quality of work, and for their invaluable representation of the MSA among staff and students.

For reasons beyond our control, due to members' time schedules, Holy Apostles Seminary activities and calendar, and restaurant availability, we are constrained and nevertheless delighted to have our (Thanksgiving-) Christmas Party on Sunday, November 30, 2008, beginning with Mass at Holy Apostles Seminary and/or Saint Jude's Chapel at 4^{PM}, and continuing for cocktails and dinner at the Sans Souci Restaurant in Meriden, CT.

The last Provincial Council meeting was held on Tuesday, October 21, 2008. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, November 19. Please send any topics you wish to see on the agenda, if possible limiting them to one page or less per topic.