

The Vincentian

2021 SUMMER NEWSLETTER

Provincial Office Moving to Midtown St. Louis

The Provincial Office for the Congregation of the Mission Western Province will move this summer from Earth City in West St. Louis County to the Aquinas Institute of Theology building in Midtown St. Louis, next to Saint Louis University.

The Western Province will begin leasing space in the building, located at 3701 Forest Park Ave., and is pursuing the sale of the Earth City building. An opening event will be scheduled to introduce the community to the new facility.

“This move will enable us to have a stronger voice for the poor in St. Louis and a better opportunity to develop relationships and partnerships in mission with the local church and other religious communities,” said Provincial Superior Fr. Patrick McDevitt, C.M. “Moreover, the move will provide many opportunities to share mission with the Dominicans in education and formation of the clergy and laity.”

Fr. McDevitt further noted that the new office will also be closer to one of its apostolates, St. Vincent de Paul Parish, as well as the Daughters of Charity and the St. Louis chapter of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, both members of the Vincentian community, and other Catholic organizations.

The province’s office has been at the Earth City location for more than 25 years, prior to which it was in St. Louis at Pennsylvania Street and Cass Avenue.

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The concept photo illustrates what Congregation of the Mission signage on the new office location could look like.



Let Us Take this Journey Together



Dear Friends,

This past year, with all of its trials, has tested us, individually and as a community. It has been, and continues to be, a journey that reminds us that we need each other and also reaffirms our need to walk with Jesus every day.

In this edition of *The Vincentian*, you will learn about the move of our provincial office from Earth City to Midtown St. Louis. This move, in addition to placing us physically closer to the communities we serve, also symbolizes a time of renewal for the Western Province.

I like to think of this move as a journey, which is an important metaphor for the spiritual life. The Scripture is filled with stories and accounts of many different journeys, whether they be from slavery to freedom, from darkness into light, and from the wilderness to a land of promise. As we walk this journey, the uncertainty of the future is guided by our deep faith in the light of Divine Providence. The inevitable struggles and challenges on this journey will bring us to a better place and a deeper relationship with God and one another. As sojourners in faith, we always walk together as a united community.

“ As sojourners in faith, we always walk together as a united community. ”

Though our staff and confreres who work at the Earth City facility will be packing up and moving to our new building, we invite all of you to take this journey with us in prayer. It is our ardent hope that this step in our journey as a province will open for us a new era of missionary life and service to the poor. We pray this next step in our journey deepens our love for God and expands our relationship and the opportunities that come with it.

In this new chapter, we move forward, revitalized in the mission that God has given us, mindful that the journey continues ever on.

Sincerely in Vincent DePaul,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Patrick McDevitt, C.M." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rev. Patrick McDevitt, C.M.
Provincial Superior



(continued from cover)

Fr. John Gagnepain, C.M., who was Provincial Superior at that time, said the province left that building because it had outgrown the space there.

“It was a good location, and we liked it, but it wasn’t big enough,” he said. “I remember we moved in one day. It took four semis.”

Fr. McDevitt said the new location not only allows the province to fulfill its mission more

practically but also signifies a new era in its long history.

“I believe deeply that this move symbolizes a new path of openness, creativity, and connection with the Catholic community in St. Louis and society at large,” Fr. McDevitt explained, “particularly the poor, ‘who feed us,’ in our founder’s words.”

Watercolor Artist Fr. Larry Asma, C.M.

Fr. Larry Asma, C.M., is living proof that it is never too late to pursue your passions.

“I became aware in grade school that I had a natural talent for art that only two others in my class also had,” he said. “But in high school and college, I took only the required courses in art and art history.”

Fr. Asma dabbled in acrylic painting and pen-and-ink drawing in the ‘70s, and while he was pleased with the results, he did not stick with either of them.

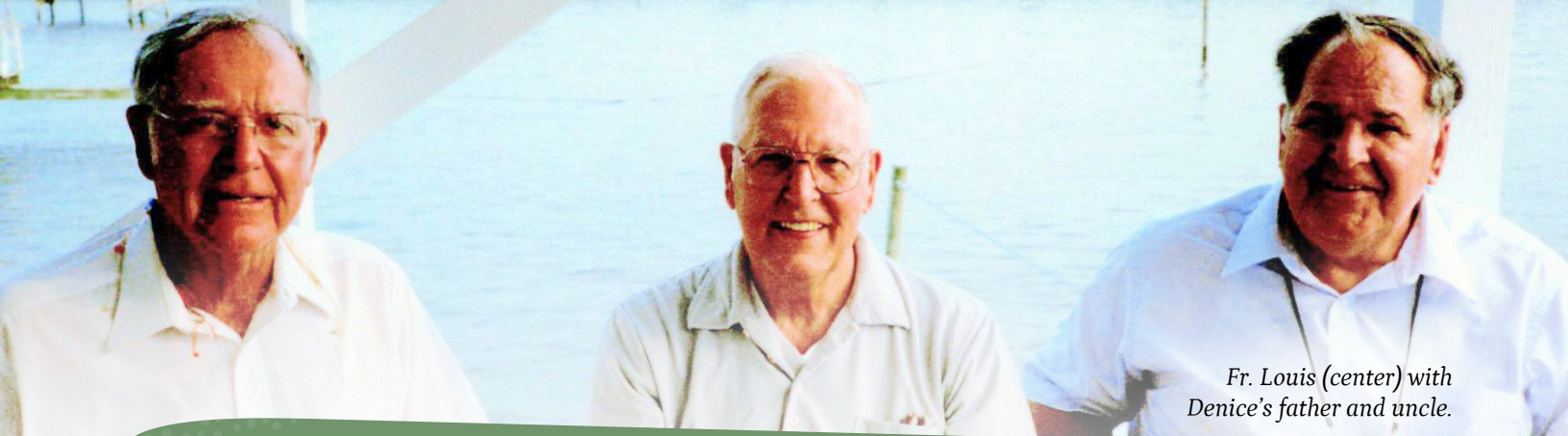
Several years ago, a semi-professional artist saw some of his drawings and told him he would make a good watercolor artist. He bought a how-to book and the materials and has produced at least one painting a year since then.

Fr. Asma’s work is displayed in the living rooms and offices of several colleagues, friends, and relatives, as well as a town hall and a cathedral in New York, a university in Maryland, and in a Daughters of Charity convent in New York.

“I can also claim, rather proudly if I say so myself, that one of my pen and ink line drawings hangs opposite an original wood block print by German Renaissance artist Albrecht Durer,” he said.

Plans are in the works for Fr. Asma to conduct a watercolor class for his fellow confreres at St. Mary’s of the Barrens. He was ordained in 1983 and retired in January of 2021.





Fr. Louis (center) with Denice's father and uncle.

'Why We Give'

Derbes Family Remembers Beloved Uncle

To his Vincentian family, he was known as Father Louis Joseph. But to his many nieces and nephews, he was simply “Uncle L.J.”—a beloved member of the large Derbes clan that grew up in Metairie, LA, just outside New Orleans.

Denice Derbes remembers him with great fondness.

“Uncle L.J. was my dad’s brother,” she said. “He spent many vacations with us. He’d come for Christmas and Easter, then stay a week or two during the summer.”

In 2005, Denice and her husband Mike lost everything in Hurricane Katrina.

“My uncle came out to my husband Mike’s apartment complex site,” she said. “He blessed the property and handed Mike a box of Miraculous Medals. *‘Spread these all over out here and I promise you, things will work out.’* Mike did, and Uncle L.J. was right.”

In late 2009, when her uncle faced his final illness, the Derbes siblings were deeply moved by the tender loving care he received at St. Mary’s of the Barrens in Perryville, MO.

That care inspired Denice and other family members to begin a legacy of giving to the Western Province.

“My siblings and I ... we all feel strongly about supporting the Vincentians—many *do* need care like my uncle did.”

In addition to individual support, the Derbes children are continuing a generous tradition their father began as they donate to the Congregation from a family business partnership they inherited from him.



Denice (center, back row, red shirt) with her siblings and mother.



“We were so grateful for the care he received in Perryville, especially since none of us lived close enough to help Uncle L.J. in those last months,” she said. “I always ask that my donations be directed to the retired priests and brothers.”

Please use the enclosed envelope if you would like to make a donation to support the seniors at St. Mary’s of the Barrens or the work of the Congregation of the Mission.

Jubilarians Celebrate Milestones



Rev. Robert H. Gielow, C.M.

50th Anniversary

Fr. Robert (Bob) Gielow, C.M., and his brother, Fr. Richard (Dick) Gielow, C.M., were born in LaSalle, IL, on Oct. 29, 1943. Their family belonged to St. Patrick Church, a Vincentian Parish.

Fr. Bob and Fr. Dick both entered the novitiate of the Vincentian community on June 17, 1961, at St. Mary's of the Barrens Seminary in Perryville, MO. Fr. Bob was ordained at DeAndreis Seminary in Lemont, IL, on May 22, 1971, by Bishop William McManus. Fr. Dick celebrated his 50-year jubilee in 2020. Fr. Bob's ministry included teaching at Regina Cleri Seminary in Tucson, AZ, and work in campus ministry at DePaul University, where he served as Director of Athletics. Starting in 1983, Fr. Bob served four years as Vocation Director for the province. In 1987, he joined his brother, Fr. Dick, in the work of preaching Parish Missions and continues to minister as a parish missionary today. Fr. Bob also has a Facebook page called "Monday Morning Coffee Break." Many Catholics in the parishes of the United States continue to be grateful for the great preaching and wise counsel of Fr. Bob when he was at their parish.



Rev. Richard W. Gielow, C.M.

*50th Anniversary
in 2020*



Fr. Hugh F. O'Donnell, C.M.

60th Anniversary

Fr. Hugh O'Donnell, C.M., was born on Oct. 30, 1934, in Chicago, IL. His family were parishioners of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in the Lincoln Park neighborhood. Fr. Hugh entered the novitiate at St. Mary's of the Barrens Seminary in Perryville, MO, on May 30, 1952, where he also completed his seminary education. He was ordained on May 28, 1961, at St. Mary's by Archbishop Joseph Ritter. After ordination, Fr. Hugh earned a Doctor of Sacred Theology from the University of Fribourg and taught in the major seminaries of St. Louis and Denver for 12 years. In 1978, Fr. Hugh was elected Provincial of the Midwest Province and served for nine years. After his term ended, Fr. Hugh went back to Denver to teach and be involved in the formation of priests. However, he was called back into administrative service with a very unusual twist. In 1993, he was appointed the Provincial Superior of the Province of China. When Fr. Hugh's term ended, he continued to work as a missionary in Taiwan. From 2000 onward, he was assigned to the DePaul Vincentian Residence in Chicago, where he continued to run programs for the priests and religious of mainland China. Most recently, Fr. Hugh has served as Formation Director for our seminarian, Rev. Mr. Scott Jakubowski, C.M. Fr. Hugh's gentleness and sincere kindness has made him a wonderful mentor for many priests and a wise retreat master and spiritual director for the Vincentian family.



Fr. Robert R. Rohrich, C.M.

60th Anniversary

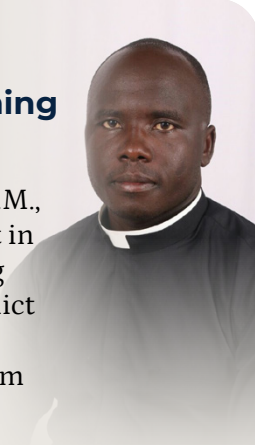
Fr. Bob Rohrich, C.M., was born on June 28, 1934, in Chicago, IL. His family attended St. Gertrude Parish on Chicago's North Side. He entered the novitiate at St. Mary's of the Barrens in Perryville, MO, on May 30, 1952, and was ordained on May 28, 1961, at the Barrens by Archbishop Joseph Ritter.

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Mission Moments

Conflict Resolution Training for Covid-Related Stress



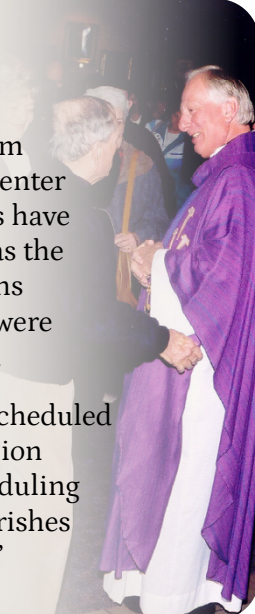
This spring, Fr. Wilfred Orina, C.M., in the Region of Kenya, took part in the first of four 40-hour training modules on mediation and conflict resolution to help address some issues in the region resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Third-Party Neutral (TPN) training was through the Canadian Institute for Conflict Resolution (CIRC) and the Moriarty Institute for Continuing Formation at DePaul Centre in Nairobi, Kenya. Fr. Lennoxie Lusabe, C.M., at the Moriarty Institute, said the purpose of the training was for Fr. Orina to understand the causes of conflict among students and others, as well as ways to address them.

“With lockdowns now and then due to the pandemic, stress and depression are on the increase, thereby increasing conflicts among people,” Fr. Lusabe said.

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Parish Mission Update



Fr. Dick Gielow, C.M., reports from the Vincentian Parish Mission Center that requests for parish missions have held steady with some increase as the pandemic and related precautions continue. Most parish missions were postponed during the pandemic.

“Currently, we have close to 20 scheduled from the Vincentian Parish Mission Center,” Fr. Gielow said. “Rescheduling has been difficult since other parishes want missions at the same time.”



Rev. Mr. Scott Jakubowski Ready for June Ordination


On June 25, 2021, Rev. Mr. Scott Jakubowski, C.M., will be ordained. Rev. Scott Jakubowski, C.M., in a ceremony at St. Vincent’s Parish in Los Angeles with Archbishop Andrew Bellisario, C.M., presiding.

“I am grateful for all the support from family, friends, and Vincentians getting to this point where I am fulfilling a long-time dream to serve God and the Church,” he said. “This has been like running a marathon. It has not been easy, but with the help of others, I can see the finish line in June and everyone cheering for me.”

An actual marathon runner, the Tucson native went to college in southern California, where he earned a degree in science and worked as a scientist for about 10 years. He later moved back to Arizona and began vocation discernment with his pastor after working for some time with the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. He applied to enter formation in 2015, moved to Chicago to start graduate coursework, and was ordained as a transitional deacon in August 2020.

“I will celebrate my first mass at my home parish of St. Charles Borromeo in Peoria, AZ, on June 27. On July 1, 2021, I begin work at St. Vincent’s in L.A. as a priest.”

Congratulations, Fr. Scott.



Comings and Goings Around the Office ...



Pat Senft, retired!

Best wishes to Pat Senft, who retired this spring following 20 years of service in the Finance Office of the Western Province, the last five of which have been as Controller. Pat served with integrity and a strong knowledge of accounting, earning an MBA during her tenure. Pat's heart for the poor and for serving God won her a great many friends and served as a daily model for coworkers and confreres alike. God bless you, Pat.

Dave Henroid, stepped in!

Welcome to Dave Henroid, who joined the Western Province late last summer as accounting manager. Dave's desire to serve, along with a solid background in public accounting, added breadth and depth to our finance team. A licensed CPA in Missouri, he has a bachelor's degree in accounting from St. Louis University and 15 years of experience in the field. Dave was recently promoted to Assistant Controller.



Cindy Rohde, retiring!

Cindy Rohde, Province Development Assistant/Grant Writer for nearly 15 years, is retiring in late June. We wish her countless happy days ahead as she and her husband Tom welcome their first grandchild and tour the world. In addition to her numerous administrative duties, Cindy's assistance has been invaluable in the success of parish appeals, the inter-diocesan mission cooperation program, and prayer ministry program. We'll miss you, Cindy!

Chris Duggan, just arrived!

In early 2021, Chris Duggan accepted the new position of Province Communications Manager and is tasked with keeping Vincentians more closely connected with one another and with our larger family, mission partners, donors, and the public. Chris comes to us with 30 years of experience in journalism and public/media relations and holds master's degrees in mass communications and creative writing.





CONGREGATION
of the **MISSION**

THE VINCENTIAN
WESTERN PROVINCE

13663 Rider Trail North
Earth City, MO 63045



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

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Learn more about the Congregation of the Mission Western Province, join us in prayer, and offer your support. Visit us online at vincentian.org.

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Fr. Bob spent 18 years in the teaching ministry at St. Louis Prep Seminary and Regina Cleri Seminary in Tucson, AZ. He went from teaching teens to teaching graduate students Church history and serving as Dean of Students at DeAndreis Seminary in Lemont, IL. He returned to the high school level in 1973 when he joined the faculty and was also assigned Rector and Superior of St. Vincent de Paul High School Seminary in Lemont, IL. In 1979, Fr. Bob prepared for a new direction in his ministry, becoming a marriage and family counselor. He continues in this work today in the southwest suburbs of Chicago. Fr. Bob is remembered by his students, both the teens and the graduate students, as a joy-filled and much-loved teacher and director.

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Fr. Orina said he approached the 40-hour online module on mediation with hesitancy at first but came to embrace the themes and lessons.

“The TPNI training showed me how to be aware of my own internal conflicts, conflicts with others, and conflicts in others and the knowledge and skills necessary for me to play a role in mitigating conflicts,” he said. “After the training, I feel calm and ready to face and resolve conflicts rather than run away from them.”

